

# Terms of the Watchman.

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## A FACETIOUS SHERIFF.

Nearly half a century ago, (says the editor of the *Washington News*, who well remembers the time, place and scene,) there dwelt in the town of —, in Old England, a remarkable oddity, in the person of an attorney-at-law, who, although not fair to look upon, (for he was in truth one of the homeliest specimens of humanity ever beheld by mortal man,) was withal a person of sound judgment, great benevolence, various learning, a poet, a painter, and a wit.

It so happened that the aforesaid gentleman, G. —, Esq., was appointed High Sheriff of the town of —. He was a man of fortune and had a kind heart, as many a poor prisoner could testify, who partook of the good cheer with which the prisoners were literally supplied from the private purse of the worthy sheriff.

It was of course the duty of the High Sheriff to summon a grand and petit jury, to attend at the quarter sessions, of which the recorder, mayor, and aldermen of the borough, composed the court. In the performance of his official duty, in summoning the jury, our High Sheriff indulged in some of the strangest and drollest freaks, that have probably ever been heard of in any other town or country. In the first place he summoned for the October court, a jury consisting of twelve of the fattest men he could find in the borough, and when they came to the book to be sworn, it appeared that only nine jurors could sit comfortably within the box! After a great deal of sweating, squeezing, and scolding, the panel was literally jammed into the box, and when seated, they presented to the eye of the court, the barristers and audience, "the tightest fit" of a jury that was ever seen in any court room.

Literally they became, much to the amusement of the court and its robed advocates, a "packed jury," and no mistake.

For the January term, our facetious High Sheriff (in consequence, it was said of some hint from the recorder, that there should be no more fat panels summoned to his court) went into the opposite extreme. He summoned twelve of the leanest and tallest men he could find in the borough, and when they took their seats in the box, it appeared comparatively empty—there was indeed room enough for twelve more of the same sort and dimensions.

For the April term of the court, our humorous functionary summoned a jury consisting of twelve barbers! Now it so happened that among the latter were the very percuquers who dressed the recorder's and barristers' wigs, and some of the latter, arriving late at the bar, had to appear that morning in court with their wigs undressed or half dressed, so as to cut a very ridiculous figure, amidst the smiles and half-suppressed laughter of the bystanders. The High Sheriff of course enjoyed the fun amazingly, but looked "grave as a judge," while he tried to keep silence in the court room.

But the crowning joke of this waggish officer occurred at the summoning of his fourth and last jury at the July session.—For that term of the court, the High Sheriff, not having the fear of the recorder, the mayor, and the aldermen, before his eyes, actually summoned a Squinting Jury—twelve as queer looking bipeds as ever took their seats in a jury box—a jury that was probably more looked at and laughed at, than any of the appointed twelve that ever were sworn to "well and truly try, and true deliverance make, between their sovereign lord the King; and the prisoner at the bar." But the scene was so irresistibly droll, that the learned recorder could not maintain his gravity. The mayor and aldermen followed suit. The barristers laughed while their wigs became bald and powderless; nay, even the poor prisoners in the dock, who were to be put upon their trials, and some of them undergo transportation, could not refrain from joining in the general exclamation! And when the recorder commanded the High Sheriff to bring the court room to order, and intimated, with a half suppressed laugh, that the latter ought to be ashamed of himself for summoning such a jury, the drollery of this court scene was heightened considerably by the quick, ready, and sonorous response of the High Sheriff, who, looking at the same time waggishly at the squinting jury, exclaimed—"All good and lawful men, your honor!"

But our humorous functionary has long since shelled off his mortal coil.

"Where be your gibes now? your gambols? your songs? your flashes of merriment that were wont to set the table in a roar?—quite chaf-fallen!"

A Horsewhipping Affair.—The Snow Hill Shield is informed by a gentleman recently from Accomac county, Va., that the Hon. Edward P. Pitts, late State Senator from that county, was attacked by John C. Wise, Esq., at a public vendue, on the 27th ult., and horsewhipped by him, and Mr. P. being a man of peace offered no resistance. It is stated that Wise was very much inflamed by some remark made by Pitts, at a political meeting during a recent campaign, at which the Hon. Jas. W. Custis knocked Wise off the stand whilst speaking, for some disrespectful remark.

The Washington Union says that the Locusts are preparing to enter the next contest with "flying colors." Their colors may "fly" at the commencement of the battle, but we apprehend that they themselves will soon imitate the example.—*Prattie.*

# THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES,  
Editors & Proprietors.

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR  
RULERS."



DO THIS, AND LIBERTY IS SAFE.  
Gen'l Harrison.

NEW SERIES.  
VOLUME VI—NUMBER 39.

SALISBURY, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1850.

## From the New York Journal of Commerce. Arrival of the Steamer Niagara.

Eleven Days Later from Europe.  
The Niagara arrived at Halifax at 1 o'clock yesterday morning. Our messenger immediately boarded her, and placed our despatch in the Telegraph Office, in advance of all others; but, unfortunately could not communicate with Calais or Portland. The New Brunswick line was down till four o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Our special express did not leave Portland till nearly 10 o'clock, last evening and although the night was very dark, it reached Boston at half past one o'clock this morning.

The news was then transmitted over Bain's and House's line to this city, and rainy as the weather was, they worked rapidly and admirably.

## HALIFAX TELEGRAPH OFFICE, Thursday Morning.

The Niagara has arrived. The cotton market buoyant. The sales last week were 99,000 bales, of which speculators took 49,000. Prices are up all round a quarter of a penny per lb.

Breadstuffs are dull, and slightly declined. Of provisions the prices and demand are better. Sugar, coffee and lard decidedly advanced.

Money extremely abundant. Consols 97 a 97½. Am. stocks are firm and in good demand. U. S. sizes 275½ a 106.

ENGLAND.—Parliament meets for dispatch of business on the 1st of February, when it is expected that some important change in the monetary system will be laid before the Legislature.

President Taylor's Message, which reached England by the Hibernia, has been extensively published and largely commented upon by the English press. The general expression of public sentiment is very favorable. The London Times says:

"The tone of the Message is pacific and we learn with pleasure that there is no disposition on the part of the American Cabinet to magnify the differences which were supposed at one moment to threaten its relations with the most liberal European powers. The contention with France had originated in the impatience of M. Poussin, and the irregular proceedings of Mr. Clayton. That with England has taken its rise from some misconception with reference to the views of the country of the Mosquito Court and the Nicaragua Canal, but there is every reason to anticipate that Sir H. Bulwer's mission will have the effect of uniting both countries in the prosecution of a common object of so much importance to the commerce of the world; the more recent occurrences which are said to have taken place on the Pacific coast of the Isthmus, by the alleged seizure of the Island of Tigher, in the Bay of Fonseca, by order of Mr. Chaffin, the British Consul General in Guatemala are imperfectly known in this country, and we are satisfied that if any unseemly altercation has occurred between British and American agents in Central America, it will not disturb the friendly relation of the two Governments. It seems that whilst a treaty has been concluded between the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua for the promotion of the Canal, all other States are invited to enter into some treaty stipulation, and, as President Taylor observes, the work constructed under these guarantees will become a bond of peace instead of contention and strife between the nations of the earth. In other respects the relations of America with Great Britain are of the most friendly character, and by the removal of restrictions in the laws of Navigation by both parties, both countries are justly convinced it is an era in their common commercial intercourse. Upon the whole, this message is creditable to the American Government, and should prove satisfactory to the country, for the state of their finances is encumbered with outstanding liabilities. That evil is the result of former excesses, and the price of their late victories.

FRANCE.—The Assembly has been occupied during the past week in debating the policy of sending out more troops to the River Plate, and also with the provisions of a new education bill. It has been decided that no more troops shall be sent to the Plate. Various proclamations have been issued against all kinds of clubs and secret political associations.

The National announces that 25,000 men of the army employed in restoring the Pope to his throne, are to remain at Rome—the Government having concluded contracts for the maintenance of that force in the Pontifical dominion during the first quarter of 1850.

A new paper, called the *Napoleon*, and said to be the organ of the President of the Republic, has just been started at Paris. The following article from its pages is supposed to indicate the inclinations of the President:—

"Of two things, one, either the Republicans have deceived the public in preaching to it for forty years that the application of their principles would lead to the cessation of all evils, and of all political complication made by them of their great principles have changed nothing in the vice and abuses of the monarchical regime.

The republican opposition to the old Bonapartes of their wrongs, of divine right of Louis Philippe, that representative of Royal and Parliamentary Usurpation, may be conceived, but it cannot be comprehended with respect to Louis Napoleon Bonaparte elected, proclaimed and recognised as the head and President of the Republic. The reason is that the republicans of the *Vielle*, not very consistent with their former convictions, and sore with rancor, and it is not without bitterness that they behold authority again in the ascendant.

Rev. Mr. Wheeler, of San Francisco, thus speaks of California piety: "I am trying to preach, to labor, to pray; and I love my work; but I have never seen a harder task than to get a man to look through a lump of gold to eternity."

## THE STATE OF OHIO.

The Senate of Ohio was finally organized for business on Friday last. On assembling in the morning of that day, after some conversation among Senators, Mr. Blake resigned the station of Speaker, and the Senate elected Charles C. Converse to that post. Mr. Blake said he took this step for the purpose of enabling the Senate to proceed with its business. He did not resign till Mr. Swift, in open Senate, pledged himself to vote for Mr. Converse for Speaker, thus placing matters politically as they were before.

On the same day Governor Ford delivered his Annual Message to the Legislature. This document shows that the total amount of payments into the State Treasury during the year 1849, was \$2,511,119; the amount of expenditures \$2,176,631. The total amount of domestic bonds redeemed and cancelled during the year 1849, was \$199,386, leaving a balance applicable to the payment of the State debt of \$433,365.

The receipts from the Canals and Public Works during the year ending November 15, 1848, were \$773,554 37. The receipts from the same source during the year ending November 15, 1849, are \$731,173 50. Making a difference of \$42,380 87; which is attributed to the depression of business caused by the prevalence of the cholera.

## MISSISSIPPI.

The Legislature of Mississippi convened at Jackson on the 7th instant. Dabney Lipscomb was chosen President of the Senate, and John J. McRae was re-elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Governor Quitman, in his message, states the receipts of the past year to have been \$437,018; the expenditures \$317,428. The amount of sinking fund received is \$147,915, of which \$72,893 has been applied to the payment of the non-repudiated portion of the State debt, (included.)

On the subject of Repudiation, the Governor preserves a silence that is anything but commendable in one who has been in past times its avowed adversary. He denounces the National Government for its interference with the threatened foray on Cuba; and, speaking in defence of the "peculiar institution" of the South, says:

"In the event of the adoption of the Wilmot proviso by Congress, or the admission of California into the Union by virtue of her late pretended Constitution, the abolition of the commerce in slaves between the States, I recommend that the Governor be authorized to order an election of delegates from all the counties in the State to take into consideration the mode and measure of redress, and to adopt such measures for our future security as the crisis may demand."

Gov. Quitman urges the abolition of all common law forms of Legal Procedure, so that "hereafter all suits shall be instituted by petition, and pleaded to by an answer, after the manner of pleading now in use in the Chancery Court."

Singular Scene in the Hall of the House of Representatives.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun thus describes a scene which occurred in the Hall of the House of Representatives Saturday, immediately after the adjournment:

After the adjournment, and before the members had left the Hall, a man by the name of N. Harner, apparently laboring under mental aberration, from some part of Maryland, took the Speaker's chair and commenced addressing the crowd in the Hall. He said that he had some words to address to this nation. (Cries, hear him, hear him, and much laughter.) He had been here for several long weeks. (Order! order!) He had been here waiting for his party to give him something, but they would not. I am a lion from the West—one of the b'hoys. I have spent every thing but my life for the party. (Cries, a whig, a whig! an ungrateful party.) I am willing to serve my country in any capacity. I stand up here to proclaim it. (Cries, here is a candidate for doorkeeper that all parties can rally upon.) I come here to do something for my people at home. I am one of the b'hoys—I am the embodiment of free-soilism. I go for the largest liberty to the woolleys.—(But I go for a place against all isms.) (Cries—such is the spirit of the day.) I would rather support Queen Victoria than submit longer to this delay. I must have a place. (Order! order!) When I do get a place—when I come upon the throne here—(Cries—he means the doorkeeper's place!) all the Nation will tremble. Just at this stage of his eloquent harangue, Mr. Holmes, of South Carolina, stepped upon the Clerk's stand and very politely handed the gentleman down, much to his dissatisfaction and to the disappointment of the crowd. The speaker, however, like Lorenzo Dow of old, continued to speak, whether in the pulpit or upon the floor, amongst his hearers. He declared that he was the people's man and was determined to have things righted.

Soft Soap.—A first rate article of this kind may be made in abundance, by boiling a few church dandies.



For the Watchman.

## ALCOHOL IS A POISON.

Having shown already some of the reasons for believing that Alcohol is itself a virulent poison; we now proceed another step, to show that most, if not all the liquors sold in the country, of which alcohol is the basis, have other poisons mingled with them. As if one poison was not sufficient—as if men were not swept off fast enough by taking one serpent into their stomachs, to eat out their vitals, others must be added.

We have heard of men, not far distant, who boasted that for thirty cents worth of arsenic, they could sell whiskey out of the same barrel, from this part of the country to Charleston, and perhaps back again. As fast as they drew out the liquor, they replaced the same quantity of water, and a little of the drug.

In a Northern paper, March 1846, we have the following account: A man who had been a retailer for 20 years, noticed the dregs and filth remaining at the bottom of every cask of liquor drawn off. Generally of a black, brown or reddish cast; throwing off a noxious effluvia, very offensive, and apparently composed of poisonous drugs.

A short time since, when removing his standing liquor cask, he took down a large whiskey hoghead, that had stood on the head for several years without being disturbed. He found at the bottom a black noxious, and very offensive sediment several inches in depth. This was collected from ordinary whiskey as it came from the still, without the addition of anything to it afterwards. And it shows (it adds) that ardent spirits is not only poisonous in itself, but that poisonous substances are used in its manufacture. There are many drugs which are known to be used to poison wine and ardent spirits, and among these are sugar of lead, white lead, nuxomica, henbane, oil of vitriol, grains of paradise, arsenic and copperas. It is known that a large proportion of the liquors and wines drank in the country, are either adulterated with drugs, or manufactured out of them.

A chemist in New York was for some weeks employed in making a careful analysis of various specimens of beer.—When he began he was an habitual drinker of that article; now he declares, that henceforth he will never drink it. Why? Because he found on examination, allum, copperas, and other drugs in it, unfit for the human stomach. In nine cases out of ten, what is called champagne wine is common whiskey, passed through charcoal, to render it limpid, and to deprive it of oily and extractive matter, upon which its peculiar taste depends, and then flavored with drugs, of which sugar of lead is often one.

In 1826, 38 pipes of wine were imported from Oporto into some of the Islands in the English channel, but there were sent the same year from those Islands to London, of the same kind of wine, 290 pipes! In another year by the custom-house book, there were imported into the Island of Guernsey 155 pipes and hogheads of wine from Oporto; but in the same year, and of the same kind of wine, there were exported from there to London 2,607 pipes!

In a foreign work on poisons the following facts are laid down: That wines are adulterated with sugar of lead, alum, sulphuric acid, logwood chips, oak bark, sulphuric and nitric acid, and the alkalies, nux vomica, cocleus indicus, opium, &c. The effects of these on the human system, are also mentioned; painful digestions, vomiting, obstruction of the bowels; and there are some that produce inflammation like caustics. They cause death in the same manner as burns: such as the concentrated acids, and alkalies: they literally burn out the inside of a man. Others whose caustic effects are less intense, produce death in a more rapid manner because they are absorbed, mixed with the blood, carried into the circulation, and so they destroy the vital properties of the heart, lungs, brain, and nervous system. Nux vomica, and cocleus indicus introduced into the stomach or applied to wounds are repeatedly absorbed, and affect the brain and spinal mar-

row, near the neck. They occasion a general rigidity and convulsions. The effects on some are not continual, but give rise to fits from time to time, in the intervals of which the person appears little affected. Another writer says that these adulterations of wine with substances deleterious to health, are practised oftener than is expected. That the most dangerous adulterations of wine are by some preparation of lead. And wine with the least quantity of lead in it is a slow poison. One bottle of wine analyzed in the city of New York was found to contain a quarter of an ounce of sugar of lead!

The merchant who prepares such potions for his customers, adds the crime of murder to that of fraud. One such on his death bed, confessed that he had often seen his customers wasting away around him, poisoned by that he had meted out to them; and that same wine which was the cause of their decline was often prescribed to them by their physicians as a means of their recovery!

A liquor dealer purchased recipes for making French Brandy, Holland Gin, Jamaica Rum, and wine out of whiskey.—He went into the business largely; and made a great deal of money; and boasted of it to his physician. The latter asked to see the recipes, and told him that the man who would put such drugs into liquor and sell it to be drunk, was guilty of murder. But it was so profitable he could not give up the business: so he made an experiment by giving a gallon to a drunkard in his vicinity, and as it did not immediately kill him, he concluded he would go on with the business.

Who then in looking at such facts as these, well known all over the land, can defend the use of ardent spirits as a beverage? Though there may be some honorable exceptions, in general, the liquor trade, is the trade of death.

There is no way to escape destruction, but to cease the use of such poisons. To talk of their temperate—moderate use is absurd. Many men do not know what filthy compounds, not to say poisonous, they take into their stomachs. In former times 75 or 100 years ago, men who drank ardent spirits were seldom drunk; and what they used did not injure them to that degree that liquor does now; and here is the secret of it, what is now sold and drunk is drugged. And it is not strange that men who drink excessively, die off in a few years.

## MEDICUS.

### SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

In the House of Representatives, Monday, the following message, from the President of the United States, was laid before the House by the Speaker:

### To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States:

I herewith submit to you copies of a correspondence with the Lady of Sir John Franklin relative to the well known expedition under his command, to the arctic regions, for the discovery of a northwest passage. On the receipt of her first letter, imploring the aid of the American Government in a search for the missing ships engaged in an enterprise which interested all civilized nations, I anxiously sought the means of affording that assistance, but was prevented from accomplishing the object I had in view in consequence of the want of vessels suitable to encounter the perils of a proper exploration, the lateness of the season, and the want of an appropriation by Congress to enable me to furnish and equip an efficient squadron for that object. All that I could do, in compliance with a request which I was deeply anxious to gratify, was to cause the advertisements of reward, promulgated by the British Government, and the best information I could obtain as to the means of finding the vessels under the command of Sir John Franklin, to be widely circulated among our whalers and sealing men, whose spirit of enterprise might lead them to the inhospitable regions where that heroic officer and his brave followers, who periled their lives in the cause of science and for the benefit of the world, were supposed to be imprisoned among the icebergs or wrecked upon a desert shore.

Congress being now in session, the propriety and expediency of an appropriation for fitting out an expedition to proceed in search of the missing ships, with their officers and crews, is respectfully submitted to your consideration.

Z. TAYLOR.

WASHINGTON, January 4, 1850.  
On motion of Mr. GENTRY, the message was laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

The Columbia Telegraph of 14th inst., says that "the first load of Cotton by the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, came down on Saturday last. A Freight Car proceeded up the track to the plantation of J. D. Frost, Esq., and returned with 18 bales. The work is still progressing finely—the iron being laid down as fast as possible."

We hope it will not be long before we shall have to make similar announcement relative to the Charlotte and Columbia road. We understand that two Cars are on the track and used for the purpose of transporting materials for the road.—*Charlotte Journal.*

## THE CALIFORNIA MESSAGE.

All those who read the "Union" newspaper, says the National Intelligencer of Tuesday, and especially those who delight in its politics, must have been identified by the more than usual violence with which it has assailed the late Message of the President to Congress on the subject of California and New Mexico. The plan which it submits to the consideration of Congress has been pronounced by the "Union" to be "desperate and flagitious," and "a wicked expedient;" and the President himself entitled by his personal qualities at least to the respect and esteem of even the worst of his political opponents, has been stigmatized by "the sole organ," on account of this Message, as wanting in those very qualities of a statesman by which he is in reality most distinguished, viz: "courage, manliness, and true wisdom." Every one who has read these things in the Democratic organ has also read its predictions as the consequence of the success of the President's recommendations, of "civil war, perhaps in every State of the Union, unheard of carnage of men who should be brothers, conflagrations, desolations of cities and fields, and all the horrors which ever attended civil strife." To relieve our Democratic readers from the terror which such awful and horrifying ratiocinations must have filled the breast of all who rely upon the authority of the "Union," we now present them with the views, upon the same subject, of the late Administration, uttered little more than twelve months ago. We can imagine the real horror into which our venerable neighbor will be thrown upon discovering that the ground taken by President Polk (the "Union's" Magnus Apollo) in his last Annual Message to Congress is essentially the same, and in almost the same terms, as that taken in General Taylor's late Message, for which he has been so villainously abused by this same journal. That such is the fact will be seen upon a careful perusal of the following extract from the Message of Mr. Polk to Congress of the 8th of December, 1848:

"The question is believed to be rather abstract than practical, whether slavery ever can or would exist in any portion of the acquired territory, even if it were left to the option of the Slaveholding States themselves. From the nature of the climate and productions, in much the larger portion of it, it is certain it could never exist; and in the remainder the probabilities are it would not. But, however this may be, the question, involving as it does a principle of equal co-partners in the Confederacy should not be disregarded.

"In organizing Governments over these Territories, no duty imposed on Congress by the Constitution requires that they should legislate on the subject of slavery, while their power to do so is not only seriously questioned, denied by many of the soundest expounders of that instrument. Whether Congress shall legislate or not, the people of the acquired Territories, when assembled in convention to form State constitutions, will possess the sole and exclusive power to determine for themselves whether slavery shall or shall not exist within their limits. If Congress shall abstain from interfering with the question, the people of these Territories will be left free to adjust it as they may think proper when they apply for admission into the Union. No enactment of Congress could restrain the people of any of the sovereign States of the Union, old or new North or South, slaveholding or non-slaveholding, from determining the character of their own domestic institutions as they may deem wise and proper. Any and all the States possess this right and Congress cannot deprive them of it. The people of Georgia might, if they choose, so alter their constitution as to abolish slavery within its limits; and the people of Vermont might so alter their constitution as to admit slavery within its limits. Both States would possess the right; though, as all know it is not probable that either would exert it.

"It is fortunate for the peace and harmony of the Union that this question is in its nature temporary; and can only continue for the brief period which will intervene before California and New Mexico may be admitted as States into the Union. From the tide of population now flowing into them, it is highly probable that this will soon occur.

"Considering the several States and the citizens of the several States as equals, and entitled to equal rights under the Constitution, if this were an original question, it might well be insisted on that the principle of non-interference is the true doctrine, and that Congress could not, in the absence of any express grant of power, interfere with their relative rights."

## INSTRUCTING SENATORS.

Some years ago, the doctrine that the State Legislatures had a right to give what instructions they pleased to the Senators of their respective States concerning the discharge by them of their public duties, and, as a corollary, that the Senators were bound either to obey the instructions or to resign, was a cardinal "Democratic" principle. It was greatly relied upon in the times when Jackson's power was at its zenith, and particularly by the Southern Democracy, as a curb upon Whig Senators. It had a potent power in Virginia, if indeed it had not its birth in that land of vagaries. Even the Whigs there, or a considerable part of them, acknowledged its validity, and suffered themselves to be governed by its exactions. The far greater part of the Whigs of the Southern States, and of the Union at large, contended against the application of the doctrine to Senators, arguing that those functionaries should be left free to exercise their own judgment; or at any rate, that State Legislatures had no right to go beyond the line of counseling and advising them. Gradually this right of instruction doctrine grew into disuse and disrepute, until at length, its very aspect has an air of strangeness about it. But it is curious to perceive in how unwelcome a shape the thing now comes up "to plague the inventors." General Cass has, in a speech made last week in the Senate, declared himself opposed to the Wilmot Proviso, holding its application by Congress to the Territories to be unconstitutional, but yet he is precluded from voting against it, having been instructed by the Legislature of Michigan to vote in favor of the measure. That, however, he will not do, having made up his mind to resign his seat, when the proper time arrives.—Here then is a case where the wretched system of Legislative instruction causes the loss to the South of a Senatorial vote.—*W. Chronicle.*

A paper is about to be established in France, under the direction of two priests, whose object is to popularize the idea that the celibacy of the clergy is an evil, and may be thrown off by common consent, as it is only an ecclesiastical regulation, and not based upon principles of divine right, of faith, or of morality.