# Staunton Spectator.

**VOL. XXXVIII.** STAUNTON, VIRGINIA, TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1861. **NO. XVIII.**



## 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.

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|---|---|---|
| ONE SQUARE, (10 *lines*) | 1 *year* | $10 00 |
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*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.*



**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, Diarrhoea, 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.

## CARDS.

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

**TAYLOR & HOGE,**
DEALERS IN
RY 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.

**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—Ha vi 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.

**DR. HENRY ANDERSON,**
OFFICE AND RESIDENCE
VIRGINIA HOTEL
STAUNTON, VA.
Jan. 22, 1860.—3mo.

**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 customers.
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.

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.


## POETRY.

*For the Spectator.*

### The Casket.

BY MRS. GEORGIE A. HULSE M'LEOD.

Very soft gleam the jewels,
In my home casket fair;
Yet they are not such as glisten
On the brow, or in the hair.
They are living gems I number,
At morn, at noon, at night;
Other homes have always claimed them—
Now they make mine more bright.
Diamonds flash brightly from their eyes,
That look with love in mine;
From out their veil of raven hair
Like stars they seem to shine.
Right proudly doth she bear herself,
With such a stately mien;
The words oft hover on our lips
The "Empress Josephine."
Thou art a "Pearl," my Mary,
Worn very near my heart;
Nearer, because 'ere very long
I know that we must part.
The soft, mild lustre well beseems
Thy fair and peaceful brow;
God grant thee evermore to be
As pure as thou art now.
There's one full often by thy side,
Another pearl of truth—;
Whose feet have chosen wisdom's ways
Thus early in her youth.
May *He*, whose child she seeks to be,
Shield her from every ill;
And through life's journey Bethlehem's star,
Guide her to Zion's hill.

I have a sparkling "Ruby," too.
With warm and changing glow;
Not more changing than the April moods,
Of "Ginnie," well I know.
There's the "Opal," which the legends say,
"Tells if the heart be true;"
I know my bonny "Katie's" is,
Its song is "I love you."

An "Emerald" rare, is "Mattie"—
Brought from a Southern clime;
A deeper glow is on her cheek,
Than when she first was mine.
Such a timid, loving nature,
Needs a gentle guide, I trow;
So I fondly clasp the Emerald links
That bind me to her now.
Ah, to-day adds to my casket,
Another precious gem.
Right welcome is the "Amethyst"
To grace my diadem.
My heart yearns, "Ella," over thee,
Missing thy mother's care;
But thy steps are circled fondly still,
By her ceaseless love and prayer.
God bless my darlings—every one—
My gems of beauty rare;
May He help me to watch over
The treasures in my care.

In the Great Day of His coming,
May my words of triumph be,
Here am I, dear Lord, and with me,
All whom thou gavest me!

SOUTHERN LITERARY INSTITUTE.

## MISCELLANY.

### A Talk About Marriage.

Two maidens in youthful bloom and beauty sat earnestly talking. Their thought was reaching away into the future; their theme was marriage.

"I like him well enough," said one of them; "but——"

She paused, the objection unspoken.

"What is the impediment, Alice?"

"His income is too small."

"What is it?"

"Eight hundred dollars a year."

"You might live on that."

"Live! Bah! What kind of living?"

"Not in princely style, I will admit."

"Nor scarcely in plebian, Fanny. Eight hundred dollars! Why father pays six hundred dollars rent; and I am sure our style of living is plain enough. Eight hundred! Oh, no! I like Harry better than any young man I have met. I could love him, no doubt. But he can't support a wife in any decent kind of style."

"Did your father and mother begin their married life on a larger income than Harry Pleasants now receives? Mine did not, as I have often heard them relate."

"Father and mother! Oh, according to their story, Job's famous turkey was scarcely poorer than they were in the beginning. Mother did all her own work, even to the washing and ironing I believe. Father's income was not over three or four hundred dollars a year."

"And they were happy together, I am sure."

"No doubt. In fact, I've heard mother say, that the first hard struggling years of their life, were among the happiest she has known. But that doesn't signify for me. That is no reason why her daughter should elect to go into the kitchen, and spend her years in washing, ironing and cooking. If a man isn't able to support a wife genteelly, and in the style to which she has been accustomed, let him marry some Irish cook, sewing girl, or washerwoman, who will manage his household with needed economy. Young men who can't earn more than eight hundred dollars a year, should not look into our circle for wives."

"I don't like to hear you talk in this way, Alice," said her companion. "We are not superior beings, but only the equals of men."

"Did I say that we were superior?"

"One might infer from your language that you thought so."

"I don't see how the inference can fairly be drawn."

"*Our* circle for wives, you said just now."

"Yes."

"What do you mean by that?"

"A circle of intelligence, refinement, taste and cultivation," replied Alice.

"You don't say wealth."

"No. My father, though living is good style, is not rich. I have heard him say more than once, that we were up to our income."

"Then we have only our own sweet selves with which to endow our husbands. No houses, or lands; stocks from which to draw an income; nothing substantial on which to claim the right of being supported in costly idleness. We must be rich, indeed, as to personal attractions."

"We are educated, accomplished and—and—"

Alice was a little bewildered in thought, and did not finish the sentence.

"Not better educated or accomplished, as girls, than are most of the young men who, as clerks, earn only from seven hundred to a thousand dollars a year. In this regard we are simply their equals. But it strikes me, that in another view of the case, we cannot claim even an equality. They are our superiors."

"Not by any means," replied Alice.

"We shall see. Here is Harry Pleasants, for instance. What is his income? I think you mentioned the sum just now?"

"Eight hundred dollars a year."

"That is about the interest on—how much? Let me see—about twelve thousand dollars. To be equal, as a match for Harry, then, you should be worth twelve thousand dollars."

"How you talk, Fanny!"

"To the poin't don't I? If we are not superior to the young men who visit us; simply superior in virtue of our sex; then our only claim to be handsomely supported in idle self-indulgence, must lie in the fact, that we endow our husbands with sufficient worldly goods to warrant the condition."

"You are ingenious."

"No, matter-of-fact. What have you to say against my position, Alice? Are we better than young men of equal intelligence and education?"

"No, I canot say that we are."

"If we marry, we must look among these for husbands. Rich men, as a general thing, select their wives from rich men's daughters. Our chances in that direction are not very encouraging. Your father has no dowry for his child; nor has mine. Their families are large and expensive, and little or nothing of the year's income is left at the year's close. The best they can do for us is to gives us homes; and I feel that it is not much to our credit that we are content to lean upon our fathers, already stooping under the burden of years, care and toil, instead of supporting ourselves. The thought has troubled me, of late."

A sober hue came over the face of Alice, as she sat looking into the eyes of her friend. She did not reply, and Fanny went on.

"There was wrong in this. On what ground of reason are we to be exempt from the common lot of useful work? We expect to become wives and mothers. Is this our preparation? Can you bake a loaf of sweet, light bread?"

"No."

"Nor can I. Or roast a sirloin?"

"No."

"Or broil steak? Just think of it, Alice. We can manage a little useless embroidery, or fancy knitting; can sing and play, dance and chatter—but as to the real and substantial things of life, we are ignorant and helpless. And, with all this, forsooth we cannot think of letting ourselves down to the level and condition of virtuous, intelligent young men, who, in daily useful work, are earning a fair independence! We are so superior that we must have husbands able to support us in luxurious idleness, or we will have none? We are willing to pass the man to whom love would unite us in the tenderest bonds, because his income is small, and marry from position one from whom the world turns with instinctive aversion. Can we wonder that so many are unhappy?"

"But eight hundred dollars, Fanny! How is it possible for a married couple to live in any decent style in this city on eight hundred dollars a year?"

"They may live in a very comfortable style if the wife is very willing to perform her part."

"What do you mean by her part, Fanny?"

"We will take it for granted, that she is no better than her husband. That having brought him no fortune beyond her own dear self, she cannot claim superior privileges."

"Well?"

"He has to work through all the day."

"Well?"

"Under what equitable rule is she exempt?"

"None. She must do her part, of course, if there is anything to do it with. She must keep his house, if he can afford a house. But if he have only eight hundred dollars a year, why, rent alone would consume half, or more than half of that. There would be no housekeeping in the case. They must board."

"And the wife sit in idleness all the day long?"

"She would have nothing to do."

"Could she not teach; or by aid of a sewing machine, earn a few dollars every week? or engage in some other useful work that would yield an income, and so do her part?"

"Yes, she *might* do something of that kind, but if marriage is to make 'workies' of us, it were better to remain single."

"And live in unwomanly dependence on our parents and relatives? No, Alice, there is a false sentiment prevailing on this subject, and as I think and talk, I see it more and more clearly. Our parents have been weak in their love for us; and society, as constituted, has given us wrong estimates of things. We should have been required to do useful work in the household, from the beginning; and should have been taught that idleness and self-indulgence were discreditable. Our brothers are put to trades and professions, and made to comprehend, from the beginning, that industry is honorable, and that the way of useful work is the way by which the world's brightest places are to be reached. But we are raised daintily and uselessly, and so fitted for our duties as wives and mothers. Our pride and self-esteem are fostered, and we come to think of ourselves as future queens, who are to be ministered to in all things, instead of being ministrants, in loving self-forgettulness, to others.—No wonder that an anti-marriage sentiment is beginning to prevail amongst young men of moderate incomes, in all our large cities. The fault is in us, Alice. The sin lies at our door. We demand too much in the co partnership. We are not willing to do our share of work. Our husbands must bear all the burdens."

Alice sighed heavily. Her friend continued:

"I have read somewhere that the delight of heaven is the delight of being useful. And it seems to me, as I dwell upon the thought, that the nearest approach to heavenly delight here, must be that state into which a wife comes when she stands by her husband's side, and, out of love for him, removes one burden and another from his shoulders, and so lightens his work, that smiles take the place of weariness and the shadowings of care. If he be rich, she can hardly have so great a privilege; but if they are alike poor, and know how to moderate their desires, their home may be an image of Paradise. Eight hundred dollars! Alice, if you were really fitted to become Harry's wife, you might live with him, doing your part, happier than any queen."

"That is, I must take in work, and earn money, if we board, or—but housekeeping is out of the question."

"No, it should never be out of the question in marriage, I think."

"But house rent alone would take half of our income."

"That does not follow."

"It does, for any house I would consent to live in."

"So pride is stronger than love. But pride has its wages as well as love; and on the one is the bitter while the other is sweet. It is this pride of appearance, this living for the eyes of other people who do not care a penny for us, that is marring the fair fabric of our social life. Fine houses, fine furniture, fine dresses, party shows, and costly luxuries of all kinds, are consuming domestic happiness, and burdening fathers and husbands in all grades of society, with embarrassment and wretchedness. Alice, we must be wiser in our generation."

"That is, coop ourselves up in two or three little rooms, with our eight hundred-a-year husbands, and do our own cooking and housework. Is that it, my pretty one?"

"For shame, Alice! You do not deserve a good man. You are not worthy to wed Harry Pleasants, and I trust you will pass him by, should he be weak enough to offer you his hand He can't afford to marry a girl of your expectations; he must content himself with one, who, like himself, regards life as real, life as earnest; and the way of use and duty the way to true honor and the highest happiness."

"Suppose you take him, Fanny," said Alice, half sportively, half petulantly. She was a weak, vain, proud girl.

"If he should offer himself, perhaps I will."

"Oh, then, if he kneels at my feet, I will refer him to you as one likely to make him a good cook and chambermaid."

"Do, if you please. I always liked Harry, and I don't think it would require much effort on my part to love him. He is a great deal better off in the world than I am; having an income of eight hundred dollars a year, while I have nothing. On that sum I am sure we could live in comfort, taste and happiness. I would not keep a servant to wait on me so long as I could do the work of our little household. Why should I keep a servant any more than he? I would find mental recreation and bodily health in the light tasks our modest home would require.—Need we care as to what the world would say? And what would the world say?"

"That your husband had no business to marry if he couldn't support his wife."

"Not by any means, Alice. The world would say, 'There's a sensible couple for you, and a wife worth having. We'll endorse them for happiness and prosperity.' And, what is more, Alice, others would be encouraged to act the same wise part, and thus be made happy through our example. I'll take Harry if he offers himself, and show you a model home and a model wife; so pass him over to me, should he lay his fortune at your feet."

The greatest and noblest stand against oppression, has ever been the inkstand.

### Correspondence.

RICHMOND, April 21st, 1861.

GENTLEMEN:—Learning from you that the town is filled with rumors and misrepresentations which are poured into too credulous ears, and that I am charged with having advised the Administration to the warlike policy it has assumed, I yield to your solicitation to give publicity to my late communication to the Government—by which it will be perceived that nothing could be farther from the truth than what has been alleged against me.

I assert that no man in this nation has struggled more earnestly to preserve the peace of the country than I have done, and I have even reached that point, that, with all my veneration for the Union of our Fathers, I am now supplicating, as I did during my late visit to Washington, for its peaceful dissolution, rather than our people should encounter the horrors of civil war.

That my patriotism and loyalty in a community in which I have lived for fifty years, should be distrusted and suspected, is the most mortifying event of my whole life. If there had been *one* paper in Richmond to which I could have appealed for justice without humiliation, my position would never have been one of doubt.—*There are some, I know, who would find fault, though I spoke with an Angel's tongue.*

I send you a copy of the letter asked for, which, I hope, is now under the consideration of the Cabinet, and which I hope will meet with the aid of the Press of all parties and sections of the country.

I am very truly yours,
JNO. M. BOTTS.

DR. MARTIN BURTON, P. G. COSBY, and others.

RICHMOND, April 19th, 1861.

MY DEAR SIR: Your letter of yesterday has been received. Before this you will have learned through the Press all that has occurred at Norfolk and at this place; but I cannot begin to give you a just conception of the excitement created, not only here, but throughout the whole Southern country, by the proclamation of the 15th, which, in many respects, may be regarded as the most unfortunate document that has ever issued from the Government. In the absence of that paper, this State could never have been carried out of the Union; with it, the Union party, and the Union feeling, has been almost entirely swept out of existence. You cannot meet with one man in a thousand who is not inflamed with a *passion for war*, and every one seems to regard the proclamation as a declaration of war for the subjugation of the entire South, and for the extermination of slavery; reason (with them on this point) would as soon arrest the motion of the Atlantic, as it would check the current of their passions.

When I saw you in Washington, some ten days since, I had the honor to lay before you and other members of the Cabinet, as well as before Mr. Lincoln himself, a plan for the settlement of our troubles, through the medium of a National Convention, to give to the seceded States *leave to withdraw*. I thought then, as I do now, that the plan then suggested was the only solution of the dreadful crisis which was upon us. Since that time, matters have assumed a far more frightful aspect, and I now venture to make one more effort to save the unnecessary effusion of brothers' blood; and, in the name of liberty, humanity, and Christianity, I implore you to give it your earnest and solemn deliberation.

I need hardly say that no man in this nation has held in higher appreciation the value of our blessed Union. No man has labored more constantly and earnestly for its perpetuation than I! No man's heart can bleed more freely for its loss than mine; no man can mourn more sorrowfully for its overthrow than I will. No man can condemn more severely the immediate causes that have so unnecessarily led us into this awful and terrible catastrophe than I do. Yet for the first time, after an entire night of sleepless reflection, when I prayed as I never prayed before for wisdom and strength to do my duty, my mind has been brought to the conclusion that a dissolution is an inevitable decree of fate.

I am satisfied that a contest on the part of the General Government, with its perfect military organization, powerful Naval forces, its command of the money, and its credit without limit, backed by eighteen or twenty millions of people, against eight millions without military organization, without naval forces, and without money or credit, is not likely to be of doubtful result in the end—but after that, what then? Can the Union be preserved on such terms, or would it be worth preserving if it could? After the best blood of the country has been shed in war, which has passion, prejudice, and unnatural but mutual hate for its foundation, intensified by the conflict, could the two sections ever be brought together as one people again?—and would it not require large standing armies, in constant active service, to conquer and maintain peace? And would not that end at last in a hateful, loathsome military despotism.

If I am right in all this, would not a peaceful separation, not as a military necessity, but as a triumph of reason, order, law, liberty, morality and religion, over passion, pride, prejudice, hatred, disorder, and the force of the mob, be a far wiser and more desirable solution of the problem than such scenes as will result from a purely sectional warfare, (result as it may,) and from which the heart sickens, and the soul recoils with horror?

You may cut, maim, kill and destroy; you may sweep down battalions with your artillery; you may block up commerce with your fleets; you may starve out the thousands and tens of thousands of the enemies of the Government. You may may *overrun* but you cannot *subjugate* the United South; and if you could do all this, you could not do it without inflicting an equal amount of misery upon those who are its best friends, and who have stood as long as there was a plank to stand upon, by the side of the Union, the Constitution and the laws. Our streets may run red with blood; our dwellings may be leveled with the earth; our fields may be laid waste; our hearthstones may be laid desolate; and then at the last, what end has been gained? Why, the Government has exhibited its power, which has never been questioned, but by the idle, the ignorant and the deluded, and for the display of which there will be abundant opportunities, without an effort now, on either side, to cut each other's throats!

So far from its being regarded as a betrayal of weakness by the other powers of the Globe, will it not be looked upon in the present emergency as an act of magnanimity and heroism on the part of the more powerful party to propose terms of peace? Let me, then, as a strong, devoted, unalterable friend of the Union, (*if it could be maintained*,)—let me as a conscientious and unchangeable opponent of the fatal heresy of secession, urge upon this Administration the policy of issuing another proclamation, *proposing a truce to hostilities*, and the immediate assembling of a National Convention to recognize the Independence of such of the States as desire to withdraw from the Union, and make the experiment of separate Government, which it will not, as I think, take them long to discover is the most egregious error that man, in his hour of madness, ever committed.

In five years from this time the remaining United States would be stronger and more powerful than the thirty-four States were six months ago—and you will have a Government permanent and enduring for all time to come, to which all who seek an asylum from oppression may resort hereafter.

I will not undertake to speculate on the experiment of a Southern Republic;—my opinion on that subject are well defined, and too well understood to make it necessary that they should be canvassed here. Let it be tried, and let it work out its own salvation.

If this policy can be adopted, all I shall ask for myself, will be the privilege of retiring to some secluded spot, where I can live in peace, and mourn over the downfall of the best Government—*wisely administered*—with which man was ever blessed.

I could not willingly take up arms against a Union that I have been taught and accustomed to adore, as indispensable to my own liberties, *and I never will raise* my hand against my native State, although her arm has ever been against me and mine.

For God's sake, let me implore you to let wisdom, magnanimity, true courage and humanity prevail in your councils, and give peace to a distracted and dissevered country.

I write as one who feels that he is standing on the brink of the grave of all he has cherished on earth; my head is bowed down with grief over the madness that rules the hour, and I pray God to give me the wisdom to know, and the strength to perform my duty, my whole duty to my country, my State, and my friends.

I am, with great respect, yours, &c.
JNO. M. BOTTS.

HON. EDWARD BATES, Attorney General, &c.

Will you grant me the favor to lay this last effort to serve my country before the Cabinet at its first meeting? I appeal to you as a native son of Virginia to do it. J. M. B.

### Correspondence.

BANKING OFFICE OF A. NICHOLAS & CO.,
No. 70 Wall Street,
NEW YORK, 15th April, '61.

COL. J. M. McCUE,—*Mt. Solon*,—Dear Sir:—It is a long time since I had the pleasure of writing you of your health. I have been frequently informed by my friend Sibert who has been kind enough to advise me occasinally respecting Mt. Solon and yourself. We have in this city become highly excited by the news that Fort Sumter was fired into and taken by the troops of the Cotton States. The President's message, calling first for 75,000 troops and then increasing the demand to 175,000, has produced a profound and deep impression that we are about entering into an awful performance, the end of which no man can tell. The only hope now is, that Va. will stand firm by the Union and hold all the border States to the same line of policy—if she does, our misguided South Carolina friends can soon be brought to reason—if she does not, but goes to swell the triumphal car of secession, God knows the end. The universal sentiment here is, that if the Border States do go out, then the war must exterminate *the cause which has created* this contention. When I heard that South Carolina fired coolly and deliberately and wantonly upon our flag, I cried like a child, that our brothers should fire into us. If the men that did the deed could have seen the eyes that were dimmed, and the stout frames of strong men that shook when the news was received here, they would have wished that the earth had swallowed them up. The newspapers and office seekers have done their best to set the sections against each other. May God forgive them I can't!—My Dear Sir, will Virginia secede? What is your opinion? Pray let me hear from you soon.

Yours, A NICHOLAS.

MT. SOLON, 21st April, '61.

MR. A. NICHOLAS,—Dear Sir: Yours of the 15th inst., came to hand a few days ago. Circumstances that have occurred since, have *more* than answered one of the interrogatories you ask with so much apparent feeling, "Has Virginia seceded?" She has not only seceded, but has on this morning, an army in the field, to defend our rights and institutions, that will carry terror to the hearts of those who vauntingly boast that they will "exterminate the cause," as you are pleased to term it, of all the difficulties between us. Could you, and the myrmidons of abolition, of agrarianism and all that is abominable in a free government, see, as I have had the opportunity within the past few days, the spirit of our people, your craven hearts would collapse within your cowardly carcasses. You who possess means to justify it, will send your *hired* mercenaries to overpower us, it may be. You may devastate our country, burn our towns, insult and abuse our women, but conquer us you can never do. When our brave and gallant sons are exterminated, if such could be, you will find our wives and daughters more than a match for all the Beechers, and Cheevers and Stowes and that damnable set that you have so long paid Court to, and encouraged, until you have brought this affictiion upon the country.

You speak of our "institutions" being the *cause* of this war, and you will exterminate it, forsooth. Let me tell you, sir, that it has been the misguided frenzy and folly and madness of your people, that has been the cause; and that people that has fattened and flourished upon the labor of this institution, and in your pharasaical and puritanical self-righteousness, after hoarding this wealth, would say to us, "stand aside, we are holier than thou," and cannot live under the same government with you. Let me say to you, sir, that the men of New York and New England who, in the war of 1812, could stand by with folded hands and see the flag of their country trailed and trampled in the dust, and convene themselves into a Hartford convention, and refuse to furnish men and means to defend their country and that flag from an insolent foreign foe, can with a very bad grace now shed tears, as you say you did, when you heard that flag was fired upon at fort Sumter. Your damnable hypocrisy makes my blood boil, and in spite of myself, makes me pray that we may have the earnestly hoped for opportunity of meeting you in sight of the Potomac, and all those who, like you, have been shedding those crocodile tears, and there testing, in the sight of the ashes of the Father of his Country, your sincerity in defending that flag. But permit me to say, sir, that you will not be there. You, and those who think like you, will send as your personal representatives, the miserable mercenary foreigners, that you can gather up in your cities at $10 per month to do your fighting. Would to God it were otherwise, and we could meet you all in person, and your boasted Seventh Regiment besides, who have warmed at our firesides, slept under our roofs, shared our hospitality, and when it was your interest to do so, have preached up your conservatism. But enough, sir, I have not patience to say more. In the hope I may meet you at Washington, (what I do not expect,) I am, sir, yours.

J. MARSHALL McCUE.

### The Soldier's Wife.

Under the heading of "stray topics," the New York Express says it is impossible yet to realize that we are in the midst of a civil war; that the disasters and horrors we have been wont to read of in our histories, and to thank heaven that we were spared from, are to come to us: that brothers in blood are to fight on different sides; that those we have called our dearest friends are become our national enemies; that the struggles of patriotism with domestic feelings are to be made familiar to our firesides. Yet incidents like one that we read of in the correspondence of a cotemporary must soon be common; intermarriages between the North and South have been so usual that some of us have as many connexions in one part of the country as in the other. "There is a young merchant in Charleston, who has a beautiful wife, born at the North, but who believes, as all good wives should do, that whatever her lord does is right. When the seven twelve-pounders boomed forth, and he was torn from her lingering embrace, she bade her little boy, with a cheerful face, tell his papa good-bye, and go with a brave heart to Morris' Island, and not to come back with a shot in his back. She parted from him with a stoical calmness with her child in her arms, but when he had left she swooned away, and remained in a fainting condition all night. The first question in the morning was: 'Did he see me tremble or hesitate when I bade him farewell?'" There will be plenty of opportunity for heroism in wives and daughters and sisters, as well as in husbands and fathers and brothers, before our present troubles are past.

We have no doubt now, but that every one of the Border States will *unite* in resistance to the unconstitutional, illegal, and mad policy of Lincoln and his Cabinet. Their future *status* is another consideration. But the determination to resist the war policy of the Government, and to defend their territories from aggressive or hostile attacks on the part of the Lincoln government and the North, and never to submit to attempts at coercion or subjugation, will, as we have said, UNITE them thoroughly.—*Alex. Gazette.*

"How much do yees ask for thim buttons?" "Fifteen cents." "I'll give ye thirty-seven."—"I didn't say fifty—I said fifteen," replied the honest dealer. "Bedad, an' I'll give ye ten cints, thin,' was the prompt reply.

*For the Spectator.*

### The Yankee Retreat.

Friday last, there came along
From the Yankee nation,
A corps of men eight hundred strong,
At Lincoln's invitation,
To aid in crushing Southern pride
That had his tyrranny defied.

Bold, and burning for the wars,
They came in all their glory,
But soon a crowd attacked the cars,
With quite a different story,
And said, "A vile invading foe
Through Baltimore should never go."

They did not wait for sword or gun—
For Captain, hat and feather,
But at them at a fury run
With any tool whatever;
And victory did not waver long,
For hearts were brave and hands were strong.

The soldiers felt intense surprise,
That thus the town should meet them,
For they had thought that it would rise
With welcomes warm to greet them;
For Maryland, they said, was true,
And stuck to Abe like Spaulding's glue.

But finding now, that they had made,
Erroneous calculation,
They called in the police to aid,
Their progress to the station,
And what with them and Mayor Brown
They surely might get safe through town.

The crowd halloo'd and yelled with might,
And plied their weapons sorely,
The Captain turned extremely white,
His men behaved as poorly—
Amid the shower of bricks and stones,
That hurt their pride and broke their bones.

If they had been resolved and stout
Would they have borne such dealing?
Or would they not have faced about—
The smart and insult feeling—
With gun in hand and sword by side,
A crowd is easily defied.

'Twas vain to think, as matters stood,
To mend a bad beginning,
But hurried onward as they could,
Regardless of their drilling;
While, bravely tearing up the track,
The Baltimoreans drove them back.

To Lincoln when the news was brought
In haste by an official,
He coolly said he rather thought,
"The crisis artificial;"
And that they should have been alert
And seen that "nobody was hurt."

Now honor give where honor's due,
To men so brave and hearty;
Virginia comes with heart as true,
Resolved to join your party—
And, come it weal, or come it woe,
Make common cause against the foe.

STAUNTON, April 22nd, 1861. A LADY.

### Henry Clay's last Speech.

The following is an extract from the last speech delivered by Henry Clay:

Mr. President, I have said what I solemnly believe—that the disolution of the Union and war are identical and inseparable; that they are convertible terms.

Such a war too as that would be following the dissolution of the Union! Sir, we may search the pages of history and none so furious, so bloody, so implacable, so exterminating, from the wars of Greece down, including those of the Commonwealth of England and the revolution of France; none, none of them raged with such violence, or was ever conducted with such bloodshed and enormities as will that war which shall follow that disastrous event—if that event ever happens—of disolution.

And what would be its termination? Standing armies and navies, to an extent draining the revenues of each portion of the dissevered empire, would be created; exterminating wars would follow—not a war of two or three years, but of interminable duration—an exterminating war would follow, until some Philip or Alexander, some Cæsar or Napoleon, would rise to cut the Gordian knot, and solve the problem of the capacity of man for self-government and crush the liberties of both the dissevered sections of this Union. Can you doubt it? Look at history—consult the pages of all history, ancient or modern; look at human nature—look at the character of the contest in which you would be engaged in the supposition of a war following the dissolution of the Union, such as I have suggested—and I ask you if it is possible for you to doubt that the final but perhaps distant termination of the whole will be some despot treading down the liberties of the people? That the final result will be the extinction of this last and glorious light which is leading all mankind, who are gazing upon it, to cherish hope and anxious expectation that the liberty which prevails here will sooner or later be advanced throughout the civilized world.

Can you, Mr. President, lightly contemplate the consequences? Can you yield yourself to a torrent of passion, amidst dangers which I have depicted in colors far short of what would be the reality, if the event should ever happen? I conjure gentlemen—whether from the South or the North, by all they hold dear in this world—by all their love of liberty—by all their veneration for their ancestors—by all their regard for posterity—by all their gratitude to Him who has bestowed upon them such unnumbered blessings—by all the duties which they owe to mankind, and all the duties they owe to themselves—by all these considerations I implore them to pause—solemnly to pause—at the edge of the precipice, before the fearful and disastrous leap is taken in the yawning abyss below, which will inevitably lead to certain and irretrivable destruction.

And, finally, Mr. President, I implore, as the best blessing which heaven can bestow upon me upon earth, that if the direful and sad event of the dissolution of the Union shall happen, I may not survive to behold the sad and heart-rending spectacle."

Public sentiment in Virginia is *united* and determined, in resistance to the attempt of Lincoln's Administration to inaugurate a war policy, and against any movement to threaten, coerce, invade, or subdue, any of the Southern States. If there is the slightest opposition at all to this stand, it must be in the Northwest—and must, even there, we believe, be transitory and insignificant. There never was more enthusiasm in the Commonwealth than at this moment. All Virginians "come up to the rescue." The young men shoulder their muskets and rifles; the old men organize for the protection of property and the preservation of order; the women assemble to provide clothing for the volunteers. The State is already a vast camp—every one actuated by the same spirit of patriotism. God speed the noble defenders of our soil in all their efforts to resist the mad designs of Executive power!—*Alex. Gazette.*

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.—The following prophetic language was held by Alexander Hamilton, on his resignation of the office of the Secretary of the Treasury in his hand a small book, containing a copy of the Federal Constitution, he said:

"Now, mark my words! So long as we are a young and virtuous people this instrument will bind us together in mutual interest, mutual welfare, and mutual happiness; but when we become old and corrupt, it will bind us no longer.'

"Come here, my little lad," said an attorney to a little boy about nine years old. "A case is between the devil and the people—which do you think will be most likely to gain the action?" The boy replied: "I guess it will be a tight squeeze; the people have the most money, but the devil has the most lawyers."

It requires great virtue to support bad fortune—greater to support good.

Never chase a lie; let it alone and it will run itself to death.

### By the President of the United States—A Proclamation.

Whereas an insurrection against the government of the United States has broken out in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, and the laws of the United States for the collection of the revenue cannot be effectually executed therein conformably to that provision of the Constitution which requires duties to be uniform throughout the United States:

And whereas a combination of persons engaged in such insurrection have threatened to grant pretended letters of marque to authorize the bearers thereof to commit assaults on the lives, vessels, and property of good citizens of the country lawfully engaged in commerce on the high seas, and in waters of the United States:

And whereas an Executive Proclamation has been already issued, requiring the persons engaged in these disorderly proceedings to desist therefrom, calling out militia force for the purpose of repressing the same, and convening Congress in extraordinary session to deliberate and determine thereon:

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, with a view to the same purposes before mentioned, and the protection of the public peace and the lives and property of quiet and orderly citizens pursuing their lawful occupations, until Congress shall have assembled and deliberated on the said unlawful proceedings, or until the same shall have ceased, have farther deemed it advisable to set on foot a blockade of the ports within the States aforesaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States and of the law of nations in such case provided. For this purpose, a competent force will be posted so as to prevent entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid. If, therefore, with a view to violate such blockade, a vessel shall approach, or shall attempt to leave any of he said ports, she will be duly warned by the commander of one of the blockading vessels, who will endorse on her register the fact and date of such warnings, and if the same vessel shall again attempt to enter or leave the blockaded port, she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port, for such proceedings against her and her cargo, as prize, as may be deemed advisable.

And I hereby proclaim and declare that if any person, under the pretended authority of the said States, or under any other pretence, shall molest a vessel of the United States, or the persons or cargo on board of her, such persons will be held amendable to the laws of the United States for the prevention and punishment of piracy.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this nineteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty one, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-fifth. [L. S.]

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

*What Mr. Lincoln has accomplished.*—On the fourth of February last, there was a majority of fifty or sixty thousand of the people of Virginia opposed to Secession, and in favor of remaining in the Union for the purpose of endeavoring, by every possible, honorable means, to reconstruct it, and to bring about once again the "United States" with all the stripes and all the stars.—And by a proper course of policy—by a course which would not have given umbrage to the really conservative men of the North, and would not have injured the North, in any one particular, that majority would have increased every pay. Another and a different policy was determined on in Washington. The result is, that, the Conservative Union men, proud of their previous exertions, and having nothing to take back or to reproach themselves with, in indignation and disgust have ceased their efforts, and, uniting with their fellow citizens of all other parties, rally round the flag of their State to resist oppression, fraud and tyranny—and Secession, if put to the vote now, would be carried by a tremendous majority—Secession having actually, already been practically brought about by Lincoln and his Administration.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

THE BRIGHT SCENES IN HISTORY.—When the poor man and the rich were esteemed equal.

When virtue was honored and vice reproved.

When modesty was ranked among the virtues.

When honesty was regarded as an ingredient to trade.

When common sense was part of a fashionable education.

When benevolence was not looked upon as extravagance.

When worth needed not riches to be respected.

OUR CHILDREN.—Our children are to fill our places in society—in church and State, and the manner in which they fill them depends upon the manner in which we educate them. If we train them up in the Sabbath schools, for God and His Church, they will amply repay us for our care; but if they are trained up for the world—in the streets—in the gambling and tippling saloons—in Sabbath breaking profanity, licentiousness and intemperance—and idleness and sin, they will dishonor our names and repay us by-and-by with a withering vengeance.

OUR EARTHLY LIFE.—My life is a frail life; a life which, the more it increaseth, the more it decreaseth; the further it goeth, the nearer it cometh to death; a deceitful life, and like a shadow; full of the snares of death. Now I rejoices, and now I languish; now I flourish, and now I fade; now I live, and now I die; now I laugh, and now I weep! O joy above all joy, without which there is no joy, when shall I enter into thee, that I may see my God?—[Augustine.

A FAVORITE REMEDY.—There is no medicine so extensively and favorably known as Perry Davis' Vegetable Pain Killer. Its rapidly increasing sale in South America, India, and Europe is ample proof of its success in those countries. Sold by all medicine dealers throughout the United States and Canada.

What is the reason people are everlastingly talking and complaining about each other? It is seldom that we go into a crowd or enter the home circle, but what we always hear something said about somebody, which would not be said, were they present, and it is generally in a fault finding way. Look at your *own* faults a little more, and your neighbor's a little less; it will do you good.

Eve did not know as much as her daughters of the present day. Had they been in her place instead of being deceived they would have deceived the devil.

If you would deprive love of its fears, you must destroy it existence; for fear is ever the compation of sincere affection, until each beloved object becomes irrevocably one.

In the tenth century, to eat off the same plate and drink out of the same cup was considered a mark of gallantry, and the best possible understanding between a lady and a gentleman.

An editor acknowledges the receipt of a bottle of brandy, forty-eight years old, and says:—"This brandy is so old that we very much fear it cannot live much longer."

A little boy seeing a drunken man prostrate before the door of a groggery, opened the door, and putting in his head, said to the proprietor: "See here, sir, your sign has fallen down."

Memory can glean, but never can renew. It brings us joys faint as is the perfume of the flowers, faded and dried, of the summer that is gone.

Hurry and cunning are the two apprentices of despatch and skill, but neither of them ever learns his master's trade.

Some men who pretend to back their friends back them as they would their horses, tail foremost.