Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1863.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

We are authorized to announce Hon. JOHN B. BALDWIN as a Candidate for re-election to the Congress of the Confederate States in the 11th Congressional District composed of the counties of Augusta, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Pendleton, Bath, Alleghany, Highland and Pocahontas.

March 24th—tde

Papers in the Destrict will copy and send bill to the Spectator Office.

The Fight in Culpeper.

The long continued silence on the Rappahannock has been broken by the booming of cannon and the desperate charge of cavalry columns. On Tuesday morning last, the enemy, with a strong force of cavalry and artillery, crossed the Rappahannock River, at Kelly's Ford, in Culpeper county, and advanced as far as Jamison's woods, within about six miles of Culpeper C. H., where they were attacked by a portion of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's command, less than 2,000 strong. The *Examiner* says that "the fighting is said to have been terrific, and the enemy are reported to have fought with great stubbornness. The battle wavered a long time, and the great bravery of our men alone won the victory. Our men dashed on the enemy with all the force of an avalanche, and for a long time the fight raged—hand to hand. The Yankees contested every inch of the ground, but finding the fire of our men too much they fell back in great disorder, and retired to the other side of the river. As soon as the retreat was ordered, the Yankees fled in great dismay and confusion, leaving behind them their dead and wounded on the field, and a number of supplies. So rapid was the enemy's flight across the river that his hospital established in the rear for his wounded was abandoned, and his dead lay strewn over the ground—everything left behind in his panic."

The number of the enemy in this fight is supposed to have been about 7,000.—Our loss was between 200 and 250, and that of the enemy more, but the number is not known.

See official despatches from General Stuart in the telegraphic column.

Our Armies in the West.

Advices from the West, says the Richmond Examiner, represent our armies in fine condition. A gentleman who recently visited General Bragg's army, says his troops were in the best spirits, and that every confidence is felt for the issue of the approaching conflict, whenever it may come off. Gen. Johnston is said to have the respect and confidence of his command, and our armies are represented as being everything that could be desired in *morale*, discipline, and efficiency. General Bragg had entirely recuperated his command, and by his rare tact as a disciplinarian, had his whole force in the finest trim.—The Generals of the different corps—Polk, Breckinridge and Hardee—are all on the ground, and everything is in readiness for the enemy whenever he shall attempt a movement.

We learn every confidence is felt among our troops that we shall be able to hold our position in the West against any attempt of the enemy. Particularly is this the case with our garrison at Port Hudson, who are sure of driving back the enemy in every assault that is made on that place. Our force is stronger than we had expected, and the news we get of our position and situation there, makes us more hopeful than ever.

Battles Expected in the Carolinas.

The *Examiner* says that it is now thought propable that battle on a grand scale is even nearer to hand in the Carolinas than at Fredericksburg. The preparations of the enemy indicate that a great effort is about to be made to cut the communications between Charleston and Richmond, and that attack, with which the former city has been so long menaced, is about to be made by land as well as sea. A great army, as well as an enormous fleet has been assembled for these purposes, and their employment in action cannot be much further delayed. For some time past the battles and manœuvres of the enemy have been repetitions of battles they had fought at previous periods, and manœuvres which they had unsuccessfully tried before.—But we are now, perhaps, to witness a new scene in the war.

Skirmish on the Blackwater.

We learn from the Petersburg *Express*, that on Tuesday morning last, a bout eight hundred Yankee cavalry, under Colonel Spears, came up from Suffolk to a point on the Blackwater, near Franklin, and charged upon two companies of South Carolina sharpshooters, who were supporting a piece of artillery. They were fired into by our men and soon scattered in every direction, leaving two men dead on the field and 2 others mortally wounded. 8 of the enemy were taken prisoners—among them a captain. These men report a large number of their companions wounded. Not a single man on our side was killed or seriously wounded.—This skirmish is regarded by all as a very brilliant affair.

We further learn, from a direct and reliable source, that the enemy are being strongly reinforced at Suffolk.

Fort Pemberton and Port Hudson.

We last week gave a despatch respecting the fight at Fort Pemberton, in which the gunboats of the enemy were repulsed. Since then, we have received no further intelligence from that quarter.

The day after our paper was issued, we received a despatch bringing the gratifying intelligence that we had also repulsed the enemy at Port Hudson.—See telegram in another column. Since then, we have no further intelligence from that interesting locality.

Candidates for Congress.

His constituents will be pleased to see that Hon. John B. Baldwin has announced himself as a candidate for re-election in this the 11th Congressional District. Robt. L. Montague is a candidate for Congress in the 1st District; Walter Preston, in the 13th District; A. R. Boteler and Col. Fred. W. M. Holliday in the 10th District, and Walter R. Staples in the Montgomery District.

New Subscribers

We mentioned some time since that there had never been a time in the history of the "Spectator" when its subscription list was increased more rapidly than then. Since that time, there has been no reflux of the tide, but the stream of new subscribers has increased its flow, and continues to augment its volume. This is gratifying to us, as it shows that our efforts to keep our readers "posted up" in the current events of the day have been appreciated by the public. The only thing we have to regret is, that the prices of materials, necessary to publish a paper, have increased so enormously as to leave a *very narrow* margin of profit, and if they in crease much more, we will lose money on every issue.

We will then test the question, "Whether an Editor, like the chameleon, can live upon the air alone." We know that many persons seem to think so; at least, that is the interpretation we give to their conduct, for they never furnish him with the means of buying anything more substantial, though they devour, week after week, with great voracity, the mental food he furnishes them, nicely wrapped up and sent to them in a paper. This, we are satisfied, results not from design, but from thoughtlessness, on the part of the subscribers; for if they would think for a moment they would conclude that, however Editors may differ from ordinary human beings in many respects, they must have raiment and food, and to get these essentials they must have money, and, in these "flush times," a great deal of it. If those who are indebted for several years, subscription do not heed this gentle hint, we will conclude that they wish us to try the chameleon test.

A Word about Distilleries.

We have been informed that distilleries are now in active operation, not only in this county, but in many parts of the Confederacy, consuming the grain that is absolutely necessary to prevent many of the people from suffering. Is this so? We know nothing of it of our own knowledge, and now call attention to it that those, whose duty it is, may examine into the truth of the allegation. The charge is, "That most of the distilleries are in operation, and that the owners of them *claim* to have contracts with the Government, when the truth is, that but *few* of them have such contracts." The proper officers should exert themselves to ascertain the truth or falsehood of this charge, and should have the utmost penalty of the law inflicted upon its violators. There is much doubt in the minds of the people of the wisdom of the policy of having liquor distilled for the use of the hospitals, as it is probable that the most of it is used by those who do not need it as a medicine, and for whom it was not intended, and if it be true, as alleged, that it gives opportunity, (of which many avail themselves), for the practice of fraud to any considerable degree, there can be no doubt that it is productive of more harm than good. To have the staff of life, at this time when so many are in extreme need, converted, in violation of law, into the "bane of life", is a crime against humanity, and a sin against High Heaven Those who are guilty of this offence should be brought to justice. Each citizen should feel it to be his duty to report to the proper officer every man whom he knows to be engaged in the distillation of grain in violation of law, and the officer should perform his duty rigidly and faithfully without "fear, favor or affection." Let those who are thus trampling upon the laws of their country, and who are bringing want and distress upon the poor, be exposed to the just indignation of the community, and the severest penalty of the violated laws. To expect the "Given of every good and perfect gift" to bless our fields with fruitful harvests, when we pervert their products to such sinful uses, would be sacrilegious. The smoke of a distillery is not such an incense as will bring down upon our land the blessings of Heaven.

The "Swamp Dragons" in Pendleton.

We learn that in a conflict, last week, between some of our soldiers and the "Swamp Dragons"—two companies of Union men—in the North Fork, in Pendleton county, two of our soldiers were wounded. Their names are Martin Hiner, son of Benjamin Hiner, and a Mr. Freidland. It is feared that Mr. Hiner is mortally wounded. Two of the "Swamp Dragons" were captnred but one of them made his escape.

The Concert.

We have been requested to state that the managers of the Concert to be given in the Presbyterian Church on Thursday evening next, have made arrangements to have the town lighted with gas on that night. The concert will, therefore, take place as previously announced. All should attend.

Capt. Mosby, of Stuart's cavalry, made another dash into the enemy's lines on Tuesday last, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and captured four commissioned officers and twenty-one privates. The latter were paroled on the spot; and the officers are now at the Libby prison.

Skirmishing in East Florida.

On the 18th inst. three Yankee gunboats and two transports ascended the St. Johns' river to Jacksonville, and landed a force of negro troops On the next morning our troops attacked the enemy, and after hard fighting for twenty minutes, charged them, when they retreated in haste to their gunboats.

Our infantry pursued them into town, and when near the Judson house square, encountered another force of the enemy which was also driven back. We lost Dr. Meredith and three horses. It is said that the enemy are fortifying Jacksonville, with a view to its permanent occupation.

☞ The remains of Miss Mary Connell, who was killed in the explosion of the laboratory in Richmond, arrived at this place, for interment, on Thursday evening last.

Ball at the Odd Fellows' Hall.

There will be a BALL at the Odd Fellows' Hall on TUESDAY, THE 31ST OF THIS MONTH, the proceeds to be applied to the support of soldiers' families. Good music will be provided, and the management will be unexceptionable. The purpose is so laudable that it is hoped the patronage will be as liberal as the object is good.

J. M. HARDY,
J. C. MARQUIS,
D. C. McGUFFIN,
N. K. TROUT, } Com.

Staunton, March 24, 1863.

Fifteen hundred and fifty-six prisoners captured by Gen'l Van Dorn arrived in Richmond on Sunday last

An Old Man of Experience.

We are satisfied that, as we grow older, we will improve in knowledge, provided we PROFIT by our own and the experience of others, but the old man of the 'Spectator' grows arrogant, when he says we will progress in knowledge if we "continue to take lessons from the Spectator."

Now we cannot recall in what single particular we have taken a lesson from the "Spectator," and we will say to our friend that we do not intend to follow his example in several things we wot of. In one thing it might be better for us, pecuniarily, to imitate him, if we would. He waits for the breeze of public opinion to indicate the direction his weather-cock shall point; at least, we conclude so, from his studied silence on subjects, deemed, by some of our wisest Statesmen, of vital importance at present. Not a line or selection, that we remember, does he commit himself in favor of, or in opposition to these subjects.—Pray Mr. "Spectator" let us know what are your opinions as to a re-construction of the Union? Are you in favor of offering inducements to the North Western States to unite in our Confederacy? We would like to gain some information from an experienced friend on these points, and as you so vaunningly boast yours, we know no one from whom we would be better pleased to hear.—*Vindicator.*

The spirit manifested, in the above extract, by the "young man of promise" of the "Vindicator" does not disturb our equanimity in the least degree—we can easily forgive him, for he "*knows not* what he does." When he shall become older, it is hoped that "he will improve in knowledge;" but his memory is so very bad that we apprehend he will not be able to retain much, for he seems to forget one week what he was taught the week before. He says:

"Now we cannot recall in what single particular we have taken a lesson from the Spectator."

He has forgotten in one week the important knowledge we communicated to him in reference to the comparative value of natural and artificial limbs, though he, at the time, frankly acknowledged his former ignorance, and "succumbed to our more mature judgment."

But this is not the only instance in which his memory is at fault. He says:

"Not by a line or selection, that we remember, does he commit himself in favor of, or in opposition to * * * a reconstruction of the Union."

Was such a defective memory ever known to exist before? We have published editorial and selected articles upon this subject, time and again, from the beginning of the war to the present, and yet he gives this as a specification to establish his general charge that we "wait for the breeze of public opinion to indicate the direction our weather cock shall point."—

There never were but two parties which favored re-construction at any time, and we never concurred with either of them in their views upon that subject. The first was the secession party which maintained that the South should secede that the Union might be *re-constructed* upon different principles; and the other, the abolition party, which is now endeavoring to *reconstruct* the Union by force of arms. We have always maintained that the Union, once broken, would never be made whole again. Though we expressed this opinion before the war, and a hundred times since, the forgetful editor of the "Vindicator" says that we have been "waiting for the breeze of public opinion." When the editor drew *that* picture, he must have been looking in a mirror. *We* will never need a weather-cock, to point the direction of the "breeze of public opinion" as long as we can have access to the views of the Editor of the "Vindicator," for they are so *light* as to be wafted by every "wind of doctrine," and like straws "show which way the winds blow."

The Editor of the "Vindicator" also asks this question:

"Are you in favor of offering inducements to the North Western States to unite in our Confederacy?"

What does he mean by the expression "unite *in* our Confederacy?" As the North Western States do not constitute any part of "our Confederacy" we are unable to see how they could "unite *in*" it. We suppose he asks that question, as the other, for the purpose of showing that we have been waiting for the "breeze" about which he seems to feel so much interest. When the North Western States, as States independent of the U. S., shall apply for admission into "our Confederacy," then will be the time to discuss the policy of admitting or rejecting them; but that time has not arrived, and, it may be, never will How foolish then, to be discussing that question at this time! The discussion now can do no good, but may do, yea, has already done, much harm. The great re-action which has recently taken place in the North against the South, has been owing, in no small degree, to the course pursued by the Richmond Enquirer and other papers which have echoed the sentiments of that Journal. If the North West should show a disposition to cut loose from the U. S. and set up for itself we should not discourage and defeat such a purpose by the gratuitous declaration that we are now, and will ever continue to be, their enemies. If we can proffer them nothing but enmity, we should say nothing at all.

The inference the "Vindicator" draws, when an Editor does not discuss a question, is: That the Editor is waiting for the "breeze of public opinion" How would the "Vindicator" stand the test of its own mode of logic? Since its publication has been renewed, the "Spectator" has discussed the question of impressments, the propriety of investing in Government bonds, and several other subjects about which the "Vindicator" has been as dumb as an oyster. By the "Vindicator's" logic, we would be justified in charging that the Editor maintained a "studied silence" on these subjects, because he was "waiting for the breeze of public opinion to indicate the direction his weather cock should point." (We have always thought that the weather-cock was designed to indicate the direction of the wind, and not the wind to indicate the direction the weather-cock should point.) The Editor of the "Vindicator" digs pits, and falls into them himself.

President Davis' Proclamation.

Several weeks since, we published the proclamation of President Davis appointing the 27th of March (next Friday) as a day of humiliation and prayer to Almighty God, to implore His protection of our infant Confederacy, and His interposition in those events affecting our peace and safety.

In the language of a cotemporary, the President's proclamation means, if it be not uttered without meaning, that "there is a God who rules in Heaven and upon the earth. No event can happen without His permission. He is the most real and the most present of all intelligences.—If a sparrow cannot fall without His notice, surely a human being cannot perish but by His will. Individuals and nations are alike the subjects of His government, and the objects of his regards and benefaction.

'Promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South; but God is the Judge; He setteth up one and pulleth down another.' Nations are treated, in the economy of the Divine administration, as *persons* or personalities; and held to account as such. In all judicial inflictions upon *a people*, the good and the bad all suffer together, since they are all components of the national individuality. To avert public calamities—to insure the restoration of peace and prosperity—to propitiate a justly incensed Sovereign, Creator and Benefactor, there must be a public, national and general recognition of the majesty and rightful government of God; there must be national penitence, and national reformation. This may not include each individual, but must include the generality of the people. Let us, therefore, humble ourselves before the Jehovah; let us confess how wicked we have been, how justly our punishments were merited; and implore the clemency of Him who is merciful as well as just. We suffer greatly; very unjustly, indeed, so far as our enemies are concerned; but most justly, so far as *we* stand related to our great Maker. We must put ourselves right with respect to the Most High; and He will most surely take charge of our national interest, and cause our foes to be beaten and scattered 'like the chaff which the wind driveth away.'

We want success; peace and national blessings once more; let us, therefore, *as a people*, bow before the great God of Heaven, and invoke His aid, and the removal of His afflicting rod."

At an election in Capt. McNeil's company for 2d and 3d Lieutenants the following gentlemen were elected: Isaac Welton, 2d Lieut., B. J. Dolen, 3d Lieut. Jesse McNeil, who had been 3d Lieut., was promoted to the 1st Lieutenancy. The election was a very harmonious one, has given general satisfaction, and those gallant "boys" are now ready for more Yankee trains and horses. It will not be long before they will turn up somewhere near the enemy.—[Rock Reg.

WANT TO GET BACK.—A gentleman who has recently visited the Southern portion of the dominions of Lincoln, states that nine out of every ten of the runaway and captured negroes would gladly return if they could to their masters.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PORT HUDSON, LA., March 15th, 3 o'clock, A. M.—A bombardment commenced here at two o'clock, P. M., yesterday, and continued up to 5, P. M. The enemy fired slowly, but our batteries did not reply. At 12 o'clock, last night, a most desperate engagement took place. The enemy endeavored to pass our batteries under cover of darkness. The firing was most terrific, and lasted fully two hours. One gunboat succeeded in passing in a damaged condition. The United States frigate Mississippi was set on fire and burned to the water's edge in front of our batteries One large vessel was completely riddled, a third badly crippled, and the rest were driven back. At 2 o'clock the enemy withdrew

Our victory is complete and glorious. So far as known there are no casualties on our part.

The boat that passed our batteries is doubtless so disabled as to render her achievement fruitless.

Thirty-six men and one midshipman of the destroyed frigate Mississippi were brought in by our cavalry this morning. Several of the prisoners are severely wounded.

MOBILE, March 16.—A special to the Appeal dated Panola, Miss., says a gentleman direct from Coldwater, states that two formidable gunboats, the Chilacothe and the De Kalb, two rams with cotton defences, three gunboats not deemed formidable, three batteries, three hundred cavalry and ten thousand men, comprise the Yankee force in the Yazoo. Some boats not loaded accompany the expedition, it is thought for the purpose of stealing cotton. They left Helena with one day's rations of meat, plenty of bread and other supplies. They rely upon the resources of the country for meat, which they are stealing.

The *Appeal* says a gentleman who witnessed the fight at Fort Pemberton, states that our troops waded to their waists to get a chance at the enemy. The Yankee fleet consists of six gunboats and rams, with an infantry force of from five to eight thousand. The enemy's movements indicated a landing higher up the river, on the opposite bank. Our officers were preparing to frustrate the enemy at all points.

MOBILE, March 18.—A special despatch to the Tribune, dated Parlom, Miss., 17th, says two cavalry regiments occupied Hernando last Saturday night. Their further movements are unknown, though it is supposed they have retrograded. Reinforcements are reported coming down Yazoo Pass, and it is further reported that there has been a heavy arrival of reinforcements at Memphis from above. The roads are drying, but the rivers are very difficult to cross. The Tallahatchie river is rising.

A special to the Appeal, dated Panola, 15th, says the trestle work at Waterford, on the Mississippi Central Railroad, has been destroyed by Yankees from Lagrange. Several partizan companies are in pursuit of the marauders, with every prospect of overtaking them.

CHARLESTON, March 18.—The steamship Calypso arrived from Nassau this morning. She was chased last night by the blockaders, who fired repeatedly. One shell burst over her deck, hurting nobody.

All quiet to-night. If no attack be made tomorrow, it is supposed that the enemy will wait fourteen days longer, for the next spring tide

CHATTANOOGA, March 18.—Nothing new from above Gen. Johnston left here this morning for the Army of Tennessee. Eighteen prisoners and deserters were brought in to-day from Tullahoma.

CHATTANOOGA, March 19.—No movement of importance reported from the front.

The enemy have fallen back from Murfreesboro, but our forces have not advanced as yet.—The movement is thought to be a feint of Rosencranz.

A gentleman from Kentucky says ten thousand reinforcements by way of Louisville, and five regiments from Clarksville have been sent to Rosencranz.

A Yankee column of 15,000 is reported crossing the Tennessee at Savannah, to march by way of Huntsville.

ATLANTA, March 19.—A special dispatch to the Intelligencer, dated Chattanooga, March 19, says the news of the evacuation of Murfreesboro by the enemy is positively confirmed. Our pickets are four miles the other side.

It is reported that the enemy has changed his base, taking Columbia as his left wing, extending towards the Tennessee river, and that Grant's army is coming up via North Alabama to effect a junction with Rosencranz.

Van Dorn is still on the North side of Duck river.

A portion of Cox's division from Western Virginia are advancing from Woodbury and Carthage, towards McMinnville, upon Wheeler's cavalry.

Col. Clark's regiment, of Morgan's command, captured sixteen pickets and the guard in front of Lexington, Kentucky, and brought out large supplies of stores.

Official Despatches.

HD'RRS 2 MILES FROM KELLY'S FORD, March 17—7 o'clock P. M. }

To Gen. R. E. LEE:

Enemy is retiring. He is badly hurt. We are after him. His dead men and horses strew the roads.

(Signed) J. E. B. STUART, Maj. Gen.

[SECOND DESPALCH.]

CULPEPER, March 18.

To Gen. R. E. LEE:

Enemy have retired to North bank of river, badly hurt.

(Signed) J. E. B. STUART, Maj. Gen.

[THIRD DESPATCH.]

By telegraph from Culpeper, 18, to Gen. R. E. LEE.

I telegraphed you last night the enemy had retired to North bank of Rappahannock. From the best information it was Averill's Division three thousand in the saddle. Pork and hard bread packed in boxes.

He was very badly hurt and left in a hospital on this side. It was undoubtedly intended as a great expedition; but thanks to the superior conduct of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and his noble brigade, it has failed, not however, without the loss to us of such noble spirits as Majors Pelham and Puller.

(Signed) J. E. B. STUART, Maj Gen.

European News.

European dates to the 26th February have been received. The American war continues an exciting topic in the House of Lords. Earl Russell alluded to the question of the recognition of the Southern Confederacy, and requested Lord Stratherden to postpone until the 2d inst a motion which he had given notice of for the production of copies of all despatches from Mr. Mason to Her Majesty's government on the claim of the Southern Confederacy to be acknowledged as an independent power by Great Britain, to which request Lord Stratherden acceded.

The steamship Australasian, from Liverpool, with dates to the 1st instant, has arrived.

Seward's dispatch, rejecting the French proposal for mediation, provokes the criticism of the London Journals.

The Times says it is quite concurrent with all that Seward has previously written upon the subject, and that he is either preternaturally right or incomprehensibly wrong.

The Post, Lord Palmerston's organ, declares that, emanating, as this document does, from the Federal Cabinet, it is truly incredible that that body should have sunk so low as to endorse as its own, in the face of the world, so much arrant falsehood and absurd nonsense.

The Morning Star considers the document unanswerable.

The Paris Pays treats the matter indifferently.

The London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian says that the Confederate loan has been freely taken on the continent, and that England will have no more of it than it can get from foreign markets.

The Polish insurrection was exciting great attention in the Cabinets of local powers.

The Russians were defeated by the Poles, after an engagement which lasted five hours at Agassae. The town was reduced to ashes.

General Jackson's English Saddle.

Mr. Ficklin, of Albemarle, one of the owners of the steamer, Giraffe, of blockade-running notoriety, is said to have visited England recently, with a photograph likeness of "Old Stonewall" in his possession. An English gentleman manifested his interest in the distinguished hero of the Valley, by offering 25 guineas [$125] for the aforesaid likeness. Mr. Ficklin accepted the money, and invested it in a superior military saddle, bridle, &c., as a present for the celebrated General, whose simple photograph was so highly esteemed. This substantial and appropriate present has been forwarded to the care of Mr. J. T. McCrum, of Lexington, to be sheltered for the time being against the rain and mud of the Spring campaign. Can we, the citizens of Rockbridge, not present our distinguished defender and fellow citizen with a horse suited to his fine saddle? We are of the opinion that our County has a horse, somewhere within its limits, that would be worthy to wear even an English saddle.—*Lex. Gazette.*

A despatch in the telegraphic column announces that Rosencrans has evacuated Murfreesboro'.

Congress.

Congress was engaged on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday in discussing the Tax and Supreme Court bills.

SENATE, Wednesday, March 18.—The Senate agreed to the amendment proposed by Mr. Clay, of Ala., to the Supreme Court Bill, in the shape of an additional section, repealing the 45th and 46th sections of the Judiciary Act of the Provisional Congress, giving appellate jurisdiction to the Supreme Court over decisions of the State Courts. The bill, as amended, was passed. It provides

1. That the Court shall consist of a Chief Justice, and four Associate Justices, any three of whom shall constitute a quorum, and shall hold annually at the seat of Government two sessions.

2. The Chief Justice shall be the presiding judge of the Court and the Associate Justices shall have precedence according to the date of their commissions, otherwise, according to age.

3. The Justices shall take the oaths prescribed for the Judges of the District Courts.

4. Each Justice shall receive an annual salary of $5,500.

5. All papers and judicial proceedings of any kind, pending in or returnable to the Provisional Supreme Court, are hereby transferred to the Supreme Court created by this act.

6. Repeals the 45th and 46th sections of the Judiciary Act of the Provisional Congress.

The Senate after disposing of this business, resolved into secret session, and had final action on the Currency Bill, which, having now passed both Houses, only awaits the President's approval to become a law.

HOUSE.—In the House nothing of importance was done in open session. A resolution was adopted fixing the daily hour of meeting at 11 o'clock. The consideration of the Tax Bill was resumed in secret session. It is understood that a heavy rate of taxation has been fixed upon, and that the bill will probably be perfected and passed before the close of the week.

SENATE, March 19.—The Senate took up for consideration the bill for the condemnation of cotton.

On motion of Mr. Hill, of Ga., the same was transferred to the secret calendar.

The Senate then took up the bill to establish the Court of Claims.

The bill was read by sections, and the first section was adopted. The second section was then read; pending the consideration of which,

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Ark., the Senate resolved itself into secret session.

HOUSE.—Immediately after the reading of the journal, the House went into secret session, and resumed the consideration of the Tax bill.

The Currency Act.

The bill to be entitled "an act to provide for the funding and further issue of Treasury notes," has passed both Houses of Congress. We subjoin a synopsis of its provisions:

1. All Treasury notes, not bearing interest, issued previous to 1st of December last, shall be fundable in eight per cent. bonds or stock until 22d April, 1863; thereafter, until 1st August next, in seven per cents, and thereafter shall be no longer fundable at the pleasure of the holder, but be receivable in payment of public dues, except the export duty on cotton, and payable six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace. Notes issued after 1st December last, and within ten days after the passage of this act, shall be fundable only in four per cent. bonds. All such notes not funded shall be receivable, etc., as aforesaid. All call certificates outstanding on 1st July next, shall, after that date, be deemed to be bonds, bearing six per cent. interest.

2. Authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue, monthly, amount of notes, not exceeding fifty millions of dollars, fundable within six months from date of issue, in six per cent. bonds thereafter in four per. cent. bonds.

3. Notes fundable in six per cent. bonds may be converted into call certificates bearing five per cent. per annum, and, if not reconverted within six months, shall be exchanged for a six per cent. bond. Notes fundable in four per cent. bonds may be converted, at any time, into call certificates, bearing four per cent. interest, until reconverted or paid.

4. All bonds or stock issued under this act to be payable not less than thirty years after date, but shall be redeemable five years after date, at the pleasure of the Government.

5. Authorizes the purchase of Treasury notes bearing no interest issued after passage of this act until whole amount in circulation shall not exceed $175,000,000.

6. The notes shall be of any denomination not less than $5, now authorized by law.

7. Authorizes an increased issue of $1 and $2 notes, and also an issue of fifty cent notes, not fundable.

8. Authorizes the sale of six per cent. bonds at par for Treasury notes issued since 1st December to such of the Confederate States as may desire to purchase the same, or the sale of such bonds when guaranteed by any State, to an amount not exceeding $200,000,000. Also authorizes the sale, at par, of $100,000,000 coupon bonds, six per cent—the coupons to be paid at the pleasure of the owner in currency, or in cotton certificates, which pledge the Government to pay the same in cotton, at the rate of 8d sterling per pound, to be delivered at any time within six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace, at New Orleans, Mobile, Charleston, Savannah, or Wilmington, as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct.

9. Provides for the publication of the act.

A Spectacle.

"Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon." But it is a great fact standing out palpably before all the world, destined to go down by the pen of the historian to the remotest ages, that in the nineteenth century, the universal Yankee nation, with its boasted twenty millions of free whites, in a contest with six millions of its own color, has not only acknowledged itself beaten, and powerless of itself to win victory, but has actually called upon the African race, as the last and the only means whereby it can save "the best Government in the world," and the greatest!

What a miserable, piteous, ignominious spectacle is thus presented, unblushingly and without consciousness of shame and degradation, to the view of mankind. Lincoln and all his hosts call on the negro for help, or all is lost Wendell Phillips, the blasphemous wretch, proclaims it aloud that the great temple of Yankee freedom and glory has no hope but in God and the negro—that Ethiopian who can no more change his nature and his capacity than his skin. Verily, has the proud, vain-glorious race fallen—it has not only reached that lowest deep to which there is no ower depth, but it ostentatiously makes proclamation of the fact. It wallows in the mire of its own degradation, and that with delight, perfectly insensible that it is degraded How can the United States Government ever expect to hold up its head again among the great and respectacle nations of the earth, braggart and burly as it is, after thus descending so low? How can it hope to be treated with respect or forbearance by the leading powers; when, with its mighty resources of men and money, and they, too, poured out without stint, with its fleets and its guns and its iron-clads, it has proved unable, in two years, to crush that handful of divided rebels, whom it assured the world it would restore to their allegiance in three months, and against whom, in its despairing agony, it now calls aloud 'help me, Sambo, or I sink!"—*Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist*

Northern News.

Gen. Hooker had a long conference on Wednesday with Lincoln, Halleck, Stanton and the committee on the conduct of the war. Hooker hastened back to the Rappahannock on Wednesday night.

A report reached Cincinnatti from Jackson, Tenn., that a portion of Gen. Sullivan's division, composed of 200 men and two pieces of artillery, had been surrounded by the rebels and captured.

The rumor about the loss of the Florida is without foundation. She captured and burned the Jacob Bell, two weeks after being chased by the Sonora.

The Herald says the people of the loyal States are not in a frame of mind to tolerate the repetition in 1863 of the blunders and military disasters of 1862, and that the military success demanded is the one thing needful to save the administration and the country from shipwreck.

Col. Lefferts, of the New York Seventh Regiment, has resigned.

Lincoln considers the raid at Fairfax Court House a serious matter so far as horses are concerned. He says he can make a brigadier general in five minutes, but that it is not so easy to replace 110 horses.

Colonel Richardson and four hundred guerrillas were surrounded and captured at Covington, Tennessee, on the 9th inst.

Brigham Young has been indicted and bailed in two thousand dollars to answer for a violation of the polygamy act.

The majority in New Hampshire against the Democratic candidate for Governor is about 700. One Democrat is elected to Congress.

General Buckner has rescinded the order of the chief of commissary of subsistence of his department—the department of Mobile—relative to the impressment of stores and fixing an arbitrary tariff of prices. He orders that hereafter all subsistence procured in any way shall be paid for at a fair valuation, to be determined, if there cannot be an agreement in full, by disinterested arbitration. The adoption of this policy will satisfy the public.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

MR. EDITOR:—A state of things exists amongst us that no one at the commencement of the war ever dreamed of. So exorbitant has become the price of the essentials to the support of life, that even persons of moderate means and good salaries are not able to live in any degree of comfort, much less can those live in comfort who possess nothing, but who support themselves by what they daily and weekly earn.

I say nothing of the causes that have produced these exorbitant prices. Much has been said against extortion, speculation, &c., but it has availed naught. Our object need not be to inquire into causes, but to administer relief.

There is among us a class of persons whose natural supports are in the army—whose husbands, brothers and sons in the tented field and on the battle-ground are shielding from pillage and destruction by the enemy, the property of the very persons that are exacting these exorbitant prices for flour, bacon, wood and clothing, which are necessary to existence.

If our volunteers have rendered service that enables us at home to live free from the presence, and undisturbed by the ravages of the enemy; if their presence in the field allows us to cultivate our land, and sow and reap in security, in the name of common justice, (I do not say humanity or charity,) are not their families entitled to receive and purchase at reasonable rates a portion of that which the presence of their husbands, brothers and sons in the army, preserves from pillage and destruction?

Must we wait until they have spent their last ragged note (cents are not)—until they are compelled to shiver from cold around their fireless hearth; until they dine on potatoes and point (if they can purchase potatoes at $8.00 per bushel, or procure any meat to point at,) and retire supperless to bed, before our sense of justice and humanity arouses us to provide for their relief?

Shall we not rather go to them—inquire into their wants—and see that they have bread, at least, and wood wherewith to cook it?

The most of those of whom I speak, are receiving $11 per month, and citizens of the county are charging their families $25 per bbl for flour—$15 to 25 per load for wood and 90 to 100 cents per lb for bacon!

Fellow citizens, calculate how with their means and these prices the bodies and souls of the wives and children of volunteers can be kept together; bring to your aid your arithmetic and algebra, and publish in the next issue of the Spectator, how it can be done.

With me it is a problem impossible; with you it may be capable of solution, and if you will publish its solution to the world, you will have a claim to be called the Howard of the 19th century.

There are now in town families that have no wood—but little flour and meal—and their means exhausted. The pay of husbands is sometimes 6 months in arears, and their wives are incessantly sewing for the factory to provide for themselves and little ones, and yet at present exhorbitant prices they lack the means sufficient to purchase, though they would have sufficient, could food, clothing and wood be procured at reasonable rates.

A citizen of this town, unsolicited, has offered to contribute six loads of wood—a free gift—for distribution to the destitute. Are there not others equally able who will be willing to do as much? and, if they are not willing nor feel able to give it, will they not sell some at reasonable rates?

The citizens of the town are willing to contribute their quota in money, but they have not the wood, nor the teams to haul it. The families of volunteers are willing to pay reasonably for it, but you cannot expect them to pay the price now demanded.

The alternative is between destitution on their part, and willingness on your part to sell reasonably.

Will you allow the families of your defenders to suffer, or will you forego a slight portion of your gains?

The next Friday has been proclaimed a fast day, and many will, I hope, repair to their respective places of worship, but before you go, read what constitutes an acceptable fast in Isaiah, Chapter 58th, and act accordingly. A CITIZEN.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

Mr. EDITOR:—Your excellent suggestions to the farmers, we trust will be heeded; and that large crops of grain and vegetables of every kind will be planted in good time. That we will be under the necessity of giving our meat and flour to the army is becoming obvious. To supply the place of these in our families, we can substitute corn, buckwheat, molasses and vegetables All of these may be raised yet, this Summer. Buckwheat is a very prolific crop and should be sown largely. Molasses, in the greatest abundance, can be made. With plenty of buckwheat cakes and molasses, no family will suffer. In advance then, let us make our calculations in sowing and planting, that we will give our flour and meat to the soldiers. Now is the time to prepare against coming want, if not relentless famine. Providence helps those who help themselves," let us labor to secure His blessing. The season is still before us—let no hand be idle. "They who will not work, should not eat."—Whatever may have been indulged in and tolerated in other days, the time has now come, when all must work or starve. Some useful employment must be followed by rich and poor, alike. Let no food be sold to those who are able bodied and will not work, while any of the industrious and helpless are in want. We will have no surplus food for "dead heads" and vagabonds.

The farmers are in great need of help, and the time is growing short for getting out the crops. Send out the idlers and loafers from the towns to the country, to toil with the farmers from daylight till dark and help to make bread for all. This will be far better for them, than standing about the streets prating about the high prices of living Help to supply the demand and prices will come down.

"Come and help to make a living," are the watchwords of a FARMER.

DIED.

At the residence of his brother-in-law, Capt. Roberts, near West View, Augusta County, in the 30th year of her age, Mrs. MARGARET E. LUCADO, consort of Mr. Wm. F. Lucado, of Lynchburg and second daughter of Capt. P. O. Poimer, of Augusta co.

On the 7th of December, 1862, near Vicksburg, Miss., Mr. PEMBERTON C. SHIFLET, in the 26th year of his age.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA.

A PROCLAMATION.

The General Assembly of Virginia having passed an act to limit the production of tobacco and increase the production of grain, and it being of vital importance to the people of this State that its provisions should be known, therefore, I, JOHN LETCHER, Governor, do append hereto a copy of the act and invoke the special attention of sheriffs and farmers to its contents. It is not believed that such a scarcity of provisions or of provender exists at present as to give just alarm for the public safety; but with the means of transportation greatly limited and many portions of our most producing districts overrun or desolated by a Vandal foe, a prudent forecast should impel all classes to abandon, as far as possible, the cultivation of such crops as are not necessary for sustenance; and to increase to the utmost power of production, every article which may be used as food for man or beast The General Assembly has not thought proper to prohibit altogether the production of tobacco, but have endeavored to restrain the quantity. Would it not be patriotic and wise for every true Virginian to devote such land as he intended heretofore for tobacco to the growth of such crops as will enable him to increase his stock of animals for food, and give to all the people of the State an abundance.

The indomitable spirit and generous devotion of the Southern men, and the self-sacrificing patriotism of our women, can never be subdued by the strong arm of power; let it not be said that the heart sickened and the nerves were weakened by the power of famine or threatened want. I invoke the earnest consideration of the people to this important subject.

Given under my hand at Richmond, and under the Seal of the Commonwealth, this 16th day of March, 1863, and in the 87th year of the Commonwealth. JOHN LETCHER.

AN ACT

TO LIMIT THE PRODUCTION OF TOBACCO AND INCREASE THE PRODUCTION OF GRAIN.

[Passed March 12th, 1863.]

Whereas, the comfortable support of our soldiers in the field and the maintenance of their helpless families at home is not only a duty of patriotism and humanity, but is absolutely essential to the successful prosecution of the struggle for independence in which we are engaged; and whereas, the actual or threatened occupation of a large portion of the State by the public enemy, and the devastation of other portions of it, leaves but a small portion, comparatively, in which the pursuits of agriculture can be peaceably and safely followed and from which both army and people are to be subsis