

# THE PICKENS SENTINEL.

DEVOTED TO POLITICS, MORALITY, EDUCATION AND TO THE GENERAL INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY.

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## Proposed Amendments

Sonator Cochran, of Anderson, has written a letter in which he proposes certain amendments, of which the following is a brief outline.

1. Fix constitutionally the public debt as is now fixed by legislative enactment.
2. Resist the powers of the legislature for levying taxes and making appropriations. Require such to be specific and not to exceed a given amount for any fiscal year.
3. Make the legislative sessions biennial, and change the day of meeting to the second Tuesday in January. Make the pay of legislators \$800 for a session of thirty days, \$700 for forty days, \$600 for sixty days, and \$500 for a longer time.
4. Restrict the courts to two terms for each county, annually, reserving to the judges the right to call special terms for session business only. Also provide that court be held at seasons reasonably convenient for the people.
5. Provide that each county shall be represented in proportion to the ratio of votes actually polled at its elections, the number, however, not to exceed that shown by its census to be qualified to vote.
6. Allow no Governor, State officer or judge to be absent from his post, except in very few and special cases, or by leave of the Legislature.
7. It should be provided that no person holding office should be eligible to any other office during the time for which he was elected.
8. Allow the Governor to veto sections of any bill for the expenditure of money or the creation of a debt without prejudice to the rest.
9. Prevent the General Assembly from passing any bill or special law, or from granting any power or privileges that can be provided for by a general law, or where the courts can be made competent to grant the relief asked for.
10. Require that taxes be uniform upon the same class of property of subject, but allow the Legislature to authorize a tax by license on peddlers, auctioneers, brokers, merchants, professions, showmen, liquor dealers, toll bridges and ferries, insurance companies, telegraph and express offices, railroad interest or business, traveling agents or vendors, and all persons or corporations owning or using franchise, &c.
11. Forbid the Legislature to audit or to allow any private claims against the State.
12. Empower the Legislature to prevent any unjust discrimination in freight on railroads, in the State, as between way Stations and the termini of the road.
13. Require State officers to make their reports within three days after the meeting of the General Assembly, on pain of instant removal from office.
14. Let no one be eligible to a State office who has not been a citizen of the State five years, or to a county office who has not resided within such county as a citizen for one year immediately preceding his election or appointment.
15. Provide that all phosphates royalties and other sources of revenue to the State, other than taxes levied by the General Assembly, be set apart for free school purposes.
16. No State or county officer should be allowed to hold his office more than four out of every six consecutive years.
17. Define more clearly the powers and duties of the Lieutenant Governor and provide for cumulative voting or minority representation.
18. Reduce the number of State's charges; let counties pay their own treasurers, auditors, &c. Let the Legislature fix for each county the maximum salary to be paid to each officer, allowing the counties the right to reduce the amount to suit themselves.
19. Make taxes for State purposes directly on the counties; a given amount for each specific purpose, named in dollars, instead of mills, and based upon the auditors reports.
20. Provide that no branch of the State Government shall contract any incidental or contingent contracts. Require the Legislature to anticipate all expenses of government by a levy and appropriation specifically made.
21. Provide that convict labor shall be utilized on all public works, State and county, or on railroads, guarded by appropriate and humane laws.
22. Fix the legal rate of interest at seven per cent, and require the Legislature to pass such laws as will, in general prevent the collection of a larger amount.
23. Protect and encourage the raising of sheep by empowering the Legislature to levy a special tax on dogs.
24. Real estate should be assessed annually.
25. Should forbid any officer from depositing school, county or court funds outside the county to which it

belongs, unless there be no bank of good standing in such county. Should also require the State Treasurer to deposit all tax money to the specific account for which it was levied and collected, the same to be drawn upon only in payment of such specific appropriations. Should provide that no State officer should serve on any board, committee or commission. County Commissioners should be required to apportion the tax levied and collected for county purposes before the same is collected, which shall constitute a specific fund for various county and court purposes. And, provide that commissioners of election should be elected by the General Assembly.

**THIRD TERM.**—If Grant is the only man who can keep the country out of the hands of the Democratic party it is high time the country was in the hands of that party. Whenever the time comes that there is but one citizen of the republic capable of the Chief Magistracy, it is not worth while to talk of saving the country, for it is already lost. Those who are favoring upon the President, and seeking to foster in him an ambition to perpetuate himself in the office to which he was advanced, and which has not gained in glory from his accession, are either downright, incorrigible fools, or they are rascals, and treacherous to the cause of Republicanism. Tolerance cannot be had in this country for military "saviors of society." The country is better than its fame, purer than its administration, greater than its servants; and if we are not mistaken the Republican party itself will be found ample for the extinction of Grantism. If it is not, the time will have arrived when, in the competition of blundering, the Republicans will exceed the Democrats, and perversity pass away from power.—Cincinnati Commercial.

## Pay Your Pastor.

As the year is drawing to a close, and as you are making arrangements to pay your teachers, physicians, merchants and others, do not forget your obligations to pay him who, during the year, "has ministered to you in spiritual things." This debt is equally binding with others, and you can not, with a clear conscience, neglect or refuse to discharge it. You say "the times are hard, and I cannot pay only what I am obliged to." Your obligations, then, are legally, and not morally binding are they? Suppose the times are hard with you, who have been blessed with good crops, how much harder are they with your minister who relies entirely for a support upon the honor of those for whom he has labored? And if you pay not him, how is he to pay those who have furnished him and his family with supplies during the year?

Perhaps you are ready to say, "Let those who are able pay the preacher, but have me excused, for it is all that I can do to support myself." Why not offer the same excuse in regard to your teacher, physician, and others? When you joined the church, did you not take upon yourself the obligation to do your duty? And is it not your duty to do your part in supporting the gospel? Have you and your family been benefited by the man whom you have received as your pastor, and who has labored for your good through heat and through cold, and not satisfied to give no equivalent for the benefit received? Is it right, is it just, to pay him nothing; and can you be a Christian, and hope to get to heaven, while living in willful neglect of a plain, positive and reasonable duty? Call your wife and children around you, and settle these questions and this matter before your preacher leaves his work. If you honestly think that the gospel should be furnished you for nothing, you are in the wrong pew—the hard shell is the church for you.

**SPARTANBURG, Dec. 2.**—A number of Convicts escaped from the stockade on the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad, on Tuesday night. Some have been captured near Wellford, and others are skulking through Greenville and Laurens counties. A liberal reward will be paid for their capture.

## Sketch of Vice-President Wilson's Life.

Henry Wilson was born at Farmington, N. H., February 16, 1812, and died in the Capitol building at Washington, November 22, 1875, in the sixty-fifth year of his age. The immediate cause of his death was apoplexy. Like Andrew Johnson, his early life was a struggle with poverty. The lives of both men illustrate the aphorism that there is no royal road to learning. These two men were about the same age. They were both poor and unlettered, and had no early advantages whatever.—Mr. Johnson was a tailor and Mr. Wilson a shoemaker. Both had pluck, energy and ambition, and by industry and hard study they succeeded in the struggle for life and obtained place and preferment, both filling the highest political positions in the gift of the American people. The history of these men should prove an incentive to all young men who have a desire to study and improve themselves.

At ten years of age Henry Wilson was apprenticed to a farmer in the town of Farmington, with whom he remained for eleven years. During this time he read everything that came within his reach, so great was his thirst for reading. Obtaining access to a private library, he read, while an apprentice, by one thousand volumes, not taking time from his work hours, but reading sometimes by firelight, sometimes by moonlight at night, and on Sunday afternoons. At the age of twenty one he went to Natick, Massachusetts, walking and carrying his pack, and hired himself to a shoemaker till he had learned the trade. After working at it two years, he placed his money in the hands of a person in trust and began to study again. Losing his earnings by the failure of this person, he returned to Natick and pursued his trade.

Soon after this he entered politics as a Whig, taking an active part in the Harrison campaign. From this time he became a prominent figure in State and National politics, being elected to both branches of the State Legislature repeatedly. From this entrance into politics he became one of the most earnest, steadfast, and uncompromising foes to slavery that that institution ever had. He established a daily paper, the Boston Republican, in the interest of Free Soilism, withdrew both from the American and Whig party because they failed to incorporate anti-slavery resolutions in their platforms, and was the author and defender of the resolution in the Massachusetts Legislature which declared the unalterable opposition of that State to the institution.

Having been President of the State Senate twice, and of several large conventions in the interest of Free Soilism, he was elected in 1855 to succeed Edward Everett as United States Senator from Massachusetts, and signalized his entrance there by a resolution for the repeal of the fugitive slave law. His speech against Mr. Brooks, of South Carolina, for attacking Mr. Sumner, and his subsequent refusal to accept Mr. Brooks' challenge to fight a duel on the ground that he did not believe in dueling, but did believe in the right of self defense, are matters of history. During the war of secession the testimony of Mr. Cameron, the Secretary of War, was that "No man in the whole country had done more to aid the War Department in preparing the mighty army now under arms." After the war Mr. Wilson was nominated and elected Vice President in General Grant's second Presidential campaign.

"There may be such a thing as love at first sight," remarked a Detroit girl as she twisted a "friz" along the curling iron, "but I don't believe in it." There's Fred, I saw him a hundred times before I loved him. In fact, I should not have fallen in love when I did, if his father hadn't given him that house and lot."

## The Handwriting of Great Men.

The Duke of Wellington's writing was large and forcible, with no attempt at decoration. During the last ten years of his life, however, his writing was indifferent and often illegible. None but a compositor in a newspaper office, accustomed to all sorts of hieroglyphics, could possibly decipher the characters. A letter of his to a minister in Lord Derby's cabinet has not to this day been unravelled. Nine out of every ten of the Duke's letters treasured by autograph hunters were written by his secretary, Mr. Greville, who wrote a hand very much like that of the Duke in his best days.

Lord Brongham's hand betrayed much unconquerable restlessness of impulse. His manuscript was a mass of hieroglyphics; and according to Dr. Blenkinsop, in all Mr. Clowe's extensive printing establishment in London, there was only one man competent to grapple with it, and he often gave up in despair.

Lord Palmerston wrote a loose, free hand, more definite in execution than Disraeli's. Lord Aberdeen wrote a precise and beautiful letter, betraying neither passion nor impulse. The bold and careless freedom of Byron's handwriting, compared to the elegant little prettiness of Tom More's, reveals very clearly the peculiar qualities of the two great poets. The elegant precision of Hemman's penmanship and the free but clear and eligible abandon of L. E. Landon's, were equally characteristic of their mental peculiarities.

The royal family of England have generally written good, clear and free hand. William IV wrote a remarkably plain and legible hand, and that of his brother George was showy and fluent. Queen Victoria has an elegant signature. Locke says that the faster a man writes, the slower others read what he has written. Napoleon could write fourteen pages in a minute; unfortunately, however, each page consisted of eight blots and a splutter. Some of his lines to Maria Louisa appear as if scattered over the paper by the explosion of a bombshell.

Jules Janin, the famous feuilleton writer is known in Paris as the journalist who writes the most illegible hand. Only two old compositors at the Journal des Debats are able to decipher his hieroglyphics; and often they have to send sheets of his manuscript, which they cannot read, back to its author. Janin then never reads the illegible words to them, but quickly writes another sheet. George Sand says she once received from Janin a letter of which she and her acquaintances, despite their most strenuous effort, never were able to decipher more than two words.

Horace Greeley's manuscript is very illegible. A wag once observed that the sentence, "Virtue is its own reward," written by Mr. Greeley, was rendered by the compositor into "Washington with soap is wholly absurd." Hon. Thad. Stevens, the "Old Commoner," wrote an illegible hand. His signature was little more than the scrawled initials, with a short zigzag line following each of them. We once had occasion to write to him, and received a letter in reply which we found impossible to read, though professing to be apt at deciphering manuscripts. Two weeks afterward we handed Mr. Stevens the letter. He could not read it himself until we gave him a clue by reminding him of the matter we had made inquiry about.

A president of one of our popular railroads once wrote to an old farmer, requesting him to remove some shedding along the line. The old farmer could not make it out and believing it to be a free pass, used it as such for a year, none of the conductors presuming to dispute the construe-

tion he had put upon the scrawl. Many ludicrous and many serious blunders have resulted from the want of legibility in writing. In proof of the former, we might instance the cargo of monkeys in which case "two" badly written was taken for "one hundred" in numerals; and, in proof of the latter, we might instance the civil war that ensued in the time of Louis XIV. from a misconstrued letter. A dispatch intended for the fiery Prince Conde was carried by a courier from the court to Angerville, instead of Augerville. The conciliatory missive by the ill writing of the letter "n," failed to come to hand at the proper time and place, and the Prince continued those rapid movements that were followed by a civil war. Those who write for the press should try to make their writing clear and legible. Proper names, technical terms, quotations from foreign language, etc., should be written with special plainness. Printers' eyes are not microscopic, and the supposition that they are walking encyclopedias, and proverbially clever will not always save an author from the disgrace of his own blunders.

The mercantile class in general, write gracefully and legibly. As clerks they do so by constraint. Lawyers' writing is bold, large, and widely lined. Literary men, those of painful, unceasing research, write close, cramped and elegant hands. In many old and valuable manuscripts uniformity is preserved throughout—the same character of letter, the same shade of ink, the same size and slope are all preserved from the beginning to the end of the large volume. Nothing, scarcely, can exceed their beauty. Capitals and particular words are emblazoned, by being written in letters of gold, or inks of brilliant and beautiful colors strongly contrasting with the deep black of the body of the writing. Many of them are the work of monks who had great perseverance, uniformity of temper, and sobriety of mind.

We read, with a kind of vague incredulity, that a Spanish divine composed, copied out, and corrected from the press a hundred huge folio volumes. But the most astounding labors can be accomplished by a firm and unshaken purpose, carried into effect by untiring perseverance. "Nulla dies sine linea"—no day without a line—is the secret of authorship. Madame de Sevigne, who declared that she deemed the labor of writing a book utterly beyond the power of her industry, was convinced, by collecting and publishing the letters that she had written as an amusement, that she had actually accomplished the Herculean labor without being aware of it.

## The Oates Divorce Case.

In the Titus Oates divorce case now pending in the Chancery Court, in which Mrs. James A. Oates Titus prays for a divorce from her husband, Tracy W. Titus, several depositions for the plaintiff have been taken. Miss Pauline Merritt, a sister of Mrs. Titus, played at Macaulay's Theatre a few weeks ago, and after her engagement remained in the city for some days, stopping at the residence of her mother. During this time her deposition in the case was taken. She states that the plaintiff married the defendant at the Southern Hotel, in St. Louis, and that at the time of the marriage the defendant had no money of his own, and the plaintiff supported both herself and the defendant. That Titus was a drinking man, and, in addition to that, mistreated his wife and squandered her money. That for the past two years he has been a confirmed drunkard, and would at times go without speaking to his wife for two weeks, during which time he would refuse to take her to the table, or go with her to the theatre. That

he never attended to business, and did no labor whatever. While in St. Louis in January, 1875, she stated Titus treated his wife very badly and did not speak to her for three or four weeks. Although his wife was ill at the time he failed to pay any attention to her, and she sent to this city for her mother to nurse her.—While in Kansas City he cursed and abused his wife because she refused to play at the matinee when she was sick, and, on that occasion, he also threatened to take his trunk and leave her. She pleaded with him to remain, and he went out and got drunk. The witness was sent for about four o'clock in the morning, and remained in the hall talking to Titus until six o'clock, pleading with him not to desert his wife. While in Philadelphia in October, 1874, he also treated his wife very badly, and on one occasion, when she spoke to him about business, he told her roughly that she did not know anything about business, and pushed her, and she would have fallen down the steps but that the witness was coming up and caught her. She states that he handled all the money, and when the plaintiff asked him for money he would say he did not have any, and would then go out and spend it in drinking. While in San Francisco in January, 1875, his treatment of her was such that she was compelled to have the attendance of a physician behind the scenes while fulfilling her engagement at the theatre. It was in that city they parted, and the witness states that the defendant took his trunk from the plaintiff's room and left the hotel. The next day the plaintiff came to the witness and since that time has lived apart from the defendant.

She further states that the defendant is a man of disagreeable temper. The plaintiff had always attended to her own business, but after her marriage with the defendant he would not let her ask him any questions or say anything to him about business; if she did he would shut her up as though she was a child, and this, no matter what the place or who was present, before the company or in the theatre. He always treated her unkindly, and would curse her and talk roughly to her. She also stated that the plaintiff had always tried to live happily with the defendant, and had, up to the time of their separation, endeavored to hide all his faults.

The deposition of Mattie Denko, the waiting maid of Mrs. Titus, was taken at the Exchange Hotel, in Richmond, Va., and has been filed in the court. She states that she has known Titus for four years, and that he was very ill tempered at times; that she heard him curse plaintiff in St. Louis in June, 1875. Titus had never been kind to his wife since she knew them—that is since their marriage—except for a few months after the said marriage. She also referred to the absence and neglect of the plaintiff on the part of the defendant, as detailed by the other witnesses, and stated that though she had never seen Titus actually strike his wife, she saw him shake her in Philadelphia, and heard him tell her "that if she was a man he would knock her head off her." She also states that when the company was playing in this city to crowded houses, plaintiff asked defendant for \$5, and, in a cross manner, he asked her what she wanted it.

No other steps have yet been taken in the case beyond notifying the non resident defendant, Tracy Titus, to appear, and it is probable that the case will not be decided for several months yet.

Major A. R. Broyles, of Anderson, has purchased the plantation known as the Maxwell place, near Townville, paying \$4,000 cash for it.