

THE SPIRIT OF JEFFERSON

BY JAMES W. BELLER. OFFICE OF MAIN STREET, "NEWSPRINT BUILDING." The "SPIRIT OF JEFFERSON" is published every Tuesday morning, at \$3 in advance...

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Secret Diseases. Gonorrhoea, Gleet, Stricture, Scumous Weakness, Pain in the Loin, etc.

Young Men especially, who have become the victims of the venereal disease...

Married Persons. Being aware of physical weakness, or any other impediment, should immediately consult Dr. Johnson.

A Cure Warranted or no Charge, in from 10 to 15 days.

When the misdeeds and impudent vices of pleasure have led to the fatal disease...

A Certain Disease. When the misdeeds and impudent vices of pleasure have led to the fatal disease...

Take Particular Notice. Dr. Johnson's invigorating remedy for Gonorrhoea, Gleet, Stricture, etc.

Who have injured themselves by a certain practice, indulged in which alone a habit freely learned from evil companions...

Weakness of the Organs. The many cases cured at this institution within the last few years...

THE BRITISH QUARTERLY. A DISCOUNT of twenty-five per cent. from the above prices...

FRUIT TREES. A large number of the best varieties of fruit trees...

THE PATENT DISH. A new and improved method of cooking...

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THE FOUR PILLARS OF OUR PROSPERITY—MOST THRIVING WHEN LEFT MOST FREE TO INDIVIDUAL ENTERPRISE.

AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES, COMMERCE, AND NAVIGATION.

CHATEAUX, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1854. NO. 30.

THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY. Will issue Policies on all kinds of Property...

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD. Two Daily Lines between Baltimore and Washington...

Table of fares for Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, listing routes to various cities like Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.

TO WHAT SELLERS. The undersigned is prepared to buy quantities of wheat for the Baltimore market...

THE LOUDON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE AND CHEMICAL ACADEMY. The above Establishment will be opened for the reception of Students on the 1st day of March, 1854...

THE PATENT DISH. A new and improved method of cooking...

Poetry.

A WINTER EVENING HYMN. The Frost had smitten the hill-tops, And the fields beneath her came...

CHILDREN IN 1853. I went with a friend, the other day, to look at some "rooms to let"...

AMERICA FEEDING THE BEST OF MANKIND. The Savannah Republican publishes an interesting letter from Paris...

THE NAPOLION AND THE CHEVALIER RAY. We transfer to our columns from one of our exchanges the following complimentary notice of two of our distinguished editors...

MISCELLANEOUS. RESTRICTIVE LAWS OF THE OLDEN TIMES. We were reading, recently, a history of Connecticut, from its first settlement...

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BOOKS AND JOURNALS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, CARDS, BLANKS, CHECKS, HANDILLS, LAMBS, &c. OFFICE OF SPIRIT OF JEFFERSON.

COUNTY COURT. The classification of the magistrates of this county, which was made in 1829...

AWARDS AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE. The juries of the New York Crystal Palace Exhibition have their awards of medals to exhibit on Thursday...

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED EDITOR. Dr. ROBERT M. BIRD, one of the editors of the North American, Philadelphia, whose death is announced...

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS. Journalism, to attain its end, should understand and preserve its proper character. It should be independent...

DEATH OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTER. Alexander Balasov, who has so long and so honorably been Minister of Russia...

THE PATENT DISH. A new and improved method of cooking...



TO OUR PATRONS.

When we commenced the publication of our paper in 1844, it was scarcely one-half its present size, and we are sure, contained not one-half the matter published at one-half the expense it is done at present.

Our terms for subscription are \$2.00 in advance; \$2.50 if paid within the year; and under all circumstances, \$3.00 if not paid until after its expiration.

OUR STAFF.

The question is now being considered in our Legislature, whether the State of Virginia shall change 15,000 fint muskets to percussion locks, under the control and direction of the superintendent of the Armory at Richmond.

As connected with this matter, on Friday last, the Speaker laid before the House, a communication from the Governor of Virginia, informing the House that he had received a communication from a firm in the State of New York, proposing to alter the Arms now in the arsenals of this State, consisting of muskets, rifles and pistols, from flint to percussion locks, and to take in exchange for the work performed such arms as may be deemed unfit for re-issue; and a proposition to purchase the six-pounder iron guns now at the Armory.

The Governor states that he referred these proposals to the Adjutant General, and requested a report upon the expediency of accepting them, having a due regard to the provisions of the act of the last Legislature abolishing general musters. That report, and the proposals under which it is based, the Governor submits for the consideration of the General Assembly.

The communication and accompanying documents were referred to the joint Committee on the Armory.

We hope the change from the flint to the percussion lock may be made, but instead of confining the matter to a firm in New York, let the work be done at home. The Armory at Richmond is spacious enough, has machinery enough, and the dismissed artisans from the Harpers-Ferry armory alone, mechanics of long experience and great practical sagacity, numerous enough, to execute the work, at a fair compensation, without sending for a New York firm.

We hope the Committee may report in favor of the change, as many of our arms are worse than useless, but let the work be done by our own mechanics and in our own State.

AFTER "FREE SOIL" SLANDER NAILED.

For some several days past, the Whig press have been making much "do about nothing," and have gloated over a story originating in the New York Herald, that, in 1848, President Pierce had written a free soil letter to John Cochrane, sympathizing with the Buffalo Van Buren movement in New York.

The Herald vouched Messrs. Cochrane and Waterbury for the truth of the story. In several issues that paper deferred publishing the replies of those gentlemen, on the plea of a pressure of matter, and other causes. The Union of Friday, says that the letters fully acquit the President, and fix the falsehood on the Herald. The Union publishes the letter of Mr. Waterbury, who says that the only letter he saw from Gen. Pierce in 1848, was one in which he declined to attend and address a Van Buren meeting in New York, as also an letter from Mr. Cochrane which positively and unequivocally denies the charge intended to be preferred by the "Herald"; The effort, come from what quarter it may, to identify in principle or action, President Pierce with the Free Soilers, is simply absurd.

His antecedents past, and his course for the future, we are sure will stamp with falsehood any such charge. In hopes of conciliating this unprincipled faction, the President, by the advice of others, has done some things that we entirely disapproved, yet the intention was to promote the harmony of his party and subvert the interest of his country. Upon principle, he is the friend of the South, the rights of the States, the perpetuity of the Union, and a Democrat of the strictest sect.

DEATH OF AN ESTIMABLE MAN.

We are pained to record the death of Col. Jacob LESLIE, one among the most estimable citizens of Clarke county, which occurred on Thursday, 19th inst. He was in about the 70th year of his age, and leaves a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn his bereavement. He was a remarkable man in very many respects, and a truer friend, a man of more noble and generous impulses, a more affectionate father, or kind hearted neighbor, and last, though not least of all, a more genuine and sterling Democrat, our Congressional District could not boast. There were many of those in his gift, which he could have afforded to give, but he universally refused regarding private station and the comfort of home, as the "post of honor." Peace to the ashes of a most venerable and respectable friend.

COL. ROBERT BURCHELL also an aged and respectable citizen of the same county, we are informed, was found dead in his bed during the last week, having as is supposed been attacked with apoplexy.

A PUBLIC BALL.

A public Ball will be held on to-morrow night, under the superintendence of the "Millers and Mechanics," on the Island of Virginia, near Harpers-Ferry. It promises to be largely attended; its managers are most worthy and estimable gentlemen, and we hope the occasion may be one of pleasure and gratification to all who may be in attendance.

THE POPE'S NUNCIO.

It is no doubt known to our readers, that Archbishop Bedini, the ecclesiastical Representative of the Pope of Rome, is now on a visit to our country, to examine into the condition of the Catholic Church of this country, the happiness and prosperity of its members, as well as the general and political prosperity of the country. We have never doubted for a moment, that the object of this visit was designed for good; both by the great head of the Catholic Church who sent him, and the Agent himself, who is so eminently qualified for the mission he has undertaken. At one time, Bedini, during the struggles of Italy, was the Governor of Bologna, and it is charged that his course during the Administration of the Government, was cruel in the extreme, and that many of the patriots who were struggling for liberty, had been flayed alive. In consequence of this report, the Nuncio was burst in upon at Cincinnati and Baltimore, and a mob at one time threatened violence to his person at Wheeling in our State. Having ascertained, from the most intelligent and unquestioned authority, that the charges of inhumanity as preferred against Bedini, were entirely groundless, we copied a short article from the Frederick Examiner, in the last number of our paper, for the purpose of making the correction which we deemed it due to the distinguished representative of the Catholic Church, should be made. By accident, however, this correction became separated from its context, and we were made to endorse the cruel charges against the Nuncio, as well as the outrageous and disgraceful proceedings which have occurred in several instances. We are no Catholics—never expect to be. Yet we regard freedom of opinion and religious toleration, as the bond of our Union and the only sure guarantee as to the perpetuity of our liberties. Thus much as to the article in question, as we feel it due to some of our most valued and respected friends, who had taken the trouble to put us in possession of facts of which we were not before aware, both as to the past history of Bedini, his high character, distinguished services both in the State and Church, and the object of his present mission.

The Nuncio arrived in Washington last week, and having letters from the Pope of Rome to the President, his visit has excited considerable interest. The U. S. Senate a few days since, was the scene of an interesting discussion, involving all the nicest considerations of national hospitality and courtesy, as well as the sanctity of the ambassadorial character. It grew out of the following resolution, offered by Mr. Cass:

"Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to communicate to the Senate, so far as he may deem it compatible with the public interest, a copy of any correspondence which may have taken place with the government of the Papal States."

Some of the most eminent and venerable members of the Senate participated in the discussion. Mr. Cass, Mr. Mason, Mr. Butler, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Everett, Mr. Adams, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Weller all delivered their views, in which Messrs. Cass, Mason, Douglas, &c., repudiated the charges which had been preferred against the Nuncio, and Mr. Cass addressed several letters from American men near the Government of the Pope, which recommended him favorably to the people of this country, for his past life and what promised to be his future usefulness. Whether he should be recognised as an official functionary of his Government, is we think exceedingly doubtful, but that he should receive the courtesy and respect which his position entitles him to—be secure at all times from insult or injury, wrong or outrage—we hope there are but few citizens of our country who deny. Mr. Cass said in his remarks: "I have inquired of a near and dear relative, now in Rome, who from his situation must know as well as any man, the estimation in which this archbishop is held in his own country, and he told me he was a man of the highest character and standing, who had satisfactorily filled many important stations, and whose public and private life was without blot or blemish."

THE ADVANCE IN WHEAT, FLOUR AND GRAIN generally, has been unprecedented in the last week. The foreign advanced have shown a considerable advance, and our own markets have advanced in almost a double ratio. Wheat was sold in New York the last week at \$2.55; Flour in Baltimore at \$9.25; and what is to be, or how soon it may tumble down, who can tell? We are sure we cannot, and must therefore leave the matter to our readers, every one to act for himself. The price of all kind of produce is advancing, and we can see no reason why it should not go higher, as it is universally conceded that European supplies are not sufficient to prevent their people from starving, and America must therefore feed in part the whole world.

OUR STATE BANKS.

The time of their re-charter is at hand, and hence a rigid examination into their condition is being proposed. We have not heard as yet the report of the Committee appointed on the part of the Legislature, to examine into the condition of the new State Bank, (being based upon State Stock, and known as the Independent Bank,) located at Alexandria, and designated as the Bank of the Old Dominion." Charges have also been preferred against the Trans-Allegheny Bank, for issues and malfeasance of its officers, and a committee of examination as to its condition proposed. The same as to the Banks located in the City of Richmond, with Mr. Chapman proposed to amend by extending the inquiry to the Farmers Bank of Virginia at Winchester, and the Bank of the Valley in Virginia at Winchester.

Thereupon a debate arose, in which reference was made to the subject of banks and banking, by Messrs. Chapman, Stans, Fountain, Deane, Shackelford, Stearns, Ward and Witcher.

Mr. Ambler moved the indefinite postponement of the resolution and amendment.

The proposition to indefinitely postpone was advocated by Messrs. Ambler, Deane, and opposed by Messrs. Shackelford and Stearns.

Mr. Shackelford demanded the yeas and nays, the Senate refused to postpone indefinitely as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Ambler, Baldwin, Braxton, Braxton, Denale, Hill, Irving, Lavin, Marshall, McDermott, McHenry, Moncure, Muller, Old, Jr., Reber, Stearns, Tazewell, Winston, Witches, Ward, &c.

Nays—Messrs. Barnett, Buswell, Chapman, Creigh, Harris, Johnson, Logan, Martin, McElhenny, Parkers, Patton, Randolph, Sanders, Shands, Tamm, Thomas, Turner, Wade, Jr., Ward—20.

On motion of Mr. Witcher, the whole subject was then laid on the table.

RETURNED.

Mr. JOHN H. KEEBLE, who after an absence of nearly nine months, returned to this place, from California, on the 10th inst., enjoying good health. This is the third trip he has made within the last three years. We understand he intends going again about the first of April, and will be accompanied by six or eight more young men of his place.

Superintendent Register.

Edw. Judge Mason, U. S. Minister to France, arrived in Paris on the 9th inst.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Enquirer represents that the members of the Legislature are actuated by a praiseworthy determination to dispatch the public business, and that from present indications, without leaving any great amount unfinished, an adjournment may be expected at the end of a ninety day session.

The internal improvement question has been the absorbing subject, and fears were entertained that excessive expenditures for the public works would be made, but it is considered now that a more cautious spirit is being manifested.

The friends of a sound currency throughout the State are pleased with a prospect of a stringent statute, by the present Legislature, against small notes. The violation of the old law has been a thing so common that we can scarcely hope for its observance. But the people have become so disgusted with shin plasters, that there will be little or no difficulty in enforcing the contemplated enactment.

On Monday the Senate passed the bill to incorporate the Middleway and Charlestown Turnpike Company.

We also notice, that a communication was received from the Governor, giving his reasons for the exercise of executive clemency in the several cases mentioned, the following of which we notice: T. Vaughan, sentenced to one year's imprisonment in the Penitentiary, by the Circuit Court of the county of Page, at its September term for grand larceny—pardoned; John Unger, convicted at the May term of the Circuit Court of Jefferson county, of the larceny of a horse, and sentenced to the Penitentiary for one year, pardoned on the day before his term expired; John S. Mosby, a student of the University of Va., sentenced at the May term of the Circuit Court of Albemarle county, to pay a fine of \$500 and to imprisonment in the county jail, for the unlawfully shooting a young man, named Turpin—pardoned; Henry Wilson, sentenced by the Circuit Court of Augusta county, for the murder of Coleman—referred for twenty days from 18th inst.

The Committee for Courts of Justice reported, that it was inexpedient to grant the prayer of a petition of sundry citizens of Clarke county, for a change of the law so as to require all applications for registrations of free negroes to be made to a full bench of magistrates.

The Committee to whom the matter was referred, have reported that it was inexpedient to grant the prayer of the petition of the Trustees of the Charlestown Academy, in the county of Jefferson, for an appropriation out of the surplus Literary Fund, towards said Academy.

A bill has been reported praying the incorporation of the Charlestown and Shepherdstown Turnpike Company.

Only one Internal Improvement Bill has passed the House of Delegates; it was however, an important one, a bill increasing the capital stock of the Manassas Gap Railroad Company \$400,000, for the purpose of completing the road to Harrisonburg. Mr. MEXX spoke in favor of the bill, and at the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. CLARKE moved to lay it on the table. The motion was opposed by Messrs. MEXX and DEXX, and the House refused to lay the bill on the table. It was then passed by the large majority of 100 to 37.

A petition was presented by Mr. McLeod, of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Valley in Virginia, at Winchester, for an extension or renewal of the charter of said bank. [Mr. McLeod moved that the memorial be printed. The motion was opposed, and the House ordered the memorial to be referred to the Committee on Banks, without being printed.]

NEBRASKA AND KANSAS TERRITORIES. These two territories says the New York Herald, are to comprise all that vast region lying between the thirty seventh parallel and the British boundary of the forty-ninth degree of north latitude in one direction, and transversely between the Missouri river and the western boundary of Missouri in the east clear back to the Wahsatch Mountains, which pass within sight of the Mormon settlements of the Great Basin, thence northward along the backbone of the Rocky Mountains to the British possession. The superficial area of the land, sand and rocks, comprehended in these limits, is some four hundred and fifty thousand square miles. In other words, 10 States—not 11—equal in size to the State of New York, without entirely consuming their material. No complaint, therefore, can be made from any quarter of fellow men in these two proposed territories of Kansas & Nebraska. The former however, is comparatively a narrow belt, extending from 37th to the 40th parallel of north latitude, being only one hundred and sixty miles wide by an extreme length which may be travelled over of about a thousand miles. Nebraska, on the other hand, extending from 40th to the 49th parallel, has ample scope for range enough in either direction.

GOVERNOR GORMAN'S MESSAGE. The Minnesota Democrat, of the 11th inst., says: "The late Governor Gorman, in his personal annual message to the two houses of the legislative assembly. We shall enter into no review of this message. We publish it in our columns to-day, as it is a most interesting document, and one which emanated from our territorial executive, we trust that each of our readers will give it a thorough and attentive perusal. We have heard but one opinion expressed in regard to the message, and that has uniformly been flattering to its manner, matter, and style. The whigs are forced to acknowledge its merits, whilst all true Democrats regard it as just the kind of a message which they wanted to receive from the first democratic governor of Minnesota."

SAD END OF AN EXILE.

Mr. Patrick O'Donoghue, one of the Irish exiles who made his escape from Van Dieman's Land, and arrived in this country a few months since, died on Sunday last at his lodgings in Brooklyn, of dysentery. It is said he died almost alone, and without friends, and was buried on Monday at Greenwood Cemetery by a few friends of the cause, for which he was banished his native land. The family of the deceased (wife and daughter) arrived in New York on Saturday last, but did not find his whereabouts until after his death.

A meeting of the Citizens of Charlestown, will be held at Sappington's Hotel on Thursday evening next at 8 o'clock, P. M., to make arrangements to celebrate the birth night of the illustrious Washington.

DEATH OF JAMES M. SMITH, Esq.—We are pained to see, in a telegraphic dispatch from Louisville of the 23d, the death of the above-named gentleman announced. He died at Dona Ana, where he was in discharge of the duties of Indian Agent to New Mexico, to which office he was appointed by President Pierce. He leaves a widow and several children in Washington City. The deceased was a man of noble and generous spirit. He was the only surviving brother of Governor Smith.

FIVE PERSONS DROWNED.—The Lynchburg (Va.) Express states that the freight boat Clinton, in passing up the river on Saturday last, with a large number of persons, (mostly negroes) on board, lifted by Coleman and Morris, contractors on the Central Railroad, passed over the Dam at North River, in consequence of the breaking of the tow-line. Accounts state that five of the persons were drowned.

The committee of the Virginia Legislature to which was referred the Temperance petition has reported that it is inexpedient to pass a prohibitory law, or to refer the question to a vote of the people.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

In the SENATE, on Monday, the Military Academy bill was considered and passed. After some other business, Mr. Cass submitted a resolution calling on the President of the United States for information in relation to correspondence with the government of the Papal States touching a mission to the United States. On this resolution Mr. Cass spoke in considerable detail, and in substance, in which Signor Bedini had been treated in various portions of the United States; and he was followed by Mr. Mason, Mr. Butler and others, in a similar strain.

The resolution was adopted; and after an executive session, the Senate adjourned.

The Speaker laid before the House two communications from the War Department, with reports of surveys of the Tampon river, Sacoite harbor, and North river, Massachusetts; which were referred to the Committee. Mr. Bernhisel's resolution of inquiry in relation to extending the provisions of the Oregon land laws to Utah, was passed. Mr. Ruler's resolution, asking for copies of contracts for improving the harbors of Lake Michigan, was agreed to. On motion of Mr. Stenton, of Texas, the Committee on Commerce were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a marine hospital at Memphis, Tennessee. On motion of Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, the Committee on Public Lands were instructed to inquire into what legislation is necessary in relation to the military district in Ohio.

On motion of Mr. Benson, the Committee on Agriculture were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a Bureau of Agriculture. On motion of Mr. Smith, of Virginia, the Committee on the Judiciary were instructed to inquire into the propriety of providing by law for holding semi-annual terms of the federal court for the eastern district of Virginia. The House then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and the subject of the late riots at Erie was introduced by Mr. Wade, Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Drum. Mr. Drum defended Pennsylvania from attacks by Mr. Wade, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, followed in reply, and the committee rose. After some debate on a motion of Mr. Ewing in reference to the withdrawal of the resolution in relation to the amendment of the constitution, the House adjourned.

In the SENATE, on Tuesday, the bill to organize the Territory of Nebraska was taken up, and made the special order for next Monday.

The French spoliation bill was taken up, and made the special order for Monday, February 6.

Several private bills were considered and passed.

After the consideration of executive business, a resolution was submitted by Mr. Taylor, of Texas, that the Senate adjourn on Wednesday for the purpose of attending the funeral of Mr. B. B. Bond.

The resolution was opposed by several senators on the ground that to adjourn over for that avowed object would be setting a precedent which would lead to further encroachments upon the legislative time of the body hereafter; and the yeas and nays being ordered upon it, Mr. Mason moved that the yeas and nays be ordered, and that the yeas and nays be ordered, and that the yeas and nays be ordered.

Mr. Weller then moved that when the Senate adjourns, it be to meet on Thursday next, and this was agreed to.

The Senate then went into executive session again; and after some time, adjourned.

In the HOUSE, Mr. Cobb, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill for granting a tract of land, Alabama for sundry railroads; which was committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Upham, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, reported a bill to amend the act by which the rates of postage were reduced; which was also committed to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Upham also reported a bill extending the franking privilege to the Superintendent of the District of Columbia, Mr. Hamilton reported, from the Committee on the District of Columbia, a joint resolution for continuing the works at the Washington Aqueduct; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Bissell, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the Senate bill for conferring the title of lieutenant-general by brevet for certain services, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. Mr. Oliver opposed the recommendation of the President in relation to the tonnage duties. Mr. Maxwell followed, with an able speech on behalf of the policy hitherto pursued in relation to making grants of land for railroad purposes. Mr. Benton obtained the floor, when the committee rose. A message was received from the President, transmitting a report and books relative to the Great Exhibition in London in 1851; which was referred to the Joint Committee on the Library. Mr. Bayly, of Virginia, moved that when the House adjourns, it adjourn till Thursday. Mr. Benton delivered an appropriate eulogy on Mr. Bond; and after reading sundry private bills, the House adjourned.

In the SENATE on Thursday, the invalid pension appropriation bill was passed. The House bill for the relief of the United States troops who suffered by the disaster of the steamship San Francisco was passed, with amendments. Mr. Pettit addressed the Senate on the right of Mr. Phelps to a seat in the Senate from Vermont. Much of the day was spent in executive session.

The House of Representatives passed a series of resolutions, referring the various branches of the President's annual message to the appropriate standing committees. The deficiency bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, but not definitely acted upon.

In the SENATE, on Friday, was received from the President, the correspondence relating to the mission to the Pope of Rome. A large number of private bills were passed, and the Senate adjourned till Monday.

The House of Representatives were engaged in the consideration of bills on the private calendar, and adjourned till Monday.

DEATH OF MR. BODISO. It was with sincere sorrow (says the National Intelligencer of Tuesday) that we have to announce the death of Mr. Alexander de Bodiso, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Emperor of Russia to the government of the United States. He expired at his residence in Georgetown, near this city, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. He had resided in this city a little over two months, but which did not assume a serious aspect until within ten or twelve days of his death. This lamented gentleman had filled the distinguished post of Russian envoy in this country during the long period of seventeen years, and while ever faithful to his own sovereign, he discharged his delicate trust with unimpaired acceptability to our government and people. His qualities were generally held in high respect, and he was in his conduct rarely ever true to the character of a minister of peace. So prolonged had been his residence in this country that he was familiarly known to all our inhabitants, and to great numbers of our leading citizens throughout the country; and of whom the frankness of his manners, his liberal hospitality, and cordial courtesy, rendered him a well established favorite, and for a long time, it may be said, placed him at the head of general society, in which his death will create a void that will long be felt. It may be added that the domestic ties which he formed in our country doubtless strengthened his own views on general ground. He leaves an afflicted widow and several children, besides a multitude of personal friends to mourn his loss.

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

At a meeting of the corps of Cadets at the Virginia Military Institute, Jan. 21st, held in consequence of the death of Cadet BLACKBURN, of Jefferson, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

PREAMBLE. Feelings of the most profound concern were excited in our midst by the sudden death of Thos. Blackburn, one of our fellow Cadets. We would not comment upon the circumstances of the awful tragedy, which has filled our hearts with mourning, and shrouded the community in gloom—for, as we drop the unheeded tear for the loss of a brave fellow Cadet, around whose being were gathered some of the best affections of our youth, it is our duty to remember, that the undecided fate of the living impressively demands the charity of our silence.

Yet it is becoming in us to say, that we derive great comfort from the belief, that the deceased on that fatal night, had left his room to attend religious service, with no feeling of hatred for any man being to disturb the serenity of his thoughts—entertaining no malignant designs, within himself, and suspecting none in others—that he had even entered the house of God and was called there to meet a sudden and awful death, under the cover of night, and by the hands of violence.

To these consoling reflections, together with a memory of the indomitable firmness with which he met his fate, that now like monuments on a stormy sea, high up to the clouds, stand and lead to the surrounding gloom a heavy load, sweet and soothing to the troubled soul, as we call up in long review the whole history of our intercourse with the deceased—his numerous acts of kindness and love—his many social virtues—his pure principles and honorable character, as we remember how he shared the hardships and passions of the camp, and the duties and anxieties of the school, and then think his friendly hand can never again be offered with the frankness of a soldier's love, or his voice fall again upon the listening ear of friendship, our sorrow becomes more deep, more bitter, because unhealed and unavailing. From this disaster we would not be entirely divorced, for there is a sympathy of heart for fear, a communion of spirit with spirits, in the hour of bereavement, that softens death and prompts us to cherish a memory for the loved and lost, that becomes the earthly shadow of their immortality.

Resolved 1st. That although our hearts are lacerated by the heavy affliction which has fallen with such crushing effect upon us all, and especially upon the classmates of the deceased, and while we bow with thanksgiving to the will of Providence, yet we rejoice to feel, that our deceased friend has left a name undimmed, unblemished, in the sight of man.

Resolved 2d. That whilst we feel that in such an affliction all earthly consolations are of but little avail, yet we tender to the bereaved family of the deceased, the expression of our warmest and tenderest sympathies, and our sincere prayer and desire is, that the great merciful God, who is the author of all mercies, may give them consolation in the hour of their affliction.

Resolved 3d. That in testimony of our sincere sorrows, the corps of Cadets will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

Resolved 4th. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased, and to the parents of the deceased, in Richmond, Norfolk, and Charlestown, for publication.

R. G. TAYLOR, President. C. E. LUDFORD, Secretary.

THE FIRES IN WINCHESTER.

(From the Winchester Republican of Friday last.) After the fires of Wednesday morning and evening, Winchester may be thankful that it has escaped so well. The fire of the morning, particularly, bill fair, at one time to level a quarter of the town, but owing to the extraordinary exertions made against the encroachment of the flames, they were confined to the buildings in the alley in which they originated, and just at a dwelling was lost.

The fire originated, cause unknown, in the stable of Mrs. Gidd, on the alley, just behind the Taylor Hotel, and was discovered, was in full blaze, at about one o'clock in the morning. The alarm was given, and the fire was extinguished, and the firemen and citizens promptly repaired to the spot. At that time there was a tolerable wind blowing from the West, directly over the Taylor Hotel. The flames soon communicated to the back-building of this valuable property, and it was supposed by many that nothing could save it from destruction. A number of business houses on Lombard Street caught fire, too, from the falling sparks, and the fire spread rapidly to the building in which it originated, and in a few minutes, it had become a general conflagration, and the firemen were directed to the protection of the main buildings on either side. The course of the flames was arrested by the Taylor Hotel, where they had just made a start upon the buildings, and after severe exertions, the fire was confined to the brick workshop of N. W. Richardson. This occupied about three hours. About 4 o'clock the danger was chiefly over, and most of the citizens returned to their houses.

The alarm about eight o'clock in the evening, again warned the people of fresh danger. This was the fire presented from the stables of Mr. Bea, on the alley, and was, as far as we can judge, but a renege of the morning visitation, as the buildings connected with Mr. Richardson's, where the fire had been stopped. For about an hour, the fire raged near by, that of P. Williams particularly, stood in great danger of being lost, as the burning fragments fell thick and fast. Fortunately, rain commenced falling, and with the labor of the firemen, brought the conflagration into subjection, with the loss only of the stables where it commenced. We trust this is the end.

The principal loss sustained by the destruction of the back buildings running up the alley from the Taylor Hotel nearly to Piccadilly, fell upon our townsman, Mr. Richardson, who lost, with his workshop, a great deal of valuable timber and implements, besides a great quantity of property. Among the most restricted and valuable, too, was the loss of Herol's horse Timoleon, one of the noblest animals in the State, and whose worth was estimated above a money valuation. Desperate efforts were made to save him, but they were unavailing. Messrs. Campbell, Jackson, Kohlman, and Krebs, lost their out-buildings, but, as it is, we understand, five or six thousand dollars will repair all their losses. The loss of the buildings, as that character of buildings is not taken by insurance companies.

The destruction of Commerce in connection upon these remarks of our said.

It had not been for the extraordinary exertions and the change of wind which seemed almost divine interposition, a quarter of the town would have been destroyed. We have cause for congratulation that the fire was arrested where it was, and for better preparation for future contingencies of the kind.

THE WAR WITH RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

The Times, a French Journal, published in Paris, gives us the latest intelligence from Europe touching the war question, which is interesting, and even "important if true." We quote therefrom:—

"Paris, Jan. 5th.—The news that has just been received from Russia is very serious. However, I have been assured that the Emperor regrets having advanced so far, that he cannot recede. His language was:—

"The Czars will not draw back; my uncle penetrated to Moscow without causing Alexander to yield. An alliance with Russia would be a great misfortune for us, and we are not in England. By the aid of Russia I should have had Belgium; but England will never allow me to establish myself in Europe."

Mr. de Persigny received the Board of Brokers on New year's day, and told them that they might consider war as having actually begun, and should consequently hold themselves in readiness for a loan of 200,000,000 francs, and that the Government would transport with the first houses of Paris, without paying them, as it has usually done, in rents. Mr. Fould, who also received the Board, was less warlike than Persigny, but still in his turn recommended them to be prepared to meet the necessities of State.

The Emperor contemplates the divorce of the Princess Malida from Prince Demidoff. The divorce is urgently demanded by the Emperor's cousin.

THE ADMINISTRATION.—THE POSITION.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 24, 1854. To the Editor of the Spirit of Jefferson: I ask you to give a prominent insertion in your paper to the subjoined article from the Washington Union of this date. However the Union may at times be found to be wrong, it is here, that the article I send you, speaks the sentiments of the President and his Cabinet and the Democratic Party in Congress.

We, here, who know the sentiments of this Administration upon all questions involving the constitutional rights of the South—the fidelity to the Compromise of 1850 and the Union—have looked with no other feelings than contempt upon the false and calumnious imputations of its alleged opponents, who have believed the Democracy North and South will be found united upon this great issue, and thus establish for itself a position in the hearts of American patriots which must make it hereafter invincible.

The Missouri restriction—a freesoil yoke of dishonor enforced upon the South, near a quarter of a century ago—will now be swept from the statute book of Congress; and the free and equal rights of every State and of every man in the Union, to the enjoyment of their common inheritance, recognized and enforced.

What party—but the Democratic party would have had the nerve and moral courage to have assumed such a position? What President—less distinguished than Franklin Pierce for the boldness of his character and his fidelity to the South and to the Compromises of 1850 would have dared to stake the fate of his Administration upon such a measure?

[From the Union of January 24.]

THE TWO COMPROMISES.—THE NEBRASKA QUESTION.

We have not sought to conceal the deep solicitude which we have felt in regard to the question involved in the report and bill of Senator Douglas as to the Nebraska Territory. Our solicitude was increased from the fact that this bill presents a practical test of the sincerity of that union of the democratic party upon the Baltimore platform which resulted in the re-election of President Pierce. We are on the only point on which the opponents of the administration have sought to assail its policy has been that the President has assumed a freesoil position, and that those who opposed the regular nomination in 1848, who now profess to stand faithfully upon the democratic platform adopted in 1852. A portion of our own party who disclaim the freesoil doctrine, have insisted that it gave countenance and strength to freesoilism, because, as they alleged, the democratic party had assumed a freesoil position. When they have been met with the undeniable fact that the action of these democrats since the election of President Pierce has been in perfect conformity with the freesoil doctrine, and that their professions, their assent, have been forced to predict that when brought to a practical test, they would prove their sincerity, and that their freesoil sentiments, we forewarn that the Nebraska question will present this practical test, and because of our strong anxiety to see these injurious suspicions dispelled and our own party secured and perpetuated, we have manifested what we have felt—a deep solicitude in the result.

As a result of the Nebraska question, the bill would have been passed, and the Committee on Territories have concluded that two Territories, instead of one, should be provided for, and that the provision in regard to the Nebraska Territory, the compromise principles of 1850, should be more explicitly defined. Mr. Douglas presented two bills, in lieu of the former bill, and which were passed, and postponed until the bill could be printed. As proposed by Mr. Douglas, the 14th section of the bill is as follows, the amendment being embodied in brackets:—

"SECTION 14. That the constitution and laws of the United States, which are not locally inapplicable to the same, shall extend to and effect within the said Territory as elsewhere within the United States, [except the 8th section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved March 6, 1820, which was passed in pursuance of the principles of the legislation of 1850, commonly called the compromise measure, and is hereby declared inoperative.]

This amendment declares, in express terms, that the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was suspended by

