STAUNTON SPECTATOR AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, OCT. 22, 1861.

Electoral Ticket.—For President and Vice President.

1st District—Jos. Christian, Middlesex.
2d District—Cincinnattus W. Newton, Norfolk City.
3d District—R. T. Daniel, Richmond City.
4th District—W. F. Thompson, Dinwiddie.
5th District—Wood Bouldin, Charlotte.
6th District—W. L. Goggin, Bedford.
7th District—B. F. Randolph, Albemarle.
8th District—James W. Walker, Madison.
9th District—Asa Rogers, Loudoun.
10th District—Samuel C. Williams, Shenandoah.
11th District—Sam'l McDowell Reid, Rockbridge.
12th District—H. A. Edmundson, Roanoke.
13th District—J. W. Sheffey, Smyth.
14th District—H. J. Fisher, Mason.
15th District—Joseph Johnson, Harrison.
16th District—E. H. Fitzhugh, Ohio.

FOR THE STATE AT LARGE.

John R. Edmunds, Halifax.
A. T. Caperton, Monroe.

Election Tickets.

As the voters have to choose electors for President and Vice President, besides voting for candidates for Congress, on the 1st Wednesday in November, they must needs have tickets. Persons desiring tickets should send in their orders as soon as possible, that they may be sure to be supplied in time. We will furnish them at Fifty Cents per hundred.

Wood.

Those who desire to pay their subscription in wood can do so by hauling us *good loads and good wood.*

News from Western Virginia.

We learn that Gen. Floyd, with his command, has crossed New River, at Richmond's Ferry, and is on his way to the mouth of Coal River, and that Gen. Loring, with the forces under him, has gone to Carnifax's Ferry on Gauley River. We have not learned the movements of Gen. Lee, and the forces which were previously under the command of Gen'l Wise, though it is rumored that they will come back to Meadow Bluff.

On the evening of the 15th inst., about sun down, a scouting party, a portion of the Greenbrier Cavalry, were surprised by a large party of the enemy, at the house of a Mr. Hinkle in Nicholas county. All of our party except Mr. Burkhart (a German, extensively known in the valley of Virginia as a teacher of music) had gone to the barn to see about taking care of their horses, when the scouting party of the enemy came up and surrounded the house. They commanded Messrs Burkhart and Hinkle to surrender, which they, in their helpless condition, agreed to do.—They inquired for the whereabouts of the rest of our party, and when informed by Mr. Hinkle that they were at the barn, they started for the barn, commanding Burkhart and Hinkle to follow. Our men at the barn saw the enemy's scouts approaching to capture them and ran as fast as possible, and whilst they were being pursued in one direction Burkhart ran as fast as he could in the opposite and succeeded in effecting his escape. He slept in the woods all night, and on reaching the road in the morning saw the tracks of a body of infantry which had passed, which he supposed numbered between three and five hundred. It is surmised that this body of the enemy were on their way to the Sinking Creek valley for the purpose of driving off the cattle. We suppose that all of our men succeeded in effecting their escape.

☞ An attack upon our forces at Camp Bartow, under Gen'l H. R. Jackson, is daily expected. On Wednesday last, our pickets were driven in. The soldiers here should be sent on as soon as possible.

Fight in Logan County.

We noticed the fact several weeks since that Col. Jas. W. Davis, of Greenbrier, in command of the militia force, had a fight with the enemy in Logan county, and that he was wounded and taken prisoner. Of this fight, the *South Western Times*, published in Tazewell county, has the following:

From Samuel Smoot, Esq., of Boone county, who was in the fight, we learn the following account of the battle near Chapmanville, Logan county, on the 25th ult: The Yankees numbered 700, and commenced the attack upon our troops—the Logan militia—in a low gap between Guyandotte river and big Creek, where they were engaged in raising a temporary breastwork.—Our troops numbered 220, but there were only about 80 of them engaged in the fight. They were commanded by Col. J. W. Davis of Greenbrier, a brave and gallant officer, who was severely, but not dangerously wounded, in the arm and breast. As soon as it became known that Col. Davis was wounded the militia commenced a retreat. The commanding officer of the Lincoln troops afterwards confessed to Col. Davis, who was taken prisoner, that at the same moment a portion of the Yankees were running, and that one more round would have completely dispersed them.

The loss of the Yankees by their own confession to Col. Davis, was forty killed and a number wounded, among the former were four Union men, all of whom are represented by the Yankees to be most arrant thieves and cowards.—Our loss was two killed and three or four slightly wounded, besides Col. Davis, whose valuable services are at present lost to the Confederacy, being paroled by the enemy.

Prevention Better than Cure.

We are requested to call attention to the condition of the bridge over Christian's Creek, on the road from Staunton to Waynesboro'. The timber is said to be in a decayed condition and the bridge unsafe. Should any accident occur from this cause, those charged with the duty of keeping the bridge in repair, will not be held guiltless. There will not only be a responsibility in damages, but a prosecution for manslaughter might ensue.

We believe the Scottsville turnpike has been sustantially abandoned by the corporators, and the sooner it is turned over to the counties thro' which it passes, the better for the public.

58th Va. Regiment.

The 58th Regiment, Col. Goode, of Bedford, is now complete, being composed of seven companies from Bedford, two from Franklin, and one from Amherst, and will soon march to the mountains West of here, where we have other forces confronting the enemy. We understand that Bedford county has furnished 23 companies for service. Seven companies of this Regiment have been stationed here for some time awaiting the arrival of the other three to complete it.—The Officers are: Edmund Goode, of Bedford, Colonel; Samuel Letcher, of Rockbridge, Lieut. Colonel, and Stapleton Crutchfield, of Spottsylvania, Major.

☞ There are more than a thousand invalid soldiers, at this time, in the Hospital of this place, and about five hundred and fifty in the Hospital at the Rockbridge Alum Springs.

[*From the Richmond Dispatch.*]

The Approaching Elections.

The election for President, members of Congress, are close at hand. They take place on the first Wednesday in next month. With regard to the Presidential election we have nothing to say, except that it is important for every man who has a vote to give it. The Yankees, with Lincoln at their head, have been contending all along that the secession of the Southern States is a mere partizan movement on a small scale, gotten up by discontented politicians, and that the great body of the people not only do not sympathize with it, but are at heart bitterly opposed to it. This is or was one of the pretexts alleged for invading the State of Virginia. It was contended that a reign of terror existed here, and that the people voted under its influence.—It was confidently stated that if freedom of choice were allowed, the large majority would be found opposed to secession, and the federal army was designed to set opinion at liberty, and enable the friends of the Union to express their preference without the fear of bodily harm. Even now the Yankee papers, in sketching their programmes for a winter campaign in the South, reckon largely upon the sympathy of vast bodies whom they suppose to be attached to the old system. There never was a falser assumption, it is true. But it has not been without its effect at the North, where men, if they could be convinced that the whole Southern army was arrayed in heart and soul against the restoration of the Union, would be apt to see the folly of waging a long and expensive war for so unattainable an object. It is proper that these men—that Europe—that the whole world—should be taught the true state of the case, and they can only be taught by the voters of the Southern States.—Let the vote be thin, and the people careless and willing to suffer the election to go by default, and they will still have ground for maintaining their present position. Let the turn-out be general, the movement enthusiastic, the vote large, and no ground will be left them to stand upon. We therefore hope that there will be no remissness in this respect. Let every man who can get to the polls deposit his vote. Let none think because there is no opposition, there is no danger, and therefore no occasion for exertion. A large vote, we tell all persons disposed to indulge any chimerical notion to the contrary, is more important now than it ever was before. We must show the world, who are watching us with the deepest interest—we must show our friends abroad, who are watching us with the deepest anxiety—we must show the Yankees and their Government, who are watching us with the deepest malignity—that we are a great, united people. That the opposition among us is so small as scarcely to make up that sort of exception which is said to prove a general rule. That the whole Southern people are united in opposition to the old Government, and in favor of the new. That the crisis, in the midst of which we exist, is a mighty revolution, which it is wanton wickedness, in a supreme degree, to attempt to suppress by means of an armed force. That it is the strongly expressed desire of a vast country to change its system of government, as every community under the sun has an undoubted right to do.

Gen. Buckner and Judge Underwood.

We have read, with pleasure, a correspondence between Hon. J. R. Underwood, of Kentucky, and Gen. S. B. Buckner, the gallant leader of our forces at Bowling Green. Judge Underwood is a Unionist of the Kentucky Legislature, and a citizen of Bowling Green, and, writing from Frankfort, inquires of Gen. Buckner whether or not he would be permitted to return, unmolested, to his family and remain in their midst, peacefully pursuing his ordinary avocation in life, and, when the time shall arrive, return to Frankfort in the capacity of a legislator. Gen. Buckner, in the language of true manliness, replies in the affirmative, and states, also, the great principle of personal liberty of the citizen, to protect which he declares his intention.

☞ Drafting has been ordered discontinued in the North (says the Memphis *Appeal,*) for the reason that it the volunteers can't stand before us, it was useless to have the mere *dead wood* of raw conscripts. As the New York *Times* says:

"The man who fights simply because he is compelled to do so, will be very likely to forget his devotion to his country when bullets are whistling around him, and prove his devotion to himself by running away." The truth is the North has little stomach for the fight, especially fanatic New England—and while a half million of volunteers cannot be had, it is idle, and indeed dangerous, to draft soldiers in a democratic, free-suffrage country. The conscripts will not make soldiers, but may make mutineers.

The Northern objection to Fremont's proclamation is that, if carried out, it would defeat a re-construction of the Union. If that is the only objection, they may as well withdraw it, for no power on earth can ever make us as one people with the North again. No two nations in Christendom differ more widely in character than the Southerners and Yankees, and it were as reasonable to expect a voluntary and intimate association between the most refined gent'eman and the veriest knave and blackguard as between two people who are, in the aggregate, represented by the two characters just contrasted. The North may indulge the vain hope, but re-construction is an impossibility.—*Clarksville (Tenn) Chronicle.*

☞ The Knoxville *Register* of the 13th says: "Confederate forces under Gen. Zollicoffer's command have now control of the Salt Work's region in Kentucky, and we are requested to make known, that all who want an ample supply of this article, had better send their wagons *via* Cumberland Ford, to the Salt Works in Clay County, and load them with salt. They will be able to return with their cargoes safely.

☞ Abe Lincoln protested against Fremont's plan of emancipating slaves, but has not a word to say against the negro stealing operations of his army on the Potomac. We would like to know the practical difference between emancipating by theft and removal. The long legged scoundrel fears the effect of the former mode upon his cause in Missouri and Kentucky, and connives at the more disreputable plan because it may seem to be without authority.

☞ The Governor has appointed Lieutenant-Colonel John Echols to the Colonelcy of the Twenty-Seaenth Regiment, Va. Voluntees.; A. J. Grigsby, Lieut-Colonel; and E. F. Paxton, Major of the same. Mark B. Hardin has been appointed Major of the Ninth Regiment, Virginia Volunteers, vice Stapleton Crutchfield, transferred to the Fifty-Eighth.

☞ The Philadelphia papers say that John Brown, jr., son of the leader at Harper's Ferry, is successfully canvassing the region of Titusville, Pennsylvania, for picked riflemen. He travels in grey shirt and trowsers, with large revolver and bowie knife protruding from his pockets.—He is a large, muscular man.

☞ Henry A. Barron, formerly a merchant and hotel-keeper at Phillippa, Va., has been committed to prison, at Wheeling, on a charge of treason.

☞ Major Thomas F. Goode, of the 2d Regiment Virginia Cavalry, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Fight near Harper's Ferry.

Col. Ashby's Successful Encounter with the Enemy—Gallant Charye of the Militia—The Federals Repulsed at the point of the bayonet.

Official advices have been received at the War department of an attack, by Col. Turner Ashby, commanding a small force, with a superior body of the enemy, on Wednesday, the 16th instant, at a place called Bolivar, contiguous to Harper's Ferry. The Federals, numbering, with subsequent reinforcements, from 800 to 1,000 men, were sent over to protect the transportation of grain from Hurr's Mill on Shenandoah Island, and Col. Ashby, with 550 men, 300 of whom were militia, met and drove them back with considerable slaughter. The action commenced at eight o'clock in the morning, and terminated about eleven. It is to be particularly noted as the first in which the Virginia militia have been engaged in a hand-to-hand encounter with the enemy, and the result reflects the highest credit upon that branch of the service. At a charge bayonets, they drove the Hessians before them, down the hill into the village of Harper's Ferry, at which point in the pursuit they were checked by a detachment of artillery, supposed to have been Doubleday's battery, stationed on the Maryland Heights. Col. Ashby now withdrew his troops to a point behind the hill, for the purpose of protecting them from the shot and shell, which fell thick and fast around them, but fortunately with little effect. The loss of the enemy in the engagement, as reported by a woman who afterwards came out from Harper's Ferry and saw the dead carried away in wagons, was at least fifty or sixty, in addition to which our men captured twelve or fourteen prisoners. Among the latter are some "Union" men, who had been particularly busy in aiding the Federals by means of signals. Our loss was one killed (Zamper, of the Shenandoah militia,) and ten wounded—two supposed mortally.

A painful incident attended this brilliant affair. Three members of the Botts Greys of Jefferson county, who were at home on furlough, participated in the fight as volunteers, and two of the number were wounded—one (named Bell) desperately, and his life despaired of.

Col. Ashby's success would have been much greater but for a lack of cannon, and very few of the enemy would have escaped from the field of battle. He had but one efficient gun, and another improvised for the occasion—a 24 pounder mounted on wagon wheels, which, any artillerist will readily concede, was difficult to manage. Justice to this brave and gallant officer demands that he should be amply supplied with every facility for successful warfare, to increase his influence on that border as a terror to the invaders. By a curious coincidence, this fight took place on the second anniversary of the John Brown raid, and in the very locality of that notable event.

Rev. James B. Averick, chaplain of Col. Ashby's regiment, who reached the city yesterday afternoon, is bearer of dispatches to the War Department.—*Rich. Dispatch of Oct. 19th.*

Skirmishing in the West—Daring Act of Confederate Troops.

The Memphis *Avalanche's* correspondent, writes from Camp Belmont, opposite Columbus, Ky., under date of Oct. 2d, as follows:

On last Monday morning about day, your humble servant had the honor of being engage in the boldest and most daring feat, I venture to say, that has been performed in the Valley of the Mississippi since the commencement of the war. On Sunday, the 29th, at three o'clock P. M., about two hundred of Gen. Thompson's picked swamp hunters left camp under the command of Col. James Walker, of the 1st, and Col. Phelan of the 2d regiment, the destination none but the knowing ones were aware of. Half an hour before daybreak on Monday morning we were challenged by the picket guard of the enemy, at a large and important bridge on the Cairo and Fulton Railroad, in sight of Bird's Point. We immediately fired and charged upon the enemy, said by the neighbors and our guides to be three hundred in number, drove them in the swamp towards Bird's Point, captured their guns, blankets, canteens, haversacks, etc, burned and cut down the bridge, which was the real object of the expedition, and immediately started for camp. We reached camp inside of twenty-four hours after starting, having travelled forty-eight miles without ever eating or sleeping, not having even stopped once to rest.

When you take into consideration that our forces were infantry and that eight miles of the distance were the very worst swamps to be encountered in this State, travelled on a dark night, and compelled to avoid all roads, I think it has not been excelled, if ever equalled; and all this was done without even a single man getting hurt. We cut off by this nearly all of the rolling stock of the road, as there was a large force of the enemy at Charleston with the cars. The troops have all returned, and we now have possession of all the cars, locomotives etc.

About the same time our cavalry attacked another large force in sight of Norfolk, who were guarding a bridge across a creek. Our men drove them into Norfolk, killed some fifteen or sixteen of the enemy, and wounded about thirty. We lost one killed and one slightly wounded in the engagement.

The Confederate States Elections.

There seems to be in our exchanges a number of misstatements with regard to the days on which the Confederate elections are to be held. We make, for precise and general information, the following abstract of the act of Congress regulating such elections:

The elections for members of Congress is to be held on the FIRST WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER, 1861, which election shall be conducted according to the permanent Constitution and the laws of the several States in force for that purpose.—In States which may not have provided by law for such election, the same will be held according to laws heretofore existing in such States for the election of members of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

The appointment of Electors for President and Vice President is also made on the day of the Congressional election—THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER.

The Electors are to meet in their respective States on the FIRST WEDNESDAY IN NOVEMBER, 1861, and proceed to vote for President and Vice President.

Congress is to assemble in regular session, at the seat of Government, on the EIGHTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1862. On the NINETEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, it is provided that the President of the Senate shall open the certificates, and the votes for President and Vice President shall then be counted.

The President of the Confederate States shall be inaugurated on the TWENTY-SECOND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1862.

The *Richmond Examiner*, in speaking of the kind of men who should, at this time, be elected to Congress, says:

"The questions which will come before the next Congress will require the very highest capacity and patriotism. The country is in need of her ablest and best men. Everything may depend upon the wisdom of the selections.—Nothing should be left to chance, and in every case where a man has shown himself an able and faithful public servant, in same or similar capacities, good sense would seem to dicate that he should be voted for now. It will not do, at this time, to disregard conceded abilities, approved statesmanship, long experience of practice in public affairs, and the judgment and temper which is only derived from such experience, for the sake of experimenting."

☞ The following additional articles have been received by Rev. W. G. Campbell, as contributions by the Ladies of Lebanon Church and neighborhood:

Mrs. John S. Hodge, 4 blankets, 1 pr. socks and sundries.
Mrs. E. C. Young, 1 blanket,
Mrs. F. A. Youel, 1 blanket.
Mrs. E. Armstrong, 1 blanket.
Mrs. Jacob Kunkle, 1 blanket and 2 pr socks.
Mrs. D. Kunkle, 1 blanket and 3 pr. socks.
Miss M. J. Kunkle, 1 blanket and 2 pr. socks.
From Hebron Church—Misses Jennie and Mollie Thompson, 3 pr socks.

HON. JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE.—The Louisville *Courier* of the 14th, (now published at Bowling Green, Ky.,) contains an address from the Hon. John C. Breckinridge to the people of Kentucky, resigning his seat in the United States Senate, which, he says, he exchanges, with proud satisfact on for the musket of a soldier. The address makes a frightful array of the atrocities and villainies of the Lincoln Government, and appeals in manly and stirring tones to the courage and patriotism of the people of Kentucky.

☞ Gen. Van Dorn has been made the recipient of a superb war-steed, magnificently caparisoned, as an evidence of the admiration and gratitude of the people of Texas.

What it Costs There.

The following statement is made by "Ion," the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*:

"The war expenditures are now stated, upon Government authority, to be eight and a half millions a week. The naval preparations, and the extensive military movements in the West have, no doubt, cost more than was expected; and, besides, the waste and loss in the war must exceed all estimates. For instance, the capture of the military chest at Lexington involves a loss of a quarter of a million of dollars in specie."

This sum of eight and a half millions a week, making four hundred and forty two millions a year, is limited to *war* expenditures—and is *borrowed*, at 7¼ per cent interest, which being added brings the total to within a fraction of $475,000,000. Add to this the civil expenditures—not less than $50,000,000—and we have $525,000,000, which the Yankees are to pay the first year, in money, for the luxury of having a vulgar, ignorant and bigotted President. Add, again, to this the sum of $300,000,000, which is about the tribute the South has been accustomed to pay, annually, one way or another, to the North, and we find Jonathan minus $825,000,000, on his first year's operations, under a Black Republican master. Add, still further, the destruction of his trade and the paralysis of his maritime and manufacturing agencies of industry, the depreciation of his real estate, the reduction in value of his stocks, and the loss of his credit, and we have a total in figures which must appal his avaricious soul to contemplate—worse than the anticipated horrors of that retributive future abode which his religion seeks to abolish, but to which he is irrevocably foredoome.—This is the showing in figures only. When we look to moral results, the exhibit is no less disastrous—for there we see a great and famous nationality destroyed and blotted from the future map of the world—we see a flag, that was the admiration and the terror of the nations rent and humbled—a name, the most boasted and pretentious on earth, sunk in ignominy and shame—a prowess, that held itself irresistible, become a public laughing stock—a people, whose arrogance, self-sufficiency and vaunting have made those of the haughty King of Babylon seem humility hunted by defeat, surrounded by disaster and rushing on to destruction. Look where we may, we see nothing but the evidences of bankruptcy, moral, political and pecuniary. The unerring judgment of heaven seems upon them, and the solemn voice of History will record of that as of all the dealings of providence—"it is well."—*Rich. Whig.*

Alliance of England, France and Spain.

The Governments of England, France and Spain have entered into a combined arrangement for collecting from Mexico the money due them by that distracted country. The plan agreed upon, as described by the *London Post*, the organ of Lord Palmerston, is as follows:

"The allied Powers will sequestrate the customs revenues of the ports in question. They will charge their consuls, or some other authorities, jointly to collect these revenues at the different ports; and these consuls, acting together, will form a sort of international commission, constituted for the purpose of each port. No ship will be able either to enter or clear at the ports of Vera Cruz, Tampico, &c., without the authority of these consuls, who will exact—and not only exact, but themselves also receive—the customs due on such entrances and clearances. They will, we presume, observe the existing customs duties recognised by Mexican laws, and will throw the proceeds into a common treasury of their own at each port. They then intend to retain a given proportion of these proceeds for their respective nations, and to pay over a portion to the Mexican Government. We believe that the allies will retain about fifty per cent. of these, and will pay over fifty per cent. to Mexico. This is a liberal arrangement towards Mexico, and it is one which will reserve to that Government such a customs revenue as will enable it still to discharge the expense of its own civil administration. But it is also an effectual arrangement for the allied Powers, the customs revenue of the Gulf being very large. Their respective consuls, after paying over the Mexican Government its share of the proceeds, quarter by quarter, will divide the balances, or other half, rateably between the three countries. This arrangement will be permanent, or will endure at least until all claims shall have been discharged. A ship-of-war or two in the roadsteads of each of these ports will, meanwhile, secure the maintainance of the authority of the allied consuls.

Much of this arrangement, of course, presumes the capitulation of the Mexican Government.—But if, contrary to all probability, that Government should attempt to hold out, this (which would otherwise have been done by arrangement with Mexican authorities) will be done by means of a blockade. As soon as the arrangements can be made with the Mexican Government there will no longer be need of an effective blockade, for the authority of the consuls would spring from a treaty with Mexico herself."

A Full Vote.

A writer on the French side of the New Orleans Bee urges that we give a full vote throughout the South at the Presidential election in November. He says that this is advisable, in order to disprove Lincoln's assertion that more than half the Southern people are opposed to the movement for Southern independence.

We cordially unite, says the Richmond Whig, in the recommendation that there be a full vote, notwithstanding there is but one ticket in the field—not, however, to satisfy Lincoln of the falsity of his statement, for he knew it was false when he made it. But there may be some people in other countries who have been deceived by the declaration of the Northern press, and if there be not a full vote they may conclude that those who stay away from the polls are either indifferent or hostile to the new Government.—To remove any errors of this sort from the minds of European nations is worth attending to. If the North are deceived about this matter, they may remain so, and it is not worth while to undeceive them. But the case is different as to other governments.

We renew the appeal, too, to voters in making their choice of Representatives in Congress, to disregard every sentiment and consideration that might bias their judgment, and look only to qualification for the post to be filled. Virginia looks back now with a noble pride to the great men who represented her in the councils of the old revolution. Has she no such sons now to maintain her reputation and guard her interests! Perhaps not, but yet many of whom any State might be proud, and to whom any people might entrust their rights. It should be the conscientious duty of every citizen to see that his vote is cast for such a man. Our present delegation is one of great ability; let there be no falling off.

From the Norfolk Day Book of Oct. 14th.

Federal Attack on the Eastern Shore—Fifteen Killed and a Number Wounded.

We learn that an unsuccessful attempt was made last Friday week by a party of Federals to land a force at Chingoteague, on the Eastern Shore, for the purpose of destroying a vessel on stocks that was nearly completed. They came up in a steamboat, and a portion of them effected a landing, but they found to their cost that a force had gathered to give them a welcome.—Capt. Fletcher, a militia officer in that vicinity, had gathered some of his boys, with their duck guns and fowling pieces, and with these means they attacked the vandals, who sought shelter in the ship yard behind the frame of the vessel.—But, notwithstanding this they were so roughly handled by the Eastern Shoremen that fifteen of them came in for their allotment of land in Virginia, besides a considerable number carried off from the scene of action wounded. Only one of our men slightly wounded. They were finally driven off and effected their escape to the steamer amidst a shower from Captain Fletcher's men, who then determined to burn the vessel themselves, and did so accordingly.

The Steamer Bermuda.

So much has been said about this vessel, which arrived at Savannah a short time ago, both by the Northern and Southern press, that a description would not now be inappropriate:

She has the rig of a full-rigged brig, and coming into port under sail, with a light head of steam, and her smoke stack down, her appearance, at a short distance, indicated nothing more than an ordinary brig. She has no sign of port holes from the outside, and the only indication on the decks that she is designed for a war vessel, is the presence of four ring-bolts firmly fixed in the decks. She is designed to carry four guns on deck, and although there are no gun-carriages to be seen, yet there are four ten inch rifle cannon slung in a way that they could be brought into action, had there been occasion, on very short notice. Her bulwarks, instead of being solid, as usual, were constructed of fancy wire netting. She presents a beautiful appearance externally, and when she is fully fitted for action she will to doubt prove an ugly customer for the enemy to cope with.

For the Spectator.

EDITOR SPECTATOR:—*Dear Sir*, It is my duty to respond to the call made upon me from "Manassas," contained in your paper of the 8th instant, asking my consent to become a candidate for a seat in Congress from this District. The call is flattering beyond my merit, and I am not insensible to the high honor it proposes for me.

The sentiment of the lamented Lowndes is more often quoted and applauded by aspiring politicians than followed by them. That sentiment was, that "office is neither to be sought after nor shunned by any good citizen, but should be the free gift of the people."

Now, if no other obstacle stood in the way, the fact that I do not, and cannot, suppose myself looked to by the people of the district to serve them in this present great emergency, would of itself suffice to determine my position. Excepting only this public call from "Manassas," and the solicitations of a few friends, personally, and by letter from Rockbridge and Augusta counties, since that publication, and endorsing the same, I have no evidence that I have been thought of in that connection. Moreover, so long have I been withdrawn from the public service, and from all participation in public affairs—except to cast my vote at the polls—that I must be personally, and even by name, unknown to a large majority of the voters. Add to this the just claims of my business upon my time and attention, and I am sure I shall stand excused and justified, even by my most partial friend, for preferring to occupy a private post, and in that post doing whatever I can to maintain and further the sacred cause.

Here I might stop; but I have some things to say, which, if you have room and disposition to print them, I will offer as *my* contribution to the public expression of popular sentiment about this war and the manner of conducting it.

That, on *our* part, it is a war waged in defence of our liberties, our homes, our altars, our very existence as a people, all of us must admit and the impartial world will attest. That, on the part of our foes, so lately our fellow-citizens and brethren, it is now become a war of subjugation, even to extermination, all their leading organs of opinion unblushingly avow and all their acts unmistakably show. That in seeking our overthrow and utter destruction they are animated by a spirit the most fiendish, and are daily committing within our borders crimes the most atrocious, impartial History, the arbiter of nations, must forever record to their eternal infamy.

This being "the situation," what is our duty to ourselves and our children? What does common sense dictate? Let "Manassas" answer in one brief, pithy, pregnant sentence: "*If it takes every man and every dollar in the whole South to maintain our cause the sacrifice must be made.*"

Have we and the whole South yet begun to come up to that high standard? This beloved old Commonwealth *did* in May and June last offer herself in thefull measure of that spirit of self-sacrifice. She who had so magnimously played out to its last act, the *role* of peace and the part of peace-maker, now as nobly took upon herself the *role* of war and rushed to the van of the conflict. She offered fifty thousand more volunteers than she had already put in the field, and they were refused; were told their services were not wanted. The spirit of the people was repressed by official proclamation. Assuredly, *at that time*, the State authorities had not risen to the "mark of their high calling." Have they and the Confederate authorities since? It is the most earnest, anxious, unanimous wish of the people to believe that they have, and to be warranted in the belief by the energy of their acts. But what have we done? OUR ARMIES WIN BATTLES, AND WE LOSE TERRITORY! Which is all one to say, the valor of our troops vanquishes the foe, but the supineness of our administration reaps no fruit of victory.

On the part of the South this is a defensive war. But does that imply or require that we shall stand forever within our own limits and await the attack? Being begun in defence of our every right, is it any the less a war of defence if we strike the enemy in whatever vital part we can reach? Shall we stand within our lines and make proclamation to him by our acts? "Come over to us; leave all your homes unguarded, all your property unprotected. Spare none of your force in their defence, for we shall not assail or molest them where they are, nor even aim to injure your persons except you be found within our territory!" And this to a people who are ravaging us by sea and land! Was ever a proposition more preposterous? Could any war be more sentimentally insane than one conducted on such a theory?

Of course we must not assume the offensive till we are prepared. But we *can* be fully prepared by the opening of the campaign of 1862, if we will—if Congress wills it and decrees it. Let camps of instruction be established in every State of the Confederacy. Let the quota of each State be fixed by law, and if the requisition be not forthcoming by volunteers offering their services, let a pro rata draft of the militia be made forthwith, say, if you please, 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. It will be found in every State I doubt not, as I know to be the case in Virginia, that some companies and regiments have already contributed their full, and much more than their full quota, whilst others have done far less than their just proportion. Let these new levies go into camp early in 1862, and a single month's rigid, vigorous training will turn them out soldiers of the very best stamp. They are already such in every element, with only the want of a little practice in the manual of arms and skill to move in company and battallion.

I am no military man, and have no skill to plan a campaign, but one thing seems obvious to me as the noon-day sun, and that is, we shall never conquer a peace except we are strong enough and energetic enough to dictate it either in old Independence Hall, Philadelphia, or in New York City, or on Boston Common, at the base of Webster's statue, according as the backbone of the Washington despotism is more or less strong.

Whilst I am glancing at the duties of our first Confederate Congress under the Constitution, I take the liberty to say they will be criminally direlict if they fail to probe to the bottom abuses in the Commissariat and in the Medical Staff and the Hospital; possibly, also, in the Quartermaster's Department, though I know less of that.

If it be found that nepotism or favoritism in dispensing Government "*patronage*" (I think the very word is loathsome) has already crept into the Executive offices, and should high officials be found more concerned about the fleshpots than about the public liberty and safety in this great crisis, then, wherein are we better off than under the old and broken down government? I will not assume that such is now the fact; but, like causes produce like effects. We are living under the same Constitution (with a few slight amendments) that nominally obtains at Washington. A system of government more beautiful in theory and more beneficent in practice, wit and wisdom and patriotism of man never before devised and never will again. And so long as it was administered in the wisdom and purity of patriotism of its founders, it vindicated their highest claims to immortality. But that enormous "patronage" of the Federal head presently grew too strong for State sovereignty, or even for popular liberty; and behold the result in the truncated remnant of the United States! Thank God we are cut loose from them, and I trust for ever.

But, hastening to the conclusion of the whole matter, for I have already trespassed too long upon your patience, if we would PRESERVE our liberties after securing them, we must cut off this fruitful source of corruption by limiting within far narrower bounds than at present the powers and functions of the Confederate Congress and the Executive head. We must reduce and simplify its governmental machinery by reducing the scope and object of its jurisdiction—we must reserve to the States, severally, and to the people a far larger residuum of power, delegating to the Confederate agent a few important specific duties. In fine, we must not aim at a grand Union of States presently to be merged into one nationality, but strive for a simple league of independent, co-equal sovereignties, each jealous of its own rights and honor.

Submitting these views for your consideration as a public journalist, and for the consideration of the people who have, in common with you and myself, a deep and abiding interest in the whole subject, I subscribe myself,

Very respectfully,
WM. FRAZIER.

Rockbridge Alum Springs, Oct. 16, '61.

For the Spectator.

HIGHTOWN, HIGHLAND CO., Va., October 14th, 1861.

Mr. Editor:—I desire through the medium of your paper to express my thanks and the thanks of the soldiers under my care, for the timely supply of articles sent to us by the kind Ladies of Augusta. These articles embracing almost everything that a sick soldier might need were duly received through the kindness of Ag't Hoover. I desire to assure the Ladies of Augusta who have so kindly provided for our wants, that we have no language sufficient to express our gratitude. How grateful to the feelings of a soldier separated from his home by mountains and rivers, confined to his tent by pining sickness, to know that there are kind hands providing for his relief. Noble and patriotic women! May God bless them, they are the defenders of the country after all and the connecting link between heaven and earth. ISAAC WHITE.
Asst. Surg. 31st Regt. Va. Vol.

For the Spectator.

MR. EDITOR:—I see from the last few issues of your paper several calls upon, and the cards of several prominent gentlemen announcing themselves as candidates for a seat in the Confederate Congress from the Augusta District. These gentlemen have long been known as leaders of political parties, during the existence of the old United States Goverment. Now, I wish to call attention to one who has never, to any great extent interfered with politics, and who would, I think, from his attainments, both in civil as well as military life, be well calculated to make us an able, zealous and ever watchful representative. I allude to Leiut. Col. William S. H. Baylor—a gentleman who is well known to you as well as most of the voters of this District, as one eminently qualified, and was one of the first, when the alarm was sounded at the beginning of this unholy war, to buckle on his sword and with two companies of his Regiment (5th Va. Vol.) proceeded to the then thought field of danger—Harpers's Ferry—where in a few days he was joined by the other companies of his Regiment, making eight in number. A few days after the passage of the Ordinance of Secession, the Convention passed an ordinance removing all General and Field Officers from their commands, by which he was removed with the rest; but, while all the Generals and Field Officers returned to their homes, he, like a true and trusted officer, remained with us, using all his great influence to get us to muster into service. In a day or two he succeeded in overcoming the great dissatisfaction existing among the officers and men of the Regiment. While he was engaged in these patroitic efforts for the cause of our independence, Col. Harper and Lieut. Col. Harman, who, having held positions of a higher grade, being removed by this same ordinance, and had returned to their homes, were appointed and assigned to duty in this Regiment, he receiving the position of Major of a regiment he had raised and marched into the field. Feeling confident of being restored, (as all the other volunteer Colonels had been,) he accepted the position at the request of a majority of the officers. He served in that capacity until about the 10th of September, when, by Col. Harper's resignation, the office of Colonel was made vacant. A large majority of the officers, thinking their wishes would be consulted, signed and forwarded to the State Government a petition requesting his appointment to the position, but, for some cause, for which I cannot account, no attention was paid to it and Col. Harman received the appointment. Lieut. Col. Baylor being assigned under a commission of date about the 20th June, which he had never accepted, preferring to remain with us to receiving a higher position in another regiment. I cannot assign any reason for his being thus treated, having never heard of any being given. It cannot be on account of incompetency, for every one who knows him, will join me in pronouncing him as being well qualified, and no one can doubt his courage. I have been near him in two engagements, and must say that I did not see a cooler officer and consider him as being as brave as the bravest. Why is he the only volunteer Colonel who held a commission prior to the 17th April who has not been recommissioned and assigned to his command? I should like to hear an answer to this question.

Believing that he has not received what was due him, and that the District will sustain him, I call upon him to announce himself as a candidate for Congress, assuring him of the hearty support of many members of the Regiment.

AUGUSTA.

To the Friends of the West Augusta Guard.

CAMP CENTREVILLE, 5th Reg. Va. Vol., October 18th, 1861.

The Winter season is fast approaching. Already the chilling October nights remind us that cold weather, frosts and snow are not far distant, and the West Augusta Guard are but poorly provided with blankets and suitable clothing. I have made every effort to obtain leave of absence in order that I might personally provide blankets and other clothing for my men, but this has been refused me. I am, therefore, compelled to appeal through this medium to the friends of the Company, and call upon them to aid, as far as possible, in preparing us for the rigors of the coming season. There are in the Company ninety-seven (97) men, exclusive of officers. We left home on the 17th day of April last with but one blanket apiece. During the battles of Hainsville and Manassas, and the frequent long and hasty marches which we have been compelled to make, many of these have been lost, consequently some of the men have no protection against the weather when outside of their tents, which is frequently the case when performing picket and other duty. Almost any family can spare one blanket without serious inconvenience, and to the soldier they are indispensable. We want a blanket for each man in the Company, and our only hope is in our friends in Staunton and Augusta county. Let each one of our friends, then, determine to spare from their stock one blanket, if not a blanket, a comfort or a rug—anything that the men can cover themselves with and find protection against the cold and the pelting of the pitless storm. Those that can give us nothing in the way of a blanket, comfort, or rug, may be able to spare an extra pair of socks or two. We are badly in need of them. Either of these articles, which any one of our friends can spare, if handed to Messrs. D. C. Moffuffin, Wm. A. Burke, Thos. A. Bledsoe, or if left at the store of Messrs. Taylor & Hoge, or A. E. Bledsoe & Co., with the name of the person intended for marked thereon, will be promptly forwarded to me. I know that your patriotism and liberality have already been taxed from other sources already, and nothing, save the sternest necessity, could induce me to make this further demand upon your charity. But these are articles which the men must have or suffer terribly in their need. We were among the first volunteers who left the county. No notice of our leaving was given us, and no time for preparation had. We have seen much hard service, and through it all our highest, most coveted aim has been to perform our duty faithfully and we trust that we have succeeded. We hope to deserve well at your hands. Most respectfully,

Your fellow citizen,
JAMES H. WATERS,
Capt. West Augusta Guard.

For the Spectator.

A Dreadful Result of Our Victory at Manassas.

MR. EDITOR:—Unmistakable signs of the times point to what may prove a fatal result of our victory at Manassas—*an over confident and boastful spirit*—and its necessary consequence—inactivity. In the beginning of the war, whilst we knew our cause was just, we also felt our comparative weakness and hence betook ourselves, by a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, to our only sure refuge—the great God of battles. We adopted our motto: "God and our rights." The result was seen in the battles which ensued, but nowhere more remarkably than at Manassas in the mysterious panic of the enemy and their utter overthrow, just at the moment of their apparent victory. We have since indulged in a boastful sp