

Shall we starve ourselves because the baker and the cook *may* poison us? and shall we be afraid to go to bed with our wives? Fie, fie, gentlemen, do not indulge such whims; Be careful in the choice of your barbers, your cooks, and your wives; pay them well and treat them well, and make it their *interest* to treat you well, and you need not fear them.

After much debate and discussion, some of the families adopted it without exception, but in others the opposition was so strong that it could not be made to pass, but by the help of certain *amendments* which were proposed; and of these amendments every family which thought proper to make any, made as many as they pleased. The new plan, with its appendage of amendments, cut such a grotesque figure, that a certain wag in one of the families, like Jotham the son of Gideon, ridiculed it in the following parable:

"A certain man hired a taylor to make him a pair of *small clothes*; the taylor measured him and made the garment. When he had brought it home, the man turned and twisted, and viewed it on all sides; it is too small here, said he, and wants to be let out; it is too big here, and wants to be taken in; I am afraid there will be a hole here, and you must put on a patch; this button is not strong enough, you must set on another. He was going on in this manner, when his wife entered the room—Have you put on the small clothes, my dear? said she—No, said he. How then, replied she, can you possibly tell whether they will fit you or not? If I had made such objections to a gown or a pair of stays before I had put them on, how would you have laughed at my *female* wisdom? The man took his wife's advice and saved the taylor a deal of trouble".

In like manner, the new plan of partnership was *tried on*, and was found to fit very well. The amendments were thrown by for future consideration, and if ever adopted, will be so trifling as to make no essential difference.

As soon as a sufficient number of the families has adopted the plan, they began to let it in operation; and unanimously chose for their chief steward and manager George, * the grandson of Walter Pipweed. † He had served them so faithfully and generously in conducting the law-suit against Mr. Bull, that no person was higher in their confidence. As he would take no reward for his former services; so he began this new business with a declaration of the same kind, and protestation that nothing could have induced him to quit the sweets of retirement for the toils of public business, but a disposition to oblige his numerous friends who had united their suffrages in his favour. Every one who knows him is fully convinced of the sincerity of his declarations, and he has perhaps as large a share of the esteem and affection of the people in these families, as any person ever could expect from a course of faithful and friendly offices.

Besides him there is an under steward, ‡ a council of advice, § a chief clerk, || a cashier, ¶ and a master of the hounds. **. The under steward is a person of a grave deportment, much reading and strict integrity, and was largely concerned in effecting the compromise with Mr. Bull. The council of advice are chosen from the several families, and consist of persons of the best education, abilities, and popularity. The chief clerk has the care

of

* General Washington. † Virginia. ‡ Vice-President. § Senate.
|| Secretary of State. ¶ Secretary of the Treasury. ** Secretary at War.