VIRGINIA POLITICS.

HENRY A. WISE ON THE STUMP.

The State Policy of Virginia Defined.

His Knowledge of Know Nothing Secrets.

WHAT HE THINKS OF THE NEW PARTY.

Sixty Thousand Know Nothings in the State, &c., &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of the New York Herald.

PETERSBURG, Jan. 10, 1855.

Henry A. Wise arrived here this afternoon, and addressed a company of about fifteen hundred, in the Phœnix theatre, this evening. As I have said to you before, he has been expected here for some days past, but did not "turn up" till to-day. He says he has been waiting for the boats from Norfolk. The impression he made upon the audience was by no means favorable. There were only a few who threw up their hats, like the followers of Buckingham when Richard was proclaimed king. The applause was by no means general or enthusiastic. I am informed that a large number of Know Nothings were in the crowd, who, like the whigs and disaffected democrats, (and the latter are numerous,) listened with "respectful" silence. From further information I am satisfied of the truth of my former statement, that there are about one thousand Know Nothings in Petersburg, and, from those who ought to know, I learn there are sixty thousand in the State; and the cry is "still they come." The Hon. R. K. Mead presided over the meeting, and upon introducing Mr. Wise begged of the audience not to get excited or run off in confusion in case of an alarm of fire in the building—a precaution as humane as it was laughable.

SPEECH OF MR. WISE.

Mr. Wise then rising, was received with respectful applause. It was not very boisterous, but such as a gallon of bad rum would get up for anybody, at any time. He spoke precisely as follows:—

Fellow Citizens of Petersburg—I am glad to greet an audience of the proud Cockade City. I have striven hard to meet the appointment which I had made to reach here yesterday. I am happy to see that so large an audience is here to-night; and though not so large as last night, yet I think there are fully as many remaining here as my voice can reach. My friends at Richmond, not having the opportunity to consult me about my appointments, took it to themselves to change the appointments which I had made, and substituted others, forgetting the changes of the year and the modes of travelling. Not till the second of January did I reach Norfolk, not hearing until then that I was expected next day to meet the people of the Isle of Wight. Since then I have remained upon the banks of the river, not waiting for the waters to flow, but for the boats to come along. Notwithstanding the fog, at last a boat came, and I am here. I come, in obedience to a nomination of one of the great political parties of the State, a candidate for the chief magistracy of the State of Virginia. Whether I am worthy to fill that position, before you, is not for me to say. It is sufficient that a convention, regularly called, have endorsed me as a democrat at this day, good and sufficient to bear the standard of democracy; and I have taken it in hand, and here throw forth that banner for your sweet voices. (Faint applause.) I am not going to discuss with any man—friend or foe—whether they shall choose their own leader. I am not going to discuss with any one whether I am a democrat or not. It is sufficient for the issues of this contest that democracy herself has more than thrice endorsed me, and I have her authority for saying I am a democrat—a democrat vitally and essentially in heart and in skin—a democrat in head as well as in heart—a democrat in deed, a democrat in practice, a democrat in faith that possesses itself so upon my character that it makes me call myself an infidel radical of democracy—a democrat in defiance of party, and on principle, rather than a party democrat; not a democrat that comes here this night to address himself to the party, but that comes here the nominee of the democrats to address himself to the people, and not to any party. I shall go through the State of Virginia, not to appeal to party, but to a patriotic love of country, better than party. Coming before you as a candidate nominated by a party claiming to be worthy to hold the executive power of this oldest and most glorious of all the States of this confederacy, I must prove myself worthy in your judgment. And what are the issues? What are the topics of importance, in your minds, which call for a response from me? You have at this moment vital interests at stake. This moment, this moment of the world, this moment of the nation, this moment of this State, is one of the biggest moments that ever carried fate in her womb. Never since the day of my majority, never since the hour when I can first assure myself of safe reflection, have I known a moment the visible effect of which so shakes our world. You have now at this moment a foreign war raging, the like of which, grand as many events of the past have been—the like of which has no parallel in ancient history or in modern. You have the pretense of another crusade about the Holy Sepulchre, which is not so fanatical, but as false, as the crusades of Peter the Hermit. The war of Europe has summoned the Czar on the one side; England, France and Turkey on the other side; the three great Powers of Europe—in embattled hosts, over the graves of the Saracen, o'er the State of the Sultan, o'er Constantinople—Powers, one of which carries on at London the exchange of the world—Powers that have, at this moment, not less than a million and a half of soldiers in the field, or prepared, with all the other States of Europe standing by, armed and ready to be neutral. (Laughter.) Powers which are involving millions. Powers which have staked dynasties and empires and crowns for ages upon the battle-field, now stand for the single point—Sebastopol. Powers, any one of which is red battle itself, and wherever it stamps its foot nations must feel the shock. What effect has this upon you? It is a case which reaches the pocket of every man in this assemblage. It is a case which demands gold, gold, gold, that is exhausting California and Australia. How stand we? Neutrals, neutrals, neutrals, agreed by a policy to peace. Neutrals, occasioned by the profit of neutrals to stand aloof. Neutrals, with a continent that is the great father of the world. Neutrals, that is money—that is, the almighty dollar is appreciated more and more—neutrals, besides the demand for the dollar, for wheat and corn and beef, are appreciated by the same cause as the dollar. In the midst of this foreign war—in the midst of this demand for gold—in the midst of this demand for provisions, there is a stake to this State, which is between the upper and the nether millstone—no less a stake than your public credit and public peace. Immediately and directly does this case affect the credit of the State of Virginia. It extends to every individual man's credit—the credit of the mechanic and the laborer. You have your public credit at this moment, and your private credit, requiring all the wisdom and foresight and guardianship of government. If you want to know my opinions upon this subject, I pledge you the credit of Virginia shall be carried out if confided to my hands. Even if we have to be taxed till we groan with taxation, the honor of the State of Virginia shall be maintained if entrusted to me. (Some applause.) As I love my own honor, as I would preserve my own individual integrity, much more would I preserve the honor of my State. (Applause.) I there be any man in this assemblage who is too mean to pay taxes for the honor of Virginia, let him not vote for me. (Laughter, and one sickly looking individual cried, "good.") There are other topics which I ought to touch upon, and I pass them as rapidly as I can, in order to speak on all—domestic State topics, affecting the politics of Virginia, and which you should consider in this election—the State of Virginia, as a State independent of the federal government, from all constitutional issues, the State of Virginia, especially as Virginia is interested in the great subject of internal improvements. Whatever may have been the opinions of lowland Virginia on this subject in the past, they are now waking up to their rational senses on this subject, at this day, and we may now talk rationally about it. However at the first we may have thought as to the beginning of the public works of this State, they are now begun, and are worth completing, and none are completed. They have cost you millions, and they have not yet reached the eastern and western waters. In the condition in which they have been for many years past, they have progressed

Like a wounded snake
Dragging its slow length along.

If they are worth paying taxes for, they are worth completing at once, to make profit out of them. They should no longer be delayed by the primary cause of these delays. What is this primary cause? What is holding Virginia back from her march to empire? It is the opposition of the lowlands to internal improvements of every description. To my knowledge, only two winters ago the failing of the twenty-four lowland candidates—Virginia falling to elect these representatives in favor of these works—they have been defeated, and this delay has cost the State twelve millions, and this delay has has now become millions in log-rolling, which God to allow the fashion of the day. I do pray Bend or me to live to see the day when the Big Lick—the Ohio river shall be connected by many of railways and canals with this river (applause), with Hampden Roads; this will make Eastern Virginia the depot of trade, which alone can make her all Virginia, and build up forever a State that shall be the centre of importation and exportation. It is my fellow citizens, not population—it is not capital that can build up for you a mart of trade such as I have suggested. Commerce alone can do it—commerce can build your ships and stores, and build your cities, out of this centre of trade. The only thing that can make commerce is a deep country and inland trade. You must bring the iron and coal, and salt and borax, and all that constitute the pabulum of trade, and pile it upon your pier of commerce, and where the carcass is there will the buzzards be also; and then with trade you will find capital and population. Give me commerce, cities and ships for Old Virginia, a back country subject to trade, and all influences else shall follow this internal improvement and commerce. If you elect me Governor of Virginia, by all the authority with which you shall clothe me I will do all in my power to urge on to completion the large leading State works, disregarding the minor works till the largest shall have been all completed, with a due regard to the public purse and the public credit. I shall do so if possible, laying the taxes upon and driving you to do your duty like men, to make Old Virginia take the position she has lost in the balance of power in this Union. She has lost her influence—she has lost the power and position she once held. For the want of internal improvements, how many mothers, with tears in their eyes, have been compelled to bid farewell to their sons for the far West. She has peopled almost every State, and given every State enterprise except herself. I implore you, by your love for your mothers, for your sons, by your own interests, by your State love, to be the fathers, the patriotic fathers, of the State, and resolve in future to keep Virginia's sons at home. There is another topic—a domestic topic—upon which any man who comes before a Virginia audience, must announce his opinions. Gentlemen, we have been accused of being a bragging people. Virginia, and especially the F. F. V.'s, it is said, can talk more about their sweethearts, their guns, and dogs, and hunters, than any other place in the world. I have a boast to make of Virginia—a boast that she can give the best proof of any people upon earth that she is mighty in her power and energies over any other State, or she must have sunk long, a long time ago, far below what she now is. The four great cardinal sources of wealth—the four great cardinal productive powers, are agriculture, commerce, manufactures, and mining. No State that I know of upon God's earth has richer bowels, more bountiful in iron and in gold, in gypsum and in salt. This has made England the most powerful nation on the earth. We have iron and coal for mining, and water-power which would turn the spindles to clothe the world; gold and iron are abundant, with all of which we stand unrivalled for manufacturing; marts, roads, rivers, mouths of rivers, and bays which would float the navies of the world; soil for agriculture of all kinds, the richest beneath the sun; the dark loam and the yellow clay and limestone rock, embracing degree after degree of latitude, running through the middle territory of this continent—we have this, all this of power and virtue, not surpassed by any other State. But in all the four cardinal resources—wonderful to tell, disagreeable to tell, shameful to announce—but one source of all four, in time past, has been employed to produce wealth. We have had work in manufacturing, and commerce has spread its wings and flown from us, and agriculture has only skimmed the surface of mother earth. These out of the four cardinal virtues have been idle; our young men, over their segars and toddy, have been talking politics, and the negroes have been left to themselves, until we have all grown poor together. Notwithstanding all this, here we are. Thank God for the mines of wealth, though they have not been employed. There is still the iron, there is still the coal, there are still the bays and rivers; and though we have driven people enough away from our borders to people other States, now more populous than ourselves, State upon State of which we are called the mother, Old Virginia still stands on her territory, 64,000 square miles, rich still in all these elements which administer to wealth—rich, very rich, in intelligence, in honor, integrity and bone and sinew. (Some applause and laughter.) Notwithstanding all this, I do say if our credit be maintained, if our internal improvements are completed, if our cities be built, if our mines be opened, and they have means of transportation, if our agriculture be improved, Virginia may yet be made to pass her rival sister States faster, in her race of progress, than they have in times past passed her. She may win back the supremacy which she once held. I will not rely upon the Legislature to do this—legislation can do but little for any thing but agriculture. I think that I have seen evidences of the dawning of this latter day. I saw a short time ago a band of farmers go up to Richmond, better looking men than delegates to the Legislature. (Laughter.) I saw the people—I saw the plain gentleman and substantial business man, the active men, the men who are not loafers about the taverns; and I saw these men pour out $50,000 for the founding an institution of agriculture and commerce. I want to see this society and institution encouraged. I want to see this constitution nursed and preserved till it shall bring forth good fruits. I want a scientific institution that shall teach domestic economy; instead of political economy, let us teach our pupils domestic economy—teach our pupils the physiology and the genealogy of plants and agricultural productions, and the difference between the gases. You rich men send your sons to an institution like this, in emulation of the old barons of Germany. If I am, then, elected Governor of Virginia, I will give all and do all for the agriculture of the State, that we may make a spear of grass grow where never one grew before. When we have our public credit well founded, mining and manufacturing will follow. This town, the Cockade City, has, to some extent, at least, set an example in this line of industry; and I gloried to-day, when I entered the place, to observe how she had grown since 1838, when I was here last. I congratulate you, citizens of Petersburg, that you have been men of enterprise beyond any other portion of our commonwealth, and I hope you will so stimulate by your example other portions of Virginia, that in time Norfolk will have something more than a line of fish carts for her commerce. (Laughter.) These, gentlemen, so far, are physical topics. There is something more important than this—one that embraces everything, covers all, bounds all, promotes all, saves all. It is that which reaches the inner man of the commonwealth. It is that which is all in all to the people of a republican country. I mean public education. If there be any stingy old man in this assemblage who values his dollars and cents better than women and children, let me tell him that if he does not wish to be taxed to the uttermost in my power, let him use every exertion to defeat me; for I tell all such, that I will not be contented with the night school half cut system of Yankeedom, but I want a full and thorough system of instruction to all and for all classes. (Applause.) You may believe the poet who said

A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep or taste not the Parian spring.

This little learning is, above anything else in the world, out of which has come all the isms of the North. What is it I now want? Anything new or strange, sir? No, sir. I want what the author of the Declaration of Independence in his day, and what he implored the legislature to give the people of Virginia a long while ago. Does any one suppose that Jefferson intended to leave that university like the dome of Michael Angelo, half finished, and without a covering of thought? No. He gave to Virginia a university in the true sense of the word—a collection of colleges to be the head of a system of colleges—a college for the head of every section of learning. A university is the guardian of the instruction of a State, which binds all together in one unchanging system. (Applause.) Great sites of learning are only the great fulcri of the levers of knowledge—great levers which push the mind onward in its destiny. This is the power of the people. This is the quality of democracy. This is the truth and essence of republicanism. You tell me of the equality of a people—that every man is created equal—when the poor man has to compete with the rich, and instead of providing food for his mind, cold necessity demands he should obtain food for his mouth. The only true democracy is that which will reach down to the lowly and the lowest in the distribution of its benefits of learning. Does the owner of property complain to me that the property he has acquired should not be taken for education? Why, what better guard can he have for his property than the virtue which springs from intelligence? He says he has nothing to do with the poor man's child, and he should be let alone. Does he know that his property may, all of it, some day, come before a jury of his countrymen in which shall be this very child? And then is it not worth all the value of his property to have this child educated, and able to decide properly and understandingly as a juror? Does he know that this jury may be called upon to say whether his will was his will, or whether he died sane or a fool? (Laughter.) Does he know that ignorance abases mankind and leaves it base and dependent? Would he not have the whole mass of the people intelligent choosers of what was best for the State? Are you not an elective people, and have all not to decide for the best interests of the State? How can you do this unless you provide food for the intellect? Then, fellow citizens, if I am elected Governor of the State of Virginia, I shall try to extend our system of education till it become complete, and until the whole public lump of the Commonwealth is leavened with knowledge. I have now got through five cardinal topics of domestic policy—none come up more important—none reach higher—none are more deep. They are broad as oceans and wide as continents. They are necessary as vital air—as air to human life. Yet how many among you now, here in this crowd, came here to hear me talk about any one of these topics? Have you ever thought of them before? Have they interested anybody? Have they been the questions of the day? Not a man has troubled me regarding any one of them, and each of them embrace enough to decide the election. They are the topics of topics. What whig differs with me about any one of them?—what democrat? Why, I presume there is not a single candid man in the town of Petersburg who will not say the candidate before him is sound and orthodox upon these essential topics. Well, it would seem that this should be sufficient for the voters. All any Governor would have to do in domestic policy is considered. But does this satisfy the feeling existing among you? Does this patriotic view bind you at this day? Oh! God of my country—oh! Lord of this land—I wish in my soul it were so. What other topics are there? I do not wish to touch federal topics—a curse as bad as horse-racing and dram-drinking. I suppose I must, however, announce my mind upon some federal topics: so let us go to work. There is the great question of the policy of neutrals and the policy of peace. Shall this nation, in the midst of this foreign war, go filibustering for empire? Shall this nation be in any way involved in the foreign wars now raging? I am guided by the advice in the farewell address of the Father of his Country, to preserve our peace and neutrality that we may profit. Let them fight who will—we will feed them; and the longer the war lasts the richer this nation will be. Again, the subject of the public lands is before you; and during the past year twenty-three millions of public domain have gone from you, and seven millions only have been sold. The rest has been squandered or given away. This, in my judgment, is in violation of the constitution. These lands, in my judgment, are like the public fund, and should not be used except for national purposes. The public domain—the public lands—one of the chief sources of corruption in the federal government—is still important, and these lands should be guarded as we would the public money. When in Europe I was asked what it was that had built up this country, and that made her grow so fast—the source of that growth, that sublime progress, beyond any parallel in history. It is because we have said to the oppressed of other lands and of all the earth, come here, come live with us, and here you shall enjoy the fruits of your toil, here you shall sit under your own vine and fig tree and none shall molest you or make you afraid. (There was no applause here.) Preserve these lands and guard them—keep them out of the hands of land-jobbers, keep them out of the hands of speculators, so that the poor settler and backwoodsman may get a home for his toil, at the minimum price, which shall go into the public treasury. That is my policy. (Applause.) You are told, by the syrens especially, that the old issues are done, that they are dead. Notwithstanding in the last year you have paid so much of your debt, your treasury is yet full, and you are told you will again have a surplus in the treasury. I will say again, as I have said before, that the surplus shall not be distributed to bribe the people and States. If that surplus comes again, rather than let it come to bribe any one of the people of Virginia, I say let it be carried to the Gulf Stream, and be there

In the deep bosom of the ocean buried.

When this question first arose I stood by old Virginia; I have stood by her ever since, and I have to thank her that she has ever stood by me. The Secretary of the Treasury recommends a reduction of duties. Upon this question I stand, as I have ever stood, an uncompromising advocate of free trade. (Slight applause.) They tell you these issues are dead. No, they are uppermost to-day, and a veto has just been thundered forth, such as came when I was captain of John Tyler's guard. (Laughter.) A veto of the President to save the constitution against the rush for river and harbor improvements. Now, gentlemen, comes slavery. This is a sad subject to me. For eleven years of my Congressional life, until I left that place, I stood there, day in and day out, standing up against the great arch-champion of the North, the "old man eloquent," who was my greatest enemy, and of whom, now that he is dead, I may say, that he was most sincere, learned, cunning and sagacious—in short, the great arch-enemy of the South was John Quincy Adams. I was the boy in the lists against the man. Day in and day out, did I have to stand up and fight that man, who had more power and wisdom, more cunning and foresight, than all the abolitionists of the North of the present day combined. I was so ultra in my views that even my own press at home condemned me as being too radical. And, now, what have we come to. You must allow me to speak to you the plain truth upon this subject. You have taken no warning—you have not been watchful upon this subject—you have not sought shelter. And what is the consequence? Why, in 1850 a wrong was done the South, which should make you blush. What was done prior to the year 1850? Had the question been asked before this year, will Congress disturb slavery in the South, or in the States of this nation?—the answer would have been no, no. Slavery should be left to the States themselves. Now as to California, upon which I want to touch.

[The speaker here paused, saying he felt unwell, and would probably have to cut short what he had to say. He felt a rush of blood to his head, and great pain in the lower lobe of the brain. In a few minutes, however, he proceeded]:—A short time ago only, you allowed a federal executive to send a brigadier general to California, with army and navy power—the right and left-hand power of the republic—to preserve peace and the order of law. Not content with this power, this general, usurping the strong arm of the United States, was allowed to proclaim a Territorial government and to establish legislative powers—an authority which of all others on the earth nearest approaches the Deity—to establish, I say, legislative powers from the superior officer down to the Alcalde of the State. What authority had he to do this? Summon him before the grand marshal, and his plea is "the safety of the people." As if for this, one could not, if powerful enough, usurp all power. And in this act he had the right arm of the army and the navy, and he clothed himself with civil power, by proclamation from the camp, and in the exercise of this power took upon himself to appoint the time, place, and manner of holding elections. Was ever such a thing heard of before in a free country like this? You allowed him to constitute a representative in Congress, which resulted in giving California to free soil. Think of this, gentlemen—and, gentlemen, as outrageous as this was upon our rights, I undertake to say, neither in the Senate nor in the press has this question been discussed before the people of Virginia. But you had a class of politicians to trade—yes to trade like hucksters upon the pious attachment of this people to the Union. A most pious and holy feeling is this. I would fight for it, I would pour out my blood for it—it is the object of my adoration. But, gentlemen, with me the union of these States is like matrimony—the moment the honor of that union is touched—dissolve it. (Applause.) No man can exceed my attachment for it. Every twenty-second of February I was taught to honor it, but I love better still, honor and truth. But this was a syren song, that the Union was in danger. When Daniel Webster said to me, "I know the Union is safe, from the resolutions which she has passed," during the year 1850, I replied to him, "When had any man reason to doubt Virginia's devotion to the Union?" (Loud applause.) She has done more than any other State for the Union—she has given her lands, she she has given her a George Washington. But Virginia shall not be provincialized for the sake of the Union, or for the sake of a Northern power. This has been submitted to long enough, and I hope will be submitted to no longer. Men have heretofore taken a stand against it, and have been driven back with the cry—"The Union is in danger!" But now the question comes up in a more tangible form, and soon will be presented to you. There is a something in the North which has risen up of late, that cries aloud for the dissolution of the Union. It comes no more from South Carolina, but from Faneuil Hall, and from the pulpits of Christian politicians. Let me read you some Northern sentiments upon this subject. The cry now is anti-Nebraska, anti-fugitive slave law, or a dissolution of the Union. Do you know what that power is in the North? It is something that breathes in silence, and talks in low whispers and in secret. Let me read you something upon this subject. I now read you from a pamphlet sent to me, being a sermon of James Freeman Clark, delivered in Massachusetts on the 4th of July, 1854, on the rendition of Anthony Burns. The speaker read at great length from this document, which was a sermon of the Theodore Parker style, calling upon the North to wake up, without distinction of party, to oppose this outrageous slave law. The preacher prophecied a gathering of all the North into one body against the South, and said, in substance, sooner disunion the better. The object of the speaker in reading this, was to prove that the Know Nothings of the North spoke through this preacher, were prophecied by this Mr. Clark, and their war cry was abolitionism and death to the South. This was a difficult point to prove to the satisfaction of a Petersburg audience, and Mr. Wise succeeded but poorly. During the reading Mr. Wise interested the audience with a very worthy dramatic scene, à la King Lear. Pausing in his reading, and raising his eyes with a sort of pious roll to heaven, and with a deep guttural voice, that Forrest would give him a good price for if it were purchasable, he said: "O God! what means this awful silence? What are these low whisperings? The winds are still and the air seems heavy and oppressive. What portends this darkness and dread hush of nature? It is the forerunner of the awful tornado which is to follow." This capped the climax, and people breathed again. As a piece of acting a Bowery pit critic would have pronounced it "very pooty." Having finished reading from Mr. Clark, the speaker continued:—This is the preaching of Christian politicians in Faneuil Hall. The prediction has been nearly fulfilled. Ohio has wheeled into line. Other States of the North, according to the predictions of the sermon, have wheeled into line, and in the late State election of Massachusetts, but one friend to the constitution was elected, and something over sixty of these Christian politicians. Is there anything here of this secret party, which I have drawn out for you in the North? I rejoice that this party has not swept all democrats from the North. The minority yet remain. They are our only hope. This host of isms comes into the next Congress. And then we are told by this sermon that if the Nebraska bill is not repealed, if the Fugitive Slave law is not repealed, or if they pass Congress, and even are vetoed, then the Union is to be dissolved. Is there any of this party in Petersburg? The dissolution of the Union now comes from the North, we are told in this sermon of this Christian preacher. Well, gentlemen, what say you to what not only casts its shadows, but its substance, before? You make me Governor of Virginia, and I shall swear to support the constitution of the State; and I shall remember that the chief power of the executive is to command her army. Poor civil man that I am, I never delighted in war; but the instinct is in me, and I know I can fight. I can obey that instinct, and make others obey it. (Applause.) Jackson was never trained at West Point, and neither was I; but I do believe, nevertheless, that if the worst comes to the worst, Virginia has power—moral, intellectual and physical—more than was ever ascribed to her; and I here pledge myself to you to-night, by all that you hold sacred, that I will sheath her sword as long as I can; but if compelled to draw it, I'll not know where to stop the war till the blade is broken in my hands. I know her power at the mouth of the Chesapeake, and I know her power at the Pan Handle, or the pass of railways, and I know something else, that I won't tell to any body—that I will keep to myself, simply as a prudent patriot and man, and do so without being a Know Nothing either. (Laughter.)

Now, gentlemen, I have got through State topics and Federal topics—the four cardinal sources of wealth—spoken of public lands, of the tariff, of internal improvements, of our public credit, of our private credit, of foreign wars and domestic wars, and many other topics. I have already been speaking nearly two and a half hours. I have touched upon topics both State and Federal, that were important or worthy of consideration; and yet I suppose I have not yet touched the subject upon which you expected me to speak. (Applause.) But, gentlemen, after talking upon these great topics, what man, what lover of Virginia and his country, would descend to the little petty topic of Know Nothingism? (Laughter and applause, and some hissing.) Is there any man in this assemblage so insensible upon all these subjects that will allow me to do as I please, if I will prescribe a Catholic? I don't wish to reproach any man here. There are as good men as I am, as humane, as intelligent, as worthy as myself, belonging to this party, perhaps, and have joined what they call Know Nothing lodges in the State of Virginia. I don't reproach them; but I say, "God forgive them, for verily they know not what they do." (Laughter and hissing.) Perhaps some disappointed democrat has taken to this new party for better chances; perhaps it has some wings who have, as a party, sprung this trap to catch straggling democrats. Merely for argument's sake, I am not going to quarrel with any man for being a Know Nothing; but I really warn men, before joining that society, that I know as much about it as anybody else does. I know all your grips and your signs, and your triangle pieces of white paper, and your red triangles, and your test oaths and obligations, and where you meet, and all about you. I have been taken through it all, and never joined your society either. (Laughter and applause.) But you are innocent, perhaps, when you join it; and I warn you to beware of it. Where did it come from? Why, the thing is old. Bennett, of the NEW YORK HERALD, says it was born in the Fourth ward of that city; and James Gordon Bennett has a reporter here to night, (impudently pointing out the reporter to the audience)—"a chiel amang us takin' notes." Bennett says that Wm. H. Seward and myself sink or swim together.

Cries of "Good, good," from the gallery.

Mr. WISE—So say I. I will willingly go down if Wm. H. Seward goes down also. The speaker here launched off into a eulogy upon Lafayette and the other foreigners who assisted us in the Revolution, and Charles Carroll. Gentlemen, said he, if you want to know what the Catholics have done, I'll tell you of something they have done for you and me and our fathers, which should cut Know Nothings to the blush. I allude to something that lies at the foundation of all English and American liberties. I refer to the Magna Charta. Do you know who obtained that from King John, and bound the nobles by oath to have it at all hazards? It was Stephen Langdon. Do you know who Stephen Langdon was? You are Know Nothings, indeed, if you don't know who Stephen Langdon was. (Some laughing.) He was the Archbishop of Canterbury, forced upon King John by the Pope, and the author and father of the Magna Charta. (Here the audience began to manifest some impatience, as if they had heard about enough and wanted to go, which suddenly brought the speaker to his senses, as follows): But, gentlemen, I am detaining you too long, and will close at once. I have given you my views upon the main topics of the day, and you will act upon them according to your own judgment. I shall go through Virginia and speak to my fellow citizens in other parts of the State precisely as I have spoken to you to-night. In the West, I shall speak as I have spoken here. I am accused of being favorable to the West against the East. Let me say, in answer to this, that I hate the terms East and West. I know no East—no West—nothing but united Virginia. (Applause.) The Hon. Willis P. Bocock, who is on the ticket with me as a candidate for Attorney General, will meet you at this place at some future day, and address you, as I have done, upon the important topics of this canvass; and he will also make the tour of the State. And now, gentlemen, in conclusion, if I am elected Governor of Virginia I shall perform all that I have promised, and discharge my duties to the best of my powers and abilities, so help me God. Amen.

The speech was concluded at about 11 o'clock, and the audience dispersed in good order, to criticise and comment at their leisure.

The Dentists on the Chloroform Business.

The undersigned, members of the dental profession in New York, address the public to remove misapprehensions which have arisen from the recent proceedings in reference to the effects of ether and chloroform.

We have not given ether or chloroform to the extent mentioned in the late meetings, yet in connection with those cases in which we have seen these anæsthetics administered by physicians and surgeons, our experience justifies us in making the following statement (excepting the reference to death and disastrous consequences, which is given on reliable authority.)

Ether and chloroform act with uncertainty, producing symptoms modified by the peculiar condition of the patient inhaling them, and their action is so unequal that those who had repeatedly inhaled them with impunity, have at last died under their influence. These accidents are not confined to the infirm or unhealthy, death having occurred where no indication of disease was manifest. Much depends on the manner of inhalation; yet no skill, experience, or precaution, on the part of those administering them, can always prevent disastrous consequences, and though their use is seldom followed with serious results, there are but few cases in dental practice that justify the risk. We have never seen anything indelicate in the conduct of any patient while under the influence of these anæsthetics, and leave all responsibility of statements given to the contrary (in the meetings referred to) with those who made them. The mind when influenced by ether, sometimes dwells upon, and even exaggerates, the ideas most prominent immediately before inhalation. False impressions may be received by the patient when affected by ether or chloroform; but we have never met with an instance in which any hallucination remained after the anæsthetical influence had passed away. The inhalation is usually followed by cutaneous insensibility, with diminished consciousness and capability of motion, at which time it is advisable all short operations be performed, as deeper anæsthesia should be avoided if possible. Occasionally, however, ether destroys all power of motion, and with more or less insensibility to pain, the patient remains perfectly conscious, the mental faculties being unaffected.

T. B. Gunning,	Addison Vail,
J. W. Crane, M. D.,	E. D. Root,
Lemuel Covell,	Chas. C. Allen,
J. G. Ambler,	Benj. Lord,
D. E. Ambler,	E. Baker,
Geo. E. Hawes,	Geo. Clay,
Saml. Lockwood, Jnr.,	Benj. Howe,
Wm. B. Middleton.	

AN OLD COUPLE.—A correspondent of the Ogdensburg *Republican* writes from Hopkinton, St. Lawrence county, as follows:—My father is one of the few survivors of the Revolution. He has resided in this town for the last thirty years. Previously, he resided in Orwell, Vermont. His native place is Saybrook, Connecticut. He was seven years in the service, and two brothers with him. One of them is still living in his native town. My father was born September 14, 1761. The brother who lives in Connecticut is about ninety years of age. My father was quite smart until about one year since, when he went into the hay-field—being about ninety years old—and mowed with his son's (Clark S. Chittenden) hands. Our mother is still living. They have lived together about seventy years.

New Patents Issued.

List of patents issued from the United States Patent Office for the week ending January 9, 1855—each bearing that date:—

Charles de Borgue, of London, England, for improved propeller. Dated January 9, 1855. Patented in England, April 6, 1854.

Arnold Buffum, of Perth Amboy, N. J., for improvement in machines for crushing and pulverizing ores.

Wm. J. Casselman, of Vernon, N. Y., for improved machines for turning irregular forms.

Lewis C. Ashley, of Troy, N. Y., for improvement in candle mould machines.

Robert Prayton, of Buffalo, N. Y., for improvements in machines for making nuts and washers.

David N. B. Coffin, Jr., of Lynn, Mass., for stop cock.

Aaron D. Crane, of Newark, N. J., for improvement in torsion pendulums for timepieces.

William B. Emory, of Albany, N. Y., for mode of arranging and driving circular saws. Ante-dated Nov. 18, 1854.

Chas. G. Everitt, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for improvement in ratchet wrenches.

Gilbert B. Farnam, of New York, N. Y., for forcing pump.

Charles W. Felt, of Salem, Mass., for improvement in entry lights.

Dean S. Howard, of Lyonsdale, N. Y., for improvement in dredging machines.

James Hanley, of New York, N. Y., for improvement in devices for stuppers of bottles.

Geo. W. Hubbard, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and William E. Conant, of Greenpoint, N. Y., for improvement in operating slide valves in direct action engines.

Adolph Hammer, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in hop extracting apparatus.

Adolph Hammer, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in wash machines.

J. W. Hatcher, of Columbia, Tenn., for rotary shingle machine.

Wm. C. Hicks, of Hartford, Conn., for improved arrangement of slide valve and exhaust passages in steam engines.

Frank G. Johnson, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for self-regulating windmill.

Guillaume Lambert, of Mons, Belgium, for improved coke ovens.

Hugh E. McAvoy, of Baltimore, Md., for improvement in refrigerators.

Cyrus B. Morse, of Rhinebeck, N. Y., for rotary planing and matching machine.

Charles Morey, of Paris, France, for improvement in reworking hard rubber compounds.

Robt. Neale, of Clermont county, O., for machine for printing from engraved plates. Patented in England Jan. 18, 1853.

Olcin Nichols, of Lowell, Mass., for improvement in windlass.

John E. Newcomb, of Whitehall, N. Y., for improvement in grain harvesters.

John A. Reed, of New York, N. Y., for improvements in oscillating engines.

John Louis Rolland, of Paris, France, for improvement in machines for kneading dough. Patented in France April 11, 1851.

Samuel T. Sanford, of Fall River, Mass., for improved carriage cramp.

Wm. J. Stevenson, of New York, N. Y., for improved apparatus for soldering tin cans.

Nathan Thompson, of Williamsburg, N. Y., for improvement in life-preserving seats; patented in England, Oct. 16, 1854.

James W. Treadway, of Crown Point, N. Y., for stave jointer.

Frederick Tesh, of Johnstown, Pa., for improved beef spreader.

Jno. L. Yule, of New Orleans, La., for improvement in flouring mills.

Luther Wentworth, of Burlington, Iowa, for laths for turning fancy handles, &c.

Jas. Welsh, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in looms.

Lyman C. Camp, of Barbn, Ct., assignor to Phelps, Dodge & Co., of New York, N. Y., for improvement in machines for forming kettles from metal disks.

Wm. Beasley, of Smethwick, England, assignor to Jacob and John W. Brett, of Westminster, Charles W. Tupter, of London, and Wm. Beasley, of Smethwick, for improvement in manufacturing metal tubes.

William Tongue, of Philadelphia, Pa., assignor to himself and Jas. Buckley, of Sadsburyville, Pa., for improvement in looms.

DESIGN.

Wm. D. Titus, of Brooklyn, N. Y., for design for lanterns.

The Case of Wm. G. Hance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 13, 1855.

An article appearing in the paper called the Baltimore *Sun*, alleged to have been copied from the Boston *Olive Branch*, denominating me murderer, thief, poisoner, and everything but my own name, I thought, in duty to myself and to my countrymen and country, I would send you the following statement, which, I trust, will disclose me from the base slander of the editors of the *Olive Branch*. The details of my life, which occurred in the year 1853, have been engraved deeply enough on the minds of the American citizens, both at home and abroad, without bringing it again fresh upon their minds. 'Tis true that Gonzales went out a gunning with me, and that by the decrees of a mighty Providence he met with an untimely, but accidental, death. I was tried by an impartial judge and jury, and honorably acquitted. But I was on a foreign soil, where there were no treaties between my own and that country. The authorities, knowing that fact, again caused my arrest. There were no witnesses for or against me, but I was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in the State prison at Carthagena. The jailors were poisoned; the persons who committed it made their escape. My chance was as equal as theirs; but I, conscious of my own innocence, resolved to serve my time out rather than give the rabble of a foreign clime an opportunity to throw a stigma on my name. The *Sun* also states I was born in Philadelphia; that, too, is false. I was born on the Danish island of Santa Cruz, and can prove that fact by Hon. H. G. Jacobson, Danish Consul for the State of Maryland. They also state that Colonel Fremont and Senator Gwin stayed at my house. That, also, is false. Those gentlemen never stopped at my house in Panama. But Butler King, William Leland, proprietor of the Metropolitan Hotel in this city, Captain Stout, and Colonel Mann, have; and let any who doubts my character apply to them, and I think they will give me a very different one from the character these penny-a-liners of the Boston *Olive Branch* have published. Throwing myself upon the generosity of my American friends, who, after reading the undersigned certificate, will find me, I trust, worthy to be called an American,

I remain, respectfully, their ob't serv't,
WILLIAM G. HANCE.

This is to certify that we, the undersigned, knowing William G. Hance, formerly proprietor of the New York Hotel at Panama, do hereby certify that he is an honest, upright and worthy gentleman, and trustworthy the confidence of any person or persons; that we have stayed at his house in Panama, and we neither have been robbed or murdered.

William T. Smith,	John T. Glover,
Thomas S. Johns,	Francis T. H. Thun.

REWARD.—One thousand dollars will be paid by me for the detection and conviction of the person or persons who published an article headed, "An Extraordinary Adventure of a Colored Man in Central America," in the Boston *Olive Branch*, in 1853. Any person giving any information concerning it will be handsomely rewarded, and receive the grateful thanks of the undersigned. WM. G. HANCE,

New York, Jan. 13, 1855. 150 Church street.

How Governor Clark and Comptroller Cook Came to an Understanding.

[From the Albany State Register, Jan 8.]

COMPTROLLER COOK—Governor, I understand Judge Cady has resigned his office as Judge of the Fourth district; can't you give the office to my friend, Mr. Bockus, of Saratoga? He's A No. 1.

GOVERNOR C.—Well, I'll see about it. By the way, Mr. Comptroller, I've a son who has a taste for office. Can't you give him a clerkship til' something better turns up? I understand the desk formerly occupied by Mr. Stafford is vacant. Suppose you give my son that?

COMPTROLLER COOK—Very sorry, Governor, but I've promised that to Mr. Munson, a young gentleman from St. Lawrence, who is here on my invitation to take possession.

GOVERNOR C.—Very well, I should like to get a place for my son; but, (placing his right digital on his nose, and closing his left eye,) come to think of it, I have promised the Judgeship to Mr. McM——, of Johnstown.

COMPTROLLER COOK—(Laying his left digital on his nose, and closing his right eye.") You don't say so! I shouldn't wonder if Mr. Munson should go back to St. Lawrence