

Staunton Spectator.

Tuesday, February 4, 1868.

The Spectator having about as many subscribers as both of the other papers published in this place, it is the duty of those who advertise for others to advertise in this paper which has the largest circulation.

The circulation of the Spectator is about as great as the combined circulation of both the other papers published in this place, and has as many subscribers in this county alone as are contained in the whole subscription list of either of the other papers.

Conservative Organization.

The Conservatives of Rockbridge county, held a meeting in Lexington, on the 25th of January, for organizing for the election on the adoption or rejection of the Constitution which will be submitted by the Bones and Banjo Convention in Richmond.

Gen. Sam'l McDowell Moore was President of the meeting, Judge Brockenbrough addressed the meeting, and presented a series of resolutions, endorsing heartily the plan of organization recommended by the State Executive Committee at Richmond, which were unanimously adopted. On motion of Gov. Letcher, Gen. Sam'l McDowell Moore was unanimously elected Gen. Superintendent of the county, and was empowered to appoint substitutes for any of the county Committees who might decline the appointment. The following named gentlemen were appointed on the county Committee by the Chairman, and their appointment ratified by the meeting, in accordance with the resolutions:

- 1st District—Lexington—John W. Fuller and Wm. A. Anderson.
2d District—Guy's Mill—Col. L. C. Davidson and John W. Hamilton.
3d District—Natural Bridge—William T. Poague and Dr. J. L. W. Ligon.
4th District—Cullerstown—W. B. Leech and Jas. C. Hutton.
5th District—Lowman's Mill—Calvin M. Harper and Joseph A. Logan.
6th District—Brownsburg—J. D. Sterrett and Dr. S. B. Morrison.
7th District—Fairfield—W. A. Donald and John Davidson.

Distress in the South.

The Richmond Enquirer says that "the accounts of the despair of the whites, and of the utter demoralization of the blacks which reach us from the South, are all alike. The gloomy outlines and fillings up are all the same whether sketched on the banks of the Mississippi or upon those of the Santee. Everywhere the negroes are armed, and refuse to work. Everywhere bands of profligate blacks are sweeping the neglected plantations of everything which can be made useful either as plunder or for food. Live stock of all sorts are stolen, corn-crisps and cotton pens are pillaged, vegetables are stolen from the garden, and the bare land is left for the unhappy planter.

The negroes refuse to contract, and steal all that they can lay their hands upon, while they are waiting for the "Convention" to give them "forty acres of land and a mule." The traveller everywhere encounters those demoralized laborers in gangs, wandering up and down the highways, and skulking through the forests, seeking what they may devour. "The misery of Mexico, Ireland, and of all the rest of the most wretched sections of the earth seems," says an eye witness, "to have fallen upon the Cotton States."

The Troubles of the Reconstructors.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says it was fondly supposed that the supplementary reconstruction bill now pending in the Senate, and which is the fourth of the series, would be a finality. It has been discovered, however, that the real powers which are therein conferred upon Gen. Grant can be swept away by a single breath of the Executive. The law which revived the grade of General expressly provides that the officer appointed to fill that position shall command the armies of the United States "under the direction and during the pleasure of the President." By this law, passed less than two years ago, the President can at any moment designate another general-in-chief. The military committees of the two houses are hard at work to devise some plan to meet this new difficulty, and in a few days we may, in the language of Fernando Wood, expect another monstrosity to be revealed to the gaze of the country. The truth is, this whole reconstruction policy of Congress is very much like a leaky vessel; for every hole that is patched up with two new ones are discovered.

West Virginia.

The Winchester Times says that "the original secession of West Virginia can only be defended as a war measure; and notwithstanding the fraud of her inception, and the facility with which she was introduced into the body of the Constitution, law, can sail a Seventy-four gun frigate through her baseless pretensions to the coequal dignity of a State, we have no objection to her people deciding their State relations for themselves. If they—we do not mean simply the Radical minority, who monopolize the suffrage, but all the people of that State—are disposed to renounce the rich legacy which the mother of States bequeathes to her legitimate children—so be it. But Berkeley and Jefferson belong to the great Valley of Virginia. They never did consent to the transfer of jurisdiction, and the outrage upon their citizens, which binds them to an association which they abhor and detest, only finds its parallel in the infamous partition of Poland."

The Lynchburg Republican.

The Lynchburg Republican says that "our clergy, generally mingle too little with the masses of mankind—the outside world of sinners—and expect to do too much in the pulpit and too little in private and personal association and intercourse with those who are not members of the church. For instance, a large majority of mankind do not attend religious worship at all, or very seldom. Might not a vast improvement be effected by the introduction of some voluntary tariff after November 1st, 1868. The vote was 104 to 43.

John Young Brown's case was discussed till adjournment.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY.

WEDNESDAY, January 29th. Peter Jones called up the resolution of Kelso asking General Schofield to allow registered voters to vote in any part of the State where they may be residing at the time of election.

Mr. Platte called up Peter Morgan's resolution appointing a committee to investigate the names of persons who should have their congressional disabilities removed, which list should be presented to Congress in the form of a petition.

Mr. Williams favored the resolution. Mr. Hawhurst was opposed to it, and would leave the dirty work of peddling pardons to Andrew Johnson, who first began it.

Mr. Gibson opposed the resolution because he thought that many men not worthy of pardon would not apply for it; and then it would not be consistent, as it was well known that it was proposed to extend the disfranchisement.

A Washington Correspondent of the Balt. Gazette.

The revolution is rapidly culminating. All the measures devised by Congress for subverting the Government will be speedily passed. In addition to those heretofore particularly referred to, there is now a bill before the House proposing the Supreme Court from judicial life, and the removal of the President, never in direct conflict with the Constitution. A bill is also before the Senate simplifying the proceedings upon impeachments, and providing that two-thirds of the Senate may declare a president guilty of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors, and in such case the President shall be removed from office.

The Richmond Enquirer.

The Richmond Enquirer, in the course of an able article on the present condition of the negro, indulges in the following melancholy reflections: "The Puritan and the white Pariah of the South have substituted for the fetters of our old system of slavery, the fetters of the most selfish, merciless and proscriptive form of slavery for the mass of freedmen which has ever disgraced a Christian nation. It is a form of slavery which is not confined to race, but is based in cellars, neglects them in sickness, encourages them in idleness and in every species of immorality, feeds them upon slops, compels them, by secret orders, to do the bidding of countess and demagogues, and drives them to the hills to die."

The Woodstock Shenandoah Herald thus reports the sage remarks of a "man and brother," by the name of "Jack Ross," made to the Editor of that paper: "Heap of des niggers is getting above demselves, and runnin to de Bureau, and speekin him to make um live and dey do nofin. I find out do de dilled pussins friends is, knows it 'int dese Yankee Bureau and runny white southern pussins. If dese niggers would go to de fair, and take de niggers names and drop this Union League, like I see dese dey would get along a heap better."

We thought that there was a deal of philosophy and good sense in Jack's "unvarnished tale." The Baltimore Sun, speaking of the complaints of the English press, at the sympathy for the Fenians, expressed by the House of Representatives, dryly remarks that "the House of Representatives will continue to exercise the privilege of sympathizing with the oppressed of the Southern States, and the Southern States, which, however, are no wiser."

Captain F. R. Windsor has just returned from his expedition to Mississippi, and reports that in that State a more prosperous condition. Splendid lands, at forced sales, bring comparatively nothing, and the captain witnessed the sale, a few days before he left there, of four excellent mules for \$12.—Alexandria Gazette.

The New York Journal of Commerce recommends patience and calmness, even in the midst of the destructive and revolutionary proceedings of Congress, and tells us, that notwithstanding what is going on, there are yet grounds for courage and hope.

A dispatch to the New York Tribune says: "Mr. Elliot, chairman of the Committee on the Freedmen's Bureau, has been instructed to prepare a bill to extend the charter of the Bureau for a period of one year from the first of next July."

CONGRESSIONAL.

SENATE Wednesday, Jan. 29.—In the Senate a bill was introduced providing for a bureau of insurance. The bill providing for the sale of iron-clads was passed. The Reconstruction bill was then taken up, and Messrs. Pomeroy and Buckalew made speeches.

SENATE Thursday, Jan. 30.—In the Senate the bill in addition to the Tenure of Office act was discussed without coming to a vote. Mr. Curtis offered the following: "Provided, That corporations and counties are hereby prohibited from levying any poll or capitation tax."

HOUSE.—In the House a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to investigate the reports that one of the Judges of the Supreme Court (supposed to be Judge Field) had declared privately that the Reconstruction acts were unconstitutional, and to report if such a remark constituted sufficient ground for impeachment, was introduced, and after some debate was adopted. The consideration of the bill concerning the rights of American citizens abroad was resumed, and after a lengthy speech by Mr. Wilson and the adoption of some amendments the bill went over.

SENATE Friday, Jan. 31.—Ohio's withdrawal of assent to the constitutional amendment created a sensation. The reconstruction bill was resumed. District of Columbia matters were considered while the vote was being taken, asked that they be allowed to vote.

HOUSE.—Mr. Eliot, (Rep.) of Massachusetts, reported a bill for continuing the Freedmen's Bureau. The resolution of the Ohio Legislature, withdrawing the assent of that State to the constitutional amendment presented, and the Judiciary Committee was instructed to report on the law question involved.

One of the aims in farming should be to produce as far as possible, everything you consume, and to buy nothing you can raise yourself.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

THIRTY-NINTH DAY.

THURSDAY, January 30th. Mr. Platte to day occupied the chair, and presided over the convention, and he seemed inclined to be very strict in the enforcement of the rules.

Mr. Platte took his seat between the parties; and quiet being restored, Mr. E. Gibson said that the resolution was adopted, and the following committee was appointed: Kelso, Platte, Maddox, French, and Owens.

Mr. Platte called up the resolution of Kelso asking General Schofield to allow registered voters to vote in any part of the State where they may be residing at the time of election.

Mr. Platte called up Peter Morgan's resolution appointing a committee to investigate the names of persons who should have their congressional disabilities removed, which list should be presented to Congress in the form of a petition.

Mr. Williams favored the resolution. Mr. Hawhurst was opposed to it, and would leave the dirty work of peddling pardons to Andrew Johnson, who first began it.

Mr. Gibson opposed the resolution because he thought that many men not worthy of pardon would not apply for it; and then it would not be consistent, as it was well known that it was proposed to extend the disfranchisement.

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he had acted dishonorably he was a d—d liar. The parties sprang to their feet. Mr. Snead seized his chair. Mr. Bowen also; and the light seemed imminent, was prevented by Mr. Clements, who jumped between the parties.

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down stairs. The Messrs Gibson immediately went for the door which was ordered to be closed.

A Republican member moved the arrest of a man who endeavored to disturb the peace of the House. Great confusion ensued and a rush was made for the door through which several persons, among them the Messrs. Gibson, succeeded in passing. The Messrs. Gibson took a stand near the door. Upon the return of Mr. Hine; a few minutes after, Mr. E. Gibson caught him by the collar, and making a slap at him exclaimed "come out of there you d—d coward."

Mr. Hine replied by making so desperate a break at the door as to shiver the glass partition, and force the door partially open despite the efforts of three men inside to keep it closed, thereby gratifying the members with the sight of a pale, frightened countenance, peeping out from masses of disheveled hair.

Mr. Gibson gave him another jerk, and Mr. Hine, unable to obtain admittance to the hall, replied that he did not acknowledge the code. Mr. Gibson remarked that he would fight him on any terms, and that he would not be overthrown by a man who was afraid to fight.

Mr. Hine said that he did not want to fight, and that the affair, as far as he was concerned, had gone far enough, replying to Mr. Gibson's invitation to fight, "I am not a fighter, or, 'it's not so," and thus the matter ended.

Within the Hall the greatest confusion prevailed, all the members were on their feet, and many of them crowded the aisle in the endeavor to get out. Some of the Radicals were very bold, and one of the champions would be overthrown by superior numbers, and exclaimed "two against one ain't fair," and, after a stormy scene of excitement, a motion to adjourn was carried amid the wildest disorder, and the members rushed pell mell into the hall.

Mr. Curtis: Yes, but we want to hold the reins tight. I've got the reins in my hands, and I want to hold 'em a little longer. Mr. Hine, with equal vehemence, said, "I ain't no horse, but I want to hold 'em a little longer."

Mr. Platte withdrew his motion to reconsider, and modified it by moving to add certain words to the resolution.

Mr. Platte moved to amend as follows: "And no capitation tax for county or corporation purposes shall be levied exceeding one dollar, or one day's labor."

Mr. J. C. Gibson arose to a point of order. He said that the member could withdraw a motion which had been made and seconded, without the consent of the House.

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New Advertisements.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE.—In pursuance of a decretal order of the Circuit Court of Bath county, rendered on the 18th day of October, 1867, in a cause therein pending, on the chancery side thereof, in which James Clerk, et al., are Plaintiffs, and Thomas Sittling, et al., are Defendants, notices are hereby given by the parties interested, that I shall proceed to sell at public auction, on Friday, the 25th day of February, 1868, to execute said order:

1st. To take, state and settle the accounts, showing the amount due to the parties, respectively entitled, under the will of Richard Mayse, deceased, to the proceeds of the land alleged to have been sold by the Executors of said Richard Mayse, deceased, as set forth in the bill.

2nd. For how much, if anything, the said land is still bound by account unpaid purchase money in favor of the legatees of said Richard Mayse, deceased.

3rd. The successive liabilities of the other parties, in suits filed in the said court, and to each other by reason of the transactions alleged in the bill.

4th. An account showing the indebtedness, if any, of the estate of Wm. Douglas, deceased, to the estate of said Richard Mayse, deceased, or to the legatees of said Mayse, deceased.

5th. An account showing how Thomas Sittling, the purchaser of the land, in the proceedings mentioned, has paid, if at all, in whole, or in part, the purchase money due from him, and to whom.

I also wish to ascertain and report to Court when Peche Mink separates this life, and whether the legal distributees of Richard Mayse, deceased, are Peche Mink, deceased, and how much of the interest on \$1,500, the purchase money of the land sold unpaid at the death of Peche Mink. The parties interested are requested to attend.

C. R. McDONNALL, Commissioner in Chancery.

PECK & CUSHING AUCTIONEERS. We now offer \$5,000 worth of Ready-Made Clothing, &c., at Auction and Private Sale. Having just received from the British establishment the following goods, consisting of Overcoats of all descriptions; fine Black Frock and Coat Suits; Cassimere Coats; Suits, fine Black Dressing Suits, fine Cassimere Suits, Working Pants, and Pants of all descriptions; all styles and colors; fine Shirts, Shirts, fine Shirts, under Shirts and Shirts of all kinds; Drawers for every shirt; Collared and Neckties of every style; Neck Ties, Butterflies, Socks, Suspenders, and many other articles generally kept in a first-class Retail Clothing House.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE.—In pursuance of a decretal order of the Circuit Court of Bath county, rendered on the 18th day of October, 1867, in a cause therein pending, on the chancery side thereof, in which Wm. Douglas, et al., are Plaintiffs, and Charles S. Miller, et al., are Defendants, notices are hereby given by the parties interested, that I shall proceed at my office, at Bath County, Va., on Thursday, the 12th day of March, 1868, to ascertain and report to Court when Peche Mink separates this life, and whether the legal distributees of Richard Mayse, deceased, are Peche Mink, deceased, and how much of the interest on \$1,500, the purchase money of the land sold unpaid at the death of Peche Mink. The parties interested are requested to attend.

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Auction Sales.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE.—By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Augusta county, in the case of Peck & Cushing vs. M. M. Clark's infant heirs, &c., for sale on

PAIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 1868, upon the premises to the highest bidder, at public auction, the farm in Augusta county belonging to the estate of M. M. Clark, dec'd.

This farm contains 220 Acres of land, including lime-stone land, is well improved with a large and all necessary out-houses. A fine stream of water runs entirely through the farm, and one of the finest springs in the county bursts out within a few yards of the house. The farm is composed of a fair proportion of mow, wood, and arable land. It is within four miles of the Rockwell Depot on the Virginia Central Railroad, and is well adapted for a person of moderate means.

The farm will be shown to persons, wishing to examine it, by Mr. East, who lives upon the premises, or by John S. Ellis, Esq., who lives near by.