Staunton Spectator.

Tuesday, March 1, 1870.

RAILROAD MEETING.—The citizens of East Rockingham and East Augusta who are interested in the early construction of the Page Valley Railroad are earnestly requested to meet at Mt. Vernon Forge, on SATURDAY, THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to consider the questions of vital importance to those sections of our counties. Addresses will be delivered on the occasion.

On Thursday last, Gov. Walker appointed Judge Wm. J. Robertson, of Albemarle; Patrick Henry Aylett, of Richmond, and Major W. T. Sutherlin, of Danville, commissioners on the part of the State of Virginia to meet commissioners of West Virginia for the purpose of settling the indebtedness of the latter to the former.

Two Letters About Staunton.

The last issue of the *Piedmont Intelligencer*, published at Charlottesville, contains two letters, by different correspondents, from Staunton. These letters show how differently two persons may speak of the same place. The one signed "CAUDLE"—it might fitly have been spelled Caudal—is disposed to disparage our town, and complains that our citizens think there is "no spot on earth so sacred or so sweet," and says, "the Switzer never felt stronger or fonder devotion for his humble mountain cottage than does the Stauntonian feel for the spot of earth that he calls his home." He seems to have visited "sixteen licensed bar-rooms and about double as many where 'old tangle-foot' and 'red-eye' are 'sold on the sly.'" It is not at all wonderful that he got "befuddled" and, mixing up things promiscuously, spoke of our two classic hills as "Mary Bell" and "Betsy Gray," instead of "Betsy Bell" and "Mary Gray."

The other correspondent—"OCCASIONAL"—whose letter appears in the same issue justifies the good opinion of our town entertained by its citizens. His "head is level" and was not "befuddled" by visiting places where "old tangle-foot" and "red-eye" are "sold on the sly."—(We quote "Caudle's" language.) "OCCASIONAL" visited the Churches, Sunday Schools and Temperance Halls, and he says:

"Staunton is one of the most pleasant, hospitable and thriving towns in Virginia. Its people have hearts as big as all out doors, and well know how to "welcome the coming and speed the parting guest." We spent among them three most delightful days this week.—Few places can boast of more refinement and intelligence."

He concludes his letter as follows:

"We would like to see the zeal of the people of Staunton in all the moral and religious movements of the day, "provoke very many" of our friends in Charlottesville "to love and good works."

"Caudle" writes a witty and racy letter, and is, doubtless, a "first-rate fellow." We hope he will visit our town frequently and that in future he will attend the churches more and the bar-rooms less. We can assure him that the more frequently he comes and the longer he stays the better will he be pleased with Staunton, and feel sure that it would not require many visits to change the character of his letters concerning it—disparagement would be replaced by compliment—detraction, by praise.

PENITENTIARY STORE-KEEPER.—Capt. Joseph M. Stevens, the recently elected general agent and store-keeper of the penitentiary, on Thursday last, executed his bond, took the prescribed oath, and entered upon the discharge of the duties of his office.

In the election of Capt. Stevens, the Legislature made a most excellent selection. He will make an honest and faithful agent and store-keeper, and his conduct, we are sure, will justify the confidence reposed in him.

In response to a resolution of the Legislature, Gen. Canby informs that body that when the subject of the extension of the Stay Law was under consideration by him, he ascertained from correspondence with the Clerks of the different counties in the State, that there were from *three hundred and fifty thousand to four hundred thousand* judgments awaiting the repeal or expiration of the law to be executed.

On Wednesday week, as Dr. J. J. H. Straith, of Charlestown, Jefferson county, was standing on the street in that place, a colored boy rode by leading a horse, when the horse he was leading kicked Dr. Straith with both feet, striking him on the arm and in the face, knocking out a tooth and severely bruising and cutting him. He was not dangerously hurt.

In the United States Senate, Thursday, Mr. Lewis introduced a bill to remove political disabilities from certain persons, and to dispense with the requirement of the test-oath in certain cases. It was referred to the Committee on Disabilities. The bill is understood to be for the relief of certain officials in Virginia.

POST-OFFICE AFFAIRS.—At Meadow Dale, Highland county, Sarah A. Hull is appointed postmistress, vice R. R. Hull, resigned. Four additional trips are ordered between Harrisonburg and Bridgewater, seven miles, at *pro rata* from 1st March, 1870.

In the House of Representatives, while that body was considering the disability bill, Congressman Porter offered the following amendment: "To strike out the names of A. H. H. Stuart, Raleigh T. Daniel, Fayette Manzy, James H. Cox and others."

The corporators of the Virginia International Land Company are James McKaye, Walter S. Gurnee, Cyrus H. McCormick, Horace Greeley, Christian Von Hesse, John P. Crosby, Thomas S. Flournoy, Robert H. Maury and John D. Imboden.

The newspapers report two cases of monstrous crimes, one a murder and the other a brutal outrage, committed by drunken fathers upon their own children. One case occurred in Cincinnati, the other at Yonkers, New York.

Senator Johnston, of Virginia, has informed the Legislature that Virginia's share of public land granted by the United States for agricultural purposes (300,000 acres), is now subject to the order of the State authorities.

A despatch from Vienna says the Austrian Government, if the co-operation of Napoleon can be first secured, proposes to convoke the Catholic Powers, in order to oppose the Papal pretensions.

The Supreme Court has decided, in the matter of divorces in Indiana, that if they are valid in that State, when obtained, they are valid as to the parties, all over the country.

Governor Walker has again respited (for the tenth time) James Jeter Phillips for thirty days. In the meantime his case will be heard by Chief Justice Chase.

President Grant has appointed Dr. B. Sears of this place one of the Board of Visitors to West Point for 1870.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

SENATE—Wednesday, Feb. 23rd.—The House bill in relation to the interest on money, with Senate amendments, was called up and passed. It stands as follows:

An Act in Relation to the Interest on Money
(Senate Amendments in *Italics.*)

1. *Whereas* the Constitution provides that upon debts hereafter contracted it shall be lawful to receive any rate of interest not exceeding twelve per centum per annum which may be agreed upon by the parties, and be specified in the bond, note, or other writing evidencing the debt, therefore.

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly*, That section 4 chapter 141 of the Code of 1860 be amended and re-enacted so as to read henceforth as follows:

"4. Legal interest shall continue to be at the rate of six dollars upon one hundred dollars for a year, and proportionately for a greater or less sum, or for a longer or shorter time; but it shall be lawful to receive any rate of interest not exceeding twelve per centum per annum which may be agreed upon by the original parties thereto and be specified in the bond, note, or other writing evidencing the debt; '*and all such contracts entered into since the 26th day of January*, 1870, *are hereby legalized.*'"

2. Section 33 chapter 58 of the Code is amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

"33. Any bank authorized to carry on business as a bank of circulation, deposit, and discount, *and any licensed banker or broker, and other corporations authorized by their charters to make loans, or to purchase or discount bonds, bills, notes, or other paper*, may loan money for a period not exceeding six months, and discount any bill of exchange, promissory note, or other negotiable paper for the payment of money, which will be payable within six months from the time of discounting the same *and* may take interest on *such* loans or discounts at the rate of one per centum for thirty days, and the interest may be received in advance. Each bank shall so regulate its loans and discounts that they shall not exceed twice the amount of the capital actually paid in."

3. Section *six* chapter fifty-nine of the Code is amended and re-enacted so as to read as follows:

"6. The money received on deposit, and other funds of the institution, society, or bank, may be invested in or loaned on any stocks or real security, or be used in purchasing or discounting bonds, bills, notes, or other paper, subject to the following restrictions: That no security for money or other valuable thing which may have become payable, other than certificates of debts of this State, or the United States, or of corporations, shall be purchased for less than the full amount thereof, with all the interest that may be due thereon; and no debt or claim to become due, other than such certificates, shall be purchased or discounted at a rate of discount or interest exceeding the rate of one per centum for thirty days. But the interest may in any case be received in advance."

4. *Section eleven of chapter one hundred and forty-one of the Code of 1860 is hereby repealed.*

5. This act shall be in full force from and after its passage.

The House bill in relation to the qualification and salary of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the Senate amendment reducing the pay from $2,500 to $1,500, was taken up.

Mr. Anderson, of Rockbridge, withdrew his amendment to strike out the amount and leave a blank to be hereafter fixed.

Mr. Waddell renewed it. It was adopted, after considerable discussion—ayes, 23; noes 17.

Mr. Snowden moved as a further amendment to strike out the clause requiring the officer to reside in Richmond. Carried.

Mr. Waddell moved to fill the blank ordered by the Senate with $2,000.

Mr. Anderson moved to fill the blank ordered by the Senate with $2,400.

Mr. Waddell's motion was carried—ayes, 23; noes, 16.

Mr. Anderson, of Rockbridge, offered an amendment making this the salary for the first year, and subject to alterations by law. Adopted.

The bill as amended was then passed.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Pending the consideration of the above bill, Colonel Owens, private secretary and aid to the Governor, delivered the following message from the Governor:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, February 23, 1870.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

Much confusion seems to have obtained in the public mind as to precisely what qualifying or official oaths or affirmations are required of those now in office in the State as well as of those to be elected or appointed to office. It is undoubtedly true that no person can lawfully enter upon the discharge of the functions of the office to which he may have been elected or appointed, and that no person can lawfully discharge the duties of the office he now holds, without taking the official oaths or affirmations required by law; and it is equally true that our Constitution and the law admitting the State to representation in Congress have added to, changed, and modified, the official oaths prescribed by our statutes, but the extent and scope of these additions, changes, and modifications, are not clearly understood nor well defined. I am daily in receipt of letters of inquiry upon this subject, and it seems to me highly important that the General Assembly should at once, by proper enactments, not only solve this question and definitely settle all confusion and doubt that may exist, but also provide against the dangers and difficulties that might arise from the illegal action of unqualified officers.—The 6th section of article 3 of the Constitution prescribes that "all persons, before entering upon the discharge of any function as officers of this State, must take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:

"I, ——, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and the laws of the State of Virginia; that I recognize and accept the civil and political equality of all men before the law, and that I will faithfully perform the duty of —— to the best of my ability. So help me God."

And the first section of the Schedule provides that "The common law and the statute laws now in force not repugnant to this Constitution shall remain in force until they expire by their own limitation or are altered or repealed by the Legislature."

The 1st, 2d, and 3d sections of chapter 13 of the Code of 1860 are as follows—viz.:

I. "The oath of fidelity to the Commonwealth shall be in the following terms:

"I declare myself a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and solemnly swear that I will be faithful and true to the said Commonwealth, and will support the Constitution thereof, so long as I continue to be a citizen of the same. So help me God."

II. "Every person elected or appointed to any post or office *referred to in the preceding chapter* shall, before he acts in such office, take the following oath:

"I swear (or affirm) that I have not since the tenth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, fought in a duel, the issue of which was, or probably might have been, the death of either party; nor have I been knowingly the bearer of any challenge or acceptance to fight a duel actually fought; nor have I been otherwise engaged or concerned, directly or indirectly, in a duel actually fought since said time; nor will I during my continuance in office be so engaged, directly or indirectly. So help me God."

III. "He shall also, at the same time, take an oath of office, which, in every case where no other is specially prescribed, shall be as follows:

"I swear that I will faithfully perform the duty of my office of —— to the best of my skill and judgment. So help me God."

And the 11th section of the same chapter provides a penalty for any attempt to act in "any such office" before taking the above mentioned and described oaths and the "oath to support the Constitution of the United States."

By comparison it will be observed that the oaths prescribed in the Code, with the exception of that clause declaratory of citizenship and the anti-duelling oath, are substantially, though not in terms, superseded by the oath prescribed by the Constitution, but as they do not actually conflict with each other, doubts exist as to whether an officer qualifying should take all these oaths or only the one prescribed by the Constitution and that against duelling.

Again, in the provisions of the act declaring Virginia entitled to representation in the Congress of the United States are these words—viz.: *Provided*, That before any member of the Legislature of said State shall take or resume his seat, or any officer of said State shall enter upon the duties of his office, he shall take and subscribe, and file in the office of the Secretary of State of Virginia, for permanent preservation, an oath in the form following:

"I, ——, do solemnly swear that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, and afterward engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; so help me God;" or such person shall in like manner take, subscribe, and file, the following oath: "I, ——, do solemnly swear that I have, by act of Congress of the United States, been relieved from the disabilities imposed upon me by the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution of the United States; so help me God;" which oath shall be taken before and certified by any officer lawfully authorized to administer oaths: *And provided further*, That every such person who shall neglect for the period of thirty days next after the passage of this act to take, subscribe, and file, such oath as aforesaid shall be deemed and taken, to all intents and purposes, to have vacated his office."

Now, when this bill was under discussion in Congress it was held by some that the provisions quoted applied and would be in force for all time until repealed, while others held that their power would be exhausted at the end of thirty days. The question is still undetermined, and upon its correct solution may depend very grave issues. It ought not to be left longer in uncertainty, if certainty can be reached. The 3d section of the 14th article of the Constitution of the United States is as follows—viz.:

SECTION 3. "No person shall be a senator or representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, *or hold any office, civil or military*, under the United States, or *under any State*, who, having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability." This language is very broad, and comprehends every "officer, civil and military," "under the State;" and while it provides no pains or penalties for its violation, it is nevertheless absolutely and unqualifiedly prohibitory in plain and specific terms.

No person can legally execute the functions of any office "under the State" *who is debarred by those terms.* The case of an officer lawfully executing the duties of his office at the time of the official promulgation of the ratification of the 14th article of the Constitution of the United States is materially different from one elected or appointed since that date. The acts of the former might possibly be upheld as legal, while there is little doubt that the acts of the latter would be absolutely void. If the provisions above quoted from the act admitting the State to representation in Congress apply to the future as well as to the first thirty days succeeding the passage of the act, then record evidence of the qualification of every officer in the State will be kept in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and the right of any officer to exercise the functions of his office can be readily authenticated; but how will it be if the act ceases to operate after the prescribed thirty days shall have expired? As the law will then stand, how will it be known that any or all the officers in the State thereafter elected or appointed are legally qualified, or that they are officers at all? Are not the dangers to the security of property rights, and the peace and good order of society, too great, and the possible consequences of such a condition of affairs too alarming, to justify any delay in the final and authoritative settlement of these questions. It appears to me that the General Assembly not only has the power to definitely settle all these difficulties, but that it is its duty to promptly exercise that power. By enacting a law providing that every person elected or appointed to office under the State, before entering upon the discharge of his official duties, and every person now in office, shall not only take and subscribe the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, but also an oath of citizenship and anti-duelling oath, together with an oath that he is not disqualified from holding office by the Constitution of the United States, the same to be filed and preserved in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the General Assembly will definitely and authoritatively settle all doubts and uncertainties which now exist and provide proper and necessary safeguards for the future.

I am painfully aware of the fact that in many cases the enforcement of these views may operate to the serious detriment not only of worthy citizens, but of the public service; but the Constitution of the United States is the Supreme law of the land, and must and will be obeyed. It is more than probable that in many cases it will be found impossible to suitably and satisfactorily fill the various offices by competent men who are not disqualified from holding office by the Federal Constitution. But my views upon this subject have already been placed before you, and I have yet to see any reason for changing or modifying them in any respect. In a former message I made use of the following language: "Without intending any disrespect to the fundamental law of the land or to the constituted authorities, it appears to me that you not only ought to have the right to the widest range of selection for these exalted (judicial) positions, but that you ought to exercise that right. It is a solemn duty which you owe to yourselves and to your constituents, to the country and to posterity, to select our *ablest, purest, and best men*, and if in the fulfilment of that duty your choice should fall upon any who are disqualified by the third clause of the fourteenth article of the Constitution of the United States, I would recommend the passage by your honorable bodies of a resolution requesing Congress to remove such disqualification. I am satisfied that such a resolution would receive the prompt and favorable consideration and action of Congress."

The course which you were thus recommended to pursue was sanctioned by precedent in the case of the Governor and other State officers in North Carolina, and will doubtless be resanctioned in a few days in some cases in Mississippi. I suppose it to be the purpose and desire of all to reconstitute the government of the State with the very best material it contains, and if in the fulfilment of this very just and patriotic purpose and desire it should become necessary for you to memorialize Congress to remove the political disabilities from any of your or the people's appointees, let it be done promptly and unhesitatingly, confident that the same favors which have been meted out to other States will be promptly vouchsafed to you. Already you have very properly asked Congress to remove the political disabilities from all our people; and was that act any more necessary or proper than to ask like action in the individual cases, if any there should be, of persons whom you found it absolutely necessary to elect to office to properly fill the same, especially in view of the fact that no such person could enter upon the discharge of the duties of his office until his political disabilities had been removed by Congress? I earnestly hope that Congress will respond to your respectful request by an act of general amnesty, but its failure to do so well not justify the conclusion that the door is closed to individual applications for relief in cases sanctioned by the approval of your honorable bodies as necessary for the proper reorganization of the State government.

GILBERT C. WALKER.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.—The bill authorizing the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company to borrow money was passed and sent to the Senate.

The Governor's message was received. (See Senate Proceedings.)

Mr. Cochran presented a resolution inquiring into the expediency of exempting from taxation property used by the Odd Fellows and Masons exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

SENATE—Thursday, Feb. 24th.—In the Senate subjects of general and paramount importance were laid aside to discuss a bill to incorporate a land and loan company, and a proposition declaring that members of the Legislature shall not participate in the general scramble for offices. There was no final action on either question. The House bill authorizing the Richmond and Petersburg railroad company to borrow money was passed. A joint resolution was adopted fixing Wednesday, the 2d, as the day for the election of a Lieutenant-Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.—The House receded from its amendment to the Senate bill to provide for filling vacancies in the office of Lieutenant-Governor. The act now awaits the approval of the Governor.

Several important bills for organizing the counties and cities were reported and placed on the calendar. After the further discussion of the Winchester and Luray railroad scheme, the bill to legalize the official acts of officers holding office by military appointment was considered. An amendment was adopted authorizing a review of recent decisions of the Court of Appeals. This important bill was pending when the House adjourned.

SENATE.—Friday, Feb. 25th.—In the Senate to-day no matter of general importance was perfected. The bill providing for the formation of townships was made the order of the day for Monday. The bill to incorporate the "Virginia Land Company" was passed. A motion to rescind the order for an adjournment until Monday failed.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.—The House perfected the "enabling act," and ordered it to be engrossed for a third reading. It is a very important measure. The Senate amendments to the bill relating to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, were concurred in. Also the joint resolution from the Senate, fixing Wednesday next as the day for the election of that officer, and of Lieutenant-Governor to serve for the residue of the unexpired term of Mr. Lewis.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION.

SENATE—Tuesday, Feb. 22nd.—The credentials of H. P. Farrow and R. H. Whiteley, Senators elect from Georgia, were presented. and, after some discussion, withdrawn for the present. The Committee on the Revision of the Laws reported the resolutions of the New York Legislature repealing the ratification by a former Legislature of the Fifteenth Amendment, with a recommendation that they be indefinitely postponed. Speeches were made by Messrs. Conkling and Davis in favor of the recommendation, but no action was taken.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A preamble and resolution were offered and adopted, after a long discussion, declaring that Mr. Mungen, having obtained the consent of the House to print in the *Globe* a speech not delivered on the floor, published a speech containing certain highly offensive words, in violation of parliamentary usage, and instructing the Committee on Rules to inquire and report whether in so doing Mr. Mungen has not abused the privilege granted, and deserved the censure of the House.

SENATE—Thursday, Feb. 24th.—The Senate bill for the removal of political disabilities, with House bill included as an amendment, was taken up and passed. A bill for the relief of political disabilities of a number of persons named in it, and to dispense with the test oath in certain cases, was introduced and referred to the Committee on Political Disabilities. A resolution was adopted declaring any increase of the currency inexpedient at the present time.

SENATE—Wednesday, Feb. 23rd.—The credentials of H. R. Revels (colored), Senator elect from Mississippi, were read. Objection was made to their reception, but was overruled after discussion. A resolution was then offered referring the credentials of H. B. Revels and Adelbert Ames to the Judiciary Committee, to inquire into the validity of their election, to ascertain whether they were citizens of the United States or of the State of Mississippi, and whether, at the time of the election, General Ames was not a military officer in the service of the United States. A long discussion ensued, in which several speeches were made. Pending debate the Senate went into executive session, and at its close adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The bill prohibiting polygamy in Utah was discussed until the expiration of the morning hour.

The resolution providing for the expulsion of R. F. Whittemore, for the sale of appointments to the Military and Naval Academies, was taken up. Mr. Butler claimed the right to appear as counsel for Whittemore, and had an affidavit of Whittemore's read, in which he asserts that he was not allowed sufficient opportunity for defending his case before the committee. He admits that he sold the appointments, but claims to have expended the greater part of the money for charitable and a small portion for party purposes.

Mr. Whittemore was allowed a postponement until 12 o'clock M. to-morrow, when he will have an hour to be heard in defence. The House then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Immediately after reading the Journal, Mr. Whittemore arose to deliver an address in his defence, but was called to order by the Speaker, who laid before the House the resignation of Mr. Whittemore as a member, and the acceptance of the same by the Governor of South Carolina, stating that it was for the House to determine if the gentleman should proceed. A long debate ensued upon points of order, &c., participated in by Messrs. Logan, Butler, Bingham, Farnsworth and others. It was finally determined that Mr. Whittemore was not a member of the House, and therefore not subject to any additional action. The resolution providing for his expulsion was then laid on the table, and Mr. Logan immediately offered a resolution declaring that Whittemore had disposed of his cadetships for a pecuniary consideration, and was therefore unworthy to occupy a seat in the House; which was adopted unanimously—185 members voting for it. Whittemore left the Hall, and his seat was taken by General Farnsworth.

SENATE.—Friday, Feb. 25th.—A bill was introduced to prevent prize fighting within the United States or Territories. It makes the principals liable to a fine of not less than three thousand dollars and to imprisonment for not less than two years. All seconds or surgeons assisting in such fights will be subject to one-half of the above penalties. Offenders against the law will be tried before United States courts. The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The resolution referring the credentials of H. R. Revels (colored), Senator elect from Mississippi, to the Judiciary Committee, was then taken up, and Mr. Vickers made a speech in favor of the resolution. Several other speeches were made, after which a vote was taken, and the resolution was rejected—yeas 8, nays 48.—A motion to administer the oath to Revels was adopted—yeas 48, nays 8—and he advanced and was sworn in. The Senate then adjourned until Monday. Revels received the congratulations of a number of Senators, and, after the adjournment of the Senate, was subjected to a miscellaneous hand-shaking by a crowd of both sexes which then gained admission to the floor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A bill for the admission of Georgia was reported from the Committee on Reconstruction. Its provisions are the same as those admitting Virginia and Mississippi. After some discussion it was ordered to be printed and recommitted.

The Indian Appropriation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole, and several members denounced the recent massacre of Indians in Montana by United States troops under the command of Colonel Baker, and also the orders of General Sheridan, which led to that event. Pending discussion the House adjourned until Monday.

Disabilities Removed.

On Thursday last, a bill passed Congress removing the disabilities of several thousand persons who had made the required applications. The names of the following are among the number:

STAUNTON.—H. W. Sheffey, Geo. Baylor, A. H. H. Stuart, Geo. G. Bunch, A. M. Bruce, Alex. H. Fultz, Jno. R. Kurtz, Wm. B. Kayser, Jacob T. Parrent.

AUGUSTA COUNTY.—Thos. Burke, Jno. C. Bowyer, A. B. Lightner.

ROCKINGHAM.—Ran. D. Cushing, Wm. H. Hamrick, Wm. McK. Wartman, A. S. Gray, A. H. Brown, Jason N. Bruffy, W. S. Butler, Pendleton Bryan, Geo. R. Bare, Sam'l A. Coffman, Alex. Chrisman, Michael D. Coffman, S. H. Carrier, Jos. Funkhouser, Wm. Golladay, R. W. Gamble, C. P. Harman, J. T. Logan, J. M. Locke, A. J. Nicholas, Henry Neff, B. G. Patterson, Nelson Sprinkle, A. S. C. Sprinkle, Jno. C. Woodson, S. M. Yost.

ROCKBRIDGE.—Francis T. Anderson, Jno. C. Bond, D. E. Moore, J. A. Shaw.

ALLEGHANY.—Andrew Damron, Jno. R. Pharr.

BATH.—Wm. H. Terrill.

HIGHLAND.—W. Fleming.

For the Spectator.

A Sketch From Nature.

Friday, January seventh, we spent in the country—Birdie, husband and I. Returning home, we stopped at Willow Ford, to water the horses. The day had been very warm and spring like, and the sunset was, accordingly, glorious. As the horses were lazily quaffing the clear, cold water, it was a double pleasure to look upon the surrounding panorama of beauty, and listen to the soothing music of an adjacent waterfall. Behind us, were the blue mountains—before us, and on our left, the distant prospect was shut out by a foreground of bold limestone bluffs, adorned with evergreens, and the graceful wild grape; also by rows of grand old water-willows, whose rugged trunks, and long, naked branches, were faithfully penciled against the bright sky.

On our right, the view up-stream was soon terminated by a sudden bend, while across the river, the smooth meadows, and gentle uplands, offered no obstacle to the uninterrupted and perfect reflection of the heavens, upon the bosom of the broad, deep ford. The glistening waves, ever coming, ever going, resembled a mass of floating sea-shells; so softly tinted, so exquisitely shaded were they, in rose, crimson, purple, gold and blue. The sky, the cause of this enchanting effect, was itself a magnificent study. Next the horizon, the hand of the Master Artist had painted a broad belt of creamy white; on the upper edge, successive bands of straw color, yellow, and deep orange; the orange faded into the faintest pink; the pink blushed carmine; the carmine, crimson; and the crimson finally deepened into a royal purple, that melted away and was lost in the delicious azure of the clear sky above.

I gazed spell-bound, and thought, "Can Italy boast a scene more brilliant, more charming than this mid-winter sunset in the Valley of Virginia."

LILY LICHEN.

For the Spectator.

RANDOLPH MACON COLLEGE, Va.,
February 23rd, 1870.

MR EDITOR:—Believing that the readers of your valuable paper would be pleased to hear from this institution, I have concluded to give you a brief account of the anniversary celebration of the W. L. S. of Randolph Macon College, which occurred on the 22nd inst. The exercises of the evening were opened with prayer by the Rev. M. Woodward of Richmond, Va.

The President then introduced Mr. F. M. Atkinson, of N. C., the first orator—Subject—"The honors of genius are eternal." The subject was beautifully and eloquently illustrated, almost making us forget the old "*God est fortune.*"

The second orator H. M. Hope, of Va., was then introduced—Subject—"Prosperity the severest test of character," which he discussed in an eloquent and well delivered oration.

Mr. Charles Carroll, of N. C., then delivered an appropriate and eloquent eulogy, which was highly indicative of superior intellect, and closed by crowning the "old hero" with immortal wreaths of honor. J. T. Lumpkin, President, then made a few brief and appropriate remarks, thanking the audience for their manifest interest in the exercises, and especially the ladies of Ashland, who had favored us with their pleasant faces and bright smiles.

Jas. A. Duncan is President of this College, and taking the faculty as a whole they will compare favorably with any in the State. We have room for more students and extend a cordial welcome to such as may wish to avail themselves of a good classical education.

Yours, STUDENT.

A Royal Scandal.

Rumors of two or three domestic and social storms in the atmosphere of the British peerage have already reached our readers. One of the most interesting cases was that of a suit for divorce between Sir Charles and Lady Mordaunt, the latter being charged with conduct unbecoming a scioness of aristocracy, or any other woman. A special despatch from London per cable, dated 18th instant, brings news of the further progress of the suit. Lady Mordaunt has, it seems, made full confession of her frailty, and implicates the Prince of Wales, Viscount Cole, and Sir Frederick Johnson. The Queen is said to be much disturbed by these revelations.—*Rich. Whig.*

THE COLORED VOTE.—The number of colored voters in the United States is estimated at 850,000. Of these 790,000 dwell in the sixteen late slaveholding States, 7,500 in the six New England States, 41,000 in the five central States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, and 8,500 in the remaining ten Western States.

A Texas paper reports that ex-Confederate Postmaster General Reagan has written and published a letter in which he "approves of Radicalism in all its parts."

New Advertisements.

FOR SALE—LAND NEAR STAUNTON.—In pursuance of a deed of trust executed to the undersigned, on the 13th day of July, 1868, by C. N. Williams and wife, and by agreement of parties, I will proceed on the premises, on FRIDAY, the 25th day of February next, to sell at public sale, to the highest bidder, that desirable small farm about two miles from Staunton, on the Mt. Solon road, adjoining Judge Fultz, Opie and others, containing about **100 acres.** Has on it a new mansion house, and other necessary buildings, and a young orchard, and its convenience and proximity to Staunton make it an exceedingly desirable home.

TERMS:—Expenses of sale in hand; $2500 00 in three months from day of sale; remainder in two equal payments at nine and fifteen months respectively, with interest from the day of sale, the purchaser giving bonds with good security, and title to be retained as further security.

Sale at 11 A. M. NICHO. K. TROUT,
jan25—tds Trustee.

☞ The above sale is postponed to SATURDAY, MARCH 12th, at which time it will be offered in front of the Court-house in Staunton, at 11 o'clock. N. K. TROUT,
mar1—tds trustee.

CUSHINGS & BAILEY,

Booksellers and Stationers,

No. 262 Baltimore St., opposite Hanover,

BALTIMORE.

The largest and best assorted stock in the city of

SCHOOL, LAW, MEDICAL, DENTAL,

Classical and Miscellaneous Books,

GENERAL BANK AND COUNTING HOUSE STATIONERY of all kinds.

Blank Books made to order in any style of Binding and Ruling.

[ESTABLISHED 1811.] mar1—6m

PROPOSALS WANTED—FOR 500,000 good BRICK—a due proportion to be stock brick. The clay can be furnished on the ground and the wood is convenient.

JOHN G. MEEM,
GEO. D. DAVIS,
C. W. BUTTON.
Committee Lynchburg Orphan Asylum.
mar1—2t

NEW GOODS.—5 ps 225 yards PURE MOHAIR SILK FINISHED BLACK ALPACA, of a celebrated make, just received fresh from the importers, at D. A. KAYSER'S
mar1 New store.

LOST—On Friday last, between Weiford's Blacksmith shop and the Virginia hotel, a pair of EYE-GLASSES set in gold; also a gold PENCIL CASE with a purple set. They were attached, when lost, to a heavy black cord. The finder will be liberally rewarded for leaving them at the "Spectator" office. mar1—1t

FOR SALE.—A small farm containing **30¼ acres** of good land three miles West of Staunton adjoining the lands of L. R. Waddell, C. C. Francisco and others. The improvements are new and of a substantial character. For terms, &c., apply to
mar1—8t ARCH'D KINNEY.

FOR SALE.—I have a good house and lot in the village of Centreville, which I will dispose of privately. For further information apply to the undersigned.
mar1—3ts* ADAM W. KERSH.

New Advertisements.

OFFICE OF

FISK & HATCH,

Bankers and Dealers in Government Securities,

No. 5 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK,

February 15th, 1870.

The remarkable success which attended our negotiation of the Loans of the CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY and the WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, and the popularity and credit which these Loans have maintained in the markets, both in this country and Europe, have shown that the First Mortgage Bonds of wisely-located and honorably managed Railroads are promptly recognized and readily taken as the most suitable, safe, and advantageous form of investment, yielding a more liberal income than can hereafter be derived from Government Bonds and available to take their place.

Assured that, in the selection and negotiation of superior Railroad Loans, we are meeting a great public want, and rendering a valuable service—both to the holders of Capital and to those great National works of internal improvement whose intrinsic merit and substantial character entitle them to the use of Capital and the confidence of investors—we now offer with special confidence and satisfaction the

First Mortgage Bonds

OF THE

Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company.

THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD, connecting the Atlantic coast and the magnificent harbors of the Chesapeake Bay with the Ohio river at a point of reliable navigation, and thus, with the entire Railroad system and water transportation of the great West and Southwest,

FORMS THE ADDITIONAL EAST AND WEST TRUNK LINE,

so imperatively demanded for the accommodation of the immense and rapidly-growing transportation between the Atlantic seaboard and Europe on the one hand, and the great producing regions of the Ohio and Mississippi Valleys on the other.

THE IMPORTANCE
OF THIS ROAD AS A NEW OUTLET
FROM THE WEST TO THE SEA

magnifies it into one of national consequence, and insures to it an extensive through traffic from the day of its completion; while, in the development of the extensive agricultural and mineral resources of Virginia and West Virginia, it possesses, along its own line, the elements of a large and profitable local business.

Thus the great interests, both general and local, which demand the completion of the CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD to the Ohio River, afford the surest guarantee of its success and value, and render it the

MOST IMPORTANT
AND SUBSTANTIAL RAILROAD ENTERPRISE NOW IN PROGRESS IN
THIS COUNTRY.

Its superiority as an East and West route, and the promise of an immense and profitable trade awaiting its completion, have drawn to it the attention and co-operation of prominent Capitalists and Railroad men of this City of sound judgment and known integrity, whose connection with it, together with that of eminent citizens and business men of Virginia and West Virginia,

INSURES AN ENERGETIC
HONORABLE, AND SUCCESSFUL
MANAGEMENT.

The road is completed and in operation from Richmond to the celebrated White Sulphur Springs of West Virginia, 227 miles, and there remain but 200 miles (now partially constructed) to be completed, to carry it to the proposed terminus on the Ohio River at, or near, the mouth of the Big Sandy river, 150 miles above Cincinnati, and 350 miles below Pittsburg.

Lines are now projected or in progress through Ohio and Kentucky to this point, which will connect the **Chesapeake and Ohio with the entire Railroad systems of the West and Southwest, and with the Pacific Railroad.**

Its valuable franchises and superior advantages will place the CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY among the richest and most powerful and trustworthy corporations of the country; AND THERE EXISTS A PRESENT VALUE, IN COMPLETED ROAD AND WORK DONE, **Equal to the Entire Amount of the Mortgage.**

The details of the Loan have been arranged with special reference to the wants of all classes of investors, and combine the various features of convenience, safety and protection against loss or fraud.

The Bonds are in denominations of

$1000, $500 and $100.

They will be issued as *Coupon Bonds, payable to Bearer*, and may be held in that form; or

The Bond may be *registered* in the name of the owner, with the coupons remaining payable to bearer attached, the *principal* being then transferable only on the books of the Company, unless reassigned to bearer; or

The Coupons may be detached and cancelled, the Bond made a *permanent Registered Bond*, transferable only on the books of the Company, and the interest made payable only to the registered owner or his attorney.

The three classes will be known respectively as:

1st. "COUPON BONDS PAYABLE TO BEARER."

2nd. "REGISTERED BONDS WITH COUPONS ATTACHED."

3rd. "REGISTERED BONDS WITH COUPONS DETACHED," and should be so designated by correspondents in specifying the class of Bonds desired.

They have THIRTY YEARS to run from January 15, 1870, with interest at six per cent. per annum from November 1, 1869. PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST PAYABLE IN GOLD IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The interest is payable in MAY and NOVEMBER, that it may take the place of that of the earliest issues of Five-Twenties, and suit the convenience of our friends who already hold Central and Western Pacific Bonds, with interest payable in January and July, and who may desire, in making additional investments, to have their interest receivable at different seasons of the year.

The Loan is secured by a mortgage upon the entire Line of Road from Richmond to the Ohio River, with the equipment and all other property and appurtenances connected therewith.

A SINKING FUND OF $100,000 PER ANNUM IS PROVIDED FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE BONDS, TO TAKE EFFECT ONE YEAR AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE ROAD.

The mortgage is for $15,000,000, of which $2,000,000 will be reserved and held in trust for the redemption of outstanding Bonds of the *Virginia Central Railroad Company*, now merged in the CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO.

Of the remaining $13,000,000, a sufficient amount will be sold to complete the road to the Ohio River, perfect and improve the portion now in operation, and thoroughly equip the whole for a large and active traffic.

The present price is 90 and accrued interest.

A Loan so amply secured, so carefully guarded, and so certain hereafter to command a prominent place among the favorite securities in the market, both of this Country and