Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1860.

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS.—The undersigned hereby give notice that from this date they will decline the publication of Chancery Orders and other legal advertisements, unless the parties interested agree to pay for them at our regular advertising rates; nor will they certify to the publication of such advertisements unless they are paid for in advance, or unless payment is assumed by some responsible person. They are forced to take this position from the fact that they rarely get any compensation for such advertising, and when they do are forced to take half-pay or nothing.

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Staunton, Sept. 9, 1859.

Democracy and Slavery.

John Brown embarked in his insane enterprise against Virginia under the mistaken notion that he would find sympathisers in the State, who would gather around his standard at the first sound of the bugle. He did not anticipate accessions to his small band of desperate and determined men from the negro population alone, but confidently believed many of the free white citizens of the Commonwealth, who he imagined to be anti-slavery in sentiment, were ready and anxious to rally under the banner of a bold leader and strike for the liberty of the slaves. It is an admitted fact that such was the impression of the deluded man in regard to the state of sentiment in Virginia, and although the delusion may seem strange at the first blush, we are constrained to admit when looking back upon the political struggles of the past in this State, that John Brown was in some degree justified in the belief that Virginia was ripe for the "irrepressible conflict." The leader of the army of invasion was *old* John Brown,—a man well up in years—who had watched with the keen eye of fanaticism the progress of political events in this country for the last twenty years, and marked their bearings upon the great idea of his life—the one grand object of his aspirations and efforts—the liberation of the slaves from their bondage. It is not reasonable to suppose that he was an indefferent spectator to the fierce conflicts of parties in Virginia. On the contrary, the last steps of his career upon the soil of our State, as the avowed leader of a crusade against slavery and slaveholders, even to bloodshed and death, is of itself sufficient to establish the fact that he had been watching the course of affairs in the State of Virginia with special and peculiar interest. And what had he learned from the conflicts of the last twenty years, and heard with exultation from the lips of politicians and papers of the Democratic party? To those who are familiar with the political history of the State it is scarcely necessary to say that from them he heard, probably for the first time, of a difference of sentiment among the people of Virginia on the subject of negro slavery. From them he learned, not that a few of the people, but that a large and imposing party, led on by men of acknowledged talents and ability, were regarded with distrust by their fellow-citizens and denounced as unsound and unworthy to be trusted by the South with the power of either the Federal or State government. He heard it as far back as 1836 when the "great Commoner" of Kentucky, a Southern man and a slave owner, was denounced as unworthy of Southern confidence and support, and those who sustained him were charged with disloyalty to their section and its "peculiar institution." He heard of it again in 1840, and 1848, and 1852, when the same groundless and unjust charges were prefered against Harrison and Taylor and Scott, together with all who sustained those true and loyal sons of the South in those memorable contests. He heard it in still louder tones in the gubernatorial election of 1851, when Geo. W Summers, the gallant standard bearer of the Whigs, was held up for his inspection and admiration as an abolitionist "to the manor born," and the thousands who gathered around the banner which he bore so gallantly, were denounced and defamed as affiliating with and lending aid and comfort to the enemies of the South.

But not only during the political campaigns had John Brown heard this cheering intelligence of the progress of anti-slavery opinions in the State of Virginia. Pending the discussion of every measure bearing upon the question of slavery, he had heard the same charge ringing from the hustings and the press against many of the greatest and the best of Virginia's sons. The sound had been listened to so long that it grew familiar, and it is not surprising that it received credit. When so many concurred in the statement that a vast number of the people of Virginia, were "doughfaces" and "submissionists," and thousands of others sympathisers with the anti-slavery sentiment of the North, is it to be wondered at that John Brown believed the thing to be true, and addressed himself to the consummation of his grand project with the confident expectation of finding all things ready for the crisis? Like many others who have put faith in the Democracy, however, he was most egregiously deceived.

Without holding the Democratic party directly responsible for the bloody scenes at Harper's Ferry, we are fully persuaded that it is responsible to a certain extent for that delusion in regard to the sentiments of Virginia, which lured old Brown to his doom. We had hoped that the men of that party would have seen the evil consequences of such a mode of wartare, counterbalancing in our opinion all the advantages to be derived from a mere party success, and that the scenes of the bloody drama on our borders, to which men of all parties rushed for the defence of a common soil, would have put an end to all aspersions upon the soundness of Virginia on this question of slavery. But we have been disappointed. We find the Democratic papers still virulent in their abuse of all who do not square up to their ideas of what a Southern man should be. We find them setting up an "armory bill" in the Legislature of the State as a test of soundness on the slavery question, and holding up those who resist it as an unnecessary and extravagant measure, as recreant to the State that gave them birth; and especially are they violent against those who are most likely to be in their way in the effort to perpetuate the power of the Democratic party. Thus do they endeavor to perpetuate a "reign of terror" under which so many destitute of "back-bone" have been dragooned into their ranks. We are mistaken, however, if such treatment will do any good either to the Democratic party or the South. Men of sense will not be driven into all sorts of folly because John Brown invaded Virginia, nor frightened from their propriety by charges of unsoundness that have been rung against them all their lives.—The Democracy may turn the Harper's Ferry affair to their advantage, as they have generally managed everything connected with slavery for the furtherance of their party schemes; but they will find it a mere temporary advantage. The conservatism of Virginia cannot be thus crushed out. There is a party, however, that will be built up and encouraged by the course of the Democracy towards those who differ with them in political opinion, as it has been built up and encouraged in times past. The Democratic leaders had been telling Brown that there were those in Virginia who sympathized with him, until a conviction of the truth of the statement was forced upon him. Satisfied that he would find helpers he came on his bloody mission. There are other John Browns at the North still, and ex-Gov. Wise is still telling them in his public speeches, which are scattered far and wide at the North, that there are "helpers of Helper" even in the Metropolis of Virginia. Often repeated it will be believed, and whenever satisfied that the "helpers" are sufficiently numerous, the bereaved followers of Brown will choose his successor for another descent upon our borders.

The Southern Conference.

Col. Memminger, the Special Commissioner from South Carolina, is quietly waiting at Richmond the response of our Legislature to the message of his State which he delivered several weeks ago. In the mean time, he is entertained at the Exchange Hotel as the guest of Virginia, and all of our people, without distinction of party, must desire that he shall receive the hospitality which is due to him personally as well as officially.

The Legislature manifests no disposition to hasten his departure. Week before last both houses agreed to a resolution for the appointment of a Joint Committee to consider the subject, and report a reply to South Carolina; but the appointment of this Committee led to an angry debate in the House of Delegates. Mr. Seddon, of Stafford, complained of the Speaker for appointing a Committee hostile to the proposed Conference, and several other Eastern delegates alleged that some of the largest slave-holding sections of the State were not represented on the Committee, while an undue number of members was taken from the West. Western members naturally regarded this complaint as an imputation upon their fealty to the rights of the South, and resented it with becoming spirit.—We learn from private sources, that the excitement ran much higher than was represented in the newspaper reports, and that for a time a strictly sectional division and controversy, between the Eastern and Western portions of the State, was threatened. But such explanations were finally made as to calm the excitement and prevent further trouble.

As will be seen by our synopsis of Legislative proceedings, a large number of resolutions on the subject of the South Carolina proposition, were introduced in the Senate and House last week, all of which were referred to the Joint Committee. It is gratifying to observe that all of these resolutions profess a desire to preserve the Union, although some of them are favorable to a conference of Commissioners to be appointed by the Southern States. We are glad to learn, however, that a decided majority of the Legislature is opposed to any conference. The Democratic members, it is said, are divided on the subject—all of them who incline to disunion sentiments going for the conference, while Mr. Barbour, of Culpeper, leads a strong section of the party in opposition to it. Under these circumstances, the Opposition members hold the balance of power, and it is not to be doubted that they will decide the scale in favor of conservative measures.

South Carolina is the only State which has invited a Conference, and she is candid enough to inform us, through her Commissioner, that she desires disunion. Unless, therefore, Virginia is prepared to go the same length, we can see no propriety in her acceding to the proposition. It seems to us that South Carolina and the cotton raising States generally should be more reserved in making propositions of the kind to Virginia. If disunion comes the border slave States will bear the brunt of the contest, and they should be left by their more Southern sisters to decide for themselves the extent of their wrongs and the time and mode of redress.

Election of Speaker,

The whole country feels relieved that the protracted contest in the House of Representatives has at last terminated, although the result is not such as the South desired. So far as abstract sentiments on the subject of slavery are concerned, Mr. Pennington, the newly elected Speaker, is probably as acceptable to the South as his competitor, Mr. McClernand, of Illinois, a Douglas Democrat; but the former's support of Sherman, and his position finally as the candidate of the Republicans, rendered him unacceptable to Southern Representatives of all parties.

On the last ballot for Speaker, the Southern Opposition generally voted for Mr. Gilmer or Mr. Smith of North Carolina, and the following Southern Democrats refused to vote for Mr. McClernand, but threw away their votes: Messrs. Clopton, Curry, McQueen, Pugh, Bonham, Miles, Boyce and Keitt. Mr. Adrain, of N. J., and Mr. Reynolds, of N. Y., anti-Lecompton Democrats, voted for Pennington.

Mr. Pennington has been regarded as a Whig, although he voted for Fremont at the Presidential election of 1856, and was elected to the present Congress by the united opposition of his district. This is his first session in Congress, but twenty years ago he held the office of Governor of New Jersey. It is not believed that he holds the extreme tenets of the Republican party. In his address to the House after his election, he said:

"A representative from the State of New Jersey, on whose soil so many brilliant achievements were accomplished in the Revolutionary war, and whose people have ever been distinguished for their devotion to the Constitution and the Union, I pray the Great Arbiter of our destinies that I may do no act to impair the integrity of either, but that by wise and prudent counsels, peace and order may yet reign in our midst, and our free institutions be perpetuated to our descendants. I feel I have a national heart, embracing all parts of our blessed Union."

We hope Mr. Penninnton will prove by his future acts the sincerity of these declarations.—At any rate the candidate whom the Republicans preferred to all others has been defeated, and that is some cause for congratulation. The Administration newspaper at Washington, commenting upon the election of Mr. Pennington, says:

"It is true that he is a Black Republican, and that he voted for Mr. Sherman; but he is not and never has been a Helperite. On the contrary, while Governor of New Jersey, he repeatedly expressed his resolution to enforce the fugitive slave law and put down any attempt to violate the Constitution. He is thus far more tolerable than would have been Mr. Sherman. His nomination and election by the vote of Mr. Briggs is a defeat of the Black Republicans—a signal defeat—and one which they feel most poignantly. It proves, as Gen. Clark happily remarked, 'that an endorser of the Helper book cannot be Speaker,' and that, henceforth, the Helperites, like the turkey, wounded but not caught, 'will have to roost lower the rest of their lives.'"

Musical Entertainment.

The Musical Association of this place, consisting of Turner's Silver Cornet Band, Orchestra and Glee Club, will give the second of their series of Concerts at Union Hall, on Thursday evening next. All who wish to enjoy a rich musical treat should attend.

☞ We are indebted to Maj. McCue, of the House of Delegates, for a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Legislature on the Harper's Ferry outrages, and also for a copy of Mr. Memminger's address to the Legislature.

TERRIBLE CALAMITY.—On Thursday evening, the 2d inst., a terrible calamity occurred in Elm street, New York city. One of those immense human packing-boxes, called tenement houses, six stories high above the sidewalk, and made to hive twenty-two families, took fire, and before the unfortunate inmates could escape, a great many of them were suffocated. The first floor was divided into stores—a baker occupying that on one side and a grocer the other—the entrance to the tenements being between the stores. A narrow staircase led to the upper part of the building from the street, and another stairway descended from the second story to the yard in the rear. Each floor was arranged for four families, the doors of the apartments opening upon a narrow hall. There were at the time of the fire nineteen families in the house, exclusive of those who occupied the stores. The back apartments on the sixth story were set apart for wash-rooms, for the use of the various families, and the roof was arranged for drying purposes.

About half past 7 o'clock a little girl in the bakery, while filling a fluid lamp, set the fluid on fire, and dropping the burning vessel upon the floor, the flame was communicated to a pile of shavings under the staircase. The inmates who lived on the lower floors were enabled to escape in comparative safety, the firemen and citizens rushing up from the street, and dragging them through the smoke. Others raised ladders to the second story windows, and bore down the frantic women and helpless children.

But higher up, beyond the reach of the ladders, where the smoke was more dense, the sufferings of the poor inmates were truly heartrending. The lower part of the house was all ablaze, and so they had to yield at length to their fate, for it were as certain death to leap from that dizzy height as to stay till the fire came. Front and rear the ghastly faces looked out of the windows upon the hundreds of upturned, sorrowing countenances below, as blanched as their own. The oldest firemen say it was a fearful scene, such as they had never witnessed before. Some sprang back to their rooms, and rushing to the windows, leaped forth into the icy streets, wounding themselves by the fall. Others threw their children out first, and then followed themselves, as the quick fire singed their hair, and laid hold upon their garments. The lives lost are estimated at between 20 and 30.

☞ At the request of the editor of the Vindicator, we publish the report of Mr. Stuart's remarks in the Senate, on the 12th ult., in reference to which there has been some misunderstanding. The bill for the payment of expenses incurred by the Harper's Ferry affair being under consideration—

"Mr. Stuart said he was very much surprised at the tone of the discussion. He did not consider there was any quarrel or controversy between the two Houses. He conceived that each body was acting conscientiously. Mr. Stuart then argued at considerable length, to show that the spirit of the Constitution would be violated by concurrence in the amendments of the House. In the course of his remarks, he said a company from his town, having received a telegraphic dispatch late at night, started in the morning, as on a frolic, to the war, as it was called, and that none of them ever thought of pay; and that when a second dispatch was received for two companies they, too, were off early in the morning, though one of them was widely scattered when the message came, and $900 were made up for them by voluntary contributions. He repudiated the patriotism which would put its hands elbow deep in the Treasury, and he was opposed to paying for 'constructive' services, and not ready to hand over to an irresponsible body the disbursement of the public funds. He was not, at the same time, opposed to the payment of legitimate and legal claims.

"Mr. August said he had heard, with surprise and pain, the remarks of Mr. Stuart. He believed that the soldier had as good a right to his pay as a Senator had to $4 a day and mileage, and that his (the soldier's) patriotism was no more to be questioned than that of a Senator.

"Mr. Stuart here remarked that he alluded to *extra* claims."

The above is professedly an imperfect report of Mr. Stuart's remarks, but the Senate Reporter says in his letter to Mr. S., which we published last week, that he intended "to convey that Mr. Stuart was in favor of paying the volunteers all such claims as were in his view, just—that is, such as were not for 'constructive service;'" and that in the course of his speech he took occasion to pay a very high compliment to the Augusta volunteers.

The Anti-Dueling Bill.

The anti-dueling bill which passed the House of Delegates and became a law on Friday last, relieves all persons from the disabilities incurred by having been engaged in a duel prior to the first of January, 1860. It also restrains the liabilities and penalties to cases in which duels are actually fought, and establishes the competency of witnesses by making the testimony of a party evidence against all engaged except himself.—The special object of the bill was to enable Mr. Douglas, of King William, to take his seat in the Senate, and the other clauses were probably inserted to gain the votes of members who are opposed to that sort of Legislation. At the next session of the Legislature we shall probably have another bill to relieve somebody or other from the disabilities incurred under this act.—The whole thing is discreditable to the State, although the present law is an improvement on the former in some respects. It was opposed by all the members from Augusta.

ANTI-SLAVERY BILL VETOED.—Gov. Black, of Nebraska, has vetoed the act of the Territorial Legislature, to prohibit slavery in the Territory. Nebraska, the Governor argues, was part of the Louisiana purchase, which stipulated by treaty that, until the Territory should be formed into a State, the inhabitants should be protected in their liberty, property, religion, &c. Every citizen, of every State, had a right to go into the Territory with his property, whether slave property or not. Some few persons did take slaves there, but still fewer remained there for the reason that Nebraska is no place for slave labor. The bill was introduced into the Legislature for the purpose of testing the power of the Territorial Legislature, which is restricted by this veto to objects within the constitutional sphere of the Legislature, as defined by judicial authority.

THE VOICE OF VIRGINIA.—At the date of our last semi-weekly issue, the proceedings of Democratic meetings in thirty-five counties had been received. Of these thirty-five counties, *twenty-one* counties by resolution emphatically declared Henry A. Wise to be their first choice for the Presidency. One county declared R. M. T. Hunter to be its choice, and *thirteen* counties expressed no opinion as to preference. We hope the remaining counties will promptly act, and as emphatically declare their preference. Let the people decide—and the Convention *register the decree.—Richmond Enquirer.*

Extension of Town Limits.

At a special meeting of the Council for the town of Staunton, on the 1st inst., "a plat and survey of the proposed enlargement of the town being returned by the Committee, on motion, the Clerk was directed to copy the proceedings of the Council in regard to the extension of the town limits, and transmit the same, with the said plat and survey, to the General Assembly of Virginia, with a prayer that the limits of the town may be extended, agreeably to said plat and survey."

During the last ballot for Speaker, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, endeavored to defeat the election of Pennington, by taunting the Republicans for "voting for a candidate who is an Old Line Whig, in favor of the Fugitive Slave law, and who does not believe that slavery is wrong of itself."

☞ We are indebted to the Hon. John T. Harris, for a copy of the "Congressional Directory."

Gov. Wise, during the last two years of his term in office, pardoned one hundred and sixteen convicts; commuted the punishment of twelve and reprieved four others.

Legislature of Virginia.

MONDAY, Jan. 30.—*Senate.*—The bill appropriating $20,000 for a laundry &c., at the Eastern Lunatic Asylum, was passed.

The bill to amend the anti-dueling act was rejected—ayes 19, noes 20.

House.—Mr. Barbour announced that the personal controversy between the Speaker and Mr. Seddon had been satisfactorily arranged.

A bill appropriating $18,723 to pay for statues on the Washington Monument, was passed.

The Covington & Ohio Railroad bill was taken up, and Mr. Caperton addressed the House.

TUESDAY.—*Senate.*—The House bill making an appropriation for the statues of the Washington Monument, was passed.

After a variety of other business of no general interest, Mr. August offered a preamble and resolutions in response to the action of South Carolina. They compliment South Carolina; set forth the grievances of the South, but yet express confidence in the ability of the Southern States to defend their rights and to preserve the Union; recommend to the other Southern States to organize and arm themselves for efficient service, and encourage domestic manufactures and commercial independence; and authorize the appointment of Commissioners to meet Commissioners of other Southern States, to urge upon them the adoption of the above measures.

Mr. Isbell offered a resolution in favor of the appointment of Commissioners to confer upon the state of the Union, and report the best mode of resisting and overcoming infractions of the Constitution.

Mr. Thomas, of Fairfax, offered the resolutions lately introduced in the Mississippi Legislature by a leading member. They are in favor of the Union, and declare that with proper and mutual forbearance the present causes of strife may be removed.

The three sets of resolutions were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

House.—Mr. Tomlin offered resolutions according to the proposition of South Carolina for a Southern Convention, as a substitute for those of Mr. Barbour.

Mr. Kemper offered a resolution of the same import as that offered in the Senate by Mr. Isbell.

Both of the above laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

The Covington & Ohio Railroad bill came up, and Mr. Haymond's ryder, providing that no part of the appropriation shall be expended until the State bonds shall be sold, was rejected. The bill was passed—ayes 107, noes 34. It appropriates $2,500,000, and provides that not more than one million be expended in one year.

WEDNESDAY.—*Senate.*—After some business of no general interest, Mr. Coghill moved that the vote by which the bill repealing the anti-dueling act was rejected, be reconsidered—carried—ayes 26, noes 19. The bill was then passed—ayes 26, noes 20.

The rules were suspended in order that the Covington & Ohio Railroad bill, passed by the House, might be read a first and second time.

A resolution, communicated from the House, authorizing the erection of Hart's statue of Henry Clay on the Public Square, was adopted.

Mr. Paxton addressed the Senate in favor of the bill for taxing oysters.

House.—Mr. Collier offered resolutions on the subject of slavery and the rights of the South, which were referred to the Committee.

Mr. Robertson presented a petition from the ladies of Virginia, asking that the statue of Henry Clay may be placed on the Public Square. A resolution granting the request was unanimously adopted.

The bill appropriating $30,000 to the Richmond Medical College was passed—ayes 91, noes 32.

The bill making a loan of $600,000 for the completion of the Central Railroad was taken up. On motion of Mr. Christian, it was amended so as to require the adoption of arrangements for the transfer of passengers and freight to the Canal, where the two works meet. An amendment offered by Mr. Caperton was also adopted, providing that the ten miles of the road from Jackson's River to Covington shall hereafter be surrendered to the State, if the State desire it. On motion of Mr. Barbour, another amendment was adopted, withholding the appropriation from the Central Railroad till the Company enter into a satisfactory arrangement with the Orange & Alexandria Company for the joint use of the road between Gordonsville and Charlottesville. The bill was then passed—ayes 96, noes 19.

THURSDAY.—*Senate.*—The House bill making an appropriation to the Richmond Medical College was referred to the Committee on General Laws.

House.—The bill authorizing an additional subscription of three fifths of a million of dollars to the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad, was further discussed and then passed—ayes 93, noes 34.

The bill authorizing a subscription of $60,000 to the Rivanna Navigation Company, was lost for want of a constitutional majority, and pending a motion to reconsider the House adjourned.

FRIDAY.—*Senate.*—Mr. Neeson presented resolutions as a response to the proposition of South Caroling.

The Covington & Ohio Railroad bill was advocated by Mr. Smith, of Greenbrier.

The bill to increase the salary of the First Auditor was laid on the table.

House.—The vote rejecting the bill making an appropriation to the Rivanna Navigation Company was reconsidered, and the bill passed—ayes 85, noes 36.

The Senate bill in regard to dueling came up, Mr. Christian, of Augusta, indicated his desire to speak in opposition to the bill, but under a call for the previous question the vote was taken, and resulted in ayes 73, noes 58. So the bill was passed.

The bill prohibiting railroad agents from receiving commissions, &c., for manifesting, receiving or shipping freight was taken up. An amendment was adopted prohibiting railroad companies from demanding pre-payment of freights at their regular depots, and the bill was then passed.

SATURDAY.—*Senate.*—The bill authorizing the purchase from the city of Wheeling of 5,000 shares of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad was passed.

Mr. Thompson offered resolutions in favor of the appointment of five Commissioners to a Southern Conference.

House.—On motion of Mr Christian, of Augusta, a resolution was adopted for the appointment of a special committee to consider the memorial of citizens of Staunton in favor of enlarging the corporate limits of that town.

The bill making an appropriation to the Roanoke Valley Railroad was defeated—ayes 37 noes 69.

CHANGES HIS SENTIMENTS.—Mr. Joshua Coppic, a Quaker gentleman of Butler township in this county, has always been a warm abolitionist. He is an uncle of Edward Coppic and went on to Virginia for the purpose of bringing home the remains of his nephew for interment. On his way home he was detained at Wellsville for a couple of hours, and there had a conversation with Mr. D. T. Lawson, in which he said, "I come home a converted man. The Virginians are as kind-hearted and Christian a people as I ever was among. Our anti-slavery agitation at the North is all wrong. I am satisfied it has put back the cause of the slave, and I am going home to do what I can to put it down, and I hope thee will do the same. I am satisfied all Virginia wants is Christian treatment, and at the proper time, she will do more for the slave than we ever can." Mr. Coppic never before had opened his eyes to the disastrous consequences of Northern fanaticism, but now having learned them, like an honest man, he will endeavor to put down agitation. There are a great many people of the same class, and when they get fairly to understand where they are drifting, they will cut loose from the rampant abolitionists, and set to work to create a tone of healthy conservatism.—*New Lisbon Patriot.*

Governor Houston's message to the Legislature of Texas, transmitting the resolutions of the South Carolina Legislature, opposes the proposition for the holding of a Southern Convention. In the Legislature resolutions had been introduced sustaining the Governor's views, on the ground that Texas has surrendered her independence to the Union, and was unwilling to give up the Union on an emergency not deemed a sufficient excuse for so important a step.

The new dime has been issued from the Mint. It differs from the old coinage. The goddess of Liberty is in a sitting position as on the old coin, but instead of the encircling stars there are the words "United States of America." The words "One Dime" on the other side of the coin are in a wreath of cereals, instead of the old fashioned wreath of leaves. The new coin is very pretty.

Thirty-Sixth Congress—First Session.

MONDAY, January 30, 1860.—*Senate.*—Mr. Nicholson opposed Mr. Seward's "irrepressible conflict" doctrine, but urged the South to moderation.

House.—The galleries and floor were crowded to excess long before the hour of meeting. It was found necessary to clear the floor, as it was impossible to legislate.

Three ballots were taken for Speaker, with the same result. The last stood—Pennington 115; Smith of N. C., 113. Necessary to a choice 117. Mr. Pennington received all the Sherman votes, with the addition of Messrs. Adrian and Reynolds, anti-Lecomptonites.

Before the vote was announced, Mr. Briggs, of New York, denounced the action of Mr Morris and other Pennsylvanians on Friday as infamous and treacherous for abandoning Mr. Smith.

Mr. Morris explained that his action was caused by ascertaining that Mr. Smith was not sufficiently a tariff man.

After endeavoring to get another vote, which was opposed by the Democrats, the House adjourned.

TUESDAY.—*Senate.*—Mr. Hunter made a long and able speech on Mr. Douglas's resolution.—He pointed out the vast importance of the products of slave labor to the people of the North; argued that there was no irrepressible hostility between the sections, and that emancipation would prove injurious to the whole country.

House.—Mr. Smith, of N. C., made a short, graceful and patriotic speech, and withdrew his name from the canvass.

Mr. Reagan nominated Mr, McClernand.—Some of the South Americans refused to vote for him, unless their votes could elect him.—The Democrats thought this unfair, in view of their supporting Mr. Smith.

Mr. Davis, of Md., voted for Pennington. The vote stood: Pennington 116, McClernand 91, Gilmer 5, McQueen 6, scattering 9. Necessary to a choice 117.

WEDNESDAY.—*Senate.*—Mr. Fitch gained the floor on Mr. Brown's resolution for the protection of slave property in the Territories. The Senate then went into executive session.

House.—Various explanations were made by Democrats, why they did not and would not vote for Mr. McClernand.

A vote was then taken for Speaker. Before it was announced, Mr. Briggs explained his course, and changed his vote from Mr. McClernand to Mr. Pennington.

The vote was then declared as follows: necessary to a choice 117; Pennington 118; McClernand 85; Gilmer 16; Smith, of N. C., 4; the rest scattering.

Mr. Pennington was led to the Chair by Messrs. Bocock and Sherman. He made a conservative speech, without any particular point worthy of extended notice. The members were then sworn in by delegations, after which the rules of the last Congress were adopted.

A committee was appointed to inform the Senate that the House was organized; after which, amid great noise and confusion, the House adjourned till Friday.

THURSDAY.—*Senate.*—Mr Davis, of Miss., submitted resolutions declaratory of Southern rights, which were made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

Mr. Fitch, of Indiana, defended the Northern Democracy from the assaults of Mr. Iverson, but said they could not fight under new banners—they could not go for Congressional protection of slavery in the Territories.

Adjourned till Monday.

House.—Not in session.

FRIDAY.—*House*—After some preliminary business, the House proceeded to the election of Clerk. Mr. Schwartz nominated John W. Forney, and J. C. Allen, late Clerk, Sam'l Taylor of Tennessee, and D. E. Dawson, of Ala., were nominated by their respective friends. The vote stood, Forney 112, Allen 77, Taylor 23, scattering 9. Mr. Forney was declared duly elected. He received the votes of all who voted for Speaker Pennington, except Mr. Davis, of Maryland.

Henry W. Hoffman, of Md., was then elected Sergeant-at-Arms, the vote being, for Hoffman 114, Glossbenner 92, Underwood 7. Mr. H. received the votes of the Republicans, and about half of the Americans, Seven Americans voted for Underwood, and six of the Southern Opposition for Glossbenner.

Adjourned till Monday.

DEATH OF REV. J. ADDISON ALEXANDER.—Rev. Dr. Joseph Addison Alexander, Professor in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church at Princeton, New Jersey, died at that place on Saturday afternoon, the 28th ult. He was the son of Dr. Archibald Alexander, and grandson of Rev. James Waddell, of Virginia. Dr. Alexander was born on the 24th of April, 1809. He graduated at Princeton in 1826, receiving the first honor and pronouncing the valedictory at the graduation of his class.—In 1830 he was appointed Adjunct-Professor of Ancient Languages in his *alma mater*, which post he resigned in 1833, to visit Europe, in order to avail himself of the advantages of the German Universities. He spent a season at the Universities of Halle and Berlin, and returned to this country to accept a Professorship of Oriental Literature in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, to which he had been appointed during his absence, and with that institution he continued, with some changes in the title of his professorship, up to the time of his death. Dr. Alexander spoke almost all the modern languages of Europe, and as a scholar in Oriental literature had no superior in this country. His critical works are distinguished by keen analysis and by bold and original views.—His commentaries on Isaiah, Job and the New Testament have had a wide circulation both in Europe and America.

The Rev. Dr. Hodge, speaking of Dr. Alexander, says: "When twelve years old he took down an Arabic Grammar, which he studied, and at fourteen had read through the whole of the Koran in Arabic. He then took up Persian, and afterwards, while quite a lad, studied Hebrew, Syriac and Chaldee. These he mastered without aid. Latin and Greek he pursued in the ordinary course of instruction at college. The modern languages next occupied his attention. They were as mere playthings to him. There was not a modern language with which he was not familiar. His store of antiquarian, historic, and biblical knowledge, was wonderful. His memory was tenacious of everything—ideas, words, &c."

In the powers of logic he was equally distinguished. His imagination was wonderfully vigorous and fertile. His sermons in this respect were truly magnificent. In all my intercourse with men, though it has not been limited, continued Dr. Hodge, "both in this country and Europe, I never met with one having such a combination of wonderful gifts. We cannot properly estimate our loss till we think of what he was and what he would have been, for he was only 52 years old, and the next ten years is the best period of such a man's life."

DOWN ON SEWARD.—The New York Tribune is down on Senator Seward as the Black Republican nominee for the Presidency. He isn't available for that philanthropic sheet. It is said that scarcely one of the Republican members of the United States Senate is in favor of his nomination, and the *Tribune* thus stabs him under the fifth rib—"While we should like right well to elect a President of his stamp, we have never favored his nomination for that post, because we have never been able to figure up, with any confidence, the votes wherewith he could be elected."

The Cincinnati Gazette, the most prominent Black Republican journal in the West, says—"Mr. Seward will not run to good advantage in any of the doubtful States. *The West* is not favorable to his election." The Gazette expresses the opinion that he cannot, by any conceivable circumstances, be elected President.—*Rich. Whig.*

OLD FOGY STATES.—The States of Tennessee and Kentucky are sadly behind the times.—While some of the Atlantic Southern States are moving for a dissolution of the Union, the Legislatures of the former have been paying a social visit to the capital of Ohio, as if nothing was the matter. It is even said that "an earnest spirit of fraternization" was developed. The demonstrations commenced at Louisville, and culminated at Columbus. Time and space would fail to tell of all the receptions, banquets, speeches &c. South Carolina ought to send a Commissioner to Tennessee and Kentucky to post them on the state of affairs.

The Monmouth (N. J.) Democrat, "in obedience to the unanimous vote of one of the largest Democratic Conventions ever held in New Jersey," places at the head of its columns the name of William C. Alexander for the office of Vice President of the United States, subject to the decision of the Charleston Convention.

THE HARPER'S FERRY INVESTIGATION.—A despatch from Washington on the 1st inst. says:

The Harper's Ferry Investigating Committee discharged Mr. Realf to day, and he will leave immediately for New York. Thaddeus Hyatt arrived here to-day, and will appear before the Committee to-morrow morning.

Senator Wilson was before the Committee to-day. He stated that early in May, 1858, Mr. Forbes came to his seat in the Senate chamber and introduced himself, and informed him that he, Mr. Forbes, had been employed by Mr. Brown to go to Kansas to drill some force in 1857; that Brown had not paid him. That his family was starving in Europe, and that the men in the East who contributed money for the defence of Kansas ought to pay him. He was much excited, and denounced Brown and others.

He said some of the arms sent to Kansas had passed into Brown's hands, and were stored in Iowa; and that he was not a safe man, and that these arms ought to be taken out of his control. Supposing he referred to the border difficulties between Missouri and Kansas, and that Brown might retaliate any attacks upon Kansas, by going into Missouri; he wrote to Dr. Howe, suggesting to him to see some of the men who had contributed arms for the defence of Kansas, to get these arms out of Brown's hands, and place them in the control of reliable men in that Territory, who would see that they were only used for defence. He said that if these arms should be used for illegal purposes, it would involve the men who had contributed them in trouble. Mr. Howe immediately wrote back that an order had been sent to Brown to deliver up these arms.—The matter then passed out of his mind, and he supposed all was right. He never had heard a word about the organization of forces for the invasion of Harper's Ferry in 1858 or afterward, and did not know that Mr. Howe had sent his letter to Mr. Brown.

REPORT ON THE HARPER'S FERRY AFFAIR.—The able and interesting report made to the Legislature by the Joint Committee of the two Houses, on the Harper's Ferry outrage, was written by Mr. Stuart, the Senator from Augusta. The following are the resolutions recommended to the Legislature for adoption:

1. *Resolved*, That the appropriate standing committees of the two houses of the General Assembly be instructed to prepare and report such bills as in their judgment may be necessary to organize, arm and equip the militia of the State for active and efficient service.

2. *Resolved*, That the committee on finance be instructed to prepare and report such bills as in their judgment may be most effectual (without violating the provisions of the constitution of the United States) in encouraging the domestic manufactures of our own State, promoting direct trade with foreign countries, and establishing, as far as may be practicable, our commercial independence.

3. *Resolved*, That we earnestly invite the co-operation of our sister States of the South in carrying out the policy indicated in the foregoing resolutions.

4. *Resolved*, That the committee of courts of justice be instructed to report such bills as may be necessary to secure the more prompt and effectual punishment of all foreign emissaries and others who may be found guilty of conspiring against the peace of our community, or seeking to incite our slaves to insurrection.

5. *Resolved*, That the course of the late Governor in regard to the Harper's Ferry affair is amply vindicated by the evidence before the committee, and entitles him to the emphatic commendation of the country.

TRIAL OF STEVENS.—The special term of the Circuit Court of Jefferson county, for the trial of Steven and Hazlett, commenced at Charlestown on the 1st inst., Judge Kenney, of Rockingham, presiding. The Grand Jury brought in true bills against both prisoners, and, on Thursday, Stevens was arraigned. His counsel, Mr. Sennott, of Boston, complained of the course of the Commonwealth in removing the case to the Federal Court and then receding from that determination. He appealed to the Court to send the prisoner to Staunton for trial. The application was resisted by Messrs. Harding and Hunter, and refused by the Court. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining a jury. Before the Court adjourned, Mr. Hunter said he had just been handed a paper from Governor Letcher, informing him that a brother of Coppie had been arrested in Iowa. It has been deemed unnecessary to increase the military force now at Charlestown, and the only addition is that of a company of twenty cavalry from Shepherdstown.

The literary societies of the University of Virginia invited the Hon. Daniel Voorhees, of Indiana, to deliver the annual address before the societies on Commencement day, in July next. The invitation has been accepted. The eloquent and conservative speech in defence of Cook, delivered by Mr. Voorhees at Charlestown last Fall, secured for Mr. V. the honor of the appointment of orator before the two societies.

We shall soon, certainly see the "Happy Family." Realf, John Brown's Secretary of State, has become a pro-slavery man—and it is now *said*, that Henry Ward Beecher, in a sermon last Sunday, "took conservative ground, contended that slave holding is not necessarily sinful—and that extreme anti-slavery views only lead to mischief!"—*Alex. Gaz.*

Ex-Gov. Chase has been elected U. S. Senator from Ohio to succeed Mr. Pugh, whose term expires March 4th, 1861.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

ONE OF THE BEST STORE STANDS IN THE VALLEY FOR SALE.—Having determined to retire from the Mercantile business, I offer for sale, privately, my property, situated in Churchville, Augusta co., on the main road leading from Staunton to Augusta Springs. The improvements consist of a large DWELLING HOUSE, with kitchen and dining-room in the basement, and every other building necessary to make it all that any one could desire. It has also a firstrate Store Room attached, with an excellent Cellar under it, and a good Granary and Crib. It is one of the best stands for a store in the valley.

This property is situated in one of the most healthy and wealthy sections of Augusta County and has every convenience that could be desired. There are two good classical Schools—one for males and the other for females—Mills and Churches in sight, and every other convenience that could be desired in any community. I deem any further description unnecessary, as persons wishing to buy will examine for themselves.

TERMS made easy.

Should I not dispose of my property by the 10*th of March*, I will then rent out the Store House, Crib, &c.

For further particulars address me at Churchville, Augusta co. T. N. LINDSEY.

Feb. 7.—tf.

SALE OF LAND.—Pursuant to a decree of the Circuit Court of Augusta county, rendered at the November term, 1858, I will sell at public auction, on *Friday, the 3rd of February next*, a valuable Tract of Land containing about **107 Acres**. This tract of land is known as the "Heiskell Farm," and lately owned by Catharine Fauber, dec'd. It lies about 5 miles north of Staunton and adjoins the lands of John Bumbgardner and George Welch. The tract is in good condition, well watered, and with a sufficiency of timber. It has on it a comfortable DWELLING HOUSE, a good Switzer Barn, and an Orchard of excellent Fruit Trees.

TERMS:—So much in hand as will defray the expenses of sale, and balance in one, two and three years, secured by bond with good personal security, and the title retained as ultimate security.

Jan.