



# Virginia Free Press.

BY GALLAHER & CO.

THURSDAY MORNING.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1850.

PENITENTIARY.

We are inclined to think, from the manifestations of some of the Opposition press, that the preferences expressed for certain individuals for the Presidency, is at this time premature. The Opposition will find enough to do to fight the wily Democracy without having recourse to base dispositions in reference to any particular man. There has not been a single gentleman named by the Opposition but would be sustained should the receive the nomination of a National Convention—and it is the rankest folly to differ with ourselves, when our aim is to dispel a party which has brought innumerable calamities upon our country. With such men as Botts, Bell, Bates, Crittenden, Rivers, Stewart, and others of the same, there could be no just grounds for dissension.

We therefore say that the press in urging certain individuals at this time gives weapons against us in the hands of the enemy. We hope to see a suspension of hostilities amongst ourselves.

**MR. THOM. E. BOND, M. D.**

This able and eloquent divine delivered an interesting lecture in the Methodist Church in Charleston on Saturday night last, his subject being "The Progress of Humanity."

It is not necessary for us to say that he held his audience with great ability. His allusion to the Union of the States was happy and eloquent in the extreme, and met a response from the bosom of all present. We are sorry that we are not able to quote this portion of his address.

**INDEPENDENT DEMOCRAT.**

D. R. Etcheberger, Esq., announces in the Charleston Daily Courier that he has received a copy of the above named paper of the 1st October. We have no doubt but that Mr. Etcheberger will deserve a good cause of not pecuniarily losing his paper in a year or two. It is to be hoped that he will be induced to contribute to some other paper, or to establish one of his own.

Mr. Bond, it is to be wished that he may have a successful campaign in Mexico in 1852. He now, after a series of eleven years, deserves a reward for his services to his country. Such a record deserves to be rewarded by the Radical Committee.

**HOOPS AND THE LADIES.**

There are two "institutions" about which we rarely feel so liberty to say anything, but are, nevertheless, very anxious to do so. These are—Hoops and the ladies. If ladies could be themselves, while in the street, when a stiff wind is blowing, with hoop on that extend perhaps barely to half the length of their outer garments, they would be in a "comical" position.

Now what a contemporary says in this connection—"While the upper part of the dress is distended by a half yard, the lower portion of the garment hangs unmercifully, revealing to the world, while delectable to the vision of the sterner sex, much to be anything but agreeable to the proper woman."

[We clip the above entire from an exchange in order to express our dissent to the position. Now, so far as we are concerned we do not go for any circumscription of female rights. Let an inspection be taken of the dress of a female hanging close to her heels, and none but an inveterate "old fogey" woman hater would approve of it. In dress we go for women's rights. In Randolph's praise of woman he has appropriately said—

"Why in this world did creation rest, But that eternal Providence thought you best Of all six days' labour?"

And for the "sterner sex" we may quote from Young who says—

"Womans were made to give our eyes delight, A female sloven is an odious sight!"

**WARE ROOMS.**

We call attention to the advertisement of Messrs. PRESCOTT & SULLIVAN, of Baltimore. These gentlemen have an extensive establishment where every article in the Furniture line can be had on the most reasonable terms and prices. We are sure from personal observation, that those who visit Baltimore with the view of purchasing Furniture, will be better suited at Prescott & Sullivan, than at any other place in the city.

**HOWARD HOUSE.**

This well established Hotel is still under the control of Messrs. Shaw & Buck, two gentlemen of the most obliging and attentive kind, who are sparing in their efforts to cater to the comforts of their guests. A. B. Miller, Clerk, and John B. Surry, an assistant in the Hotel, are gentlemen worthy of the positions assigned them, and are highly appreciated. The Howard House is doing a large business.

**PEACHTHORPE.**

We observed the other day that the Mill dam of Mr. John Peachtower at the "Old Furnace," in this county, was destroyed by the late frost. This same dam has withheld many previous pressure from high water, but yielded at last. The loss of Mr. P. will be several hundred dollars.

**DR. TOLMIE.**

This gentleman will remain but a few days. Persons needing the services of a skillful dentist, should avail themselves of the opportunity presented. See his Card in another column.

**HOWARD ASSOCIATION, PHILADELPHIA.**—This well known benevolent Association, has proved itself by a long course of honorable dealing, to be a perfectly reliable and highly useful institution. We commend it to the attention of the public with much confidence.

By reference to another column, to the advertisement of E. A. Gallaher, New Dealer, 89 Nassau street, N. Y.; it will be seen that the price of the "Illustrated London News," of Sept. 17th, will be thirty-six cents instead of thirty, as previously advertised. See Mr. G.'s card.

# VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

## GENERAL SCOTT.

This glorious old hero, at the age of seven-and-thirty, (says the Richmond Whig) is ordered by the Government to the Island of San Juan—a journey of five or six thousand miles—to take command of the small force that represents the United States on the Pacific coast, and to sustain American rights in the disputed territory. It is to be regretted that this duty should be imposed on a veteran of so much service, who has reached an age when repose is grateful as well as necessary. But, perhaps, the Government thought it courteous, at least, to offer the duty of settling a difficulty with Great Britain to the General highest in rank Doubtless, if he had intimated that he would prefer today at home, he would readily have been excused. But with the alacrity that he has shown at every step of his splendid career, Gen. Scott obeyed orders, and has departed for the scene of disturbance.

This mission of the war-worn old General has called forth from the press, universally, expressions of respect and admiration for his character and services. Referring to his departure on the 10th instant, the "Tuscarora Bulletin" says—

The military service of Gen. Scott covers more than half a century, for he was appointed a regiment of light horse in 1803, and was soon after sent to join the army in Louisiana. The war with Great Britain, the Black Hawk and Seminole wars, and the "parties" in California, were his chief scenes of action. He was promoted to Major in 1813, and to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1815, and to Brigadier-General in 1832, and to Major-General in 1841. He now, after a series of eleven years, disturbed only by the occasional outbreaks of the Apache Indians, has returned to his quiet life in the West.

At 1:30 P. M. the signal for action was rung up by the fire of newly constructed forts, mounting nine hundred guns.

At 2:30 P. M. the gun-boats Opossum and Plover pushed up to the first barrier, when the guns of the forts opened fire and the action became general. The fire of the Chinese in weight and precision was such a *sapper-beef-eater*, however, that told

more than those of the British did comparatively little damage.

The troops were ordered to land, but as the first boat touched the shore the forts poured a perfect hurricane of shell, balls, shells and rockets which mowed down the men as they landed. The ship supported them as well as possible. The mud on the shore was deep, and of the thousand landing barely one hundred reached the first of the wide ditches, five hundred yards from the river. Only fifty reached the third ditch, and these would have made an attempt to scale the walls but the ladders were broken by the shot, or stuck fast in the mud. With the one remaining ten men sprang forward three of whom were killed and five severely injured. Orders were at last given to the men to lie down.

Many boats were washed by the shells and there were not enough to take off the survivors. Several boats full of wounded were struck and swamped. Russian features were distinctly visible at the batteries.

The Americans towed up several boats to the scene of action, and afterwards took a number of men to their respective ships.

The foreign files to the 14th instant by the North American at Quebec, contain the following interesting details—

**THE EXPLOSION ON THE STEAMER GREAT EASTERN.**

The following is a detailed account of this accident:

The afternoon of the 9th instant, when the Great Eastern was off Hastings, a feed pipe casing in the forward funnel, which had been introduced on the ground of economy in heat, and to keep the heat of the funnels from the cabin, exploded with terrific force shattering the funnel in pieces, and demolishing the grand saloon and lower deck saloons, through which the funnels passed, and otherwise doing great damage to the interior fittings. Great consternation prevailed on board, but prompt efforts were made to get at the unfortunate men in the engineer's department, who were either buried in the rubbish or prostrated by the steam. Three men were found in a dying condition and soon expired, while eight others were injured two of whom subsequently died.

One firman was lost overboard, having either fallen into the water or jumped into it to escape scalding. The injured men were generally prostrated on deck, without two or three of them were in a precarious condition. The various guests on board had only quitted the grand saloon through which the funnel passed and in which they had been dining a few minutes before the explosion took place. But for this the consequences would have been most serious.

The explosion stated to have been probably one of the most violent which a vessel has ever survived, and which none in the world could have withstood, save a structure of such marvellous strength as the Great Eastern. She not only resisted it, her frame remained uninjured whatever it made to do little difference in the movements of the vessel that the engines were never once stopped till she reached Portland. It is asserted that great objections had been made to the rounding the funnels, but the director persisted in adopting it, notwithstanding the opposition of most of the men on board.

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