

Spirit of Jefferson

BENJAMIN F. BEALL, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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WM. KNABE & CO., MANUFACTURERS OF THE FIRST PREMIUM GOLD MEDAL GRAND SQUARE AND UPRIGHT PIANO.

TOUCH is a plant and elastic, and is entirely free from the stiffness found in so many pianos, which causes the performer to so easily tire.

WORKMANSHIP they cannot be excelled. Their action is constructed with care and attention to every part therein that characterizes the instrument.

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VOL. 20.

CHARLESTOWN, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1867.

NO. 16.

Spirit of Jefferson

BENJAMIN F. BEALL, Editor.

Tuesday Morning, December 17, 1867.

[Correspondence Spirit of Jefferson.]

MISSOURI LETTER.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., December 24, 1867.

MR. EDITOR:—The Spirit comes regularly to hand every Sunday morning, and I feel the memories it serves to awaken are not unworthy of the day.

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The Press on Impediment.

The New York Times (republican) speaking of the defeat of the impeachment proposition, remarks: "The result is satisfactory."

The New York Journal of Commerce, in some remarks on the subject, says: "Impediment was the offspring of heated passions and personal malice."

The New York Herald remarks: "The end of the impeachment humbug shows still more strikingly the extraordinary change that has come over Congress."

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says: "It has been a subject of remark that an unusual number of lobby members of the female gender have made their appearance here."

WHY GEN. SHERMAN IS IN WASHINGTON.—A letter in the Baltimore Gazette says: "The President would have resisted suspension, and in this resistance he would have been sustained by General Sherman."

ELOQUENCE.—We copy from the Richmond Dispatch a verbatim report of a speech made by Lewis Lindsey, one of the delegates to the Virginia Convention.

How do HERRA-PARRA.—A writer says the Holmes County farmer, for ourselves and all our brethren. We are writing, dear reader, to you.

P. S.—Since writing the above I learned from Lock, who has returned, that his trunk was in the office and was awaiting delivery.

POETICAL

THE UNSEEN SHORE.

Beyond the dark sea's edge, where the waves are seen, Beyond the dark sea's edge, where the waves are seen.

And there are souls that thrill with love, Who look in vain, For whom we sigh and weep, and weep, and weep.

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Three Wealthy New Yorkers.

A correspondent of the Charleston Journal, sends the following: ALEXANDER T. STEWART, is a native of the North of Ireland—not of Scotland, as many persons suppose.

His father was a merchant in New York. His wealth is estimated at thirty millions, all acquired by untiring application to business.

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How Peebles asked the Old Man.

Peebles had just asked Mr. Merriweather's daughter if she would give him a lift out of bachelorhood, and she had said "yes."

It therefore became absolutely necessary to get the old man's permission, so, Peebles said, that arrangements might be made for hopping the college.

Peebles said he'd rather pop the interrogatory to all old Merriweather's daughters, and his sisters, and his female cousin, and his aunt Hannah in the country, and the whole of his female relations, than ask old Merriweather.

But it had to be done, and so he sat down and studied out a speech which he was going to disgorge to old Merriweather the very first chance he got to sly at him.

So Peebles dropped in on him one Sunday evening, when all the family had meandered round to class meeting, and found him doing a sum in beer measure, trying to calculate the exact number of quarts his interior could hold without blowing the head off of him.

"How are you, Peeb?" said old Merriweather, as Peebles walked in as white as a chunk of chalk, and trembling as if he had swallowed a condensed earthquake.

Peebles was afraid to answer, because he wasn't sure about that speech. He knew he had to keep his grip on it while he had it there, or it would slip away from him quicker than an oiled sled through an auger hole.

"Mr. Merriweather, sir, perhaps it may not be unknown to you that during an extended period of some five years I have been engaged in the prosecution of a commercial enterprise with a determination to procure a sufficient maintenance."

"Sit down, Peeb, and help yourself to beer. Don't stand there holding your hat like a blind beggar with the paralysis."

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RATES OF ADVERTISING.

One Square, Three Insertions, \$1.50; Each Continuation, 50; One Square, One Month, 2.00; One Square, Three Months, 5.00; One Square, Six Months, 8.00; One Square, One Year, 15.00.

I was only trying to ask you to let me marry your daughter, groaned Peebles.

"Great—what?—you didn't mean to say—well, I hope I may be shot. Well, if you ain't a regular old wooden-headed idiot—I thought your mind was wandering."

And Peebles looked ruefully at his defective leg and wished he hadn't been such a fool; but he went out and married the girl, and lived happily with her for about two months; and at the end of that time he told a confidential friend that he would willingly take more trouble and undergo a million more dog-bites to get rid of her.

Jefferson's Wedding.

The following scene is from the "Early Days of Jefferson" in the N. Y. Centinel:—"Bellinda" (Jefferson's first love) had been married many years and her old admirer was approaching thirty, when he met a young lady of twenty-two, who had produced a strong impression upon him.

And odd to those accomplishments the possession of excellent good sense, very considerable cultivation, a warm, loving heart, and last, though not least, notable talent for house-keeping, and it will not be difficult to understand how the youthful Mr. Jefferson came to visit very frequently at the lady's residence in the county of Charles City.

It was called "The Forest," and the name of the lady was Mrs. Mary Skelton. She was the daughter of John Walker, an eminent lawyer, and had married in her seventeenth year, Mr. Skelton, who dying in 1768, left his wife a widow of nineteen. As the three years of mourning began to expire, the beautiful young lady found herself besieged at "The Forest" by numerous visitors.

Of these, three were favorites with the fair Mrs. Skelton, of whom Mr. Thomas Jefferson was the first. Tradition runs that the pretensions of the rivals were decided either by the musical accomplishments of the young counselor, or by the fears of his opponents. The tale is differently related. One version is, the two unfortunate gentlemen encountered each other on Mrs. Skelton's door step, but hearing Mr. Jefferson's violin and voice accompanying the lady in a pathetic song, gave up the contest, and retired without entering, convinced that the affair was beyond their control.

"The other is that all three met at the door, and agreed that they would take turns. Mr. Jefferson entered first; and the tones of the lady in singing with her companion deprived the listeners of all hope. However this may be, it is certain that the beautiful widow consented to become Mrs. Jefferson; and on the first of January, 1771, a grand and kindred festival at the Forest, in France, and kindred assembled from far and near; there was frolic and dancing after the abundant old fashion, and we find from the bridegroom's note-book that the servants and fiddlers received fees from his special pocket."

It snowed without, but within all was mirth and enjoyment, in the light and warmth of great log fires, roaring in honor of the occasion. Soon after the performance of the ceremony the bridegroom and his bride set out in their carriage for Monticello, where Mr. Jefferson had commenced building in 1769, just before the destruction by fire of his patrimonial house of "Shadwell." The journey was not so tedious without adventures. As they advanced toward the mountain the snow compelled in depth and finally they were compelled to leave the carriage and proceed upon their way on horseback.

Stopping to rest at Bluejays, the seat of Col. Carter, where they found, however, no one but an overseer, they left it at sunset, resolutely bent upon reaching Monticello before night. It was eight miles distant, and the road, which was rather a mountain bridle path than an honest highway, was incumbered with snow three feet deep. We may fancy the sensations of the newly married bride at the chill appearance of the landscape as she passed along the snow; but she was a woman of courage and good sense, and did not care for inconvenience. It was late when they arrived, and a cheerless reception awaited them—or rather there was no reception at all. The fires were out, the servants had gone to bed, and the place was as dark and silent as the grave.

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CHARLESTOWN, VA.

BENJAMIN F. BEALL, Editor.

Tuesday Morning, December 17, 1867.

COUNTY CONVENTION.

As anxious that there should be a thorough organization of all the conservative elements of this county, and that a complete and full representation should be had in the State Conservative Convention, to meet in Wheeling, on the 8th of January, 1868, we last week, at the suggestion of several prominent members of the conservative party, in this end of the county, took the responsibility of calling a county convention to meet in this town on Saturday next. Since the publication of our last paper, we have received the following notice for a meeting to be held in Shepherdstown, on Friday next:

The conservatives of the county are invited to attend at Butler's Hotel in Shepherdstown, on Friday, the 20th inst., at 12 M., for the purpose of effecting a county organization, and to appoint delegates to attend the State Convention, to be held in Wheeling, on the 8th of January next.

To prevent any confusion, we withdraw our notice of last week, and acquiesce in the call above made. We hope the attendance will be such as to give the matter its proper view demands. We lost this county in October for the want of proper organization, but we hope it is the last time that the conservatives will let affairs go by default.

STANTON'S REMOVAL.

Without any particular admiration for the present Executive, we must confess that we rejoice at the caustic style in which he snubbed the radical Senate, in his recent message relating to the removal of Robespierre Stanton. The President quotes Mr. Stanton's reply to the President's request that he would resign, wherein Stanton says that considerations of a high public character led him to withhold his resignation until the next meeting of Congress. This the President holds as not only a declination but as defiant and utterly wanting in that respect due from Mr. Stanton to his superior officer. The point is made that Stanton could not appeal to the law creating the War Department, because that law gives the President the right to remove Stanton. The tenure of office bill alone supported Mr. Stanton, but that law did not compel Stanton to remain in office. The President argues the necessity for unity and harmony among his constitutional advisers, and alludes to his having retained with one exception the cabinet of his predecessor. He also states incidentally that the Cabinet was unanimous on his policy of Reconstruction, and upon the unconstitutionality of the tenure of office bill, Stanton having been United States Attorney, was especially consulted, and was emphatic and absolute in his condemnation of the bill as unconstitutional. The most pointed specific charge refers to the New Orleans riots. According to the narrative, Gen. Baird reported to Stanton the danger of the riot, and asked advice. Stanton not only withheld instructions to Baird, but kept the dispatch from the President and his Cabinet until after the occurrence of the riots. The President holds that had Stanton acted himself, or made the message from Baird known to his superiors, the riots would have been prevented. He produces a letter from Sheridan to the effect that had he been advised of the danger, the riots could have been avoided.

The President concludes: "The public cannot complain of the change, because the judicious measures of the new Secretary have already saved millions of the public treasure."

—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette says that the first intimation which the President received of the vote of rejection on the Impeachment question, was made to him by Hon. D. W. Voorhees, of Indiana. Mr. Johnson was so much affected that for a few minutes he could make no reply. He then very quietly said, "I thank you, Mr. Voorhees, for communicating the intelligence, and I am gratified to know the public business of the country is not to be further interrupted." Since then there was a constant calling by friends in and out of Congress, to congratulate him upon the result of an investigation prompted by the bitterest partisan feeling which has ever marked a proceeding of the kind in any country. Mr. Johnson not only passed the ordeal unscathed, but the Republicans admit that he has been immeasurably strengthened before the people. For this they denounce the impeachers even more than the Conservatives do, and charge that another impeachment movement would secure Johnson's re-election.

FROM WASHINGTON.

A special dispatch to the Baltimore Sun has the following piece of information with regard to the relations subsisting between Gen. Grant, and the decapitated Secretary of War, Stanton:

The correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial telegraphs from this city to-night an account of a little unpleasantness that has arisen between General Grant and Mr. Stanton, on account of the phraseology of the latter's letter, "yielding to superior force," and slight disagreement between them as to the facts connected with the change in the War Department.

From General Grant's testimony before the impeachment committee, it appears that prior to the correspondence between them, General Grant and Mr. Stanton had a conversation upon the proposed suspension of the latter. It is alleged that General Grant complains of Mr. Stanton's language in this note as being at variance in some from what was agreed upon in their consultation.

THE LAND WE LOVE, for December, fully equals previous numbers. This magazine is now, beyond doubt, a permanent Southern monthly, and should receive a liberal support in our community.

The Board of Supervisors will meet at the Court House on Friday next, 20th of December.

CONFISCATION.

This question, like the impeachment, is doomed to an ignominious death, if its friends should muster courage to press it to a direct vote. Last week when the measure was called up in the House, at the instigation of Thad Stevens, after a brief discussion, it was laid over until the 21st of January next.

While it was before the House, however, it received the following stunning blows from two of the staunch conservative members:

Mr. CHARLES addressed the House against the measure, declaring that it was against the black flag of confiscation should be lowered, and the "Union Jack" raised in its stead. He replied to and denounced the arguments made by Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, last March, on his advocacy of the bill, and supported his own position by references to events in ancient and modern history bearing upon the point of general confiscation.

In conclusion, he said that the black flag must come down; that the "death's head" and the "Union Jack" so long used as a "bug-a-boo" against the people of the South, was an insult to that people; that the South must be reconstructed, and the white race rehabilitated in the full power which belonged to it as inheritors of the founders of the Government.

Mr. BENTON followed on the same side. He concluded by declaring that it was the Union which was restored, and that the people were enjoying the fruits of their victory—Why, he asked, has not the Union been restored? The faithful and impartial historian would, in answering that question, prefer a most fearful indictment against the party which had control of the government. It would show a record of cruel despotism, of wicked usurpation of violated law, of broken faith, of unfulfilled promises, of rights disregarded, of constitutions overthrown, and of civil liberty trodden under foot, and all in the interest of a mere party. Referring to the declaration of Mr. Stevens, that the lives and property of the people of the South were at the disposal of the victor, he denounced it as most atrocious. In the name of the Union, its cherished memories and sacred hopes, he denied it; in the name of the Constitution, yet living in force, however much ignored and disregarded, he denied it; in the name of the common law of nations, he denied it. There was no law, human or divine, by which it could be defended. Robbery was the main spring and inspiring motive of the bill. It would have to go back for its precedents to the days of savage cruelty. There never had been a proposition so terrible, nor so atrocious. It was in direct violation of the Constitution, being both a bill of attainder and an ex post facto law. There was no war now; no insurrection, no rebellion. By what right were the laws of war enforced? By what right did Congress dispose of life and liberty to the South? By what right was the sword of power upheld? There was no longer any belligerence, and therefore Congress had no belligerent rights. He appealed to the Republican party to restore the Government, and make good its pledges and promises to save the Union. All the reconstruction measures were but the last resort of a desperate party, and were devised not by statesmen in the interest of the country, but by politicians in the interest of party.

Winchester and Potomac Railroad.

The stockholders of this road held a meeting at Winchester, last week, and, as stated in the Times of that place, concurred in the following agreement with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company:

1st. That the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company shall hold the undisturbed possession and control of the road for twenty years from the 1st day of July last—reserving to their own use during that time all the revenues of the road, with the option of continuing to hold it indefinitely thereafter for any term or terms of like duration.

2d. That the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company shall pay to the Winchester Company, in equal semi-annual instalments, the sum of \$27,000 per annum during the continuance of the contract, and that the former company will also advance to the latter a sum not exceeding \$20,000 to provide for what is known as its floating debt, being debts contracted prior to or at an early stage of the late war, and such further sum as will enable the Winchester Company to extinguish its indebtedness to the commonwealth, in pursuance of the terms of the act passed April 25, 1867.

3d. That the Baltimore and Ohio Company shall guarantee the bonds of Winchester and Potomac Company for a sum not exceeding \$150,000.

4th. That the company assumes "all the legal obligations of the Winchester and Potomac Company under its charter, to pay all State and Federal taxes, and keep the road and its appurtenances during the continuance of the term, and deliver them up at its expiration in as good repair (necessary wear and tear excepted) as when they take charge of them."

The above contract between the two companies was confirmed on Wednesday, by the directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, at their monthly meeting. The project of the extension of the Winchester Road to Strasburg is, of course, embraced by this arrangement.

A Good Hit.—In the lower House of the "Rump" on Thursday, Mr. Getz, of Pennsylvania, offered the following:

Whereas, it is reported that the cities of Boston and Pittsburg have recently elected Democratic Mayors; and whereas, this is an indication on the part of the people of those cities of a spirit of disloyalty; therefore Resolved, That the select Committee on Reconstruction be directed to inquire whether the States in which those cities are located have republican forms of government, and whether they don't need reconstruction. Objected to and laid over.

—The Cadet Corps, at Lexington, now numbers 250.

VIRGINIA CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION.

This body assembled in Richmond on Wednesday, and without doubt embodies as much real ability in its composition as any convention that has ever assembled in the State of Virginia. The Richmond Enquirer says in no convention which ever met in Virginia was the State so thoroughly represented as in this body. Not less, we imagine, than eight hundred delegates, at a time of great pecuniary scarcity, have braved the inclemency of winter, and are here from the mountains to the sea-shore. From the Valley, from Piedmont, from Southwest Virginia, from the Southside, from Tidewater, from the Peninsula and the Eastern Shore—we have able and full representatives. Venerable Virginians of the old school, the friends of Randolph, of Jefferson, and Monroe, the surviving members of Conventions and Legislatures which have become famous in history, have emerged from long retirement, and are here to encourage by their counsels the youth who are just entering upon the duties of life.

The garden of Eden never presented a more harmonious fraternalization of the lions and the lambs than the Theatre did on yesterday. Whoever expected to see Randolph, Stuart, Baldwin, Boock, Martin, Tucker, Kemper, Flournoy, Brockenbrough, McDowell Moore, Daniel, Pennington, McMillan, and a host of other party leaders cordially uniting, without a word of discord, to protect Virginia? What a happy augury of the ability of the white man to save the State from the negro, as this complete fusion of old parties? Who can doubt the eventual triumph of the white man in Virginia when this host of able, eloquent and honest Virginians lead the masses against the depraved vagabonds who are conspiring to deliver their State into the hands of the African?

The temporary organization of the Convention was effected by calling Hon. THOMAS JEFFERSON RANDOLPH of Albemarle to the Chair, who appointed the following committee on permanent organization:

Zephaniah Turner of Rappahannock; O. R. Fusten of Clarke; Bolivar Christian of Augusta; Waller R. Staples of Montgomery; David R. Burke of Bedford; Wm. Martin of Henry; Asa D. Dickinson of Prince Edward; Robert Whitehead of Nelson; R. T. Daniel of Richmond; R. H. Coleman of Caroline; James M. Wilcox of Charles City; John Good of Norfolk; and M. R. Garnett of Essex.

This committee, after a short retirement, reported the following gentlemen as permanent officers of the Convention:

For President—Hon. ALEX. H. STUART, of Augusta.

For Vice-Presidents—Hon. R. M. T. Hunter of Essex; Hon. Saml. McDowell Moore of Rockbridge; Hon. Thomas S. Boock of Appomattox; Robert S. Preston of Montgomerie; Hon. Thomas S. Flournoy of Halifax; Gen. James L. Kemper of Madison; Willoughby Newton of Westmoreland; Wm. H. Macfarland of Richmond; George W. Bolling of Petersburg; Wood Bowdin of Charlotte.

For Secretaries—Henry K. Elyson, Wm. D. Coleman, James McDonald and J. H. Bigger.

MR. STUART'S SPEECH.

On taking the chair, Mr. Stuart said: Gentlemen of the Convention.—I thank you for the honor you have done me in calling me to preside over a Convention which embodies so large a share of the virtue, intelligence and patriotism of Virginia.

We have assembled, gentlemen, under circumstances of peculiar interest and solemnity. This is no Convention to advance the interests of a mere party. Thank Heaven, if the late Federal conflict has done no other good, it has effected all old party lines and subdued all old party irritations. We come together not as Whigs or Democrats, but as Virginians, earnestly devoted to the promotion of the interests and honor of our common Mother.

Nor have we come together in any factious spirit or with any aggressive purpose.

Whatever opinions individual members of this Convention may have entertained in the past as to the right of a State to withdraw from the Union, I think I may safely affirm that they have been abandoned as impracticable. The questions arising out of those opinions have been referred to the arbitration of arms, and having been decided adversely, all now feel that they are bound in honor, as well as impelled by interest, to stand by the award.

The people of Virginia now desire repose, and they earnestly seek a restoration of their constitutional relations to the Union as the best means of affording it. They feel, too, that the material interests of all parts of our widely-extended country are impaired, and our liberties imperilled, by the longer continuance of the present unhappy strifes, and we seek a restoration of the Union as the most efficient remedy for all the evils of which we complain.

When the war ceased we were told that if we annulled our ordinances of secession, and repudiated the Confederate debt, and perfected the emancipation of our slaves by adopting the constitutional amendments, we would be restored to our constitutional rights. To these conditions we promptly acceded, because they involved no sacrifice of our self-respect and no national degradation. We have faithfully fulfilled all these conditions, and yet our rights are withheld. We do not, under these circumstances, appeal to the justice and good faith of the North for the redemption of the promises thus made to us?

Looking to events which have happened in other Southern States, the people of Virginia have been led to fear that a policy is to be inaugurated here which tends, if it be not designed, to subvert our whole social fabric, and to bring the land of Washington, Henry, Jefferson, Madison and Marshall, under the dominion of an alien and inferior race. We should be false to all the instincts of humanity—false to the blood which courses through our veins—false to every obligation of duty to ourselves, our kindred and our country, if we did not earnestly protest against and seek to arrest so fearful a calamity.

We hope our fears may be unfounded. We hope we may be spared this attempted degradation. But it is the part of prudence to guard against all contingencies. It is for this purpose that we have met to take counsel together to-day. We wish with one united voice to appeal to the patriotic people of the North to come to our relief and stay the hands of those who would oppress and degrade us.

We desire further to perfect our organization, so that all who desire that this shall continue to be a white man's government may be able to set in concert; and by one vigorous and united effort save ourselves from ruin and disgrace. We prefer military rule to the despotism of an ignorant rabble. And we wish to declare, with earnestness and emphasis, that, come what may, we and those we represent can never agree that this shall be any other than a white man's government. Our rights may be wrested from us by violence, but we will never agree that our proud old Mother shall be presented in the attitude of consenting to her own degradation.

The chair then appointed a committee to prepare business for the action of the Convention, which was originally composed of the following gentlemen:

Messrs. R. T. Daniel, Z. Turner, R. M. T. Hunter, Wm. Martin, W. R. Staples, John B. Baldwin, Thos. S. Boock, James M. Wilcox, E. M. Campbell, G. W. Bulling, R. H. Whitehead, John Good, Jr., and John K. Tucker.

This committee was subsequently enlarged by the addition of the following names:

Messrs. O. B. Finney, of Accomac; John Letcher, of Rockbridge; Fayette McMullen, of Smyth; Mossa Walton, of Shenandoah; W. W. Fleming, of Highland; Nathaniel Alexander, of Mecklenburg; Dr. Samuel B. Kello, of Southampton, and E. W. Massie.

On the second day, this committee reported a series of resolutions which were adopted unanimously as follows:

First—"We recognize that by the result of the war slavery has been abolished, and it is not the desire of the people of Virginia to restore to slavery again a people emancipated by the events of war and by an amendment to the constitution of the United States.

The second asserts the right of Virginia to be restored to the Union, and declares her intention, in good faith, to perform her duties to the Union.

The third is a protest against governing Virginia in any way not defined in the Federal Constitution.

The fourth adopts the language of the resolution adopted at Cooper Institute, in New York, that military government is subversive of the fundamental ideas of our government, and its object, which is to subject the Southern States to the rule of a race just emerged from slavery, is abhorrent to the civilization of mankind and to the Northern people, in surrendering as it does, one-third of the Senate and one-fourth of the House of Representatives which are to legislate over us to the dominion of an organized class of emancipated slaves, who are without any of the training habits or traditions of self-government.

The fifth disclaims all hostility to the black population, and asserts that the people of Virginia sincerely desire to see their advancement in intelligence, and are willing to extend them liberal protection; but while any constitution adopted by the State should make all equal before the law, yet this convention distinctly declares that the government of the States and of the Union were formed by white men, to be subject to their control and suffrage, and should still be regulated so as to continue both under the control and direction of the white race.

The sixth declares that the people of Virginia will co-operate with all men throughout the Union, of whatever name or party, who will labor to restore the constitutional Union of the States, and continue its government under the control of the white race.

The seventh was adopted authorizing the central committee to take steps for testing the constitutionality of the reconstruction acts in the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the discussion of this resolution General Imboden, who has sued out a mandamus against Gen. Schofield, stated that his case, with similar ones in Alabama and Mississippi, would be carried to the Supreme Court.

Resolutions that the object of the convention was to organize a white man's party, and no subjects foreign to this should be discussed, was laid on the table. The president was authorized to appoint a committee to prepare an address to the people of Virginia and the United States, and the convention adjourned sine die.

In pursuance of the resolution that a committee be appointed to prepare an address to the people of Virginia and the United States, the chairman made the following appointments:—Wm. C. Rives, R. M. T. Hunter, John Janney, James Marshall, and J. Randolph Tucker.

VALLEY ITEMS.

From our Valley exchanges we copy the following items:

—The Winchester Brass Band has been re-organized.

—An association for the arrest of horse-thieves, is being organized in Augusta county.

—The 10th of November was the anniversary of the Virginia Military Institute. It was appropriately observed by Students and Professors.

—Iron Ore of an excellent quality has been discovered near Waynesboro, Augusta county, in close proximity to the Virginia Central Railroad.

—The dwelling house of Mr. G. W. Eddy, in Frederick county, was burned one night last week. Most of the furniture was saved. It caught from the chimney. Loss not ascertained.

—One night last week an attempt was made to break into the store of Messrs. Cow & Krebs, on Market street, Winchester. Fortunately the thieves were overheard, and driven off.

—An interesting revival of religion has been in progress in the Braddock St. Methodist Church, Winchester, during the past two weeks, under the auspices of Rev. Dr. Hough. Some nine or ten persons have professed religion.

—A Musical Association, styled the "Mozart," has been formed in Winchester. The following are the officers of the Society: C. W. Price, President; Dr. Bowly, Musical Director; I. N. Todd, Secretary; and N. W. Haines, Treasurer.

HORSE THEIF.—A negro man, says the Winchester News, named Benjamin Wood, last Monday week hired a horse from Mr. Morgan Brandon, of this place, to go into the country a short distance. It appears that, instead of returning the horse, he sold him to another negro for \$10. The gentleman with whom the purchaser of the horse lived, suspecting something wrong, rode into town on the animal to inquire into the case, and found out that the horse, worth about \$100, had been hired from Mr. Brandon. Mr. B. therefore recovered his property, and on last Monday the daring thief, who had come back to town, was arrested by Lt. Mesther, Chief of Police, and lodged in jail to await his trial.

—Some three weeks ago, a very large eagle made a swoop at a goose, in Cawood's Gap, three miles south of Saltillo, but not having taken good sight, as hunters would say, overbore the goose and impaled himself upon a snag, producing immediate death. He measured seven feet from tip to tip of his wings.—Abingdon Virginian.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

Building Association.

All subscribers to the stock of "The Jefferson County Building Association," are requested to meet at Jefferson Hall, on FRIDAY EVENING, December 20th, for the purpose of completing the organization of the Association.

From the above it will be seen that "The Jefferson County Building Association," will meet, for permanent organization, at Jefferson Hall, on Friday evening next at 7 o'clock.

The charter, the printed constitutions, a full set of books for accounts, &c., have all been received, and everything is in readiness to commence operations.

The meeting on Friday evening will be extremely important, as all the officers for the ensuing year are to be elected. It is, therefore, greatly to be desired that there will be a large attendance, not only of those who have already subscribed for shares of stock, but of those also who contemplate becoming subscribers, in order that all those who are, or who are to become substantially interested in the scheme may participate in its organization. It will be borne in mind that each share of stock is entitled to a vote, and that the holder, if unable to be present, is empowered by the constitution, to vote by proxy.

We believe this enterprise is entirely worthy of an earnest support of the people of the county. Its success will not only be promotive of the interests of those directly connected with it, but necessarily and greatly promotive of the public welfare. In this view it is to be hoped that all our citizens who are possessed of public spirit, although their own circumstances may render such pecuniary aid as this association is designed to furnish its members, unnecessary to themselves, will still manifest their approval of its objects and character by becoming subscribers to its stock, and thus use their influence and their means to sustain it. Let there be a large gathering on Friday evening, and if our country friends or our friends from the neighboring towns of Harper's Ferry, Shepherdstown, Bolivar, Smithfield, Kabletown, Rippon, Leetown, Myerstown, Halltown, &c., cannot be with us, let them send their names and their proxies to some friend in Charlestown, who they can select to represent them on the occasion.

CHRISTMAS COMING.—The busy preparation of our merchants and the show-windows of the shopmen, sufficiently indicate that the festive season is at hand. The supply of necessaries and luxuries, trinkets and toys, is more general than has been known for many years, and we may in our next specify some of the many good things in store for those who are blessed with more dime than the printer can boast. Our advertising columns already indicate the "good time coming," and to old and young, rich and poor, we wish a happy season.

THE POOR should be kindly remembered at this season, as in too many cases, no doubt, the larder is empty and the wood-pile low.—A little charity kindly extended, may relieve many a humble home of the gloom of despair and the gaunt wailings of cold, hunger and distress. Let those who have enough and to spare, remember that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

PROMPT PAYMENT.—We have heretofore failed to notice that Sheriff Potterfield has been among the first of the officers in the State, to pay into its treasury \$21,000 of the \$37,000 due from Jefferson on the State and school tax of the present year. This is a heavy amount and most generous exaction, but it is a matter of congratulation that our people have been able to meet it, even under the pressure of circumstances.

"SOMETHING TO WEAR"—If the present season of the year does not remind the scantily clad that winter is at hand, it is difficult to say what would. But if you are shivering in your old clothes, sell them for rags, and the money obtained for them will go far towards purchasing a warm, thick suit, at the cheap clothing store of M. Rosenberg, on Shenandoah street, Harper's Ferry. His stock is one of the most superb and complete that can be found outside of Baltimore city, and his prices are low beyond comparison.

AMERICAN FARMER.—The December No. contains articles on the agricultural Policy of South—Orthodox Manuring—Clover as Manure—Lime—Rotation of Crop System—Fall Ploughing—Colorado Potato Bug—Grape Growing—Sheep—Mutton and Wool—Destruction of Insects—Harvest of 1867—Besides Farm, and Garden Work, Veterinary Department, and a variety of other interesting matter.

Published by Worthington & Lewis, Baltimore. \$2 a year in advance.

PRETTY GOOD.—Last week, Mr. Jas. H. Conklyn butchered thirteen hogs, nine months old, which averaged in weight 161 pounds; also three hogs, sixteen months old, which averaged 855 pounds. If any of our farmers can beat this, let them do as Mr. C. did—send us a rib and a link of sausage.

PUBLIC SALES.—Of Mr. J. B. Morrow, Farming Implements, Stock, &c., on to-day, (Tuesday).

Of Mr. John J. Hammond, Household and Kitchen Furniture, Stock and Farming Implements, on Wednesday, (to-morrow).

Of David Howell, Farming Implements, Corn, Stock, &c., on Monday, 23d inst.

For particulars, see advertisements.

RECOVERING.—We are pleased to learn that Dewitt, the son of Mr. John H. Strider of Halltown, who was so seriously injured by entanglement in the horse-power of a corn-sheller, a week or two since, is getting much better, and is now in a fair way of recovery.

REMOVAL.—Miss MAGGIE W. JOHNSON has removed her Millinery establishment to the Post Office, where she will be pleased to see her old customers and the ladies generally.

DEATH OF HENRY BERRY, ESQ.—

As our paper goes to press, we are pained to learn of the death of Henry Berry, Esq., which occurred at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Dr. Ratler, near Shepherdstown, on Sunday evening last. The deceased was too well known and too kindly loved by a numerous circle of friends, to attempt any eulogy of his virtues or any extension of his foibles, in this brief announcement. He was aged about 70 years—a lawyer of sound judgment and high legal position among the profession, and was a distinguished member in the Legislature of our old State, in the perilous times of '32. Latterly, he was Commonwealth's Attorney, under the new order of things, and the Circuit Court of Jefferson, now in session at Shepherdstown, adjourned until 2 o'clock to-day, in respect to his memory and to be present at his funeral.

NOW IS YOUR CHANCE.—The severity of the weather, the necessities of the season and the hardness of the times, should induce every one to seek that place for investment, where they can buy "a good article, at low rates." To those who may not already know the fact, it is our pleasure to state by personal examination, that the Clothing House of Mr. JOHN L. SCHILLING, opposite the Shenandoah Hotel, Harper's Ferry, is such an establishment. The stock is general and complete, embracing every variety of ready-made Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, and gentlemen's furnishing goods generally. The selection has been made with special regard to the wants and tastes of our people, and is alike moderate in price as superior in quality. When visiting the Ferry, bear in mind where to get your money back, by examining the general clothing establishment of SCHILLING, and making your purchases accordingly.

SNOW.—The first snow of any extent during the season, commenced falling on Thursday last, and the earth is now whitened by its wintry aspect. The ground being in fine condition to receive it, sleighing has been most excellent, and the merry jingle of the sleigh bells have enlivened our streets and relieved the dull monotony of the last few weeks. Horse-flesh is suffering considerably, but some of the "turn-outs" have been handsome in appearance and fleet in locomotion, and would do no discredit to better days and more prosperous times.

PRICES REDUCED.—The beautiful selection of carriages, rockwags, buggies, and other vehicles, just received by Major J. W. Hawks, and now being offered at greatly reduced prices, is well worthy the examination of purchasers. The styles are the very latest and the finish and durability equal to the best of the country.

COUNTY ITEMS.

From the Shepherdstown Register of Saturday, we take the following:

CIRCUIT COURT PROCEEDINGS.—The Circuit Court of Jefferson county convened on Monday last in this place—Judge Hall presiding.

The Grand Jury received the usual charge concerning their duties. On Tuesday they returned a number of indictments, among which are nearly all the ministers of the county for performing marriage ceremonies without the proper licenses. The Grand Jury were then discharged.

A number of motions were argued and disposed of as also several Chancery cases and many law cases continued—but few tried.

State of West Virginia vs. Adam Shepherd, Statutory misdemeanor—residing in office in making arrests. Verdict guilty, and fined \$10 and costs.

Samuel W. Wisong vs. Amos Shepherd. An action for recovery of interest on a bond for sale of land, of which a tender of payment of said bond was claimed, thereby exempting from payment of interest. Verdict for interest on said bond from March 1st, 1859 to March 1st, 1862, at six per cent. per annum, and from March 1st, 1862 to December 12th, 1867, at three per cent. per annum.

SALES.—Geo. D. McElroy, Auctioneer, sold for J. F. Harrison, Special Commissioner, the town property belonging to the heirs of George Wise, deceased, on Monday, to the following persons:

The brick house, potter shop and lot belonging to it, on the corner of German and Duke streets, for the sum of \$3,425.00, to Wm. Weise. A horse and lot on German street for \$650, to C. T. Yontz. Another small house and lot on the same street for \$478, to Wash. Wilkinson, colored. An unimproved lot adjoining the above for \$122 to Abraham Dixon, colored. Another unimproved lot on High street for \$234.50, to Jacob Hill. Also a lot adjoining town known as the River Hill, belonging to the heirs of Joseph McP. Brien, containing ten acres, for \$38 per acre, to Wm. Rightstine.

An interesting meeting commenced in the Episcopal Church of this place on Tuesday last week, and continued until Sunday evening last. Rev. Dr. Andrews, the pastor, was assisted by Revs. Hanson and Meade.—On Friday morning a confirmation of ten or twelve members took place by Bishop Johns.

Two valuable cows belonging to Mr. John Snyder of this place, died a few days ago from a disease known as the "Mad Itch" or "Rinderpest."

Berkely Items.

From the New Era we clip the following items:

—The Catholic Fair to be held in Winona's Hall, commencing on the 17th, promises to be a grand affair. Extensive preparation is being made for the opening. The fancy tables will be unusually attractive, many of the donations for this department having come from a distance. The Martinburg Independent Brass Band will be in attendance each evening. Go, everybody.

—The first fair that has occurred in this place for years, broke out in the Cabinet Maker shop of Mr. A. Kogelschatz, last Monday. The shop and a stable attached, the property of Mr. John Feller, were entirely consumed by their contents. Mr. Kogelschatz's loss consists in tools, unfinished work, and lumber, and is estimated at about \$500. Mr. Feller's loss will be fully as much. There was no insurance on the property destroyed. It is not known how the fire originated, as there was no one in the shop at the time but a small boy. A stiff breeze prevailed at the time, and it was only by the almost superhuman exertions of the citizens who quickly repaired to the spot on the alarm being given, that immense quantities of property was prevented. The ravages of the flames was checked entirely by the use of buckets and such other vessels as could be procured. The apology for a fire engine was taken out, but not used, buckets being considered more efficient. We presume our Rip Van Winkle City will awake to the importance of an efficient fire apparatus after property has been destroyed to an amount sufficient to purchase half a dozen good engines.

Reconstruction Convention.

In the reconstruction convention, now in session in Richmond, the following resolutions of enquiry have been offered:

Of incorporating in the bill of rights the clause declaring all test-oaths diametrically opposed to republicanism, and of establishing a system of schools for the education of all classes. Of allowing naturalized foreigners to hold property after one year's residence, and to be eligible to State offices after three years' residence in the State. Abolishing corporal and capital punishment for crime. Of disfranchising all persons from whom it is in the power of the convention to remove existing disabilities.

A resolution declaring all debts contracted since January 1st, 1860, in the purchase of slaves null and void.

The chairman of the finance committee introduced a resolution that, whereas there is only about one hundred thousand dollars in the treasury, and seven hundred thousand dollars will be required to pay the interest of the interest until the convention is satisfied that there is money enough in the treasury to pay the interest of January 1st. Referred.

The resolution and amendment relative to the indemnification of voters came up. The convention appeared determined not to go into a political debate; and, as a very long one had already taken place on the same resolution, the previous question was sustained by a vote of 62 to 25, and the matter was referred.

MARRIED.

On Thursday morning, 12th inst., in the Methodist Church in this place, by Rev. Mr. Coe, Mr. JACOB P. VOORHEES to Miss MOLLIE C. HOWARD—all of this place.

On Tuesday morning, 10th inst., at the residence of the bride's father, Rev. J. W. TONGUE, LUTHER F. SLIPER to Miss JULIA A. BANEY, daughter of Thaddeus Bane, Esq.—all of Jefferson.

On the 11th inst., in this county, by Miss SYDNEY E. HARRISON, daughter of Mr. Isaac Harrison, of Clark county, W. Va., to Miss ISABELLA R. AMEY, formerly of Baltimore city.

On the 11th inst., in the M. E. Church in New-town, Frederick county, Va., by Rev. W. W. Wolfe, CAMILLUS B. BOOKER and Miss CLARRISSA E. YOUNG, daughter of Wm. E. Nicklin, formerly of Market street, Frederick county, Md.

At the Lutheran Parsonage in Martinsburg, on the 6th inst., by Rev. J. S. Heilig, Mr. GEORGE D. SILVER, of Berkeley county, W. Va., to Miss ISABELLA R. AMEY, formerly of Baltimore city.

On the 3rd inst., at the residence of the bride's father, in Winchester, Va., Mr. GRANVILLE HARPER, of Romney, W. Va., to Miss LUCY H., daughter of J. G. Heist, Esq.

DIED.

In Boonsboro, Md., on the 8th of December, Mr. THOMAS M. BERRY, aged 67 years, 6 months and 13 days.

On the 6th inst., at Washington, D. C., in the 70th year of his age, JOHN JULIAN SANBORN, Esq., a Clerk in the Second Auditor's Office, but for many years connected with the State of Ohio, and of the old and well known Academy.

At her residence, near Darksville, Va., on the morning of the 4th inst., Mrs. ELIZABETH AMPROSS, in the 60th year of her age, who leaves a disconsolate husband and a large family of children to mourn her loss.

The deceased had been an exemplary member of the M. E. Church for forty years previous to her death. She died in the arms of her husband, and leaving behind the assurance, that death to her was but a transition from a world of sorrow to a world of glory.

[New Era press copy.]

MORE PREPARATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS.

OYSTERS! OYSTERS!

WE are making that preparation becoming the season, and respectfully notify the citizens of Charlestown and surrounding country that we shall be able to supply OYSTERS by the Gallon, Quart, Pint or Peck.

Persons wishing Oysters for Christmas or the holidays, will be promptly supplied with the very best of the market, upon short notice.

OUR RESTAURANT is open for the accommodation of visitors, and Oysters served in good style, and with all the necessary accompaniments.

LIQUORS of the best quality constantly on hand. An extra supply of the following brands, to which we invite a call at the RESTAURANT in the Brick of the Sappington Hotel.

Decem. 17, 1867. MOORE & BROTHERS.

CALL IN AS YOU PASS.

THE undersigned, insured from market with a large addition to his general assortment of SEASONABLE GOODS, and invites consumers to call at the public call and see for themselves.

Dec. 17.

EUGENE WEST.

LADIES DRESS GOODS.

AT REDUCED PRICES:

Albion Silks, White and Colored Flannels, White and Colored Vests, White and Colored Gowns, White and Colored Skirts, White and Colored Caps, White and Colored Mitts, White and Colored Stockings, White and Colored Hosiery, White and Colored Linen and Paper Collars and Cuffs, White and Colored Domestic Goods of every description.

By order of EUGENE WEST.

CLOTHS, CASIMERES AND VESTING.

NET SHIRTS AND DRAWERS.

Linen and Paper Collars and Cuffs, White and Colored Gowns, Skirts, &c., Boots and Shoes of all kinds.

By order of EUGENE WEST.

GROCERIES of all kinds, for sale by EUGENE WEST.

