# The Free Press.

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G. G. BENEDICT, Editor.

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We have no room for comment on [illegible] report of a minority of the Council of Censors of Vermont, [illegible] present [illegible] of amendment [illegible] Constitution. We commend it to careful perusal.

### The Report of the Suffrage Committee.

[illegible]

[illegible] their argument. They will have to [illegible] stronger than they have done. [illegible] of woman's rights, and that [illegible] will follow from granting it. [illegible] make much headway among the staid and conservative voters of Vermont. In one paragraph of the Report we are glad to concur most heartily. We believe, with the committee, that "woman covered or uncovered was made to be the companion of man and not his mere servant; that she has the same right to control her property that he has to his; [illegible] that he has; and that [illegible] will elevate him." [illegible] women in their rights, so that [illegible] when suffrage is extended to women, it is not "not proper."

### Biennial Sessions and Elections.

The report of the committee of the Council to whom the subject was referred states very forcibly the various considerations in favor of a change from yearly to biennial sessions of the legislature, and from annual to biennial elections of State and County officers. As regards the point of economy [illegible] the weight of the argument [illegible] in [illegible] the annual gatherings of [illegible] at Montpelier during the [illegible] session of [illegible] in promoting acquaintanceship, mutual interest, harmony and intelligence among the people. Whether this is worth what it costs, is a question which we have not decided for ourselves, and which the people, if the Council so order, must decide for themselves.

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Some weeks ago two young men from this country, Wyeth and Speakman, were executed by the Spanish authorities in Cuba, as pirates. Admiral Hoff was at once sent to that part of the Island where the execution took place, to investigate and report. Washington despatches say the President has received a brief summary of what he learned.

It is pretty clear that neither of the young men intended, when sailing from home, to go to Cuba; and it is certain that at least neither intended joining the insurgent forces of the island. The Admiral, it is understood, finds that they were executed under the provisions of an order of Dulce's since revoked by the new Governor, De Rodas, and, in fact, because the governor feared to resist the demand of the Catalan volunteers for their death. Hoff characterizes the execution as downright murder, and the facts seem to warrant his language.

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The report on the public taxes in another column will be found of interest to every tax-payer. The inequalities in taxation are notorious, and the evils of undervaluation obvious. The report would be of more value if it had suggested some more definite corrective of these evils than "proper legislative enactments for that purpose." The subject is no new one in the legislature; but "proper" and effective enactments to secure the end desired, do not seem to be easily secured.

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A Tennessee editor thus pays his compliments to a confrere: "The diabolical corruption of Pearne knows no height, no depth, no width, no breadth. In him is concentrated all the vile concentrations which make up a fiend incarnate. Such is Pearne, of the Knoxville Whig: a defamer, a blackguard, a slanderer." This is the Tennessee style; but it is equalled farther East, where the decencies of discussion are [illegible] admitted. Thus Mr. Horace Greeley calls Mr. Hastings, the editor of the New York Commercial Advertiser, "a habitual self-proclaimed liar," and Mr. Hugh Hastings pronounces Greeley "a miserable pretender and a snarling hypocrite."

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The trouble over a President for Union College at Schenectady, N. Y., which has been a long [illegible] between [illegible] parties in the corporation, [illegible] the election of Gen. McClellan to the presidency, has at last been ended for the time being at least, by the election of Prof. Charles A. Aiken, of Princeton College, as President. The new President will enter upon his duties in September, but will not be formally inaugurated until June next. Dr. Nott was President of Union for the unexampled period of [illegible] years. No other of its presidents [illegible]. President Aiken is a brother-in-law of Rev. Dr. Lord, of Montpelier, [illegible]

President Grant at Long Branch.—[illegible] did not fail to attend the grand ball at Long Branch Sunday night, where he saw a gorgeous spectacle of beauty and chivalry, [illegible]

[illegible]

George W. Curtis, in the New York Constitutional Convention, says:

"It seems to be thought that if women practically took part in politics, the home would be left a howling wilderness of cradles, and a chaos of unmarried stockings and buttonless shirts. But how is it with the men? Do they desert their workshops, their plows and offices, to pass their time at the polls? Is it a credit to a man to be called a 'professional politician?' The pursuits of men in the world, to which they are directed by the natural aptitude of sex, and to which they must devote their lives, are as foreign from political functions as those of women. To take an extreme case: there is nothing more incompatible with political duties in cooking and taking care of children than there is in digging ditches or making shoes, or in any other necessary employment, while in every superior interest of society growing out of the family, the stake of women is not less than men, and their knowledge is greater. In England, a woman who owns shares in the East India Company may vote. In this country she may vote as a stockholder upon a railroad from one end of the country to another. But if she sells her stock, and buys a house with the money, she has no voice in the laying out of the road before her door, which her house is taxed to keep and pay for. And why? In the name of good sense, if a responsible human being may vote upon specific industrial projects, may she not vote upon the industrial regulation of the State? There is no more reason that men should assume to decide participation in politics to be unwomanly than that women should decide for men that it is unmanly."

The position of woman in regard to the common schools of the State is the most absurd and unjust that can be imagined. She must always be the chief instructor of the young in point of time and influence. She is their best teacher at home and in the school. And her share in this ever expanding work is becoming vaster every day. Woman as mother, sister, teacher, has an intelligence, a comprehension of the educational needs of our youth, and an interest in their development, far in advance of the other sex. She can organize, control and teach the most difficult school in the State; yet she has no vote in the selection of teachers, the building, arrangements and equipment of school-houses, neither in the method and extent of instruction. She can pay her share of the expenses of schools, but can have no legal voice in their management. She can teach, but she can have no vote in determining what shall be taught. She is the very corner stone of institutions which she has no lawful vote in shaping.

Suffrage alone can carry woman's right and privilege into the district school. And especially let us have her open, avowed and public responsibility and co-operation,—always safer than indirect influence,—always more honest and efficient than a hidden subtlety.

This subject is one that promises to engross the thoughts of this generation, and it will be [illegible]

[illegible]

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Reed,
H. Henry Powers,
Committee.
Montpelier, July [illegible], 1869.

[illegible]

Council of Censors—Second Session.

MINORITY REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

[illegible]

[illegible] but there is no danger that the Legislature will some day turn upon the Council with an act of homicide, as they did in Pennsylvania, when it shall appear that this is the only remedy to rid themselves of what may be deemed a useless body? There was a strong opinion that way fourteen years ago, by the Legislature passing a vote of censure upon the Council for exceeding, as they called it, their powers, thus assuming to review the acts of the Council, reversing the order of things, and forestalling the coming Convention, which took the instruction and voted all acts of the Council down forthwith and with very little ceremony. Thus all ended in a farce, and to the disgust of that portion of the people who had reflected and thought much upon the subject. Shall it be said at this day, in this enlightened age, that we distrust the people, and dare not trust them with the final vote of approval or disapproval in changing their fundamental law? Shall we assume to know what is for their best interests better than they know themselves? I know it is said that it is well enough now, and let well enough alone. The same argument would have applied with equal force to our old turnpike wagon-roads, to the old farm machinery, against sewing-machines, in favor of spinning wheels and hand-looms. We lived comfortably with the use of all these things, and, had we felt no desire for change and improvement, railroads, factories, the horse mowers, rakes, tedders, and ladies' sewing-machines, would have been unknown to us, and we should have been plodding on under the old primitive system that existed at the time of the formation of this provision of our Constitution. Other Councils have sought and effected improvements. In 1835 the old State Council was abolished, and the Senate substituted. Fourteen years later our county officers were ordered to be elected by the people instead of by the Legislature. These were recognitions of the improved intelligence of the people; and can we say there has been no improvement since those periods, and that the people are not now fit to be trusted with this proposed change? But, says one, they do not desire it: they are satisfied as it is. And why is it so? The reason is obvious. It has thus far been so remote from them, having no direct action in the matter: they have concerned themselves but little about it, and, so far as they are concerned, have let it go by default. And now I repeat, is it not desirable to educate the people to know their Constitution, to take an interest in its revision, and have a final action in this revision? Other States do it. Even in the South, where there is not supposed to be a moiety of the intelligence and education there is in Vermont, the Government requires a submission of their constitutions to a vote of the people. And shall it be said that here in enlightened Vermont, a Council of Censors of 13 men refused to submit amendments to the State constitution to a final vote of the people? Such action seems to the minority of your Committee to be preposterous and unjust. The greatest objection to the proposed change that has come to the knowledge of the minority of your Committee, is [illegible] the Legislature to be continually [illegible] with constitutional questions; [illegible] at great expense to the State, etc. Now we do not propose that the Legislature shall have any [illegible]

[illegible]

That provision of the statute which allows the owner of personal property to deduct from its valuation the amount of his debts but does not allow the owner of real estate the like privilege, appears to the committee to impose an undue proportion of the expense of protecting property upon the owners of the latter class of property. While the personal property is assessed at from half to two-thirds its true value in money, the deductions for debts are for the full amount, and sometimes double the amount; in fact, it is believed that fictitious debts are frequently contracted for the express purpose of obtaining those deductions.

It is claimed that real estate forms the great bulk of the property of the State, is stable and imperishable, and furnishes the only sure basis for taxation, and therefore no deductions should be allowed to the owners of this class of property for their indebtedness. The stability and imperishable character of real property make the expense of its protection less than that of movable, perishable, personal property. If the Constitution requires every class of property to be taxed to pay its proportion of the expense of protection, it would seem that equal if not weightier reasons exist for allowing deductions for debts to the owners of real, than for such allowance to the owners of personal property.

The Constitution seems to contemplate a tax upon the person together with the obligation of personal service in the time of war, to defray the expense of protecting life and liberty, and a tax upon property, to defray the expense of protecting property. If this is so, why should not all property, without deductions for debts, be taxed upon the basis of its "true value in money"? But if deductions for debts are to be allowed, are there any good reasons why this allowance should be conceded to the owners of one class of property and denied to the owners of another class of property? and can it be said that taxes levied upon this basis are "justly laid"?

Within the last twenty-five years there have been created within the State various railroad, telegraph and express companies, corporate bodies extending their franchises and property through several towns, which have received their existence, their rights and privileges from the hand of the State: the granting of whose charters, the settling of whose rights and privileges, and the protection of whose property, have occupied no inconsiderable portion of the time and attention of the Legislature [illegible]

[illegible]

All which is respectfully submitted.
Charles Reed,
J. W. Colburn,
H. H. Powers,
*Executive Com.*
Montpelier, July 28, 1869.

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When a man believes anything absolutely, it is always pleasant to see him make an ocular demonstration of his faith. At Algona, Iowa, one Mrs. Ingham was appointed to deliver the oration last Independence Day. So she carried her infant and her husband into the assembly of the people, and while she occupied the platform Mr. Ingham meekly held the baby! Probably arrangements were made which prevented the child from yearning for "the maternal fount," or perhaps, as Mr. Chick observes, in "Dombey and Son," "something temporary was done with a tea-pot." Mr. Ingham is said to have been "very proud of his wife's success" on the occasion. We think he had more reason to be proud of his own, for it was an essay in a harder field.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

### Report of Special Committee on Biennial Sessions and Elections.

COUNCIL OF CENSORS—SECOND SESSION.

*To the Council of Censors:*

Your committee, appointed to consider the resolution in relation to Biennial Sessions of the Legislature and Elections, respectfully report that, upon consideration of the subject, they recommend that the Council propose the following amendment to the Constitution, viz:

[The articles proposed will be found in the report of proceedings in another column.]

Your committee submit the following among the reasons which induce them to make this recommendation:

They are of opinion that it is not always necessary that there should be an annual session of the General Assembly.

The business transacted by the General Assembly is properly considered under the two classes of public and private enactments. So far as our public laws are concerned, it is to be borne in mind that ours is an inland State with a homogeneous population, that our territorial limits are small, our people law-abiding and intelligent, that with such a State and such a people we do not require the amount of legislation that is required in some other States. Your committee are of opinion that a careful scrutiny of the history of our State Legislature for the past twenty years will show that in most cases our public legislation has been confined to trivial matters, and that [illegible] important changes have been made in our laws as often as once in two years, nor indeed for much longer periods. Such scrutiny will also show that in many instances, such changes as have been made, have been [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Our leading men in each [illegible], instead of being manly and outspoken in their convictions, become timid in [illegible] and cautious in sustaining the right. Instead of being public teachers, advocating [illegible] combating prejudices and striving to turn public thought into higher and better courses, our public leaders flatter the vanity and stimulate the prejudices of the multitude, and follow wherever the passions or interests of the many may lead them. Instead of big statesmen they become demagogues.

So too this eagerness for place brings about an unhealthy ambition. Men forsake stations of greater profit and usefulness for the glittering allurements of office. It is a very poor bargain for the State to change a useful private citizen into a hungry office-seeker.

These, to be sure, are necessary evils, the legitimate results of our form of government, but in the judgment of your committee are aggravated by the frequency of our elections. While they are no sufficient reasons for doing away with elections entirely, they are reasons for having them as unfrequently as is consistent with the public good in other respects.

Your Committee might refer to the practice in other States as showing that the judgment of our best men, those who have sat as reviewers of their own state constitutions, or who, having lived under the constitutions of older States, have assisted in establishing new States, is tending to a concurrence with the views here expressed, but they have preferred to discuss the matter upon principle and our own experience. From all the considerations they have been able to give the subject your committee are of opinion that, while they would not recommend such lengthy terms of office as are found in other countries, and some States in our own country, they are satisfied that annual elections are unnecessary, and regard the term of two years as the judicious mean which both reasoning founded on principle and the experience of other States concur in recommending.

JASPER RAND,
J. W. COLBURN,
WILLIAM HARRIS,
Committee.

### Proceedings of the Council of Censors.

THURSDAY, July 29th, 1869.
AFTERNOON.

The special order of the hour being the report of the Special Committee on Corporations, it was taken up and the proposed article, on motion of Mr. Ross, was amended by striking out in the first section the clause "All such laws may be altered or repealed."

Mr. Powers moved to strike out all after the first line in said article, and his motion, on the proposition of Mr. Dewey, was amended so as to strike out all after the second clause, and as thus amended, the motion of Mr. Powers was adopted.

The question being on the adoption of the report as amended, Mr. Reed proposed to amend by substituting in lieu thereof the following:

No corporations shall be created by the Legislature except for railroad or municipal purposes, but they shall be formed under general laws passed by the Legislature.

Mr. Powers moved to amend Mr. Reed's proposed amendment by inserting after the word "railroad" the words "religious and banking."

On motion of Mr. Dewey the report and proposed amendments were ordered to lie, and were made the special order for Friday at 10 1-2 o'clock in the forenoon.

On motion of Mr. Dewey, the report of the Special Committee to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the Council of Censors was called up and recommitted to the committee.

On motion of Mr. Rand, adjourned.

FRIDAY, July 30, 1869.

The Council was called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. C. A. Allen.

Journal read and approved.

Mr. Rand from the Committee on the Powers of the Convention reported against the proposition of Mr. [illegible]

[illegible]

On motion of Mr. French, adjourned.

SATURDAY, July 31, 1869.

The Council was called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. Chas. A. Allen.

Journal read and approved.

Mr. Colburn, for the minority of the special Committee on changing the mode of amending the Constitution, submitted a report which was read and accepted.

On motion of Mr. Lane, the report was ordered to lie, and the Secretary directed to procure the printing of five hundred copies for the use of the Council.

Mr. Dewey, for the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted a report which was read and accepted.

On motion of Mr. Reed, the report was ordered to lie, and the Secretary directed to procure the printing of five hundred copies of the same for the use of the Council.

The report of the Committee on Biennial Sessions, being the special order for the hour, was taken up for further consideration.

On motion of Mr. Rand, the report was amended by adding to the articles therein proposed the following:

ART. 6. The Legislature shall provide by law for filling vacancies in office, happening from any cause during the term of office of two years or less.

On motion of Mr. Powers, Article 5 was amended by inserting before the words "County and Probate Officers," the words "Senators and Town Representatives."

Mr. Cleveland moved to strike out Article 4, and pending this question on motion of Mr. Lane the report was ordered to lie.

Mr. Powers moved that when the Council adjourn it be to meet on Monday next at 2 o'clock p. m.—Adjourned.

MONDAY, Aug. 2, 1869.
AFTERNOON.

The Council was called to order by the President.

Journal of Saturday's proceedings read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Powers a call of the Council was ordered, the following named Censors answering to their names: Messrs. Cleveland, Field, French, Hollister and Powers.

The absentees being summoned by order of the Council, Messrs. Redfield and Reed appeared and took their seats.

A quorum being present, Mr. Cleveland called up the report of the Committee on Biennial Sessions.

On motion of Mr. Cleveland, the fifth article of the proposed amendment was amended by striking out the words "and Probate officers," and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Officers, Judges of Probate."

Pending a motion by Mr. Cleaveland to strike out the fourth article of the proposed amendment the report was, on motion of Mr. French ordered to lie and made the special order for Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

Mr. French from the Legislative Committee submitted the following report which was read, accepted, and ordered to lie.

*To the Honorable Council of Censors:*

Your Committee who were instructed by a resolution of this body to inquire whether the provisions of the 94th Chapter of the General Statutes, relating to the traffic in intoxicating drinks, have been duly enforced, and if it be found that said provisions have not been so enforced, to report as to the causes of said failure, report that they have attended to the duty assigned them and find that the law is not and has not been enforced. As to the cause your Committee find that this law, like many others on our statutes, is one whose execution the public does not demand, and officers whose duty it is to enforce the law are very willing to be relieved of that duty if the public do not demand its enforcement.

N. W. FRENCH,
for Committee.

On motion of Mr. French, adjourned.

**The pressure on our columns to-day compels us to omit the report of Tuesday's proceedings.**

## U. V. M.

Necrology for the Years 1868 and 1869.

*Class of* 1824.—Hon. William W. Wells, son of Roswell and Pamelia White Wells, was born Oct. 28th, 1805, in Waterbury, Vt., and died there of pneumonia April 7th, 1869, aged 63 years.

After graduating Mr. Wells commenced the study of law, but soon abandoned it and engaged in active business. For several years he was a prominent dry goods merchant of Burlington, Vt. He afterwards removed to Waterbury, where for a number of years he carried on an extensive tannery. Latterly he had been extensively engaged as a manufacturer and dealer in flour at the same place.

Mr. Wells represented Waterbury in the Legislature in 1849, 1858 and 1861, where he took an active part in legislative matters. He was a member of the Eleventh Council of Censors in 1855, and was Selectman and Town Treasurer for several years. He was Grand Scribe of the Grand Division of Sons of Temperance of the State of Vermont for eight years, and also Grand Worthy Patriarch of Sons of Temperance of Vt. for some time. He stood high in the esteem and confidence of the community in which he lived, and was almost constantly holding some town office of honor and trust.

*Class of* 1839.—Hon. Edmund Trowbridge Dana, LL.D. was born in Cambridge, Mass., (the home of his ancestors for two centuries,) Aug. 29th, 1818, and died in Boston, at the house of his father, Richard H. Dana, Esq., May 18th, 1869.

The following extract from the Boston *Daily Advertiser* will give a good idea of Mr. Dana's reputation as a gentleman and scholar:

His boyhood gave early and rare intimations of the delicacy and breadth of his later powers. Instead of going to Harvard College, where all of his family had been graduated, he went to the University of Vermont, where there then happened to be gathered what was considered the best corps of instructors in the country, with the distinguished James Marsh at their head. [illegible]

His tastes were for philosophy, poetry, the art, political science, public law, and the humanities. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] In 1864 Mr. Raymond was elected to Congress. His Congressional career had been severely criticised, but the verdict of history will be that it was [illegible] by purely patriotic motives. His course, however, was [illegible]. He was too independent to be a thorough party man. On the expiration of his term, he withdrew almost wholly from public life, and devoted all his energies to the management of his paper. In 1867 he was offered a mission to Austria by Pres. Johnson, but he declined the position.

Absorbed in his editorial duties, Mr. Raymond found but little time for literary labors in other fields. He published a biography of Abraham Lincoln. Besides this he published [illegible] a few political speeches and literary addresses, one of which upon "the duties of the American scholar to his country," he delivered before the Associate Alumni of the University in 1850. He also delivered an A. M. oration in 1843, at which time the degree of A. M. was conferred upon him, which he also received from Princeton College in 1847. Union College gave him a few years since the honorary degree of LL. D. In 1859 Mr. Raymond was chosen a member of the Corporation of Vt. University, which position he held for twelve years. He was, for a number of years, President of the Associate Alumni, and had always been a firm friend of his *alma mater.*

*Class of* 1860.—Charles Loomis, son of the late Hon. Jedathan Loomis, was born in Montpelier, Vt., and died there of consumption, Dec. 7th, 1868, aged about 29 years.

After graduating Mr. Loomis taught several years at the South. He afterward studied law with the late Hon. F. F. Merrill of Montpelier, and practiced law in Cleveland and Cincinnati, and latterly in New York City. He was one of the first to enter the military service as a volunteer at the beginning of the rebellion, was promoted to a Captaincy, and had a position on the staff of Gen. Stuart of Chicago, in which capacity he participated in the battle of Shiloh and Arkansas Post, and various smaller engagements.

Mr. Loomis was a young man of rare ability, and a genial, [illegible] whose untimely death was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. [illegible]

[illegible]

It is the scholar's vocation to love all truth [illegible] Hence arise antagonisms. In our own age a fierce controversy rages between