

Stanton Spectator

STAUNTON, VA. TUESDAY, DEC. 10, 1861.

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

Senatorial Election. Wm. Frazier, Esq., in compliance with the request of a number of voters, has consented to become a candidate for the Senate in the District composed of the counties of Rockbridge, Bath and Highland, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Jas. G. Patton, Esq.

Prospective Battle at Columbus. The Richmond Examiner says that the second battle of Manassas is to be fought at Columbus, on the Mississippi. The first grand invasion was repelled on the 21st July, on the fields of Bull Run; the second one will probably be repelled about the 21st December, on the banks of the Mississippi.

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Amendments to the Constitution.

The Richmond Whig furnishes the following summary of the amendments to the State Constitution adopted by the Convention: 1. Members of the House of Delegates to be elected annually instead of biennially.

2. The Senate to be divided into four classes, two of twelve, and two of thirteen members, to be elected alternately in rotation so that one class shall be elected every year.

3. The General Assembly to meet every year instead of biennially. The limitation of the length of session is extended.

4. The person having the highest number of votes for Governor is not to be declared elected, unless he has received a majority of the whole number of votes cast.

5. The present Board of Public Works, as constituted, is abolished, but a Board subject to its control.

6. Instead of one Supreme Court of Appeals, there shall be two, one to be a Court of Law, the other a Court of equity.

7. The District Courts are abolished. 8. The General Assembly are invested with power to increase the number of judicial circuits.

9. The Judges of the Appellate and Circuit Courts are to be elected by the General Assembly, instead of by the qualified voters as at present.

10. The said judges are to hold office during good behavior, or until they attain the age of seventy years, or as long as a term of three years, as now prescribed. Judges of Circuit Courts are not required to be thirty years of age.

11. Justices of the Peace to be elected by the qualified voters for two years, but one-fourth of the number to be elected every three years. Vacancies in the office of justice to be filled by the justices of the county for the residue of the unexpired term.

12. Clerks and Attorneys for the Commonwealth for either Circuit or County Courts to be appointed by their respective courts, instead of being elected by the people.

13. The Attorney General to be appointed by the General Assembly, for an indefinite term of office, instead of by the people for a term of years, as at present.

Correspondence.

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Gov. Letcher's Message.

We regret that the length of Gov. Letcher's message makes it impossible for us to publish it in extenso in our columns, as it is a very interesting document and would be read with interest.

We publish a number of extracts from it which will serve to show its character. It is characterized by a truly Virginian and patriotic spirit. It shows not only that Virginia has done, but what she is willing to do in the momentous struggle for freedom and independence in which she is now so energetically and patriotically engaged.

She has drawn the sword in a righteous cause, and will not sheathe it till the prize for which she contends has been won. She relies with confidence for success upon Providence, the justice of her cause, the brave hearts and strong arms of her sons. Preferring that her sons should "die all freemen" rather than to "live all slaves," she is resolved to conquer or die.

Her chosen alternative being, "Liberty or death." The following are extracts from the message: "It is not with us to determine whether this war shall be of long or short duration. We have decided, however, that it cannot terminate until the loyal people of the Commonwealth have removed from all the disadvantages and comforts of home and family and friends. We must restore these men to their homes; we must re-subject them to the laws of the Commonwealth must not be dismembered. When this war ends, she must be what she was when it began. The Ohio river which she West-tern boundary then, and it must continue to be her boundary."

The war is to end at some time, and when it does end, the question of boundary between the two Governments is to be adjusted. We must, therefore, recover every square foot of Southern territory before we can think of negotiating upon the subject. We must not afford to surrender any part of the slave holding territory; and any policy which looks to such a result, should be indignantly repudiated.

The ladies of Virginia and the other States of the Confederacy have manifested the deepest solicitude for the success of the cause, and the strongest interest in all who were engaged in the service. They have been unremitting in their efforts to promote the comfort of the soldiers, and to administer to their wants. They have exhibited a zeal and a thoughtfulness in efforts to provide for those in the field, and to relieve the sick and wounded. These delicate attentions will remain as long as the war continues, and will be a source of pride and gratification to the patriotic women of '76."

The revenue from all sources for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1861, was \$24,386,975, and the expenditures for the same period \$25,078,565, which, with previous balance in the Treasury, left a balance on hand of a quarter million. The revenue for the first quarter since ending September 30th, is \$102,532,600, and the expenses \$98,239,783. For the estimates for the three quarters ending, and for 1862, Congress is referred to the report of the Secretary of the Treasury. It is alleged as a gratifying fact that these estimates do not exceed the resources of a loyal people. It is also added that the number of troops offered for the war is beyond the resources of the people of the North of Mason's line.

The revision and codification of the acts of Congress is advised. A plan for the temporary operation of courts in the Territories, in the event of the suspension of the writ of Habeas Corpus, is recommended, especially for the summary restoration in the case of repudiated debts. Authority is made final judgment in the Court of Claims in relation to the consideration of Congress. The restoration of the people North of Mason's line to the rights of citizenship is recommended. The organization of an agricultural and statistical bureau is deemed advisable.

The attention of Congress is particularly directed to such legislation as will authorize the frequent slaves coming within the scope of military action on the part of the United States, and the acquisition of territory for their colonization. The President states that he has preferred the blockade of the Southern ports to the closing of the same, as authorized by the act of the last Congress.

Reference is made to the belief on the part of the South that they would have the sympathy of a large portion of the people North of Mason's and Dixon's line. The error is said to have exploded, and while Delaware, Maryland, Missouri and Kentucky are claimed to have vindicated their loyalty to the Federal Government, the appointment of Major General McClellan as commander in chief of the army is spoken of as a popular as well as executive selection.

The message closes with a sort of controversial allusion to certain principles enunciated by a late committee of the Virginia Legislature, on a bill and modifications of popular Government, and some remarks upon the relative importance of capital and labor, and the commands the national cause to a firm and earnest reliance upon Providence for success.

Tribute of Respect. At a meeting of the Augusta Fire Association, held at their Hall, on Thursday, the 28th of November, 1861, in view of the untimely death of one of their members, B. S. Sargent, on Monday, Col. R. Turk, Lieut. Jno. M. Hardy and P. H. Trout were appointed a committee to prepare and report resolutions expressive of the grief of the association.

Resolved, That in the sudden and untimely death of our friend and brother-in-law John B. Sargent, we recognize in one of those inscrutable workings of all-wise Providence, a lesson which we deeply deplore his loss, we humbly bow the head of his spirit to the hands of Him who doeth all things well.

For the Spectator.

Mr. Editor.—The regiment formerly posted at Greenbrier River on the 22d of November fell back to the top of this mountain, where it had been previously erected for our accommodation, for winter quarters. The roads were heavy, slushy and disagreeable. Yet the men continued the march cheerfully. When we arrived here, contrary to expectation, we found that the column erected would only accommodate a part of the command, and there was nothing left for those who could not be accommodated but to bivouac on the cold bosom of another earth during the dreary length of a November night, on the bleak mountain in Northwestern Virginia, with a pitiless snow storm pelting us mercilessly.

On the morning after our arrival we arose from our bivouacs with stiffened and benumbed limbs to perform the duties assigned us—some to mount camp guard, some to go on picket guard, and others on fatigue duty, building tents, &c.

Immediately after roll call, Bradford announced to the company the receipt of a box containing various articles of clothing—such as blankets, socks, &c.—for the men of the Augusta company. The socks, I believe, were the donation of Mr. Doctor Stribling.

Could the ladies of Augusta have seen the impression made upon the members of this company by their kind, much needed, and most opportune gifts, they would do us the honor to be generous and patriotic hearts would have thrilled with the most pleasing emotions. Many and heart-felt were the blessings poured out upon the fair donors, and vows were made that the Vandal and mercenary should never defile the ladies of Augusta with the stains that are endured by our own mothers, sisters, wives and sweet-hearts of Barbours, and of the devoted and misappreciated Northwest. It was not many minutes after when the sincerity of the various articles called a meeting. Capt. Bradford presiding, Lieut. Isaac V. Johnson was appointed Secretary, and the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That the thanks of this Company, officers and privates, be tendered to the Ladies of Augusta for their kind and generous donation, but especially their remembrance and gratitude for their own mothers, wives and sweet-hearts, by reason of the occupation of our homes and hearthstones by the minions of an accursed despotism.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

LIST OF LETTERS, remaining in the Post Office December 1st, 1861. (Latham, John K. ...)

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Public Sale of Fine Stock.

DETERMINED to put my farm in grass, I will sell at public auction, on WEDNESDAY, THE 11th OF DECEMBER, 1861, all my surplus stock, consisting of: A LARGE NUMBER OF CATTLE, forty of which are fat; several Milch Cows; perhaps some Hogs, and a considerable quantity of finely bred sheep, a lot of new born lambs, &c.

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