DOWNSTATE IS GIVEN CONTROL OF ASSEMBLY

Revised Constitution Gives Clear Majority—Separate Representative Districts.

According to the draft of the revised constitution adopted at the "con con" meet the state senate is to have 57 members, one-third of whom shall be from Cook county, and two two-thirds from the rest of the state, thus insuring a clear majority to downstate.

The house of representatives has 153 members, one being elected from each representative district. The districts must contain as nearly as possible an equal number of voters, thus excluding aliens from the count. The idea of representative districts is new, members of the house now being elected from senatorial districts. Under the revised constitution representative districts will be separate and distinct from senatorial districts.

Municipal corporations may be authorized by the general assembly to pass ordinances regulating the location, appearance, size and use of buildings by zones. Attempt was made to make the power broad enough to abrogate certain decisions of the supreme court restricting municipalities in zoning.

The general assembly may, upon approval of the people at a general election, provide a system for loaning moneys on the security of farms. It was deemed that this power should be vested in the general assembly in order that land credits might be effectually provided for in case of necessity.

The county court retains its present jurisdiction and in addition is given concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts in testamentary tests, construction of wills and partition of real estate where any such proceedings is incidental to its original jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction of appeals from justices of the peace.

Judges of courts of record are forbidden to practice law. A state's attorney must be a licensed attorney.

A qualification in addition to that now required of an elector is that he must have resided in the United States at least five years, unless naturalized because of military or naval service.

The limit of indebtedness of a county, town or school district is fixed at five per cent of the value of the taxable property therein as ascertained by the last assessment for state and county taxes, and the limit of indebtedness of a municipal corporation is six per cent of such value.

The present county organization, except the probate courts, is continued. In counties other than Cook an assessor may be selected as provided by law. In counties of 50,000 or more an auditor may be selected. The limit of tax levy is preserved at three-fourths of one per cent of valuation. The general assembly may provide for the organization and government of counties different from that prescribed in the revision, but the law providing for such different organization becomes effective in a county only after approval upon referendum.

City Briefs

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SCARAMOUCHE

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(Continued from our last issue)

CHAPTER IX.

"Do you know," said Climene, "that I am waiting for the explanation which I think you owe me?"

They were alone together, lingering still at the table to which Andre-Louis had come belatedly.

"Explanation?" he questioned. "But on what score?"

"On the score of the deception you have practiced on us—on me. You should not have pretended to be a simple country lawyer, which of course, any one could see that you are not."

"I see," he said, and pulled at his pipe. "But you are wrong, Climene. I am neither more nor less than I have represented myself."

"Ha! And that fine lady who carried you off in her cabriolet? What is she to you."

"A sort of sister," said he.

"A sort of sister!" She was indignant. "Harlequin foretold that would would say so; but he was amusing himself. She has a name, I suppose, this sort of sister?"

"Certainly she has a name. She is Mlle. Aline de Kercadiou, the niece of Quintin de Kercadiou, Lord of Gavrillac."

"Aho! That's a sufficiently fine name for your sort of sister. What sort of sister, my friend?"

For the first time in their relationship he observed and deplored the taint of vulgarity, of shrewdishness, in her manner.

"Her uncle, M. de Kercadiou, is my godfather. It is popularly believed in Gavrillac that M. de Kercadiou is my father. He has certainly cared for my rearing from my tenderest years. I owe to him everything that I have—or, rather, everything that I had. Today I possess nothing save what I can earn for myself in the theatre or elsewhere."

She sat stunned and pale under that cruel blow to her swelling pride.

"You should have told me this before," she said, in a dull voice that she strove to render steady.

"Perhaps I should. But does it really matter?"

"Matter?" She suppressed her fury to ask another question. "You say that this M. de Kercadiou is popularly believed to be your father. What precisely do you mean?"

"Just that. It is a belief that I do not share. It is a matter of instinct, perhaps, with me. Moreover, once I asked M. de Kercadiou point-blank, and I received from him a denial."

"And your mother, was she equally ignorant." She was sneering, but he did not remark it. Her back was to the light.

"He would not disclose her name to me. He confessed her to be a dear friend of his."

She startled him by laughing, and her laugh was not pleasant.

"A very dear friend, you may be sure, you simpleton. What name do you bear?"

He restrained his own rising indignation to answer her question calmly: "Moreau. It was given me, so I am told, from the Brittany village in which I was born. In fact, I have no name, unless it be Scaramouche, to which I have earned a title. So that you see, my dear," he ended with a smile, "I have practiced no deception whatever."

"No, no. I see that now." She laughed without mirth, then drew a deep breath and rose. "I am very tired," she said.

She moved towards the door, dragging her feet a little. He sprang to open it, and she passed out without looking at him.

On the morow Andre-Louis found his mind distracted by thoughts of both Climene and Aline. It was Aline who provided the deeper perturbation. Climene's attitude he regarded as a passing phase. But the thought of Aline's conduct toward him kept ranking, and still more deeply rankled the thought of her possible betrothal to M. de La Tour d'Azyr.

This it was that brought forcibly to his mind the self-imposed but by now half-forgotten mission that he had made his own. He had boasted that he would make the voice which M. de La Tour d'Azyr had sought to silence ring through the length and breadth of the land. What a fine contrast between the promise and the fulfillment!

It happened that the first person he saw when he took the stage on that Thursday evening was Aline; the second was the Marquis de La Tour d'Azyr. They occupied a box on the right of, and immediately above, the stage.

That was the evening's first shock. The next came after the second act. Entering the green-room he found at the far end with Climene, over whom he was bending from his fine height, his eyes intent upon her face, M. de La Tour d'Azyr.

That night there were high words between Andre-Louis and Climene, the high words proceeding from Climene. When Andre-Louis again enjoined prudence upon his betrothed, she shocked and stunned him by her virulently shrewdish tone, and her still more unexpected force of invective.

"I'll not tolerate your insensate jealousy. A girl in the theatre must make it her business to accept homeage from all."

"Agreed; and there is no harm, provided she gives nothing in exchange."

White-faced, with flaming eyes, she turned on him at that.

"How? You dare?"

"I know M. de La Tour d'Azyr," he answered her. "He is a man who takes what he wants wherever he finds it and whether it is given willingly or not; a man who reckons nothing of the misery he scatters on his self-indulgent way. Ponder it, Climene, and ask yourself if I do you less than honor in warning you."

He went out on that, feeling a degradation in continuing his subject.

On Tuesday of the following week, Andre-Louis ran into a slightly built, sallow-complexioned gentleman very neatly dressed in black.

"Moreau! Where the devil have you been hiding yourself these months?"

It was Le Chapelier, the lawyer, the leader of the Literary Chamber of Rennes. Without halting for reply, he continued: "You are the man we have been seeking everywhere, and—behold!—you drop from the skies into my path."

They crossed the square and entered the cafe.

"I suppose you haven't heard of the royal order for the convocation of the States General, or the terms of them—that we are to have what we demanded, what you demanded for us here in Nantes! You haven't heard of the fresh uproar in Rennes, last month. The order was that the three estates should sit together at the States General but in Rennes the nobles took up arms, headed by your old friend, M. de La Tour d'Azyr, and they were for slashing us—the members of the Third Estate—into ribbons so as to put an end to our insolence." He laughed delicately. "But, by God, we showed them that we, too, could take up arms. We fought them a pitched battle in the streets, and so peppered them that they were glad to take shelter in the Cordelier Convent."

"It is odd," said Andre-Louis, "that I should never perceive that Nantes is being politically active."

That night at the theatre he had a mischievous impulse to test what Le Chapelier had told him of the state of public feeling in the city. They were playing "The Terrible Captain," in the last act of which the empty cowardice of the bullying braggart Rhodomont is revealed by Scaramouche.

After the laughter which the exposure of the roading captain invariably produced, it remained for Scaramouche contemptuously to dismiss him in a phrase that varied nightly. This time he chose to give his phrase a political complexion:

"Thus, O coward, is your emptiness exposed. Because of your long length and your great sword people have imagined you to be as terrible and as formidable as you insolently make yourself appear. But at the first touch of true spirit you crumple up, you tremble, you whine pitifully, and the great sword remains in your scabbard. You remind me of the Privileged Orders when confronted by the Third Estate."

"It was audacious of him, and he was prepared for anything—laugh, applause, indignation, or all together. But he was not prepared for what came. And it came so suddenly and spontaneously from the groundlings and the body of those in the amphitheatre that he was almost scared by it—as a boy may be scared who has held a match to a sun-scorched hayrick. It was a hurricane of furious applause. Men leaped to their feet, sprang up on to the benches, waving their hats in the air, deafening him with the terrific uproar of their acclamations. And it rolled on and on, nor ceased until the curtain fell.

(Continued in our next issue)