

THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Believing that no more important measure has been before the people of North Carolina for a score of years, we give in full herewith the proposed Constitutional amendment, which we expect to keep standing until the election in August of this year. It is not necessary for us to say that it should be carefully considered and that the voter should not allow prejudice to influence him in deciding whether or not he will support it. The amendment reads as follows:

That Article VI. of the Constitution of North Carolina be, and the same is hereby abrogated and in lieu thereof shall be substituted the following article of said Constitution:

ARTICLE VI.

SUFFRAGE AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE—QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR.

(Section 1) Every male person born in the United States and every male person who has been naturalized, 21 years of age and possessing the qualifications set out in this article, shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people in the State, except as herein otherwise provided.

(Section 2) He shall have resided in the State of North Carolina for two years, in the county six months, and in the precinct, ward or other election district in which he offers to vote, four months next preceding the election: Provided, That removal from one precinct, ward or other election district, to another in the same county, shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in the precinct, ward or other election district, from which he has removed until four months after such removal. No person who has been convicted or who has confessed his guilt in open court upon indictment, of any crime, the punishment of which now is or may hereafter be, imprisonment in the State prison, shall be permitted to vote unless the said person shall be first restored to citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

(Section 3) Every person offering to vote shall be at the time a legally registered voter as herein prescribed and in the manner herein after provided by law, and the General Assembly of North Carolina shall enact general registration laws to carry into effect the provisions of this article.

(Section 4) Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language, and before he shall be entitled to vote he shall have paid on or before the first day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote his poll tax as prescribed by law for the previous year. Poll taxes shall be a lien only on assessed property, and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property.

(Section 5) No male person who was on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person, shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualification prescribed in Section 4 of this Article: Provided, He shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this Section prior to December 1, 1908. The General Assembly shall provide for a permanent record of all persons who register under this section on or before November 1, 1908, and all such persons shall be entitled to register and vote in all elections by the people in this State unless disqualified under Section 2 of this article: Provided such persons shall have paid their poll tax as required by law.

(Section 6) All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by the General Assembly shall be viva voce.

(Section 7) Every voter in North Carolina, except as in this Article disqualified, shall be eligible to office, but before entering upon the duties of the office he shall take and subscribe the following oath: "I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution and Laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as _____, so help me God."

(Section 8) The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, all persons who deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted, or confessed their guilt or indictment pending, and whether sentenced or not, under judgment suspended, of any treason or felony, on any other crime for which the punishment may be imprisonment in the penitentiary, since becoming citizens of the United States, or of corruption and malpractice in office, unless such person shall be restored to the right of citizenship in manner prescribed by law.

Children's Column.

THE BOAT FOR SLUMBERLAND.

There's a boat that leaves at half-past six
From the busy port of Play,
And reaches the heaven of Slumberland
Before the close of day.

It carries the tiniest passengers,
And it rocks so gently, oh!
When the wee ones nestle in their berths
And the boatman begins to row.

The whistle sounds so low and sweet
(Like a mother's lullaby)
That the travelers smile and close their eyes
To dream of angels nigh.

Sometimes the travelers tarry too long
In the busy port of Play,
And the anxious boatman coaxes and calls,
And grieves at their delay.

But they come at last to the rocking boat,
Which bears them down the stream
And drifts them to the Slumberland,
To rest and sleep and dream.

The name of the boat is Rock-a-by,
And it's guided by mother's hand,
For she is the patient boatman, dear,
Who takes you to Slumberland.

Now, what is the fare a traveler pays
On a Rock-a-by boat like this?
Why, the poorest child can afford the price,
For it's only a good-night kiss.
—From Little Men and Women.

"JESS GOINGTO."

"Jess Goingto!" I hear some one say. "Why, who is she? Do you know her? Tell us what she is like."

Yes, I know her only too well. Her name is often on the lips of my young friends, but I am sorry to say that my opinion of her is not very good. It is said that you can always tell a person's character—even that of a child—by the company which he or she keeps. Now, Miss Jess Goingto may generally be found hand in hand with that very questionable character, Procrastination. And it is singular that when a boy or girl is about to give way to the persuasions and temptations of old Procrastination, he or she will frequently assume the name as well as the disposition of this objectionable young lady.

"Have you washed your face yet, Kitty?"

"No, mother; but I'm Jess Goingto."

Kitty's features present an unmistakably stolid aspect for perhaps an hour afterward.

"Fetch me that shovel of coal, Harry. The fire is getting very low."

"Yes, mother; I'm Jess Goingto." Ten minutes later the fire goes out.

"Water those cuttings for me, Tom, before you forget it. They are very dry."

"Yes, father, I'm Jess Goingto." In the hot sunshine two hours latter father's choice cuttings droop and die.

Peculiar, isn't it?
Another bad habit which results from association with Miss Jess Goingto is the making of idle excuses.

"Here's a dreadful mess you have left from your fret-work, Herbert," says his mother. "Why didn't you clean it away when you had done?"

"I was Jess Goingto, mother, only Annie called me to look at something, and then I forgot."

"I don't believe you have given your bird any fresh water this morning, Nellie. How thoughtless you are!"

"No, Mother; I was Jess Goingto when Lucy came for me, and I hadn't time."

Never is the name of Jess Goingto associated with duties done, kindness performed, or requests obeyed, but always do we hear of her connection with heedlessness, idleness, disobedience and neglect. And many are the scrapes into which those fall who are much in her society; many tears—late and unavailing—does she cause them to shed.

Having, then, been an eye-witness of so much evil that she has wrought, who can wonder that, though I have never seen Jess Goingto, my knowledge of her is only hearsay, my estimate of her character and influence is unfavorable in the extreme. I wish to avoid becoming personally acquainted with her, and I hope she isn't a friend of yours.—Sunday School Call.

Teacher—How many days are there in a year, Willie?—Three hundred and sixty-five and a fourth.
Teacher—How can there be a fourth of a day? Willie—That's the fourth of July.—Ex.

Christian Life Column.

WHAT I LIVE FOR.

BY GEORGE LINNÆUS BANKS.

I live for those who love me,
Whose hearts are kind and true,
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit, too;
For the human ties that bind me,
For the task by God assigned me,
For the bright hopes left behind me,
And the good that I can do.

I live to learn their story
Who've suffered for my sake,
To emulate their glory,
And to follow in their wake;
Bards, patriots, martyrs, sages,
The noble of all ages,
Whose deeds crowd history's pages,
And Time's great volume make.

I live to hold communion
With all that is divine,
To feel there is a union
'Twixt Nature's heart and mine;
To profit by affliction,
Reap truths from fields of fiction,
Grow wiser from conviction,
And fulfill each grand design.

I live to hail that season,
By gifted minds foretold,
When men shall rule by reason,
And not alone by gold;
When man to man united,
And every wrong thing righted,
The whole world shall be lighted
As Eden was of old.

I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true,
For the heaven that smiles above me,
And awaits my spirit, too;
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the wrong that needs resistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do.

THEIR FAREWELLS CONTRASTED.

Edward Gibbon, the author of the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," was a well-known philosopher and infidel. In his memoirs he undesignedly presents a striking view of the cheerless nature of infidelity. As he had no hope for eternity, he was eager to continue in this world. He died in London in 1794. His last words were: "All is now lost; finally, irrecoverably lost. All is dark and doubtful."

Thomas Paine, the author of "The Age of Reason," in his last illness, was indebted for acts of charity to disciples of the Great Teacher that he had opposed. They tried to point him to the better way, but all in vain. When left alone, his cries were heart-rending. "O Lord, help me!" he would exclaim in his distress. His cries would alarm the house. Sometimes he would say: "O God! what have I done to suffer so much! But there is no God! Yet if there should be what would become of me hereafter!"

But turn to the Christian side. Tennyson, a few years before his death, wrote as his thanatopsis, "Crossing the Bar."

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me,
And may there be no moaning of the bar
When I put out to sea;
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound or foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless deep,
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that—the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark;

When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of time and place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.

Dwight L. Moody, the world famous evangelist, on December 22, 1899, was "crossing the bar." His sons were gathered about his bedside. The father, looking upon them, said: "I have always been an ambitious man, not ambitious to lay up wealth, but to leave you work to do, and you're going to continue the work of the schools in East Northfield and Mount Hermon, and of the Chicago Bible Institute." Then, as the noonday hour drew near, which was to be the high noon of his entering into that glory of which he so often spoke, the great soul-winner said with joy: "I see earth receding; heaven is opening; God is calling me."

The Roman citizen, the Greek scholar, the slave of Jesus Christ, Paul, the great apostle to the Gentiles, wrote these words a few months before his death, to his young friend, Timothy: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."—The Standard.

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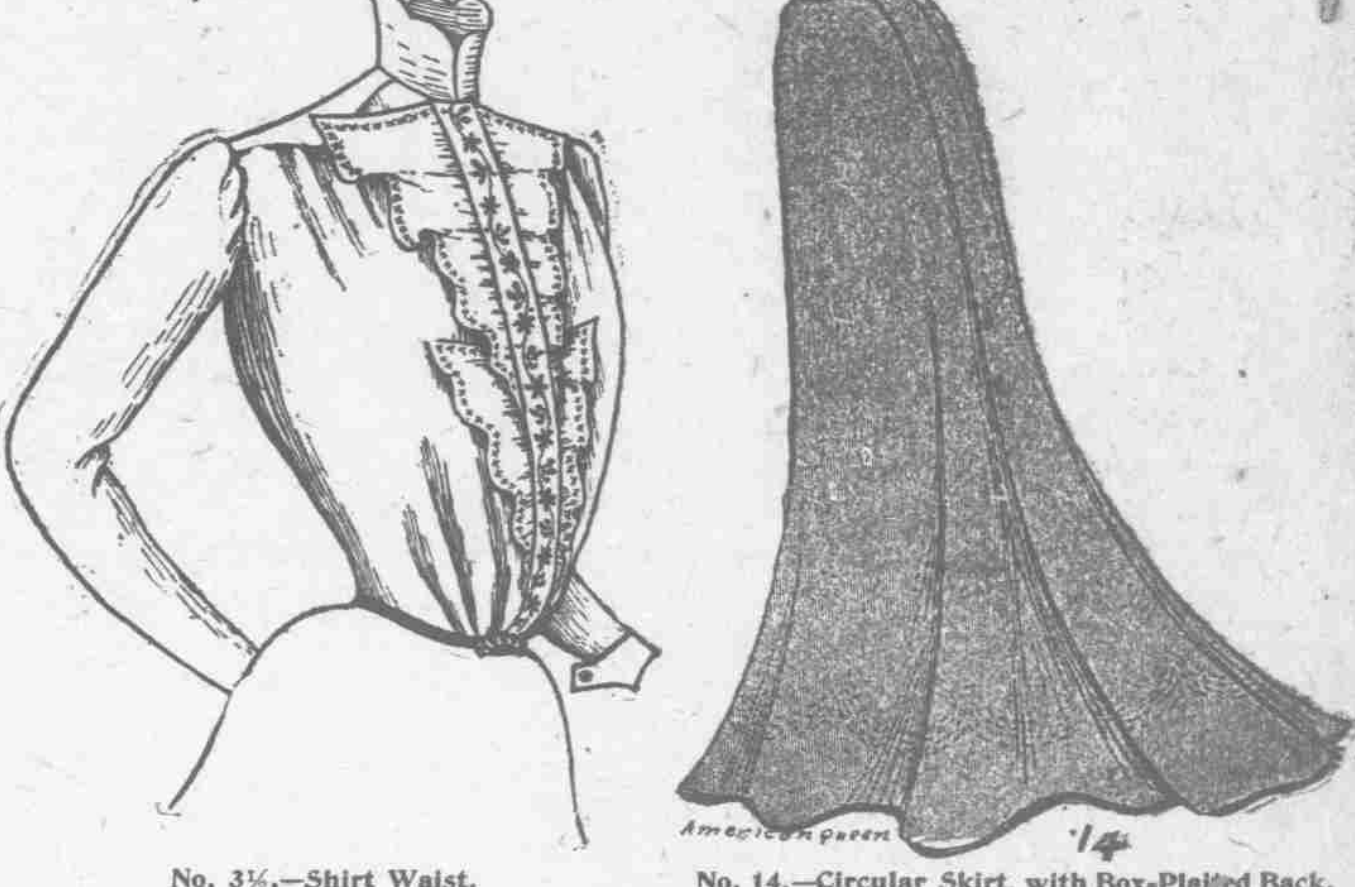
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