



Spirit of Jefferson

BENJAMIN F. BEALL, Editor. CHARLESTOWN, VA.

Tuesday Morning, December 12, 1865.

THE MESSAGE. President JOHNSON'S message to Congress is a very able State paper; and its general tone will commend it to the approbation of all conservative men. To the people of the South he intends, evidently, to act in perfect good faith—in his power to extend to them the protection of the Constitution, and to place their several States back in the Union upon terms of equality with those that did not secede.

WELL DONE! We congratulate the people of Jefferson and Berkeley counties! The Legislature of Virginia has unanimously, in both Houses, repealed the former acts, granting consent to the annexation of these two counties to the State of West Virginia; and has directed Governor Pierpont to transmit the record of its action to the Federal government.

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR PIERPONT. Unable to present in this week's issue of the Spirit, the entire message of Governor Pierpont, we publish those portions of it which relate to the several subjects in which our people are much interested. The whole message would consume more than a page of our paper, and many of the matters treated upon are of little interest to the general reader.

PAYMENT OF THE STATE DEBT AND TAXATION. The holders of Virginia State bonds are pressing for the payment of the interest due. On the first day of January next, the interest due on these bonds will amount to above six millions of dollars. Various plans have been suggested for funding this interest, and the issue of bonds for the same, bearing different rates of interest; those who hold no bonds, for the most part, propose that the bonds issued to pay this interest, shall not be taken from the treasury, but that others, including the bondholders, insist on different amounts of interest, from one to six per cent. The English bond holders propose that the State should fund the interest due, then issue bonds for the same, and commence the payment of interest on the whole debt on the first day of January, 1867.

LOCAL MISCELLANY. All persons who may feel disposed to contribute money to aid Judge Kennedy in his contest with Attorney General Hall—and we hope that our citizens will do so generally and generously—can leave their contributions with either Lt. New, at Harper's Ferry, Robert Lucas, Jr., at Shepherds-town, or Robert W. Baylor, near Charlestown, whom Judge K. requests to receive the same.

THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY. Whatever truth there may be in the recently published rumors respecting the President's contemplated action in regard to the Southern States, it is well known here that he acts in all cases, affecting the restoration as they arise, and always while engaged in that work is the best exponent of his own policy, none being authorized to declare what course he will pursue in the future.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEES. Speaker Colfax keeps his own counsel, and consults with but few, if any, members as to the constitution of the standing committees. The subject is one of much interest to those having legitimate business before the House, and also to an energetic class of men here known as lobby.

NEWS SUMMARY. The Secretary of the Treasury recommends the contraction of the currency, and says he sees no way for the payment of the public debt but by an increase of the income beyond the expenditures. He recommends that the collection of internal revenue in those States accruing previous to the establishment of collection offices be indefinitely postponed, and that the sales of property under the direct tax law be suspended until the States shall have an opportunity of assuming the payment of the tax assessed upon them.



