Staunton Spectator.

VOL. XXXVIII. STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1860. NO. I.

Staunton Spectator.

RICHARD MAUZY, Editor & Proprietor.

TERMS.

☞ *The "SPECTATOR" is published once a week, at Two Dollars and Fifty Cents a year, which may be discharged by the payment of Two Dollars at any time within the year.*

No subscription will be discontinued but at the option of the Editor, until all arrearages are paid.

ADVERTISEMENTS of ten lines (or less) inserted once for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent continuance. Larger advertisements inserted in the same proportion.

A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year.

☞ *Annual advertisers will be limited to their immediate business, or the advertisements charged for at transient rates.*

PROFESSIONAL CARDS, *not exceeding seven lines, will be inserted one year for $7 00—6 months for $4 00.*

ONE SQUARE, (10 *lines*)	1 *year*	$10 00
" "	6 *months*	6 00
" "	3 "	4 00
TWO SQUARES,	1 *year*	15 00
" "	6 *months*	10 00
" "	3 "	6 00
THREE SQUARES,	1 *year*	18 00
" "	6 *months*	12 00
" "	3 "	8 00
ONE-THIRD COLUMN,	1 *year*	25 00
" "	6 *months*	18 00
" "	3 "	12 00
ONE COLUMN,	1 *year*	60 00
" "	6 *months*	40 00

All advertising for a less time than three months, will be charged for at the usual rates—$1 00 per square for the first insertion, and twenty five cents for each subsequent issue.

CARDS.

Western Virginia
MARBLE WORKS,
AT STAUNTON
AND
HARRISONBURG.
MARQUIS & KELLEY.
Staunton, April 7, 1858.

TAYLOR & HOGE,
DEALERS IN
DRY GOODS, GROCERIES,
QUEENSWARE, HATS, CAPS,
BOOTS AND SHOES,
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA,
HAVE just received a very large and handsome stock of FALL AND WINTER GOODS, to which they invite the attention of purchasers.
Staunton, Oct. 9, 1860

DR. JAMES JOHNSTON, SURGICAL & MECHANICAL DENTIST, having been located permanently in Staunton for the last four years, would respectfully inform his friends and the public generally, that he still continues to practice Dentistry, in all its various branches, with the strictest regard to durability and usefulness.
Office on the south-side of Main Street opposite the old Spectator Office.
Staunton, Nov. 29, 1854.

G. C. YEAKLE,
DEALER IN
WATCHES, CLOCKS, JEWELRY, SILVER AND
PLATED WARE,
OPPOSITE VA. HOTEL, STAUNTON, VA.
Staunton, July 17, 1860.

POWELL HARRISON
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA,
WILL practice in the Courts of Augusta and the adjoining counties.
☞ Office removed to corner room of the New Law Building, East of the Court-house.
Staunton, Oct. 23, 1860.

J. M. HANGER
ATTORNEY AT LAW, STAUNTON, VA.,
WILL practice in all the Courts held in Staunton, and in the Circuit Courts of Albemarle and Rockingham. Office in the brick-row, in the rear of the Court-house.
Staunton, Dec. 30, 1857.

JOHN W. MEREDITH,
DEALER IN
JEWELRY, CLOCKS, WATCHES, &c.,
Main St., Staunton, Va.
☞ Watches and Jewelry Repaired.
Staunton, Jan. 17.

DOCTOR JAMES B. GILKESON—Having located in Staunton, tenders his professional services to the public. He may be found, when not professionally engaged, at the room over the Saddle and Harness establishment of Mr. G. H. Elick, nearly opposite the Post Office.
Staunton Feb. 8, 1859—tf.

A. D. CHANDLER,
UNDERTAKER,
Staunton, Va.,
KEEPS METALIC CASES of all sizes, at Staunton and Millborough Depot, at City Prices.
Staunton, July 19, 1859.

ROBERT D. LILLEY,
Practical Surveyor,
WILL attend promptly to Surveying, Platting, Calculating and Dividing Land, and Locating Roads.
Staunton, June 26, 1860.

R. L. DOYLE,
Attorney at Law, Staunton, Va.,
WILL practice in the Courts of Augusta, Rockbridge, Bath and Highland.
July 29, 1857.

DENTAL NOTICE.—Wm. Chapman has removed his office to the old Bell Tavern, near the Virginia Hotel, and opposite Brandeburg's Corner, and adjoining Rankin's Daguerrean Gallery, where he will be pleased to see his friends and costomers.
Staunton, Jan. 31, 1860.

JOEL ETTINGER
HAVING located in Staunton is prepared to take a few more pupils for instruction on Piano and Guitar. Orders left with J. W. Alby.
Staunton, Oct. 30, 1860—tf—Vin. copy.

$100,000 IN CASH FOR NEGROES!—I will pay the highest market prices for sound and healthy NEGROES. My long experience in the business, and my facilities for selling will enable me to pay the VERY HIGHEST PRICES.
I wish to employ some good AGENTS to buy Negroes. I want business men of good moral habits.
Persons wishing to sell will find it to their interest to call on me by letter or otherwise, at Waynesboro', Augusta county, Virginia. JOHN B. SMITH.
August 14, 1860—6mo.*

PLASTER.—The Staunton Steam Mill having been repaired and put in working order, farmers can now get supplies of GROUND PLASTER in any desired quantities. E. T. ALBERTSON, Sup't.
Staunton, June 5, 1860.

LOOK HERE!—The undersigned have received a large lot of MILLER'S CASSIMERES which will be sold at a reasonable rate.
MOSBY, MAYLOR & FULTZ.
Staunton, Sept. 25, 1860.

MILL IRONS, MACHINERY AND ALL kinds of Castings made to order at the Staunton Foundry, by A. J. GARBER & CO.
Sep. 13, 1859.

STATIONERY.—I am now receiving a superior stock of Stationery, which for quality and cheapness cannot be surpassed in Staunton.
Staunton, Oct. 23, 1860. L. B. WALLER.

PICTURES FRAMED!—A variety of Mouldings for picture Frames on hand, and pictures framed to order. L. WADDELL, JR.,
Staunton Dec. 4, 1860. Union Hall.

RAZORS.—We have on hand a very superior razor, made expressly for Barbers.
WOODS & GILKESON.
Staunton, Oct. 30, 1860—Vin. copy all.

COMING!—Handsome Cottage Setts, What-nots, Hat Racks, Card Tables, &c., &c.
L. WADDELL JR
Staunton, Dec. 4, 1860. Union Hall.

HOOFLAND'S GERMAN BITTERS, and all kinds of Patent Medicines, for sale by
DR. H. S. EICHELBERGER.
Staunton, April 3, 1860.

IRON RAILING—A variety of patterns, for Yards, Cemeteries, &c., made to order at the Staunton Foundry. A. J. GARBER & CO.
Sept. 13, 1859.

LEATHER.—30 Sides best Sole Leather.
TAYLOR & HOGE.
Staunton, Oct. 9, 1860.

OPODELDOC SOUP—for sale at
P. H. TROUT'S.
Staunton, Nov. 1860.

SALTPETRE—500lb Refined Key-stone Saltpetre, for sale by P. H. TROUT.
Staunton, Nov. 13, 1860.

LINSEY.—30 pieces Linsey.
TAYLOR & HOGE.
Staunton, Oct. 9, 1860.

SKIRTS.—6 doz. Hoop Skirts, latest style, just received by TAYLOR & HOGE.
Staunton, Oct. 9, 1860.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PERRY DAVIS' VEGETABLE *Pain Killer*

We ask the attention of the public to this long tested and unrivalled

Family Medicine.

It has been favorably known for more than twenty years, during which time we have received thousands *of testimonials, showing this Medicine to be an almost never-failing remedy for diseases caused by or attendant upon—*

Sudden Colds, Coughs, Fever and Ague, Headache, Bilious Fever, Pains in the Side, Back, and Loins, as well as in the Joints and Limbs; Neuralgic and Rheumatic Pains *in any part of the system, Toothache and Pains in the Head and Face.*

As a Blood Purifier and Tonic *for the* Stomach, *it seldom fails to cure Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Liver Complaint, Acid Stomach, Heartburn, Kidney Complaints,* Sick Headache, *Piles, Asthma or Phthisic, Ringworms, Boils, Felons, Whit-lows, Old Sores, Swelled Joints, and* General Debility *of the* System.

It is also a prompt and sure Remedy for Cramp and Pain in the Stomach, Painters' Colic, Diarrhœa, *Dysentery,* Summer Complaint, *Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum, Scalds, Burns, Sprains, Bruises, Frost Bites, Chilblains, as well as the Stings of Insects, Scorpions, Centipedes, and the Bites of Poisonous Insects and Venomous Reptiles.*

See Directions accompanying each bottle.

It has been tested in every variety of climate, and by almost every nation known *to Americans. It is the almost constant companion and inestimable friend of the* missionary *and the* traveller, *—on sea and land,—and no one should travel on our lakes or rivers without it.*

Prices, 12½ cts., 25 cts., 50 cts., and $1.00 per Bottle.

PERRY DAVIS & SON,
MANUFACTURERS AND PROPRIETORS,
PROVIDENCE, R. I.
Sold by dealers every where.
Sept. 11, 1860.

PLAIN AND ORNAMENTAL
JOB PRINTING,
OF EVERY VARIETY,
EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS & DESPATCH
AT THE
"SPECTATOR"
JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,
Stone Building, Augusta St.,
STAUNTON, VA.

LARGE STOCK OF JOB TYPE!

GREAT VARIETY OF NEW & FANCY TYPE!

BRONZE & COLORED PRINTING!
will be done in a style equal to the best City Work.

HAVING made a large addition to the "SPECTATOR JOB OFFICE," it is now one of the best in the State, and all varieties of Job Work can be done in the very best and most satisfactory manner on very short notice.
☞ It is furnished with a great variety of new and Fancy Type.
☞ We are now prepared to execute all kinds of Printing, such as
Posters, Sale Bills, Blanks, Circulars, School Reports, Cards, Checks, Notes, Letter Heads, Bill Heads Labels, Pamphlets, Programmes, Visiting Cards, Wedding Cards, Invitations &c.,
in the very best style, on moderate terms.
BLANKS.—Clerks, Sheriffs, Lawyers, Constables, Merchants, and business men generally, are respectfully informed that every kind of Blank they may need can be had, at the shortest notice, at the Spectator office.
☞ Send in your orders and they will be promptly attended to.

GROVER & BAKER'S
NOISELESS FAMILY
SEWING MACHINE.
THE undersigned Clergymen of various denominations, having purchased and used in our families "GROVER & BAKER'S CELEBRATED FAMILY SEWING MACHINE," take pleasure in recommending it as an instrument fully combining the essentials of a good machine. Its beautiful simplicity, ease of management, and the strength and elasticity of its stitch, unite to render it a machine unsurpassed by any in the market, and one which we feel confident will give satisfaction to all who purchase and use it:
Rev. W. H. LANEY, Baltimore, Md.,
Rev. O. H. TIFFANY, D. D., "
Rev. C. J. BOWEN, "
Rev. JONA CROSS, "
Rev. JOHN McCRON, D. D., "
Rev. W. T. D. CLEMM, "
Rev. W. H. CHAPMAN, "
Rev. F. S. EVANS, "
Rev. R. C. GALBRATH, Govanstown Md.,
Rev. J. McK. KEILEY, Frederick, Md.,
Rev. T. E. LOCKE, Westmoreland co., Va.,
Rev. W. A. CROCKER, Norfolk, Va.,
Rev. JOHN PARIS, "
Rev. J. F. LANNEAU, Salem, Va.
Rev. C. HANKEL, D., D., Charleston, S. C.
Rev. C. A. LOYAL, "
Rev. A. A. PORTER, Selma, Ala.
Rev. J. J. TWISE, Speedwell, S. C.
Rev. B. B. ROSS, Mobile, Ala.
Rev. J. L. MICHAUX, Enfield, N. C.
Rev. A. C. HARRIS, Henderson, N. C.
Rev. C. F. HARRIS, "
Office of Exhibition and Sale
181 BALTIMORE ST., BALTIMORE.
☞ SEND FOR A CIRCULAR. ☜
May 8, 1860.—1y.

MUSICAL STORE,
MAIN STREET, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.
FREY & ROBINSON
HAVE opened a Store on Main St., (old Post Office,) where they will keep for sale, *PIANOS, FLUTES, VIOLINS, GUITARS, BANJOS, SHEET MUSIC, STATIONERY, ENGRAVINGS, &c., &c.,* and respectfully solicit the patronage of their friends and the public generally.
PIANOS.—Our stock of Pianos is selected principally from the well known and most reliable factory of NUNS & CLARK, New York, whose instruments have never been surpassed in tone and durability since their establishment commenced operations (thirty-five years ago.) We have made arrangements with other Factories for supplying us with Pianos, occasionally retaining the privilege, however, of returning them, if found unworthy our recommendation.—Persons purchasing from us, therefore, will never run any risk, as we have determined to sell only good instruments, on most reasonable terms.
SHEET MUSIC.—A great variety of the latest publications constantly on hand. Instruction books for all instruments. The usual deduction made in supplying Schools and Music Teachers. Arthur's Patent Elastic Music Portfolios. Music sent by mail.
Orders from the country, promptly attended to.
C. T. FREY, Prof. of Music.
J. ROBINSON.
July 26, 1559.—tf.

Ayer's Ague Cure.

DE FORREST ARMSTONG. & CO.
DRY GOODS MERCHANTS,
75, 77, 79, 81, 83 and 85 Duane Street,
NEW YORK.
Would notify the Trade that they are opening weekly, in new and beautiful patterns, the *Wamsutta Prints*, also the *Amoskeag*, a New Print, which excels every Print in the Country for perfection of execution and design in full Madder Colors. Our Prints are cheaper than any in market, and meeting with extensive sale. Orders promptly attended to.
Jan. 31, 1860—1y

LOOKING GLASS PLATES of all sizes for sale by P. H. TROUT,
Staunton, Nov. 13. Druggist.

POETRY.

The Bore of the Sanctum.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

Again I hear the creaking step!
He's rapping at the door!
Too well I know that boding
That ushers in a bore.
I do not tremble when I meet
The stoutest of my foes,
But heaven defend me from the friend
Who comes—but never goes.

He drops into my easy chair,
And asks about the news;
He peers into my manuscript,
And gives his candid views;
He tells me where he likes the line,
And where he's forced to grieve;
He takes the strangest liberties—
But never takes his leave.

He reads my daily papers through
Before I have seen a word;
He scans the lyric (that I wrote,)
And thinks it quite absurd;
He calmly smokes my last cigar,
And coolly asks for more;
He opens everything he sees—
Except the entry door!

He talks about his fragile health,
And tells me of the pains
He suffers from a score of ills
Of which he never complains;
And how he struggled once with death
To keep the fiend at bay;
On themes like these away he goes—
But never goes away.

He tells me of the creeping works
Some shallow critic wrote,
And every precious paragraph
Familiarly can quote.
He thinks the writer did me wrong,
He'd like to run him through!
He says a thousand pleasant things—
But never says "ADIEU."

When e'er he comes—that dreadful man—
Disguise it as I may,
I know that like an autumn rain,
He'll last throughout the day,
In vain I'll speak of urgent tasks;
In vain I scowl and pout;
A frown is no extinguisher—
It does not put him out.

I mean to take the knocker off:
Put crape upon the door;
Or hint to John that I am gone
To stay a month or more.
I do not tremble when I meet
The stoutest of my foes;
But heaven defend me from the friend
Who never, never goes.

MISCELLANY.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

Santa Claus's Visit.

It was as still and cold—on Christmas Eve—as it could well be; so cold that the very moonbeams, as they came struggling against the window-pane, seemed to congeal, and appeared like lines of silver wire drawn out into the icy air.—The trees were covered with a coating of ice, which gleamed and glittered in the moon-light, as if their branches were studded with precious stones; icicles, like pointed spears, hung from the eaves of the cottages; and the smoke which rose from the hundred chimneys of the village, passed, like pious incense, upward into the still air, bearing in its quiet folds kind thoughts and greatful words from the loving ones clustered around their hearth-stones. The snow lay deep upon the ground, and was covered with a thick crust, which bore up the children when from the beaten track they turned aside, chasing each other over the frozen surface, as they came home from school. Lights gleamed from the windows of every cot in the single street of the village, and voices of young and old mingled with song and laughter. At one end of the village, within a cottage, a little apart from the others, are seated an old man of seventy winters, his wife, and his grand-daughter, Mary. The room is one of those antique rooms which answer alike for the parlor and kitchen; the floor is of oak, and sanded with clean white sand, which was sprinkled by Mary's own hands. Pictures adorn the walls, descriptive of "The Prodigal Son," in four distinct illustrations—his going, his folly, his poverty, and his return. On the dresser are ranged pewter platters and numerous plates; while mugs of goodly dimensions hang from the pegs, and reflect the flame of the fire. Curtains of white, as pure as the snow in the meadow, are drawn at the windows and fall in graceful proportions; on one side of the wainscot, a little away from the dresser, hange a cage of woven willow and wire work; within it a robin—that bird of the homestead—gladdens the house with its music. On an ancient carved table, drawn out in the middle of the room, lies the Bible, unclasped, and wide open, and the eyes of the matron are fixed on the passage before her, "We have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

The old man is seated within his arm-chair, with his feet to the fire, where the yule log is burning, and he watches the flame and the smoke as they dance and play with each other, while his thoughts are wandering back to the time of his youth, when he danced and joyed with the maidens. Oft doth his eye seek the face of his grandchild beside him, with a look of the kindest inquiry. Sad, sad is the heart of the maiden, though her lips wear the smile of happiness, yet oft doth she start and sigh as a footstep glides on past the doorway. Thus sit they in silence, each wishing, yet fearing, to utter the thoughts that have birth in their bosoms, till the clock in the corner, grown bold by the stillness, chimes loudly the hour of seven. Then the cat by the fireside, dozing, awakened by the sound, answers by purring, the chirp of the cricket, and the dog, with a wave of his tail, looks up into the face of his master. Then rises the old man, and paces the floor of the kitchen; his face has a look of trouble, and the eyes of the maiden are downcast; whilst the matron wipes the mist from her glasses and lays them within the book, on the page that tells of the birth of our Saviour. Still paces the old man backward and forward, like a pendulum weary with going; but, anon, he stops at the window, and drawing the curtain aside, looks out on the village; the street is deserted, and he hears not the sound of a footfall. Then he turns to his grand-daughter Mary, and says:

"Why is it, my child, that Nicholas comes not hither to woo thee on this boliest of eves?—Surely thou canst not have driven him from thee in anger?"

Then sighed the maiden, and answered as follows:

"Truly, my father, I know not the reason that keeps him away—'tis now three days since I have seen him, though he hath not been out of the village. There are maidens more beautiful, father, than I, and richer by far. Man's heart is a changeable thing, and perhaps my love is forgotten."

Then paced the old man backward and forward, while dark grew his brow, and the feeling of wrath was upon him. At last he lifted his hand and said:

"Never shall Nicholas ———"

Suddenly paused the old man, and his hand fell down on the table—while the matron looked over her glasses, and opened her mouth as astonished—while the maiden rose from her chair and was fixed like a statue—the dog cowered in the corner, and the cat crept under the dresser, while the clock ceased its ticking, and held up its hands in amazement. But the cricket kept up its chirping and sang louder and louder; brighter grew the fire, and the burning brands crackled and snapped, as if giving a welcome, while the flame and the smoke rose higher and higher, and wreathed together fantastically.

The door stood open, and there, on the piled up snow, was a sleigh, carved out from an oak of the forest. Coursers were there, with stately horns, that resembled the reindeers of Lapland, they pawed the snow with their hoofs, and scattered it high in the heavens; icicles hung from their antlers, and their backs were covered with snow-flakes; they were fastened to the sleigh with links cut from the icebergs, and their saddles were carved out of ebony, inlaid with hail-stones; their reins were of crystallized moonbeams. The sleigh was filled with presents of all kinds—toys for the children, and candies and books in profusion. Then from out the sleigh there arose a being of jovial appearance. He winked to his steeds, and then entered the cottage. His face was the face of the moon seen through the mists of October, his eyes were like the stars of night, and his mouth was made for feasting and drinking; his hair was white as the snow, and his beard like the hoar-frost; his looks were quizzical, and jollity shone in each feature; he was short in stature, though broad in his girth, while his walk was a roll and a caper; his coat was the skin of the polar bear, and hung around his body; alas, ere the morning, it would be black with the soot of the chimneys; leathern breeches adorned his limbs, and fitted his person *exactly*; moccasins covered his feet, and he bore in one hand a three-cornered hat, in the other a flagon of home-brewed.—Closing the door, he sat down in a chair, and placed the flagon beside him; not a word did he speak, but taking a mug from the table, he filled it, and handed the same to the old man.—Trembling, he drank, but when he had finished, he smacked his lips, and vowed it was as good as the best—even that which his old wife had brewed him.

Loudly old Santa Claus laughed, (for it was he) till he shook "like a bowl full of jelly."—Then he sung an old song, till the rafters resounded, and the old man joined in with the chorus.

"Both back and side go bare, go bare,
Both foot and hand go cold—
But on Christmas give us good ale enough,
Whether it be new or old."

At last Santa Claus rose, but no word did he speak as he pointed to the flagon; and there, as if in a mirror, they saw the inside of a cottage, and heard the music of voices—young men and maidens were gathered together, and linked hand and hand in the dance. But Mary saw not in the group the one she so longed to behold, and her heart grew light as she gazed. Slowly the picture faded from sight, and now they looked on another, and heard the faint murmur of bells.

Rapidly over the frozen ground came a party in sleighs; and as each passed along, the light of the moon shone upon them. Mary's heart beat faster and faster; many among them she knew, but nowhere saw she her lover. Slowly the picture faded from sight, and now they looked on another, and heard men's voices in anger.

In the village inn, in the bar-room were grouped together a party of men, drinking and gaming. Mary hid her face in her hands, for her woman's heart dared not to look on the picture. But she thought of her lover, of his goodness and kindness unto her, and she knew he could not be among them; and she gazed with calm heart and clear eye on the semblance before her, but no shade of her lover was there.—Slowly the picture faded from sight, and now they looked on another, and heard the faint chirp of a cricket.

'Twas a chamber, alone and deserted—no light and no fire gave warmth to the picture, and Mary knew 'twas the room of her lover. Unpressed was the bed, and the curtains were drawn at the window, and shut was the chest and the clothes-press. But he was not in the chamber. Slowly the picture faded from sight, and now they looked on another, and heard the low stroke of a hammer.

There in his worshop, she saw her lover, and his eye was lit up with a smile. Beside a carved wardrobe he stood, and was inlaying her name in the panel. Hard had he worked, day after day, and night after night, to finish it for her by Christmas, and now he put the finishing touch, and gazed on his work as gazes an artist. Beat Mary's heart lovingly faster, tears overflowed from her eyelids, as water bubbles up from the fountain, and she sank on her knees by the hearth-stone, while her hands were clasped o'er her bosom. The old man bowed his head on his breast, while his silver locks shrouded his eye-brows, and his wife opened the Bible, her thin lips parted in prayer. Oh! filled were their hearts with joy at the instant. But ere they looked round, Santa Claus had departed, and the soot dropped down from the chimney.

Soon a step on the snow outside was heard, and Nicholas tapped at the doorway; he entered, and Mary was clasped in his arms and a kiss was impressed on her forehead. A grasp of the hand did the old man give, and the matron murmured her blessing. And happiness dwelt in the household this night, and the Christmas that followed thereafter.

Extraordinary Double Elopement.

The Holmes County (Ohio) Farmer tells this story of a curious elopement and its consequences:

On Tuesday of last week, while standing on the platform of the depot building at Crestline, waiting for the train to start eastward, we saw a train arrive from the East. The first persons we recognized getting from the train were W. K. Scott and the wife of Levi L. Johnson, of Marlboro', Stark county. They readily recognized us, came up to where we were, and after the usual salutations inquired when a train would leave for Bellefontaine. At this moment Mr. Johnson and the wife of Scott also made their appearance.—The women instantly recognized each other, and without uttering a word "pitched into" one of the liveliest free fights we have ever been called upon to witness. The way the ribbons, bonnets, collars and fancy fixings flew was refreshing to milliners and mantuamakers. This excited Scott and Johnson, and they were so sorely grieved at each other for running away with their respective wives, that they went into pugilistic exercise with a hearty good will. A great many persons were gathered around, but no one caring much which of the parties whipped, they encouraged the fights and laughed at the sport. While the fights were progressing, Constable Smith stopped the fighting and took the parties before the Mayor, and his Honor fined each of them $5 and costs, for breaking the peace.

Scott and Mrs. Johnson, who have for some time been suspected of being guilty of intrigues, had planned an elopement, and Johnson had also planned an elopement to be carried out on the same day with the other parties. Both guilty couples had clandestinely slipped off from Marlboro' on the same day; one party took the cars at Alliance, and the other got on the same train, though in a different car, at Louisville Station. Neither couple suspected the other until they met at Crestline, when the feelings they enjoyed may be imagined but cannot be described on paper.

After paying their fines, which satisfied them that fighting was an unprofitable way of settling the difficulty, they indulged in the application of a goodly number of hard words and names to each other, and finally separated; Scott and Mrs. Johnson taking the B. and L. Railroad, and Johnson and Mrs. Scott the P., Ft. W. and C. Railroad. Since then nothing has been heard of their journeyings.

"We see," said Swift, in one of his most sarcastic moods, "what God Almighty thinks of riches by the people to whom he gives them."

"Gently the dues are o'er me stealing," as the man said after having five bills presented for immediate payment.

Love and a good dinner are said to be the only two things that change a man's character.

A wife's farewell to her husband, every morning—"Buy, Buy.,,

You will fail to find a friend, if you seek one without a failing.

The best capital to begin life, is a capital wife.

LETTER FROM HON. JOHN BELL.

NASHVILLE, Dec. 6th, 1860.

DEAR SIR:—Could I have flattered myself that any argument I could address to the Mass Meeting appointed for the 29th ult., at Vicksburg, would contribute in any important degree to aid you and your compatriots in staying the progress of the sentiment which threatens to precipitate your State into a political vortex, which, in my judgment, would be no less fatal to her own interests than ruinous to those of her neighbors, I would, at any personal sacrifice, have obeyed the summons of my friends; but feeling no such confidence in my ability to serve them as you ascribe to me in your letter, I have yielded to the force of circumstances which claimed my attention at home.

So far as my views and opinions may have any weight or influence in determining the course of any portion of the people of Mississippi in the present critical juncture, they may be stated on paper, and I suppose would be as effective for the purpose intended, as they would be if communicated in a speech.

The question of chief importance to be considered, and answered is, whether the election of Mr. Lincoln to the Presidency, considered in all its significancy and bearings, together with all precedent and existing grievances, would justify Mississippi, or any other State or States in withdrawing from the Union? In form, the election was in strict accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Constitution and laws. The objection to it is that it was effected by a purely sectional party, organized upon the principle of hostility to slavery, and having for its prime object the repression of slavery, as a permanent administrative policy, with a view to its ultimate extinction. It cannot be doubted that an administration of the government, based upon this policy, could operate far more effectually in bringing about the extinction of slavery in the South, through official influence and patronage, than by any more direct mode of attack.

But it is clear that the Federal Government was established for no such purpose or object; for, however strongly many of the framers of the Constitution were opposed to slavery, it is notorious that it was owing to their forbearance to insist upon their objections to the clause in the instrument, providing for the rendition of fugitive slaves to their owners, that we have *any* Federal Union. It was upon this question that the Convention was, at one time, upon the point of breaking up in confusion. The policy of making the Government an instrumentality for the repression or extinction of slavery, as is now attempted by the party which is soon to be in power, was never contemplated by the framers of the Constitution.

I have often expressed the opinion that the success of a purely sectional party, organized upon any principle, sentiment, or policy, in strong antagonism to the interests and sentiments of the opposing and defeated section, would deeply imperil the Union; nor did I believe till the result of the October elections became known, that a majority of the Northern people would ever so far disregard the counsels and warnings of Washington as to elect the candidate of such a party to the Presidency. The election of Mr. Lincoln by a sectional party, organized and sustained upon the distinctive principle of opposition to slavery, as it exists in the Southern States, and avowing the policy of its repression, and its final extinction, (by prohibiting its extension into the Territories,) was a bold experiment upon the temper and forbearance of the South, and upon the strength of their loyalty to the Union. This experiment, if not conceived in a spirit of disunion, was made with a reckless disregard of consequences. No greater strain upon the ligaments which bind the two great sections of the country together could be devised than the attempt to establish or inaugurate a permanent Government policy upon such principles. The late Harrison Gray Otis, of Boston, one of the most distinguished and able of New England statesmen, when called upon, in 1835, to give the weight of his name and influence in checking the further progress of rabid abolition spirit, then beginning to diffuse itself over Massachusetts and other States of the East and the North, in a speech delivered in Faneuil Hall, did not hesitate to express the opinion that the plans and designs of the Abolition Societies, or as they were then called, Anti-Slavery Associations, contemplated such an interference with the domestic policy and institutions of the South as would be a violation both of the spirit and letter of the Constitution, and were in fact revolutionary in their character and tendency.

I am not able to discriminate between the character, spirit and tendency of the anti-slavery principle and the slavery repression policy of the Republican party, considered in connection with the torrent of inflammatory publications and invectives against the domestic institutions and social relations of the South which is daily poured forth by Republican journals and orators, and the character, tendency and designs of the Abolition Societies, and the incendiary publications which find their way to the public under their auspices. The only essential difference I can perceive between the spirit and tendency of the doctrines and avowed policy of the Republican party and those of the doctrines and avowed policy of the Abolition Societies, is in the extent and degree of the mischief which may be inflicted upon the South by one or the other, and the deliberate intention to inflict them by the Abolition Societies, which it would be unfair and unjust to impute to the whole body of the Republican party. But both are obnoxious to the charge of pursuing a policy which is in violation of the spirit, if not of the letter, of the Constitution, and revolutionary in its tendency. The policy of both tends strongly to stir up internal strife in the Southern States, to excite dissentions and insurrections among the slaves, to produce alarm and a sense of insecurity, both as to life and property, among the white population of every Southern State, and finally to influence the whole South to revolt against the government. The degree and extent of the mischief which the Republican party may be able to inflict by its anti slavery policy, for reasons which I need not state, it will be readily acknowledged, will be ten-fold greater than any which the Abolition Societies have it in their power to inflict.

That I do not unjustly charge the Republican party with having adopted a policy, which in its character, tendency and practical operation, is in conflict with the spirit, if not the letter, of the Constitution, can be made manifest in a very few words: One of the important objects to be accomplished by the adoption of the Constitution, as declared in the preamble, was to "insure domestic tranquillity;" and the power was expressly given to the Federal Government by that instrument to "suppress insurrections." The simple announcement to the public that a great party at the North, opposed to slavery, has succeeded in electing its candidate for the Presidency, disguise it as we may, is well calculated to raise expectations among the slaves, and might lead to servile insurrections in the Southern States. In such an event, which is more than possible, would really happen, it might become the duty of Mr. Lincoln to restore the tranquility which the policy of his party had disturbed, and to suppress an insurrection which the same policy had excited.

In stating the exceptions which may be fairly taken by the South to the election of Mr. Lincoln, I have purposely presented, in the strongest light, the danger to which the Southern rights and interests are exposed, that it may not be supposed that I had not considered and comprehended the full extent of the injurious consequences which may result from the present menacing attitude of the North upon the slavery question, before I formed an opinion upon the grave question, whether the election of Mr. Lincoln, in all its bearings, together with all the precedent grievances of which the South have a right to complain, furnish any sufficient cause to justify the surrender by the Southern States of their interest in the rich and glorious heritage of the Union, and to seek safety and the undisturbed enjoyment of their rights in a Southern Confederacy. With this explanation, I am now prepared to say, unhesitatingly and unequivocally, that it would not; and the confidence I feel in the solidity of the grounds upon which I give this answer will be justified by the following considerations:

1. Mr. Lincoln, it is well known, does not hold extreme opinions on the subject of slavery. It is certain that he has expressed a decided opinion that the South has a constitutional right to demand the faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law; and that under certain circumstances he would feel it his duty not to oppose the admission of a new slave State into the Union. His declaration on this point is little satisfactory to the South; but neither that declaration, nor the opinion expressed by him on the subject of the Fugitive Slave Law is at all satisfactory to the extremists of his own party.

Upon the whole, if Mr. Lincoln's public declarations on the subject of slavery are to be considered as the true exponents of his future policy, and if he possesses the moral courage to adhere to them in opposition to the counsels of the extreme men of his party, (and it is just and fair to presume that he does possess that virtue,) no serious mischief need be apprehended during his administration, except the usual evils attending the perpetual agitation of the slavery issues.

2. But it is assumed by some that Mr. Lincoln has disguised his true sentiments, that his whole character has not been understood; and that he will be under the control of the worst men of his party. I do not think so. I have every confidence that his future policy will be found to be in strict conformity with his past declarations. But apart from this, it is now generally known that he will be powerless for mischief, except to a very limited extent, during the first two years of his administration unless the Southern Senators and Representatives elected to the next Congress should rashly, and, as I think, inexcusably resign their seats or retire from Congress, and thus voluntarily surrender the control in both Houses to the Republican party, which surely they will not do. With both Houses opposed to him, Mr. Lincoln cannot appoint his Cabinet ministers or fill any offices of high grade without the assent of the Senate, or indeed of any inferior grade above that of a clerk or petty deputy postmaster. He will be able to carry no measure connected with the subject of slavery which does not commend itself to the South and the conservative members from the North.

3. As to any apprehensions that the Republican party, encouraged and stimulated to further efforts by their late success, may be so strengthened in the result of the elections of Senators and Representatives, in the mean time as to obtain a majority in both Houses of the 38th Congress, that is, during the last two years of Mr. Lincoln's administration:—while it may be well to regard such an event as possible, the strongest reasons exist for the confident belief that no such unfortunate a result will attend the elections in the North, which are to decide the complexion of the 38th Congress.

Of the whole number of votes cast for Mr. Lincoln in the recent election, from my own personal knowledge, and from information received from other sources, of the sentiments of the South, and especially of those of the Middle States, and the States North of the Ohio, I am sure I hazard nothing in stating that a large number—at least one third—are devoted to the Union, and, although opposed to slavery in the abstract, have but little sympathy with the Republican party, and would be sincerely glad to see the slavery controversy between the two great sections of the country speedily terminated. They supported the Republican candidate in the late election, mainly influenced by their strong and inveterate feelings of opposition to the Democratic party—believing that Mr. Lincoln was the only available candidate in the field to defeat that party.

I am, also well satisfied that not more than one-third part of Mr. Lincoln's supporters are so extreme in their anti-slavery sentiments, and are animated by so intense a hatred of the South, as to be wholly indifferent to the effect upon the Union of the policy of the Republican party, or actually desirous of a separation of the free from the slave States.

Of the remaining third of Mr. Lincoln's supporters, I think I am warranted in saying that they are attached to the Union, though anti-slavery in their sentiments. They joined the Republican party as a retaliatory measure, adopted in resentment of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which they regarded as little less sacred and binding than the Constitution, and in further resentment of the attempt to force the Lecompton Constitution upon the people of Kansas. But now that they have so signally triumphed in the late election, and in view of the evils already inflicted upon the country, and the still greater evils to be apprehended, they will be content to cease the war upon Southern interests and feelings.

For the foregoing reasons, I feel confident that the 38th Congress will exhibit a falling off in the strength of the Republican party, instead of an increase.

4th. All of the existing grievances of which the South may justly complain, can be redressed in the Union. As to the indignity, not to say insult, offered to the South, of nominating and electing the candidates for the two highest offices of the Government by a sectional party, on principles which practically excluded the Southern States from a voice in the election, contrary to established usage, and in violation of the spirit of the Constitution:—they may be pardoned for the sake of peace and harmony, and in consideration that the South has not been guiltless of having contributed, and that in no small degree, to increase the violence and asperities of the slavery controversy between the two sections.

In expressing the opinion that all grievances may be redressed in the Union, I intended to exclude other greater offences which have been apprehended from Republican domination, and which are of possible occurrence. How they shall be redressed, should they unhappily occur, will call for new counsels; but "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

The existing grievances are the obstructions interposed by some of the non-slaveholding States to the prompt and faithful execution of the Fugitive Slave Law, by what are called Personal Liberty Laws, and the refusal of the Governors of several of those States to surrender fugitives from justice from the slave holding States in those cases in which the crime imputed to the fugitive is the abduction or stealing of slaves. Some further legislation by Congress may be required to secure the surrender of such fugitives, but the due enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law is all that is required to redress the grievances arising from the escape and abduction of slaves from the Southern States.—The President is armed with sufficient power and means to enforce this law in defiance of all obstructions which may be thrown in the way to defeat it. If he neglects or fails to see it executed, he is liable to impeachment.

The next subject which I purposed to myself to notice briefly is the doctrine or theory of secession, which, as I understand it, is the right claimed to exist under and by the Constitution, in the exercise of which a State may withdraw from the Union, whenever a majority of the citizens may decide to do so, for any cause whatever. For it is quite immaterial whether any grievance or wrong sustained at the hands of the co-States or by the action of the Federal Government, is set up to justify the exercise of this right or not, inasmuch as the people of the seceding State, under this theory, claim to be the sole tribunal or judges to decide whether any such grievance or wrong has been inflicted, and upon the extent and sufficiency of the wrong.—In fact, the theory of secession implies the right of a State to dissolve its connection with the Union at discretion; and the whole question resolves itself into this: Whether the