STAUNTON SPECTATOR AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1861.

Attention, Delinquents.

Those who know themselves to be indebted to the "Spectator Office" for advertising or job work are most respectfully and earnestly requested to pay up as soon as possible. Bills for job work are due as soon as the work is completed, and for advertising as soon as the time for which advertisements were ordered to be published expires. Any time given on such bills is an indulgence to the person owing them.

Reaction in the North.

The sober second thought of the people of the North is beginning to have its effect, and the desire for peace is beginning to manifest itself. Such sentiments are beginning to be expressed in Iowa, Connecticut and New Jersey, and it will not be long before a very palpable reaction will be exhibited in all of the Northern States. The sensitive pocket nerve is beginning to twitch and will soon be in spasmodic convulsions. They have now 100,000 troops in the field, at an expense of $20,000,000 per month, and find that 200,000 men are needed, which will involve an expense of $40,000,000 per month. A debt of countless millions, total prostration of business, and consequent poverty and want are beginning to stare them in the face. In New York a reaction has already begun to manifest itself, and the New York *News* says that, "if a mass meeting could be convened in New York City of all who are really in favor of immediate peace, even at the cost of the acknowledgement of the independence of the Confederate States, it would outnumber the monster Union manifestation of seven weeks ago, and be characterized by an earnestness and sincerity that were wanting on that occasion." The war spirit has greatly subsided, and it cannot again be stimulated to its former furious madness, unless it be effected by an invasion of their territory. If we remain upon our own soil with a sufficient force to drive the enemy out and to be able to prevent them from coming in at any point, the war will soon be ended by the enormous expense to which they will necessarily be subjected. When they find that they are winning no laurels, gaining no victories, acquiring no glory, making no progress in subjugating the South, but only impoverishing and ruining their own section, they will realize the wisdom of acknowledging our independence.

Patriotic Upheavings in Missouri.

Gov. Jackson has issued a proclamation to the people of Missouri, calling for 50,000 troops to repel the invasion of the Washington usurpers. He reviews the transactions between the State and Federal authorities. He says an arrangement was made with Gen. Harney by which the peace of the State might be preserved. That it was wantonly and wickedly violated by the Federal authority, which removed Gen. Harney and substituted a base minion for him. He states that he made another effort for peace, and had an interview with Gen. Lyon, who avowed his purpose to occupy the State at pleasure, and reduce it to a condition of subjugation similar to that of Maryland. The Governor, therefore, seeing the wicked designs of the Federal power, and despairing of maintaining the liberties of the people, except by arms, calls upon them to rally to the defence of their homes and firesides.

Skirmish near Laurel Hill—Eight of the Enemy Killed.

We have learned from a reliable gentleman of this place, who returned a few days since from our camp at Laurel Hill this side of Phillippa, that on Tuesday night last, one of our scouting parties, numbering 25, met a scouting party of the enemy, numbering about 50, within less than two miles of our camp at Laurel Hill.—Both parties fired, and both retreated. None of our men were hurt. A lady being in that neighborhood wrote to a friend in Huttonsville that the enemy buried eight the next morning.—

Our party retreated because they supposed from what they had learned previously that the scouting party of the enemy consisted of about 300.

Still Volunteering.

The patriotic duty of volunteering still goes bravely on in this good old county. The *fourteenth* company of volunteers has now been organized in this county. The following officers were elected:

Captain, James H. Skinner,
1st Lieutenant, E. V. Garber,
2d " Dr. Jno. L. Cochran,
3d " Jno. B. Eskridge,
1st Sergeant, J. D. Beard,
2d " L. J. Maupin,
3d " O. C. Lipscomb,
4th " Samuel Carrol.

Several more companies are in process of formation, Augusta seems to be determined to remain the banner county.

Still Another Company.

We feel gratified to learn that another volunteer company is about to be organized in the gallant village of Waynesboro. In a few hours on Saturday evening last thirty-eight names were obtained. This county has now *fourteen* companies organized, *thirteen* of which are in the service, and several more will soon be ready to take the field. This patriotic and gallant county, like the widow's cruse, seems to be inexhaustable. If we had a few more Augusta counties, we could confidently bid defiance to all the forces of the North. This people will never be conquered. Their motto is "Liberty or death." They would rather die all freemen than live all slaves.

Presbyterianism.

The action of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, O. S. in sustaining the Government of the United States in its unholy war on the South, has caused a call in which the Ministers and Elders of the Confederate States are invited to meet in Richmond on the 24th of July, for the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the Presbyterians in regard to the formation of a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States of America.

Skirmish at Vienna.

In another column we publish an account furnished by the Richmond Dispatch of the skirmish at Vienna, on the Alexandria and Loudoun Railroad, about 15 miles from Alexandria, which reports only six of the enemy killed. The National Intelligencer reports the number of killed and wounded two hundred. None of our men were killed or hurt. So far as our men are concerned, we can say that "nobody is hurt"—"nothing is going wrong."

Southern Manufactures.

A few days since the Boot and Shoe factory of this place sold one bill to a gentleman of Macon, Georgia, amounting to about one thousand dollars. This is but the beginning, a simple earnest of what will be done in future. The Yankees will soon learn that we can live without them. The question is whether they can live without us.

Skirmish at New Creek--Caught them Napping.

On Wednesday last, at New Creek Depot, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 18 miles West of Cumberland, we played the same trick upon the enemy that they played upon us at Phillippa—we came upon them when we were not expected, took them completely by surprise, drove them off in a great hurry and captured two of their cannons. The enemy's force consisted of 250 troops and ours of two companies of the Third Tennessee Regiment and two companies of the Thirteenth Virginia Regiment, under Col. Vaughan, of the Tennessee Volunteers. The following particulars of this affair have been furnished by Mr. D. G. Duncan:

Colonel A. P. Hill, commanding the Brigade, whose headquarters are at Camp Davis, Romney, ordered, on the night of the 18th, Col. J. C. Vaughan, of the Third Tennessee Reg't, to proceed to the line of the enemy at New Creek Depot, eighteen miles West of Cumberland, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, with two companies of the 13th Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, commanded by Captains Crittenden and White, and two companies of the 3rd Tennessee Regiment, commanded by Captains Dillard and Mathis, to disperse the Federal forces there collected.

The march of 38 miles was made between 8 P. M., and 12 M. next day. The enemy was found posted in some strength, with two pieces of artillery, but had no pickets out. At 5 o'clock A. M., on the morning of the 19th, after reconnoitering, the order to charge was given by Col. Vaughan, and was gallantly executed in good order, but with great enthusiasm. As our forces appeared in sight, at a distance of 400 yards, the enemy broke and fled in all directions, firing a few random shots as they ran, one of which entered the arm of Private Smith, of Capt. Dillard's company, which was in advance, wounding him slightly.

The enemy did not wait to fire their artillery, which Col. Vaughan's command captured, finding them still loaded, but spiked.

Col. Vaughan states, in his official report, that his men were all eagerness to engage the enemy when the order to charge was given, and rushed forward with the utmost enthusiasm, wading the river to their waists. The enemy's loss was not known, but several were seen to fall. No prisoners were taken, owing to the start the enemy had, and Col. V. having left in the rear all the horses belonging to his command.

The position occupied by the Federal troops was on the North bank of the Potomac, at the 21st bridge on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Col. Vaughan burned the bridge before returning to Romney, taking with him the two guns and stand of colors.

Since the above was in type, we have received the following official report of the affair at New Creek Depot:

BRIGADE HEAD QUARTERS,
CAMP DAVIS, ROMNEY, June 19th, 1861.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report, that on yesterday I directed Col. J. C. Vaughan, of the 3d Tennessee Regiment, to take two companies from his own and two from the 13th Virginia Regiment, and at 8 o'clock, P. M., to proceed to New Creek Depot, 18 miles West of Cumberland on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, disperse the forces there collected, bring away the two pieces of artillery, and burn the Railroad bridge.

These directions I am happy to assure you, were carried out to the letter and the march of 38 miles accomplished between 8 P. M., and 12 the next day. Some 250 of the Federal troops, after a slight stand, retired in disorder, with a loss of a few men. The bridge was then burned, and Colonel Vaughan retired bringing with him two pieces of artillery and a stand of colors.

To Col. Vaughan, his officers and his men, I am much indebted for the handsome manner in which my orders were carried out.

Enclosed you will find the report of Colonel Vaughan.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) A. P. HILL,
Col. 3d Regiment, Commanding Brigade.
Col. E. K. SMITH, A. A. General.

Election of Congressmen, President and Vice-President.

The Confederate Congress passed a law at its late session which provides for the election of a President, Vice-President and members of Congress, under the permanent Constitution, on the first Wednesday of November next.

The Electors of President and Vice President are to meet in their respective States and cast their votes on the first Wednesday in December.

Congress is to assemble on the 18th day of February, 1862.

The President of the Senate will open and count the votes for President on the 19th of February.

The President will be inaugurated on the 22d of February.

☞ The blockade will punish the North more than the South. Already the cotton mills of New England are running out of supplies of raw cotton, and mills stopping in consequence. We hope the South will never permit them to have another bale at any price. There will soon be weeping and wailing amongst the poor devils thrown out of employment for want of cotton and a market for their yankee productions. Old England will now take the place of yankeedom in getting our raw cotton and in furnishing us the manufactured article.

☞ On Saturday, the 8th instant, a company of North Carolinians, under command of Capt McDowell, on a reconnoitering expedition, in the neighborhood of Hampton, met a company of Lincoln's thieves and fired upon them at the distance of 30 steps, killing and wounding from 12 to 15 of the number. The fire was returned, but none of our men were injured. One prisoner was also taken and sent to our camp at Yorktown. Lincoln's hungry and thieving hounds catch it on all sides.

☞ Four Lincoln spies were caught near Culpeper Court House, and taken to Richmond and placed in jail. They were disguised in uniforms resembling some worn by Virginia troops, and they admit that all of Lincoln's spies in Virginia are in some kind of military disguise.—Our troops and people, after this hint, would do well to keep an eye to strangers in military garb.

Six deserters from the Garibaldi legion arrived in Fredericksburg on the 16th inst., on their way to join the New Orleans Zouaves. They say that Lincoln's soldiers are not paid, and that *eighty-one* dead bodies were removed from the Freeborn at the Washington Navy Yard, which throws some light on the mooted question of the number killed in the fight at Aquia Creek.

☞ The bridges across the Potomac at Shepherdstown, Harper's Ferry, Berlin, and at Point of Rocks, have all been destroyed by the Virginia troops, to impede the entrance of the enemy into this State.

The dams across the Potomac above Shepherdstown have also been destroyed, and the locks and boats in the canal between Williamsport and Harper's Ferry burned.

☞ The Kanawha Star states that on general muster day (last week) in that county, Hon. Geo. W. Summers made a patriotic speech to the troops, urging every man to "stand firm in the defense of Virginia, their firesides, and homes, against all invaders."

Black Republican papers admit that they have not a sufficient number of vessels to enforce an effective blockade of Southern ports. England says she will not recognise or respect a blockade unless it is an effective once.

Missouri Moving.

Gov. Jackson has issued a proclamation calling for 50,000 militia to repel the invaders of that State, and other signs presage important movements in that quarter ere long.

☞ The Home Guard will meet for drill at the Passenger Depot on next Saturday evening at 6 o'clock.

☞ We are indebted to the kindess of Rob't J. Glendy, Esq., for late Northern papers.

Another Skirmish—The Federalists again Routed!

Spencer Hancock, Esq., of Chesterfield co., who returned to this city yesterday evening from Fairfax C. H. gives us the following narration of a skirmish which took place about 6 o'clock on Monday evening, a few miles from that locality. Mr. H. was himself a participant in the affair, and his statement may therefore be relied on:

On Sunday morning, Col. Gregg received orders to go out on a reconnoitering expedition.—He took with him 600 South Carolinians, a company of Kemper's Artillery and two companies of cavalry, including 45 of Capt. Ball's Chester company and Capt. Terry's company, of Bedford. He started at 8 o'clock A. M. They remained Sunday night at a place called Dranesville. On Monday morning Col. Gregg, with a detachment of 45 cavalry, went a few miles down to the Potomac River to make observations. They remained in the vicinity about an hour, and distinctly saw tents and men on the Maryland side. They judged there were about 300 men encamped at that point.

Col. Gregg afterwards returned to Dranesville, formed his command into column and marched down the road to a place called Vienna. Here they remained only long enough to tear up the track of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad and destroy a water tank—probably about an hour—after which they started to return to Dranesville. The troops had proceeded about a half a mile when the whistle of the locomotive was heard in the distance, whereupon Col. Gregg ordered a halt, wheeled his column, and marched rapidly back to Vienna. They had scarcely time to place two cannon in position when a train of cars, consisting of six flats and a baggage car, came slowly around the curve, pushed by a locomotive. Each flat was crowded with armed men, whose bayonets glistened in the evening sun, and gave our men an impression that a severe contest was as hand. This, however, was not realized, as the result will show.

Just as the train was about to stop, the artillery fired a well directed shot from one of their guns, which raked the Hessians fore and aft.—Consternation and dismay were distinctly visible, and, after another fire, the enemy were seen hastily leaving the cars and taking to the woods. The engineer of the train was smart enough to uncouple the locomotive and take the back track for Alexandria, leaving the entire train to be captured by our troops. Col. Gregg's infantry and the cavalry pursued the fugitives a short distance through the woods, but were unable to overtake them. A few of the party exhibited some bravery and endeavored, by shouts, to rally their flying comrades, but it was impossible. They then turned and discharged their pieces at our men without effect. Six of the enemy were left dead upon the ground.

It is believed that this invading party consisted of Regulars and Michigan Volunteers. Col. Gregg had received information that a detachment of Federals came to Vienna on Sunday evening, and brought timber to repair the bridge, and that they stated while there that they would come on Monday with men enough to whip and hang every d—d Secessionist in the neighborhood. They made a slight mistake in their calculations.

About twelve rounds were fired by our artillery, but the enemy scattered after the second. Neither the infantry nor the cavalry fired a shot.

Our troops burnt the cars and captured a considerable quantity of carpenter's tools, blankets, and other baggage, together with about 20 muskets and a number o pistols. Mr. Hancock brings with him as trophies a U S. soldier's cap, a havelock thoroughly saturated with blood, and a bayonet.

The fire of our artillerists was most effective. One man was found with his head shot completely off, another with his arm shot off at the shoulder, and other ghastly objects proved the destructive effect of the shots. It is thought that one of the balls broke the couplings of the locomotive; at all events, the engine was taken away from the scene of action with all possible speed.

After the engagement, Col. Gregg retired with his command to Fairfax C. H. Mr. Hancock left there at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. He requests us to state that all of Capt. Ball's command were in good health.—*Rich. Dispatch of the 19th.*

Virginia Permanently a Member of the Southern Confederacy.

By the action of her Convention on Wednesday, says the Richmond Dispatch, Virginia, is now a permanent member of the Southern Confederacy. At present, the Provisional Government of that Confederacy is still in operation.—But in November next, the people of the eleven Southern States will be called upon to elect a President, Vice President, and Members of Congress for the permanent Government of the "Confederate States of America." The action of her people on the 23d of May effected a formal and final separation of Virginia from the Federal Union, known as the United States of America. The action of the Convention on Wednesday, made her a member and part of the Confederacy of the South. Virginia is no longer a member of the Yankee Union; she is a member of the Southern Union, of which she is the leading State in population, in wealth, in the number of her slaves, and, (except Texas,) in the extent of her territory.

The formation of the Southern Union is now complete. Eleven sister States have interlocked arms and hearts for a common career and a common destiny. The fasces may still stand as an emblem upon our coat of arms. In Union there is strength, until that Union becomes so surcharged with alien and explosive matter as to convert the elements of strength into agents of disintegration and dissolution. These alien elements had crept into the Union, and after thirty years of violent and painful activity had produced its destruction. A new and congenial union of homogeneous States and institutions has been formed, and formed, we trust to last, forever.

Delegates to Congrsss.

On Friday last, the Convention elected the following gentlemen as delegates to the Congress of the Confederate States, which will meet in Richmond on the 21st of July:

Dist. 1st. R. M. T. Hunter, of Essex.
" 2d. John Tyler, of Charles City.
" 3d. Wm. H. Macfarland, Richmond City.
" 4th. Roger A. Pryor, of Petersburg.
" 5th. Thomas S. Bocock, of Appomattox.
" 6th. Wm. C. Rives, of Albemarle.
" 7th. Robert E. Scott, of Fauquier.
" 8th. James M. Mason, of Frederick.
" 9th. Jno. W. Brockenbrough, Rockbridge.
" 10th. Chas. W. Russell, of Wheeling.
" 12th. Robert Johnston, of Harrison.
" 12th. Waller Staples, of Montgomery.
" 13th. Walter Preston, of Washington.

STATE AT LARGE.

James A. Seddon, of Goochland.
Wm. Ballard Preston, of Montgomery.

☞ A scouting party belonging to the James City Cavalry was attacked Monday week, near Hampton, by a scouting party of the enemy, who succeeded in killing one of our party, after losing three of their men. Our party consisted only of three men, each of whom killed one of the enemy. The poor fellow who was killed on our side was Samuel Pryor of Richmond, but at the time of his death was a member of the James City Cavalry.

☞ Capt. Ball, of the cavalry captured at Alexandria, shows in a published letter that his capture was effected by means of trickery, treachery, and lying on the part of Lincoln's commander, who gave out that 8 o'clock would be allowed the Virginia troops to evacuate the place; yet Captain B. and his company were taken prisoners two hours before the time indicated. Nothing else could be expected from yankee tricksters. They know not what honor or truth is.

☞ Gen. Butler sent word to Gen. Magruder he hoped the war would be conducted on principles of civilized warfare. Gen. M. replied, I have buried your dead and taken care of your wounded in sight of the houses of widows and orphans whom you have driven forth and whose property you have destroyed.

Destruction of Cars and Engines.

We have learned that a portion of our men detailed for that purpose," on Friday last, destroyed engines and cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at or near Martinsburg to the amount of about two hundred thousand dollars in value.

Amendments to the State Constitution.

Mr. Stuart from the Committee appointed at the last seession of the Convention, has made a report suggesting various amendments to the State Constitution. The Richmond Whig gives the following summary of the leading amendments proposed:

Right of Suffrage.—It is proposed to limit the right of suffrage to those citizens who shall have paid their proportion of the State taxes and county and corporation levies, with which they were assessed for the year next preceding the election.

General Assembly.—It is proposed that the sessions of this body shall be *annual* instead of *biennial*. The members of the House of Delegates to be chosen *annually*.

Judiciary.—The judges of the Court of Appeals and of the Circuit Courts are to be nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be appointed and commissioned by the Governor. They are to hold office during good behavior, until the age of seventy years.

Justices of the Peace are to be elected by the people of the respective counties, and to hold office for six years.

Ministerial Officers.—The *clerks and attorneys* for the Commonwealth are to be appointed by the Circuit and County Courts.

Sheriffs, constables, commissioners of the revenue, and surveyors are to be appointed by the County Courts for terms of years.

Clerks and attorneys are to be appointed for a term of years, but to be removable at the discretion of the Court; but the Court is to spread on record the reasons of the removal.

Sheriffs are to hold office for two years, and to be re eligible indefinitely, provided they shall produce satisfactory evidence to the Court, before their second or subsequent election, that they have settled and paid in full all the revenue due to the Treasury—such a settlement and payment to be a condition of re-eligibility.

The Board of Public Works—This board is to be abolished as a constitutional board, and the legislature is left free to exercise its discretion in regard to the matters heretofore confided to that body.

Attorney General.—The Attorney General is to be elected by a joint vote of the two houses of the General Assembly, and to hold office during its pleasure.

There are other amendments of minor importance to which it is unnecessary to refer. Where no change is noted, the present Constitution, as it is, stands.

The Presbyterians.

We are informed that the following paper is in circulation among the Presbyterians of this State, and is rapidly obtaining signatures:

Whereas, The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, O. S., with which we have heretofore been in cordial connection, has, by the vote of a large majority of its members, as reported to us, sustained the Government of the United States in waging the most unchristian, criminal and atrocious warfare of modern times upon the free and sovereign States, known as the Confederate States of America, thereby violating the first principles of our holy religion, in its injunction of peace on earth and good will to men, and in its prohibition of aggressive war upon any people struggling for its independence and liberties. Therefore, the Ministers and Elders of the Churches in the said Confederate States are hereby invited to assemble in Advisory Convention, in such ratio of representation as may seem to them advisable, at Richmond, Virginia, on the 24th day of July next, to advise and recommend measures to ascertain the sense of the Presbyteries in regard to the formation of a General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the Confederate States of America.

Ministers and members of the Presbyterian Church throughout the Confederate States are requested to give circulation to this paper, obtain signatures, and forward to Rev. M. D. Hoge, Richmond, Va.

Newspapers throughout the Confederate States are requested to copy.

News from the Potomac.

Wednesday night the Pawnee came down the river and fired three or four shots at one of our batteries merely as a salute! we suppose, as no injury whatever was done.

A party of Lincoln's soldiers landed at the house of Mr. W. Waller, above Aquia Creek, and are reported to have fired some stacks and his fish house. They insisted that some Marylanders had crossed and was secreted, but Mr. W. informed them it was his partner, up stairs asleep at the time, of which they might satisfy themselves. Mrs. W., being observed by one of these minions waving her handkerchief from an up stairs window, was ordered, in course language, to desist.

A few days ago a man presented himself at Aquia Creek, saying he had deserted, and volunteered his services to work on the batteries.—Some time yesterday the fellow undressed as he said to bathe, and entering the water made direct for the Pawnee, which was lying some distance out. His movement was discovered, and it is believed some of the shots fired from our soldiers took effect on the spy, and that he was killed.—*Fredericksburg Herald of the 21st.*

THE TORIES IN CONCLAVE.—The Tory Convention at Wheeling, on Monday week, ordered the "Declaration of Independence" to a third reading, and the following additional proceedings transpired:

Mr. Carlisle obtained leave to report an ordinance reorganizing the financial bureau of the State, by which no sheriff or other depository of the public funds shall be permitted, on the penalty of loss of office, to pay any money to the Richmond authorities, or any but the authorities hereafter to be provided.

Mr. Dorsey then moved that the Declaration of Independence be put upon its passage, calling for the yeas and nays, when it was unanimously adopted—yeas 56—not a vote in the negative.

Thirty members were absent on leave, and the Declaration was signed by fifty-six, the same number as signed our National Declaration of Independence.

On Saturday night last a terrible tragedy occurred in the western extremity of Orange Co., near the Greene line. Three or four negroes went to the house of Mr. John Ferneyhough, and entering his chamber, killed his wife, nearly severing her head from her body. They intended to kill Mr. F., but he happened to be sleeping apart from his wife in a separate bed, and they mistook her for him. The noise awakened Mr. F., who jumped up, and seizing his rifle, shot one of the villians dead, whereupon the others immediately made off. The murder created great excitement, and the Home Guards were ordered out. Two of the surviving negroes were caught, and one of them was hung. The other is in jail. A fourth is supposed to have been concerned in the matter, who is still at large. The party is said to have consisted of a father and three sons.—*Charlottesville Review of the 21st.*

Augusta Boys.

In the glorious fight of Bethel Church, our old county was honorably represented. Col. Stuart is of Staunton, son of the late Jefferson Stuart. All accounts give him a conspicuous place and brave bearing in the fight. Sandy Eskridge was in the Howitzers and had the privilege of firing the second gun, and Estill and James Waddell, sons of Dr. Waddell, of Waynesborough, were found foremost in the fight. Our county has sons at every point in the great camp of Virginia, for Virginia is now one tented field, and we know that wherever they are, they will make their mark. Stand up nobly boys—you have begun well.—*Vindicator.*

☞ Lincoln's steamers appear to have become tired of the labour of attacking our batteries at Aquia Creek, Sewell's Point, Pig Point, &c., &c., It was a game at which they lost more than they made. We are erecting other batteries, at narrow places on James River, and will soon be able to command the channel of that river and prevent Lincoln's vessels from going where they please on that water course.

☞ The Lincoln troops are complaining about the failure to pay them—and the officers are endeavoring to pacify them, by stating that they must wait until Congress shall meet and make an appropriation.

TWO PARTIES.—According to the Northern papers there seems to be two parties there now—"the Democrats who are enlisting to fight the battles of the country, and the Republicans who are robbing them of their rations and clothing by all sorts of swindling contracts."

TO THE PEOPLE OF N. W. VIRGINIA.
BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.

A PROCLAMATION.

The sovereign people of Virginia, unbiassed, and by their own free choice, have, by a majority of nearly one hundred thousand qualified voters, severed the ties that heretofore bound them to the Government of the United States, and united this Commonwealth with the Confederated States. That our people have the right to "institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness," was proclaimed by our fathers, and it is a right which no freeman should ever relinquish. The State of Virginia has now, the second time in her history, asserted this right, and it is the duty of every Virginian to acknowledge her act when ratified by such a majority, and to give his willing co-operation to make good the declaration. All her people have voted. Each has taken his chance to have his personal views represented. You, as well as the rest of the State, have cast your vote fairly, and the majority is against you. It is the duty of good citizens to yield to the will of the State. The bill of rights has proclaimed "that the people have a right to uniform government; and, therefore, that no government separate from or independent of the government of Virginia ought to be erected or established within the limits thereof." The majority, thus declared, therefore have a right to govern. But notwithstanding this right, thus exercised, has been regarded by the people of all sections of the United States as undoubted and sacred, yet the government at Washington now utterly denies it, and, by the exercise of despotic power, is endeavoring to coerce our people to abject submission to their authority. Virginia has asserted her independence. She will maintain it at every hazard. She is sustained by the power of ten of her sister Southern States, ready and willing to uphold her cause. Can any true Virginian refuse to render assistance? Men of the Northwest, I appeal to you, by all the considerations which have drawn us together as one people heretofore, to rally to the standard of the Old Dominion. By all the sacred ties of consanguinity, by the intermixture of blood of East and West, by common paternity, by friendships hallowed by a thousand cherished recollections, by memories of the past, by the relics of great men of other days, come to Virginia's banner and drive the invaders from your soil. There may be traitors in the midst of you, who, for selfish ends, have turned against their mother, and would permit her to be ignominiously oppressed and degraded. But I cannot, will not, believe that a majority of you are not true sons, who will give your blood and your treasure for Virginia's defence.

I have sent for your protection such troops as the emergency enabled me to collect, in charge of a competent commander. I have ordered a large force to go to your aid, but I rely with the utmost confidence upon your own strong arms to rescue your firesides and altars from the pollution of a reckless and ruthless enemy. The State is invaded at several points, but ample forces have been collected to defend her.

There has been a complaint among you that the Eastern portion of the State has enjoyed an exemption from taxation to your prejudice. The State, by a majority of 95,000 has put the two sections on an equality in this respect. By a display of magnanimity in the vote just given, the East has, by a large majority, consented to relinquish the exemption, and is ready to share with you all the burdens of Government, and to meet all Virginia's liabilities. They come now to aid you, as you came in former days to aid them. The men of the Southern Confederate States glory in coming to your rescue. Let one heart, one mind, one energy, one power, nerve every patriot arm in a common cause. The heart that will not beat in unison with Virginia now is a traitor's heart; the arm that will not strike home in her cause now is palsied by a coward fear.

The troops are posted at Huttonsville. Come with your own good weapons and meet them as brothers!

{L. S.} Given under my hand, and under the seal of the Commonwealth, this 14th day of June, 1861, and in the 85th year of the Commonwealth.

JOHN LETCHER.

By the Governor—
GEORGE W. MUNFORD,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

TERRIBLE AFFRAY IN HIGHLAND.—We have been furnished the particulars of a fatal and bloody affray which occurred in the neighborhood of Doe-Hill, in Highland county, on Saturday, the 8th inst. It appears that a long-standing feud, originating in a land suit, had existed between Messrs. Geo. Siple and Sampson Jordan, both living near Doe-Hill. Mr. Siple has been a strong secessionist, almost a monomaniac on that subject, and had enquired of two or three persons whether any thing could or would be done with a man who would kill a Unionist, or an abolitionist. On the day alluded to he and his son and his son-in-law, met with Jordan, who had been charged with being a Unionist or an abolitionist, and who had voted the Union ticket. Siple had said before the election, that any man who would vote the Union ticket ought to be shot. Upon ascertaining that Jordan had voted the Union ticket, Siple, as before said, sought Jordan, and after some words, shot him, the shot bringing him to the ground. He rose, however, and as he was raising seized an axe, with which he struck Siple a terrible blow on one of his cheeks. The blow felled Siple, and it was supposed that Jordan would have killed him, but Siple's son and son-in-law both shot Jordan, killing him almost instantly. They also cut him with a sword after he fell. Two of the parties to the killing of Jordan—Siple's son and son in-law,—were immediately arrested and committed to jail, but were afterwards released. Old Mr. Siple was removed to his residence, and it was expected he would recover.—*Rock. Register.*

Affair at Newport News.

On Sunday morning last, Mr. Sam'l Pryor, of the Charles City Troop, in company with Mr. Hill Carter, Jr., and Mr. Lee, a citizen of Warwick county, was out on a reconnoisance at Newport News, and were proceeding quietly along on horseback, when they were surprised by a party of about 20 Hessians, who were hid in the bushes. The three gentlemen at once fired upon the enemy, and it is believed each killed a man. The fire was returned, and Mr. Pryor received a shot in the groin. They then retired and had proceeded some distance from the scene of action before his companions were aware of the disaster that had befallen Mr. Pryor. He was taken to a private house, where he died about six hours after being shot. The body was brought up to Wilcox's wharf yesterday, by the steamer Curtis Peck, Capt. J. H. Freeman from whom we learned these particulars.—*Rich Dispatch of the 19th.*

A dispatch from Frederick, Md., dated June the 17th says:

Major General Patterson's forces are encamped at Hagerstown, and at Funkstown, three miles distant, and at several intervening points.

The evacuation of Harper's Ferry has, it is reported, led to a sudden change in the line of march of this column. A portion of it only had forded the Potomac when the marching orders of the force were countermanded, and they returned to camp.

A large number of wagons were hurriedly collected from the farmers in that vicinity during Saturday night and Sunday, and a messenger who left there this morning states that he saw indications about the camp of an early departure.

The 11th Pennsylvania Regiment reached the camp this morning.

For the Spectator.

Reports of Cannon.

MR. EDITOR:—We have felt an interest in the statements that the reports of cannon were heard at so great a distance during the recent cannonading at Aquia Creek. The reports were distinctly heard in Bath county. In looking into a treatise on Natural Philosophy, (Cavallo, vol. I, pp. 334.) I find it stated that in the Dutch war of 1672, reports of cannon were heard at the distance of more than 200 miles. S. B.

Rev. Wm. D. Rippetoe, of the Baltimore Conference, M. E. Church, well known in this county, having travelled Rockingham Circuit a few years since, is, we learn, engaged in raising a company of Riflemen in our neighboring county of Page. Mr. R. is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute. All honor to such valiant, patriotic, Christian soldiers!—*Rock. Register.*

[From the Richmond Daily Dispatch.]

To the Ladies of Virginia.

The undersigned committee appointed for that purpose, ask your attention to a subject which all must now feel to be very important.

The war which has been suddenly and cruelly forced upon us by the authorities at Washington must inevitably cause a great deal of suffering among our troops. Thousands of husbands, brothers and sons have been, almost without warning, summoned from the comforts of home to the exposure and rough experiences of the camp. They have obeyed the call of our State and Confederate authorities with an alacrity as affecting as it was noble. It can scarcely be expected that the sacrifices made by them will not be seriously felt, even if that Providence which has so signally favored them hitherto should continue to shield them all in the hour of battle. We are sure that all the arrangements which ordinary prudence could suggest will be made by our Government for the sick and wounded; yet we are equally sure that a great deal should be and can be done by the women of our State to promote the comfort of our soldiers. They can, if sufficient means are furnished, procure many things which the medical department of the best organized army could not be expected to provide. It would not, perhaps, fall within the line of a surgeon's duty to suggest arrangements for the sick which readily occur to minds of mothers, wives and sisters. And however ample or careful preparation may have been made, the women of our State should render to our authorities all possible assistance in this work.

We make *no appeal* to you to come up earnestly and unitedly to our help—such an appeal would be unnecessary. We design simply to state that an organized movement is already in progress, and to suggest how you may co-operate. A society consisting of delegates from the different churches, was formed on Monday, June 17th. It started with ample funds for present necessities. A committee was appointed to collect and dispense such materials as may be needed for garments, &c., for the sick and wounded. Another committee was appointed to engage competent nurses for the different camps and hospitals, and to accept the services of any who may volunteer to act as nurses. Already some of our number have ministered efficiently, and, as we have reason to know, most acceptably, to the sick soldiers who have been quartered in this vicinity. These and others will be ready to perform similar offices for any who may be placed in the hospitals. Plans have been adopted to continue such supply of funds as can be collected here, and we are encouraged to believe that we are prepared for any call that is likely to be made upon us at this time. We shall, however, need eventually the co operation of our sisters throughout the State, and therefore we would suggest that in every county and in every community societies be formed at once. Whatever amounts can be raised, let them be forwarded as soon as possible to our Treasurer, Mrs. Samuel M. Price.

We will say, in conclusion, that the most of those who may be wounded in any battle that may take place will be brought here; still, as already mentioned, we propose to send nurses and comforts to the different camps. You will, therefore feel as deep an interest as ourselves in the success of this movement. We have the President's sanction for what we propose, and with your aid promptly rendered we may, by God's blessing, do a great deal for the bodily and spiritual comfort of those who may endure pain and suffering for us and our country.

MRS. WM. H. MACFARLAND,
MRS. F. G. RUFFIN,
MISS CATHARINE H. MYERS,
MRS. F. E. NELSON,
MRS. H. B. GWATHMEY,
MRS. JNO. STEWART WALKER.

Anti-War Resolutions.

Resolutions in favor of peace have been introduced into the Connecticut Legislature by Senator Converse. They are preceded by a preamble, stating the alarming condition of the country, the inevitable misery of civil war, and the duty of all citizens to stay the fratricidal arm. We copy the resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate of the State of Connecticut recommend to the Government of the United States this, their most earnest appeal, that while every preparation for the defence and maintenance of the Government shall be made, a cessation, if possible, of any other further hostilities may take place, until Congress shall have time to act in the premises.

Resolved, That we recommend to Congress the calling of a National Convention, for the settlement of national difficulties, and that every possible, honorable means shall be first exhausted by the National Government before our prosperous people be plunged into a civil war, the ultimate result of which the wisest cannot foresee.

Resolved, That we are opposed to civil war, prosecuted for the subjugation or destruction of the seceded States, while it is possible amicably to settle the difficulties now existing.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the prosecution of a war against the seceded States, waged under any circumstances, for the purpose of emancipating the slaves in the Southern slave-holding States.

Another Peace Movement.

We find from the Newark (N. J) papers that the people of that city who are in favor of peace are holding meetings to express their views.—At an adjourned meeting held one evening last week, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, That in view of the present deplorable condition of the country, the members of this meeting deem it their duty, and in accordance with their constitutional rights, to petition the Congress of the United States about to assemble, to interpose (if in their judgment it is best for them to do) their power to put an end to the present troubles now existing in this our once prosperous and happy but now distracted country, and to save us from the ravages of civil war.

Resolved, That a committee of ten be appointed by the Chair to prepare and circulate a petition for signatures of those persons who may be in favor of permanently restoring peace and prosperity to our unfortunate country.

A letter from New York says:

Notwithstanding the indignation of some of our ultra political journals whenever the very thought of peace is whispered, I can assure you that a very earnest movement is on foot in this city, with a view to memorialize Congress in favor of compromise, on the basis of the Crittenden or Border State resolutions, rejected at the last session.

The New York Tribune, too, is becoming a little more inclined for peace. It says:

"Nowhere on earth would a speedy and honorable peace—a real peace—be hailed with more heartfelt gladness than by us. If the traitors prove too strong to be subjugated, we are for peace *on their terms*, rather than a useless continuance of the war."

Lincoln's regiment of thieves who made last week a John Brown night raid upon Romney, left the same day they entered, after breaking into private houses, stores, &c., and stealing watches, jewelry, and such articles as their thieving propensities craved. They loaded two stolen wagons with their plunder, and drove off. Their next place of robbery is unknown, but it is believed they have gone back to the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, along which they have many Virginia friends to give them aid and comfort.

They are an enemy without any of the characteristics of civilized and honorable warfare; freebooters, who come here to murder and rob us of our property. Let a strict account of their spoliations be kept. They will ultimately be compelled to pay dearly, with interest, for all their stealings.—[Winch. Virg.

The Whey-faced, pigeon-livered Yankees have no stomachs for a fight however great may be their preponderance in numbers.

A gentleman, perfectly reliable, has informed us that when they attempted the occupation of Romney, in Hampshire count,, at least 500 were kept at bay for an hour, and prevented during that time, from crossing a bridge near the village, by two white men and a negro, who, aided by the darkness, fired from the side of the bridge opposite to the *valiant* invaders twenty five rifle shots, at each report of which the Yankees would start back as if struck by a thunder bolt, and then escaped to the village.—*Rich. Examiner.*

GUERRILLAS.—A company of guerrillas, under Capt. E. A. Shands, left Harrisonburg on Tuesday last, for active service, in a section we need not mention. These guerrillas were well mounted, and will prepare themselves, before reaching their theatre of operations, for effective service. Of course, the best wishes of their fellow-citizens go with these gallant boys. We hope soon to hear a good account of them.—[Rock. Register.

*For the