

Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA. TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1860.

The STAUNTON SPECTATOR having as large a circulation as any paper published in Western Virginia, has no superior in this section of country as an advertising medium.

FOR PRESIDENT, JOHN BELL, OF TENNESSEE.

FOR VICE PRESIDENT, EDWARD EVERETT, OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Clubs for the Canvass.

With the view of enabling all to have an opportunity of reading the "Spectator" during the present exciting canvass, we propose to send it to subscribers from now till the Presidential Election at the following low rates:

No. Copies. Rates. Five copies, all well addressed, \$4.50

A single copy, 10 cents.

These low rates will enable the friends of the cause we advocate to subscribe the amount necessary to send the "Spectator" to any friends they may wish to have it during the canvass.

Clubs can be gotten up in every neighborhood. Those who are able should have it sent to those who are not. A small sum would confer a great favor upon a large number. Subscribe and present to your friends. The money must accompany the order.

The Farmington Question.

Believing, as we do, sincerely and honestly, that there is at this time, on the part of many influential persons, a cool, calculating, unscrupulous and treasonable purpose to precipitate a dissolution of the Union, we feel that it becomes the duty of patriots to consider, for the present, all questions which have heretofore divided parties, subordinate and of minor consequence to the great question—the preservation of the Union.

Which now addresses itself with such potent force to the minds and hearts of our people. It would be useless on the part of those who are not patriots to expend their time and energies in discussing another piece of machinery of this or that character should be used in the navigation of the ship, when all the force at command was needed at the pumps to prevent it from sinking beneath the waves. It would be worse than madness for us to be wrangling about mere questions of governmental policy when the Government itself is fearfully threatened with destruction.

What folly to be disputing about the particular kind of architectural ornaments which should crown the columns of the temple, when the sappers and miners are busily at work to overthrow the temple itself.

The county of Highland bears acquaintance remarkably well indeed. The more the traveler sees of the land, the more he is impressed by the belief that it is one of the best of our mountain counties. If the resources of this county were properly developed, it would unquestionably be one of considerable wealth; and were that attention paid to education which the capacity of the people would soon be able to receive, it would soon be much more intelligent and refined.

During my recent sojourn in these counties, Bath & Highland, I was curious to learn the hindrance to their prosperity, and I spent some time in ascertaining the reasons why that might be assigned, for their not fully coming up to what they ought to be in all that constitutes real thrift.

I frequently asked myself, "Why is it there are not more evidences of public spirit in keeping up good roads, sustaining schools and building churches, than we see in the wealth and character of the people would call for?" Upon inquiry and reflection I found that different reasons are assignable. One that surprises me very much is to be found in the fact that the people seem to regard themselves as unsettled, and feel as if they would like to sell out and go elsewhere, to locate permanently, though they live in one of the most beautiful and healthy regions in the world, yet their hearts are somewhere else.

Thus not feeling settled for life, it is not to be expected that they would be very public spirited, and their example has a deleterious and paralyzing influence on all around them. Others possessing ample means to carry out their plans, are too narrow-minded, selfish and stingy to engage in anything like a combined and liberal effort to promote public improvement.

Hence the burden falls upon the shoulders of a few. But I am happy to say that these few are men of the highest station, who have the means, and are ready to execute; and in the past few years they have made their mark, and are still at work, and by looking over the list of your subscribers, you will ascertain the names of many of these good men.

One of the most serious impediments besides what I have mentioned, (and which I think should be guarded against if possible), is to be found in this: In years past, young men, adventurers in business, such as retired stage drivers, and others, who have been successful in the world, and who have acquired some property, have fallen to get employment elsewhere, for divers reasons, engaged in business in these counties, and having toiled for years upon the skin-a-leas-for-his-side-and-tallow principle, some of them, in their old age, have returned to the country, and finally they become dissatisfied with the society around them, and they either sell out or leave their farms occupied by tenants and locate their families in some place held in reputation for good society.

Thus instead of remaining and being a benefit to the counties to which they owe their all, using their means and influence in improving society and promoting the public good, they yield to their aspirations to get away from the aristocracy elsewhere, and they do not contribute to the support of the cause which is made in elevating society and supporting schools, even at some sacrifice if need be.

It is to be hoped that some of these counties that will go out of fashion, and that the time will come when the tenantry will not occupy some of the best farms, but when they shall be occupied by owners devoted to the interests of their counties, such owners as will feel that it is for the good of their credit to remain where they are and make good society, than leave all and seek it ready-made elsewhere, in places far less blessed with natural advantages.

I have no doubt the result of my speculations upon the serious drawbacks upon the prosperity of these delightful mountain counties, and which explains much of what would otherwise puzzle a stranger. I think Mr. Editor, a better day is coming, the future is evidently brightening. Yours sincerely, J. M. ARNALL, Secy.

ALEXANDRIA SHOE FACTORY.—We are pleased to learn that Messrs. C. A. Baldwin & Co., proprietors of the Alexandria Shoe Factory, have already received large orders for boots and shoes from dealers in many of the towns and villages on the line of the Lynchburg extension of the Orange and Alexandria and the Virginia and Tennessee Railroads, as far as Bristol. The goods they are manufacturing, we hear, are giving entire satisfaction, the quality being superior and the prices as low as at the North.

Next week, we learn, that Messrs. B. & Co. will occupy their splendid new establishment, at the corner of King and Royal streets, and we hope that the Merchants from the South, going North, will stop and examine the goods manufactured at home, and thus encourage Southern institutions and Southern enterprise.—Alex. Gas.

At a meeting of the "West Augusta Guard," on Thursday night last, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to Capt. Koiser and the officers and members of his gallant Company, the citizens of Fishersville, for their giving entire satisfaction, the quality being superior and the prices as low as at the North.

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Three More Freshets in Staunton—A House Destroyed—Miraculous Escape of an aged Woman.

In our last issue we gave an account of the destructive freshet which inundated our town on Saturday last.

The Street Commissioners engaged immediately a large number of hands, and were busily employed in repairing the damages sustained by the Corporation. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday our streets were crowded with workmen, carrying off rubbish and filling up the trenches made by the water. The work was progressing very rapidly, and a great deal of filling had been accomplished, when, lo! there came another freshet on Wednesday which destroyed all the repairs which had been so promptly made. Just as our citizens had their cellars cleaned out they were again filled. It required all the philosophy they could command to bear these misfortunes with patience.

On Thursday they again went to work—the street hands in repairing the pavements and streets, and the citizens in cleaning out their cellars and putting their dwellings in statu quo ante inundationem. These active operations were still going on, when, on Friday, there was another rain, and another freshet nearly equal to the destructive one of Saturday. It took our citizens completely by surprise, as it did not rain here more than half an hour. The clouds dispersed and the sun shone brilliantly, and, as yet, there was not water upon the streets in sufficient quantity to give the least apprehension of a freshet. Our citizens were reposing in security, and gratulating themselves upon their good fortune, when, to their utter surprise, the water suddenly burst with great violence into the streets washing everything before it as on Saturday.

The freshet of Friday was greater than that of Wednesday, but not as great as that of Saturday. The repairs made by the street hands were utterly destroyed, the fillings they had completed were again washed out, and where pavements should be, are now deep gorges yawning to engulf the careless or tipsy pedestrian. The cellars which had been a second time cleaned out, were a third time filled up. We form no exception to the general rule, and just as the workmen were about finishing our cellar the first time, the freshet of Wednesday again filled it, and shortly after they had finished the second time, the freshet of Friday filled it again.

We feel particularly sorry for that class of our citizens who are not able to suffer such damages without pecuniary embarrassment.

P. S. Since the above was written, there has been another terrible freshet. This, the fourth, occurred on Monday morning—yesterday. It commenced raining on Sunday evening and continued, with more or less violence, all night and till near the middle of the day on Monday.

About 7 o'clock in the morning we heard a crashing noise, when, looking out of the window to ascertain its cause, we saw a building near the creek on Beverly Street fall a perfect wreck. It was occupied at the time by an aged widow woman, Mrs. Parish. She persisted in remaining in the house though she had been advised and importuned to leave it by those who apprehended its fate. She fell with the house into the raging stream, and would certainly have been drowned had not Mr. Oblander been present to render instant relief. He held up her head above the water till others came to his assistance, who extricated her dress from the cooking stove which had fallen upon it. She is very badly hurt, and it is doubtful whether she will recover. Her escape from instant death is most miraculous. She was in the second story, sitting at the cooking stove, when the house fell into the water, she was about 12 or 15 feet, which, added to the height of the story she occupied, made her fall about 20 or 25 feet. She had been busily engaged in sewing upon a quilt, altogether unconscious of her danger, and, strange to say, her thimble was still upon her finger when rescued from the very jaws of death.

Mr. Chandler and the heroic son of Erin, who saved the life of the old woman, deserve the highest praise. Mr. Chandler loses considerably by the fall of this house, as he had a good deal of new furniture in it, such as bedsteads, bedding, &c.

As the rain was general which caused the last freshet, we have no doubt, that a great deal of damage has been sustained by the farmers in the country.

Disunion. We concur with the "Baltimore American" in the belief that whatever else the secession of the Breckinridge party may mean, it is clear enough that it means disunion under certain contingencies. Mr. Breckinridge is the candidate of a party as openly sectional as the Republicans themselves. The contest is not quadrangular—it is Bell and the Union on one side, against two separate disunion candidates. Breckinridge and Lincoln, though agreeing about nothing else, agree in their contempt of the compromise of the Constitution, and in their hatred of the Union.

We are far from believing that the election of any one of the demagogues who have dared to trifle with our heritages, will have the effect to wreat that heritage from us. The Union is the property of the people, and cannot be destroyed by the intrigues who fancy themselves giants.

But whatever damage may be done by the election of Mr. Lincoln, the responsibility is clearly with the Democracy. They have two totally unavailable candidates—and the plainest dictates of reason should compel them to drop both and unite upon Bell and Everett.

Stereoscopic Views of Staunton. Mr. Wm. D. Cooke, of North Carolina, has taken a number of Stereoscopic views of Staunton taken from different localities, and show the spectacle presented at the time in different parts of the town. These are very interesting. They are so well executed that we can readily recognize some of the persons who were on the streets at the time. Our friends, N. Brooks and Chas. Cochran, look as natural as life.

"Sharpe's Rifles and Leadens Bullets." As evidence of the temper and spirit of the Breckinridge party in the South, we would state that a few days since we received a friendly letter from an esteemed relative in Georgia, an advocate of the election of Breckinridge, who says that if the present contest results in the triumph of Lincoln, he is in favor of submitting the issue between the North and South to the stern arbitration of "Sharpe's Rifles and leadens bullets!" Is that the purpose of that party in this State?

"Free Fight." On Friday evening about sunset there seemed to be a general "free fight" in the street near the store of Bledsoe & Co. On Saturday morning the matter was examined into before Justices Bickle and Points and some five or six of the parties were bound, under a penalty of \$300 each, to answer an indictment for riotous proceedings. As is usual in such cases, whiskey was the chief cause.

Reduction. Last week we stated that the practical returns of the election in North Carolina indicated that Ellis would have about 8000 majority. He has about 5000. There is no doubt about that State going for Bell and Everett.

No Chance for Breckinridge.

The recent elections in Kentucky, Missouri and North Carolina, establish the fact that there is no chance for Breckinridge. Even the "New York Herald," which has been contending so earnestly that he would carry the whole South, now despairs, as will be seen by the following taken from that paper of the 8th inst.:

"We have heard enough from the late elections in North Carolina, Kentucky and Missouri to warrant the opinion that the Presidential election of November the Democracy will lose all the border slave States from Missouri to Maryland. Tennessee, also, may be added to the number swinging round to Bell and Everett, and the remarkable changes which are going on in the great political field currents of 1860, in the Southern division of the Union."

As it is now known certainly that there is no chance for Breckinridge, and about the same for Douglas, it is clear that the duty of all to rally to the support of Bell and Everett that Lincoln may be defeated.

Since the above was written we have received the "Herald" of the 10th, from which we take the following:

"From the divisions among the Democracy in Virginia, apparently beyond remedy, from the astonishing forward movement of the new constitutional Union party in North Carolina, from the crushing defeat of the Breckinridge Democracy in the late Kentucky election, from the irreparable split in the Democratic camp in Missouri, it is now highly probable, if not morally certain, that Bell and Everett, in November, will carry Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri, a string of electoral votes, or a majority of eighteen of the whole electoral vote of the South."

"How stands the matter now? The Southern States which refused to follow the seceders out of the Convention at Charleston refuse to follow either of the two leading factions of the party in the work of this campaign. The conservative majorities of the people of those States are turning over their suffrages to the new constitutional Union party. Thus, while the rival Breckinridge and Douglas factions are devouring each other in the inconsistent conservative classes of the North, financial, commercial and manufacturing, the more these late Southern elections are investigated, there is a prospect of a Northern conservative reaction which may spell the calculations of the Republican party."

"Why should not this hint be followed up by the Bell-Everett party now, in all the Northern States, under the new impulse of these late Southern elections? Let them push forward the independent conservative classes of the party to their achievements; for thus, with the grand argument of the Union, which has broken down the sectional Democracy in the South, this new Union party may still be in time to so evade and demoralize this sectional Republican party of the North as to render its defeat a visible event in season for the November election."

The Douglas Convention. From the number of delegates which have been appointed in various parts of the State, we are led to believe that our town, on Thursday next, will be pretty well filled with Douglas men. We are anxious to see them, that we may learn whether they are men of independent spirits who will scorn to kiss the rod which smites them, or whether they are timid time-servers who will ignominiously lick the bloody hands of their persecutors. We are anxious to see whether they have strong or weak spines, and whether their knees are steady or shaky, that we may know whether they will stand up straight in the firm maintenance of their principles, or whether they will give way in the back and knees, and bow down humbly at the feet of the Breckinridge party, asking for the forgiveness of their political sins, and imploring them for the gracious privilege of being taken in. If we are not very much mistaken in the character of the men who will compose the Douglas Convention, the Breckinridge Convention at Charlottesville will sing the syren song of conciliation in vain. The Douglas fly sees the web of the Breckinridge spider. If there be truth in the assertions of the Democrats, the 16th of August will present the strange spectacle of a Convention of disunionists in Charlottesville, and of "leprous abolitionists" in Staunton. Democrats are reduced to a choice, if confined to their own party, like that between "hawk and buzzard."

Douglas and Lincoln. We understand that Robt. F. Dennis, Esq., in a meeting recently held in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, violently opposed Douglas, and entered into an earnest argument to prove that he was as objectionable as Lincoln. We are surprised at this, as Mr. Dennis, up to the time of the split in the Democratic party, continued to avow his willingness to support Douglas if a change" must have come "over the spirit of his dream," for he certainly would not have been willing to support a man as objectionable as the candidate of the Black Republicans, even if he were the nominee of the United Democracy.—"Tempora mutantur, nos mutamur."

Astonishing Victory. In the sixty-four counties heard from in Kentucky Gen. Coombs, the Union candidate, has a majority of 25,296. It is supposed that the Breckinridge party have been beaten in his own State by a majority ranging from thirty to fifty thousand. Ridgway is in an ecstasy of delight, and says he is as thrillingly happy as it is allowable for earthly mortals to be. We are at a loss to know what to do with him when he has taken the banner of the Union party, after the 6th of November next, waving in triumph from the Capitol of the "Old Dominion."

John W. Diddle. Mr. John W. Diddle writes to us that he has been charged with horse-stealing. He denounces the accusation as a "base falsehood," and challenges investigation. He is now living in Grayville, White Co., Illinois. He says that he had intended to leave there on the 10th inst., but that he will now stay there to await any call that may be made upon him.

Thanks. Our thanks are to Hon. A. R. Boteler for a pamphlet copy of the address of the National Executive Committee of the Constitutional Union Party, and the report of the Corvode Committee. The address is published on the first page of this paper. We hope all will read it.—We may give some extracts from the Corvode Report in some future number.

Big Guns—Fogote, Soule and Voorhees. We have been requested to state that the talented Ex-Senator Fogot will certainly be in attendance upon the Douglas Convention here on the 16th-day after to-morrow—and that Senator Soule, of Louisiana, and the eloquent Voorhees, of Indiana, are expected to be here also.

A Large Tomato. Mr. Peter Engleman, Jun., has sent us a tomato that weighs two pounds. He had a number of others which were very fine, weighing from a pound to a pound-and-a-half; but many of them were destroyed by the freshet.

To the Council of the Town of Staunton.

Comrades:—Will you permit one who is a serious sufferer from the terrible freshets to address you a few words in regard to the causes of the floods, and the easiest, cheapest and most certain method of preventing these devastating inundations. Three floods in one week are surely sufficient to convince you that something must be done, and that promptly, or the entire business interests of the town will be very seriously affected. Our merchants and business men will not remain in a town where the profits of years may be swept off in a day, and at any moment, the evil has become so serious, that a remedy must be found, or the depreciation of property in the town generally will be enormous. To any humble comprehension it seems to be a useless waste of money to be eternally scratching upon the streets in the lower part of the town, first filling up and then digging down, while the great source of evil is neglected. The digging down of Augusta street will not keep one drop of water from the town. It is only saving a few at the upper end to damage more seriously those at the lower end, by throwing the waters upon them with a fearful impetuosity. Remove your hands then to a part where their operations will prevent the water from coming into Augusta Street at all.

I have watched the three recent floods in their rise and progress, and think I understand the causes that produce them. The great grand cause is the overflow of the meadow, which receives, collects and discharges when it can hold no more, an immense volume of water, that no channel could carry off. It is the accumulation of water in that grand reservoir, before the opening of the creek, from the tanyard down to the creek, which inundates the town. What then produces this overflow of the meadow? Why the simple fact that from the tanyard to Garber's Foundry there is scarcely any channel to carry the water off. Over it pours into the meadow, and the water, in its passage, is held back by the tanyard, and everything in its course, before it leaves the meadow, it collects and discharges when it can hold no more, an immense volume of water, that no channel could carry off. 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