Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY : : : : : : SEPTEMBER 29, 1863.

☞ We would be obliged to such of our subscribers as wish to furnish wood to do so *immediately*. Load your wagons, crack your whips and send on the wood.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Persons desiring the "direction" of their papers to be changed to another Post office should be sure to mention the name of the office to which it was *formerly* sent, as well as the name of the office and county to which he desires it to be sent in future. This is the only way to effect the change of direction desired.

TO POSTMASTERS.

When any subscribers refuse to take their papers from the Post Office to which they are directed, it becomes the *duty* of the Postmaster to apprise the Editor of the fact, that he may not be subjected to the expense of sending them. The Postmaster can do this by returning to the office of publication, a copy of the paper containing the *name of the Post Office and the name of the subscriber upon it.* We have called attention to this, because we have been informed that some Postmasters neglect their duty in this respect, and allow the Editor to send his paper for months to persons who have died, or moved away, or refuse to take it from the office.

BRAGG'S VICTORY OVER ROSECRANS.

In our last issue we stated that a battle was imminent between the forces of Bragg and Rosencrans. At that time a battle had been fought and won, but the news had not reached here. The battle was fought on the Chickamauga River, in the Northern part of Georgia near the Tennessee line. The battle commenced on Saturday, the 19th, and continued till the evening of the next day, and resulted in a great victory to our arms.—The loss is heavy upon both sides, tho' the loss of the enemy is much greater than ours. Our loss is supposed to be from five to ten thousand, and the loss the enemy, including killed, wounded and prisoners, is supposed to be twenty-five thousand.

The following dispatches from Gen'l Bragg will be read with interest:

CHICKAMAUGA RIVER, Sept. 20, 1863, Via Ringgold, 21st.

To Gen. S. Cooper, Adjt. and Ins. Gen:

After two days hard fighting we have driven the enemy, after a desperate resistance, from several positions, and now hold the field, but he still confronts us. The losses are heavy on both sides, especially so in our officers.

We have taken over twenty pieces of artillery, and some twenty-five hundred prisoners.

[Signed] BRAXTON BRAGG, Gen.

10 MILES SOUTH OF CHATTANOOGA, Via Ringgold, 21st.

To Gen. S. Cooper:

The enemy retreated on Chattanooga last night, leaving his dead and wounded in our hands.

His loss is very large in men, artillery, small arms and colors. Ours is heavy, but not yet ascertained.

The victory is complete and our cavalry is pursuing.

With the blessing of God, our troops have accomplished *great results* against largely superior numbers.

We have to mourn the loss of many gallant men and officers, Brig-Gen'ls Preston Smith, Helms and Deshler are killed. Major Gen. Hood, and Brig. Gen'ls Adams, Gregg and Runn, wounded.

[Signed] BRAXTON BRAGG, Gen.

NEAR CHATTANOOGA, September 24, 1863.

The report from Gen. Hood last night was favorable. Our prisoners will reach seven thousand, of whom two thousand are wounded. We have twenty-five stands of colours and guidons, thirty-six pieces of artillery, and have already collected over fifteen thousand small arms over and above those left on the field by our killed and wounded. More are being found.

(Signed) BRAXTON BRAGG.

On the 22nd, Gen'l Bragg issued the following address to his army:

HEAD'Q'RS ARMY OF TENNESSEE, Field of Chickamauga, September 22, 1863.

It has pleased Almighty God to reward the valor and endurance of our troops by giving our arms a complete victory over the enemy's superior numbers. Thanks are due and are rendered unto Him who giveth not the battle to the strong.

Soldiers! after days of severe battle, preceded by heavy and important outpost affairs, you have stormed the barricades and breastworks of the enemy and driven him before you in confusion, and destroyed an army largely superior in numbers, and whose constant theme was your demoralization, and whose constant boast was your defeat. Your patient endurance under privations, your fortitude, and your valor, displayed at all times and under all trials, have been meetly rewarded. Your commander acknowledges his obligations, and promises to you in advance the country's gratitude.

But our task is not ended. We must drop a soldier's tear upon the graves of the noble men who have fallen by our sides and move forward. Much has been accomplished—more remains to be done before we can enjoy the blessings of peace and freedom.

(Signed) BRAXTON BRAGG.

It is stated in the Yankee papers that Burnside, after having completed the deliverance of East Tennessee, petitioned his august master to relieve him that he might devote his liesure to his private affairs. But the President retained him to aid Rosencrans in pushing forward their conquest of Georgia and Southwestern Virginia. How they have accomplished the work which they undertook jointly to perform, let the thirty-six pieces of artillery and over fifteen thousand small arms left on the bloody field of Chickamauga answer. There must have been an immense slaughter, or great demoralization amongst the Yankees to have produced this result. Those claimed arms tell a sad tale on the proving that immense numbers have joined their companions in the shades below, or are now wandering in the mountains of Tennessee.

Though Bragg has certainly won a great victory, there yet remains a great deal to do before we can recover the territory abandoned to the enemy by the retreat of our forces from Tennessee.—Rosencrans, it seems, still occupies the strong position at Chattanooga, and, being reinforced by Burnside, will be able to offer a stout resistance, particularly if he be granted sufficient time to fortify. It is more than probable that another great battle will have to be fought before it will be decided who will hold possession of Tennessee.

FROM LEE'S ARMY.

There is almost daily skirmishing between the forces of Lee and Meade.—The Examiner says it has information which leads to the supposition that the enemy is preparing for a general attack on the lines of the Rapidan. It is known that, in the past few days, he has been massing his forces in Culpeper; his positions have been reconnoitered there, and his gradual encroachments on the railroad and river indicates very plainly the determination to fight.

Large forces of the enemy already occupy the railroad between Mitchell's station and Rapidan station. There may also be observed from our position three lines of encampment in the neighborhood of Pony Mountain and Sheperdsburg.

Our army is awaiting the attack of the enemy with great confidence—it has no idea of being defeated.

A DARING ACT.

On Wednesday, three scouts belonging to the Black Horse Cavalry, Fourth Virginia Regiment, made a dash upon the Yankee brigade Headquarters, near Meade's, captured a large United States Flag, and brought it safely to General Stuart. The scouts who performed this daring act are privates Smith, Smoot and Lewis. The Flag was deposited at the War Department by private Pat Channing Smith, who was a prominent actor in the affair, together with a highly complimentary letter from General Stuart. It is made of rich, heavy silk, and appears to have seen little service.—The eagle which surmounted the staff is a fine piece of carving, and handsomely gilded.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

On Monday, the 21st inst., Col. Ould, our commissioner for the exchange of prisoners, met Col. Meridith, the Yankee commissioner of exchange, at City Point, and proposed that all officers and men on both sides should be released, unless there were actual charges against them; and if any were held which their Government considered unjust, let one or more hostages be retained for such; and further, if said charges were not tried within a reasonable time, (to be agreed upon) the parties were to be released. The U. S. commissioner seemed willing to agree to this proposition; but desired to refer the subject to his government for their approval.

MEETING ON MONDAY.

In response to the invitations extended to them, Gen'ls Wigfall and Smith addressed the public in the Court House on yesterday. The Court House was full to overflowing, and near half who went to hear could not gain admittance. Many ladies graced the occasion by their presence and smiles of approbation.—We have no space for comments this week, and must content ourselves with simply refering our readers to the resolutions adopted, with the expression of the hope that they will be universally and cheerfully complied with.

HOME DEFENCE.

The New Hope District have organized a company for Home Defence by the election of the following officers:—S. B. Finley, Captain; H. H. Robertson, 1st Lieutenant, and Jas. W. Patrick, 2nd Lieutenant. On Saturday last a company was organized at West View by the election of the following officers, Rev. T. L. Preston, Captain, C. C. Francisco, 1st Lieut. and G. W. Swoope, 2d Lieutenant. On the same day a large Comqany was organized at Mt Solon—the names of the officers have not been furnished us.

SOCKS FOR THE SOLDIERS.

We have been requested to apprise the members of the "Soldiers' Aid Societies" of the fact that there is a large quantity of Yarn at the Manufactory for clothing in this place, which, it is hoped, they will call for and knit up in socks for the benefit of our soldiers.—The mere mention of this fact, we are sure, is all that is needed to have this yarn in the fair hands of the ladies to be wrought into the form of good comfortable socks for the suffering Soldiers.

GOOD NEWS, IF TRUE.—The Columbus Times has been informed by a citizen of that place, who had just returned from Augusta, Georgia, that he heard while there a report, believed by him to be reliable, that a letter has been very recently received by Mrs. Maury, from her husband, Lieut. Maury, of the Confederate Navy, from Nassau, stating that there were then three Confederate ironclads at that port, and that four others were expected in a very short time.—Mrs. Maury is now in Columbia, S. C., where she received the letter above mentioned.

Captain Geo. E. Walker, of the Engineers, Confederate army, died at Columbus, Georgia, last week of an aggravated form of sore throat. He was closely identified with the construction of the works which girdle the city of Charleston, and that fine fortification, Battery Bee, was planned and built under his immediate direction.

Brigadier General Howell Cobb has been promoted to the rank of Major General, and assigned to the command of the Georgia State forces, now being organized into regiments, brigades and divisions.

A Yankee correspondent says that, "speaking within bounds," four fifths of the contrabands within their lines are anxious to return to their masters.

A letter from General Hampton, dated Columbia, S. C., August 24th, says he will soon be with his brigade again.

☞ The Yankees are making poisoned bullets at their arsenals. The Devil has a just claim to the Yankees.

THE POWER OF ENDURANCE.

It is a notable fact that many of the men who were the most zealous advocates of secession are now the least to be relied upon and have been almost,—some of them quite,—brought to the point of grounding arms and making terms with the enemy. This may result in great part from the fact that they did not first count the cost of secession, and were not prepared for the consequences which,—it is not arrogating too much to say,—more sagacious men foresaw. Those who wanted secession, for its own sake, believed that that great result would be accomplished by purely peaceful means; and, once accomplished, the Southern Confederacy would soon attain a rank that would place it amongst the foremost nations of the earth. We do not include in this class those who, from considerations wholly selfish, labored to effect the secession, rather than by compromise and conciliation to perpetuate the Union. They may have had the sagacity to comprehend in part, the nature of the issue they were attempting to force upon the country, but labored nevertheless to deceive the people. And they did deceive them. If the truth can ever be ascertained, we believe that it will appear that both sections were deceived; the North not anticipating the obstinancy with which the South has fought to make good the act of secession; nor the South expecting such an example of tenacity of purpose as the North has evinced in its war for the Union. We say, therefore, that if both sections had foreseen the terrible struggle that has ensued, the Union would have been preserved by compromise, or a peaceable separation been effected.

The fact that this war has been changed in its character, and objects avowed now which even Lincoln's Congress, directly after the battle of Manassas, positively disavowed, does not effect the question in the slightest degree. The progress of the war has served to develop the fact that many of the men in the South who were least inclined to dissolve the Union, have now the most decided repugnance to its restoration; whilst many in the North who were originally hostile to the war, and would have condemned the Abolition policy of the Administration, now support both. Such are some of the lessons of the war.—*Lynch. Virginian.*

THE FIGHT IN MADISON ON TUESDAY.

The reports brought down by passengers from Gordonsville, on yesterday, at which place several of our wounded had arrived, with accounts of the cavalry fight in Madison county, on Tuesday, we sum up as follows: On Monday night, four thousand cavalry, under Kilpatrick and Buford, advanced upon and occupied Madison Court-House, driving in our pickets. On Tuesday morning, they advanced upon the main body of our cavalry in that immediate section, and which was less than two thousand strong. The two forces encountered at Jackson's shop, a few miles from the Court House, where a fight was begun and kept up nearly all day, our forces falling back, and reaching at night, when the battle had closed, Liberty Mills, on the Rapidan, about eight miles from Gordonsvile. One portion of the enemy's force were reported yesterday to have gone off to our left, to the village of Ruckersville, with a view, it was supposed, of getting entirely around our lines and striking the Central Railroad at or near Charlottesville. The mountainous nature of the country by this route would make the undertaking a difficult and dangerous one. During the engagement of Tuesday, we captured seventy-three of the enemy's dismounted men, who were engaged as sharp-shooters. The loss inflicted upon the enemy, is supposed to be severe.—Our loss is reported to be about one hundred and twenty-five, in killed, wounded and missing.

The latest reports which reached Gordonsville were that the enemy had crossed the Rapidan, burned Liberty Mills, and retired to the north bank of the river.—*Enquirer of Thursday.*

OUTRAGE BY A YANKEE BRUTE OF A COLONEL.—We have received a letter from a responsible source, dated near Manassas, Sept. 8th, giving the particulars of outrages attempted to be perpetrated upon the persons of respectable ladies by an infamous brute, named Murphy, a colonel in the Fderal army, now stationed near Union Mills. This representative of Yankeeism, with drawn pistol, and threats of death, attempted the accomplishment of his brutal purposes, but was foiled by the interference of other persons who were brought to the spot by the cries of those insulted. This Col. Murphy has burned the house of Mr. Kincheloe, father of Lieut. Kincheloe, and also the house of another gentleman who has a son in the same company with Lieut. K.—*Rich. Sentinel.*

The "Gazette," a paper published at Haverhill, N. H., gives the following conversation as one that was lately overheard in that town by one of the attachees of that paper. It certainly presents a fair illustration of the patriotism exhibited by the people of the North, when the people are called on to fight:

D——. "Good morning, G——. Ready for the draft?"

G—— "Ready! If my distracted country needs me—if she requires the sacrifice of my life—if the tottering edifice of our glorious Union needs to be cemented with my heart's blood—if it is necessary for her preservation that she strides onward to victory over my dead body—then, sir, the victim is ready! With a heart prepared for any fate, and with a firm trust in Divine Providence, I shall, with a lively feeling of doing my duty, and nothing but my duty, march boldly on—to the Collector's office and pay my three hundred dollars."

The great armada that has been so mysteriously hinted at by the Yankee papers, and which was designed either to scare the French from Mexico, or to lay Texas at the feet of the all-grasping Yankee, has been used up at Sabine Pass, Texas, and returned—what was left of it—to New Orleans, whence it started.

☞ The enemy on Morris Island, near Charleston, are working like beavers to get heavy guns in position to shell that city.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE TO COUNTRY MERCHANTS. Any quantity of OLD DOMINION CUT NAILS of all sizes, can be had at short notice. Apply to
Sept 29—3t BURKE & KUNKLE, Pond Gap, Augusta Co.

WOOD! WOOD!! WOOD!!!—Persons wishing to buy wood standing, can be supplied on reasonable terms by applying to the subscriber.
Sept 29—3t E. L. EDMUNDSON.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

At a large and enthusiastic meeting of the people of Augusta county, held on Monday, 28th September, 1863, (being Court day,) on motion of J. Marshall McCue, Hon. A. H. H. STUART was appointed Chairman, and A. F. KINNEY, Secretary.

The Chairman, in a brief speech, having explained the object of the meeting, on motion of N. K. TROUT, Thomas J. Michie, Maj. S. L. Lewis, Jacob Baylor, Samuel B. Finley, Wm. P. Tate, J. Marshall McCue, Dr. John McChesney, A. Koiner and John S. Ellis, were appointed a Committee to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting.

On motion of J. MARSHALL MCCUE, Thomas J. Michie, Benjamin Crawford and Matthew Patton, were appointed a Committee to wait on the Hon. LEWIS T. WIGFALL, of Texas, and Hon. WM. SMITH, Governor elect of Virginia, and request them to address the meeting, with which they complied in two powerful and patriotic speeches, at the conclusion of which the Committee on resolutions reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Augusta county, will promptly deliver to the Government the tenth of our produce as required by law.

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to sell to the Government and families of soldiers and other consumers all our surplus products at the prices established by Government, and we further pledge ourselves when any citizen refuses to sell his surplus at Government prices, to report him to the Government Agent that his surplus may be impressed.

Resolved, That we will discountenance the sale of anything to speculators and will not, under any circumstances, sell our surplus grain to distillers.

Resolved, That we will discourage in every way we can the desertion of our soldiers and extend all the facilities in our power, to the authorities in their speedy arrest and restitution to their commands.

Resolved, That the people of Augusta co. have perfect confidence in the ability and determination of our government and people to pay the debt of the Confederacy, whatever it may be, incurred in the holy cause of Liberty and Independence, and they will, therefore, invest all they can and induce others to invest in the purchase of Confederate bonds from the government.

Resolved, That we hail with pleasure the brightening prospect before us of our ability to defend ourselves and that we appeal to our people to let no momentary reverse chill their patriotism, but do all in their power to encourage our Government in prosecuting the war.

Resolved, That we feel our indebtedness to the invaluable aid we have derived from our mothers, wives and daughters during the war, and we have a guarantee for the future in their indomitable zeal, by a retrospect of the past and hereby extend to them our cordial thanks for gracing this meeting with their presence.

Resolved, That we most cheerfully accord to the distinguished gentlemen who have so ably and eloquently addressed us to-day, our cordial thanks, and urge them to go forward in the good work they are so ably sustaining.

Resolved, That a Committee of —— be appointed to circulate these resolutions in the several Magisterial Districts of this county, and obtain to them the signatures of the people.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the papers of this place, and the city of Richmond.

On motion of S. B. Finley, the meeting adjourned *sine die*

A. F. KINNEY, Secretary. A. H. H. STUART, Chairman

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

THE VALLEY AND ITS LADIES,

CHURCHVILLE, AUGUSTA CO., VA., September 17th, 1863

If there is one section of country more deserving than any other of the grateful respect of the Southern soldier, or more endeared to him by the remembrance of the kindness and hospitality which he has received at the hands of its people, that section is the VALLEY OF VIRGINIA.—Though it has frequently been overrun by a merciless foe, its pleasant villages sacked and robbed of all their wealth and grandeur, its fields laid waste, its beautiful residences demolished, and its families driven away from their homes—exiled by the hand of tyranny and oppression—yet it has NEVER failed in its kindness to the poor, sick, wounded or hungry soldier. Though its plains have been drenched in fraternal blood, and its vales made to re-echo the sound of the thundering cannon—though its brave, noble and patriotic sons have bled and died in the defence of their liberties, their homes, their wives and children, their friends and sweet-hearts, yet it has never faltered, never SHRUNK from the duty and obligations it owed to the Commonwealth and to the Confederacy.

I would not cast the slightest shade of disrespect or dishonor upon any portion of this glorious old State, the Mother of States and Statesmen. Neither would I detract from the honor of the LADIES of any portion of this State. Their generosity and kindness towards our soldiers have never been surpassed by any people. Their conduct has rendered them worthy of being called the daughters of the "OLD DOMINION," and should command for them the respect of every enlightened nation.

But yet, with all due deference to the feelings of the "fair sex" in other sections of Virginia, I must confess that in no part of the State have I ever seen soldiers treated with the same kindness and attention that they have been in the Valley. I am proud to say (though I am not from the Valley myself, being an exile from the Northwest) that I have never seen a soldier turned from the door of any residence without his wants having been supplied and his sufferings administered to. And, in regard to myself, I have never been treated with the slightest degree of disrespect in all of my travelings through this beautiful and fertile section of country—this EDEN of Virginia. But, on the contrary, have frequently been invited to their homes, to "remember that I would always be welcome to share their hospitality, and should I ever be weary, sick or wounded, they would take care of me, &c." Cold must be the heart of him who could speak of such a people with levity; and false to his country and to the cause of humanity must he be who could remain at home and see them overrun by a set of Yankee vandals and cutthroats. Such a man is unworthy the name of a VIRGINIAN, or the attention of her ladies. He should not be allowed to associate with them unless he is willing to shoulder his gun and aid in dealing our enemies a blow that would hurl them back to the granite hills of New England, content to live in peace with a people whom they CANNOT CONQUER, and secure for them a lasting and glorious independence, as a reward for their kindness, hospitality and patriotism.

How many a sick soldier have the ladies of the Valley taken to their homes, and cared for them and nursed them as kindly as if they had been a brother. After the hard fought battles of Winchester, Port Republic, Sharpsburg, and, more recently of Gettysburg, how many a wounded man has had his wounds dressed by the tender hand of some fair lady—perhaps the one who is to become his future companion through life. Her kind attentions, gentle caresses, and words of sympathy soothed his pain, and caused him for a while to forget his sufferings.

Ladies:—There are a certain class of men in Virginia, remaining at home, who look upon the progress of this war with careless indifference—they have folded their arms and said, "Let the Confederacy slide." Can you not reclaim them? Let me ask you to wield your influence, which is powerful, over them, and, by your winning smiles, earnest solicitations, and patriotism, and send them forth to assist in gaining our liberties—the sweetest boon of life. Your patriotism, so far, has no parallel in history, and we feel confident that you will not be found wanting in this instance.

As I am leaving the Department of the Valley, I bid you an adieu, hoping that the tread of the invading foe may never again disturb your midnight dreaming, that your freedom may soon be achieved, and that the sun of INDEPENDENCE may never again cease to shine upon your happy homes.

Very respectfully, &c.,
J. G. R., Capt. P. A. C. S.

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT.

CAMP 22ND VA. REGT., September 14, 1863.

At a meeting of the officers and soldiers of the "Kanawha Riflemen," 22nd Va. Regiment, held at the Head Quarters of Richard Laidley, Captain of said company, on motion of Lieut. Hanson Arnold, the following committee were appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of the meeting, viz:

Capt. Richard Laidley,	Sergt. Jno. Lewis,
Lt. H. W. Rand,	Sergt. W. W. Cook,
Priv. A. Beirne,	Priv. J. P. Spessard.

The committee after their retirement, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously accepted:

Whereas, in the mighty and unfathomable dispensations of a good and merciful Father, we are called to lament the death of our late noble comrade, Lieut. JOHN GAY CARR, who was mortally wounded on the field of battle at the White Sulphur Springs, Greenbrier county, Va., on the 26th day of August, 1863, and of which wounds he then died, we feel it our duty, as it is our earnest desire to express as best we can in words, the loss we feel in losing so good, so brave, and so noble a soldier and friend, therefore,

Resolved, That in the death of Lieut. J. G. Carr, we have lost one whom we all loved unto fondness and affection, an officer who did his duty in camp, or on the field of battle with unflinching zeal and courage, and who commanded the esteem and respect, and won the love of all who knew him.

Resolved, That we tender to those related to him, heartfelt sympathy in their afflictions, and with them hope, and with them feel assured that he rests in another and better world.

Resolved, That the proceedings of the meeting be placed on record in the Company Order book. That a copy be sent to the relations of the dec'd, and to the "Staunton Spectator," "Sentinel" and "Lynchburg Republican," for publication.

Rich'd Laidley, Capt.
H. W. Rand, 2nd Lieut.
John Lewis, 1st Sergt.
W. W. Cook, 5th "
J. P. Spessard,
A. Beirne.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

MR. EDITOR:—The very remarkable phenomenon noticed in your last issue, seems to have attracted some attention, and the pains taken by your correspondent to substantiate the credibility of the witnesses to the fact, fully attests the infrequency of such phenomena. Light, in very many of its manifestations, is often guilty of leading people into mysterious surmisings about the will of Providence and the interpretations to be put upon what are, in truth, very strange and uncommon appearances, but, at the same time, the results of physical natural laws. Nevertheless, Providence works by means, and whether we regard the cotton bales seen drifting North as representing the trade in that staple northward after we gain our independence, and the aerial army moving in the same direction *en deshabille*, as the Yankees retreating from the sunny South in a "double quick" bequeathing their unmentionables to the sable contrabands on the wayside, who show their ivories and hop into the blue breeches, is of little importance. Such things are somewhat like certain passages in scripture which we can interpret *according to our creed.* No doubt, according to Yankee exegesis the cotton bales would represent the first fruits of General Banks' labor system, and the army of *images* the apotheosis of the saints of abolitionism constituting the army of invasion. But we propose simply to state a few recorded facts to show that similar phenomena have, at various times, been witnessed, and are well attested by competent and credible witnesses. There are two laws by which light is governed, or rather there are two constant manifestations of light under certain peculiar conditions—the term law as applied to nature not being a principle of energy or power, but simply a constant recurrence of the same phenomena under similar conditions.—We say, however, in common parlance, that light obeys two laws, the law of refraction and the law of reflection, by either of which it is possible to depict images in the air to an observer who may be placed in a proper position to receive the light. By the refraction of light is meant the bending of a ray of liget from its original rectilinear direction, when it is made to pass from one medium into another of different density, as for instance, when it passes from air into glass or water, or *vice versa.* Many of the ordinary phenomena of nature are due to the operation of this law, as the apparent bending of a stick when plunged obliquely into water, the elevation of the bottom of a clear stream so that it appears of less depth than it is in reality, the apparent steepness of a hill as we approach it, and the undulatory surface sometimes given to a level plane when viewed through a common window-pane. But the different strata of the atmosphere also constitute media of different density, and a ray of light passing through it from above toward the earth in an oblique direction from any object will, from the manner in which it is refracted, cause the object to appear at a greater altitude above the horizon than its real position. Thus objects on the earth's surface under peculiar conditions of the atmosphere in certain localities by which its refractive power is highly increased, might apparently be elevated to positions much above their real positions in nature. We have said that an image in the air might be produced under the laws of refraction. The refracting telescope is constructed with direct reference to this principle, the observer viewing the image of the celestial body formed by the rays of light from the body being made to converge and cross each other by means of the refracting power of a double convex lens. It is probable, however, that any very striking phenomena, as that recently witnessed in the mountains, are not generally produced by the principle of refraction alone, though, as we have said above, it is not impossible under certain conditions of the atmosphere, which may be supposed to exist. But recurring to the law of reflection, images are produced, first, by plane mirrors at a distance as far behind the mirror as the object is in front, and, secondly, by concave mirrors in front of the mirror in the air, when the object is at a greater distance from it than the principal focus. It may be thought improbable that a medium so transparent as the atmosphere, under ordinary circumstances, would, under any circumstances, constitute a mirror for the reflection of natural objects. But glass is also very transparent, and yet we often see the image of a candle or a fire, or of a scene in nature by simply looking at a window-pane. Water is also transparent, but all the beauties of the rainbow are produced by the reflection of light from the inner surface of the rain-drop. In fact, there is a strong indisposition in light to pass from a dense into a rare medium, being very liable to be reflected from the inner surface of the denser medium. Thus, a ray of light will not pass out of glass into air if the angle of incidence exceed about 40 degrees, nor out of glass into water if it exceed 59 degrees.—It is not improbable, therefore, that under peculiar conditions of the atmosphere at certain times it may be made to constitute a mirror for the reflection of the light proceeding from objects on the Earth's surface, and the rays of light thus reflected downward from above would undergo a refraction tending to elevate the image of the object from which the light emanated. Should the atmosphere constitute a plain mirror, the images would be at a greater distance than if its peculiar conformation constituted a concave mirror. In the latter case, the image would lie between the observer and the atmospheric region rendering it, and would be visible only to observers in the particular locality, into which the reflected rays, after crossing each other, diverge. It is evident that such mirrors from their want of perfection and symmetry of form might produce both a multiplication and distortion in the images of objects, and perhaps, also, if the mirror-condition of the atmosphere be supposed to move, motion of the whole scene. It will be observed that what is here written is based on the hypothesis, that, in the particular phenomenon to which we allude, the images produced had a real objective counterpart in nature, though the distance to any body of troops may have been very considerable. The following remarkable cases of like character to the phenomenon in question, which are well authenticated, will serve not only to show the capacity of the atmosphere for rendering images, but also the fact of the great distance at which the objects producing the images may be from the observer.

1st. On July 26th, 1797, about 5 P. M., at Hastings, on the south coast of England, a large portion of the coast of France appeared to a number of observers so distinctly, that sailors who were spectators of the scene pointed out to the narrator and witness of the phenomenon a number of places easily recognized with the naked eye, but further increased in distinctness by the use of the telescope. Places known as the Bay, the Old Head, and Dover Cliffs, even the French fishing boats, and portions of the French coast at a distance of from 80 to 90 miles, all appearing as near as if they were sailing at a small distance from the coast.

2d. In the Highlands of Scotland in 1774, Mr. Wren and others observed upon an extremely precipitous hill, the figure of a man with a dog pursuing several horses, all running at a most rapid rate until they finally disappeared, all of which proved to be a mere scene similar to others of the kind. Some time afterward, in the same locality, as observed by the inhabitants for miles around, there was seen a troop of horsemen advancing in close ranks and at a brisk pace.—The various evolutions through which the troops passed, were distinctly visible and observed by all. These appearances were supposed to be the images of a body of rebels drilling themselves previous to the rebellion of 1745.

3d. The "Spectre of the Brocken" in the Hartz Mountains in Germany, which is of frequent occurrence, representing oftentimes a magnified image of the observer, and obeying all of his motions, is too well known to allude to more definitely.

4th. On Sunday the 17th December, 1826, the clergy in the vicinity of Poictiers in France were engaged in the exercises of the Jubilee which preceded the festival of Christmas. Three thousand spectators were present. They had planted, as part of the ceremony, a large cross 25 feet high and painted red, in the open air before the church. About 5 in the afternoon, a similar celestial cross suddenly appeared in the heavens about 200 feet above the horizon and apparently about 140 feet in length, of a bright silver color tinged with red.

The causes of certain phenomena, similar to those above mentioned, have been illustrated in an interesting manner by the experiments of Dr. Wollaston upon different refracting media.

K.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CLOTHES FOUND.—A few days since, the subscriber found between Churchville and Jennings' Gap a bundle of Clothes, supposed to belong to a soldier, which the owner can get by proving property, and paying the advertising charge.
Sept 29—2ts* WM. KNOWLES.

NOTICE.—MRS. STRAUGHAN will open her School at her residence, for small children, on the first Monday of October.
TERMS:—$4 per month.
Sept 29—2t* ☞ Vindicator copy.

NOTICE.—The "Augusta Medical Society" will meet punctually at 10 o'clock, on WEDNESDAY the 14th day of October next, in the room over Cease's Confectionary. S. KENNERLY, Jr., Sect.
Sept 29—2t Vin. copy 2t

COWS FOR SALE.—Three good Cows for sale. Persons wishing to buy will inquire at the
Sept 19—tf. SPECTATOR OFFICE.

FOR THE SPECTATOR.

TO THE LADIES OF STAUNUON.

Ladies, please read this, the soldiers' appeal.
I hope the truth of these verses you'll feel,
May you think it your duty to do as I say,
If you do, you'll have sweet mem'ries when your heads turn grey.

If you come to see them, 'tis all that they ask,
To see them now and then, is not much of a task,
'Tis true, ladies visit here, for two I have seen,
'Tis like angels' visits, "few and far between."

It is the soldiers, dear ladies, who make this appeal,
Who have stood by their country through woe and through weal.
Many from sickness and wounds, in Staunton are left,
Who of kindred and friends are forever bereft.

Who have never failed on the march, nor flinched on the field,
Who have made of their breast, for their country a shield,
They have gallantly gathered from mountain and plain,
Many, alas! never to reach home again.

Come and see them, and some of your time with them spend,
And tell them about the sinners' friend,
If they are sinners, show them the way they should go,
Tell them there's nothing but sorrow below.

Tell them from faith in God ne'er to depart,
For it is by affliction that God tries the heart,
To trust to their heavenly Father's pure love,
And prepare themselves here for a mansion above.

Try to enlist them in the army of religion and right,
Try to give them courage to "fight the good fight,"
Tell them to take the Bible for their colors, to the cross make it fast,
And with Christ, as their battle cry, fight to the last.

If a soldier is dying, oh! watch his last breath,
As, perchance, you may learn a lesson from death,
For if he has fought the good fight as the noble and brave,
His soul goes to heaven; his clay to the grave.

WILFRED.

American Hospital, Sept. 14, 1863.

MARRIED.

On the evening of the 10th inst, at the residence of the bride's mother, by Rev. Mr. Dice, Mr. JOHN W. BARE and Miss LIZZIE M. CEASE, of Staunton, Va.

On the 7th inst., by Rev. Mr. Campbell, Lieut. JAS. S. GILBERT (7th Regt. S. C. Volunteers,) Abbeville District, S. C. to Miss BETTIE J. daughter of Captain Jas. H. Baskin, of this place.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

SALE OF TAVERN AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.—
On Thursday, 8th of October next, as administrator of Elizabeth M. Richards, dec'd., I will proceed, in Mt. Sidney, to sell, at Public Auction, to the highest bidder, the following property, viz:
1 Horse, 1 Rockaway and Harness, 1 fine milch cow, 10 Beds and Bedding, Tables and Chairs, 1 Bureau, 1 Wardrobe, 1 Clock, 1 Cook Stove, Table-ware, and a variety of other Household and Kitchen Furniture.
I will hire at the same time until the 25th of December next, a Negro Woman and Man.
TERMS:—All sums of $10 and under, Cash, over that sum, 6 months' Credit with security, the purchaser to have the option of paying all down.
All persons having claims against the Estate will present them on that day for settlement, and persons indebted will please make payment on that day.
On the same day, Mr. Peter Neff will sell the Mt. Sidney Tavern property.
TERMS made known on the day of sale.
Sept 29—2t* J. W. BRUFFY, Adm'r of E. M. RICHARDS, dec'd.

FAIR SALE.—Will be sold at my store, 2 miles east of Mossy Creek Iron Works, on SATURDAY, October 3rd, commencing at 10 o'clock, the following property, and articles to wit: Sixty Sacks of Virginia Salt, 100 Boxes of Tobacco, of different grades, 1 Barrel of Tanner's Oil, one of Machine Oil, 1 Barrel of Tar, Harness Oil, 100 lbs. of Black Pepper, half ton of Iron, 400 lbs. of Sugar, a lot of Hogs, a lot of Cattle, 8 Overcoats, Soda, Smoking Tobacco, &c.
The above articles will be sold in quantities to suit purchasers. Terms Cash. D. A. PLECKER
Sept 15—3ts. Rock. Register charged $4.50.

POSTPONEMENT.
The above sale will take place on Saturday, the 17th of October, instead of Saturday the 3d, as advertised. D. A. PLECKER.
Sept 29—2ts*

STORE ROOM FOR RENT—AT AUCTION.
The undersigned, (Master and Wardens of Staunton Lodge, No. 15,) will, on FRIDAY, the 9th day of October, 1863, LEASE the commodious Store Rooms, in the town of Staunton, now occupied by P. N. Powell, and Messrs. Woods & Gilkeson; and the capacious Hall immediately above the Store Rooms—to raise a certain sum of money.
Terms and conditions made known on the day of letting,
WM. L. BALTHIS, M.
D. C. McGUFFIN, S. W.
WM. H. WILSON, J. W.
Sept 29—2t Richmond Daily Examiner and Lynchburg Daily Republican copy 3 times and send bills to Staunton Spectator.
BRUCE & PECK, Auctioneers.

SPECIAL NOTICE.
TEN THOUSAND PACKAGES *Manufactured Tobacco*, ON CONSIGNMENT.
WE beg leave to call the attention of dealers to our large and attractive stock of
Manufactured and Smoking Tobacco,
of the most approved and celebrated brands.
Our stock of Tobacco is *unsurpassed by any in the city*, and we confidently invite the examination of those in want. P. G. COSBY, & CO.,
Cary, between 13th and 14th streets.
Sept 29—tf Richmond, Va.

A FEMALE SCHOOL.—At West View, a village six miles west of Staunton, a Female school will be opened, on MONDAY, the 5th of Oct. by a highly accomplished and a very competent female teacher, and one who has had considerable experience. The following branches will be taught:—English, Latin, French and music. Good board can be had in and near the village, on moderate terms.—References given, if desired. For particulars address
Sept. 29—2t* TEACHER, Box 22, Staunton, Va.

SALE OF A NEGRO WOMAN.—
By virtue of a decre of the Circuit Court, for Augusta County, in the case of Fitch's trustees against Fitch's heirs and others, we will, on the 26th day of October next, (being Court day) sell, at public auction in front of the Court House, in Staunton, the negro woman above mentioned in said decree.
Sept 29—2ts J. RIVERS FULTON,
WM. R. FOSTER.
Trustees of Eliza Fitch and her children, & com'rs.

PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Will be sold, on FRIDAY, the 9th of October, at the late residence of Wm. Byers, dec'd., on Middle River, one mile below Samuel Cline's Mill, the personal property of said Wm. Byers, dec'd., consisting of 3 or 4 head of Horses, several Milch Cows, 25 or 30 head of Hogs, some Harness, Farming Utensils, 15 or 20 Acres of Corn on the ground, river bottom, 150 bushels of Wheat.—Terms made known on the day of sale.
Sept 29—2ts.* SAMUEL BYERS, Executor.

AUGUSTA COUNTY COURT CLERK'S OFFICE, TO WIT:
Taken up by James T. W. Wilson on his land, on the 24th of July, 1863, near Mint Spring, in said county, an estray of the following description, to wit:
A COW, white with red ears, and some red on her nose, no ear marks, supposed to be twelve years old, and appraised at $112.
Extract—Teste,
WM. A. BURNETT, D. C.
September 29—3t*

AUGUSTA COUNTY COURT CLERK'S OFFICE, TO WIT:
Taken up by Mrs. M. Talley, on her land near Peck's Mill in Augusta county, on the 15th Aug., 1863—An Estray of the following description to wit:
A STEER, dark red with white spots, muly, crops off the right ear, Appraised at $175.00 by Jos. Reynolds and James Paxton. Extract—Teste.
Sept 29—3t* W. T. JEWELL, D. C.

MUSICAL CLASS.
MY CLASS will commence the 1st of October next Applications are solicited before that time, that pupils may have such an hour as will suit them best.
TERMS—$100 for 9 months, of which, $25 are expected in advance.
Sept 22—2t* E. LOUI