

Staunton Spectator. Tuesday, May 10, 1870.

Registration and Township Elections.

The work of registration will commence today, in pursuance of law, and we trust that there will be a full registration of the Conservative people, especially. The fact that any one registered at the last election will go for nothing, as the list of voters now to be made out will be that submitted for the guidance of the judges at the ensuing election. The work is to be commenced early, as though there had been no previous registration. All persons, therefore, who fail to register now, will also fail of the opportunity to vote on the 4th Thursday of this month, and until there is another registration. Again we urge all the Conservative people to register, leaving our Radical brethren to do as they please.

The Reconstruction Acts, under which the States of the South were rehabilitated and readmitted to representation in Congress, disfranchised all persons who were declared ineligible to office by section three of the fourteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution. But these acts expressly and in terms declared that their provisions should cease to be operative just so soon as the States were reconstructed and readmitted into the Union, under conditions of their own. Therefore, the persons disfranchised under the application of the Reconstruction Acts are not now disfranchised, since the State Constitution, ratified last July, imposes no terms of disfranchisement whatever, except the usual disqualifications of idioity, conviction of felony, &c. Let all persons restored to the exercise of the franchise by the admission of the State under a liberal Constitution avail themselves of its benefits, and register now that they may vote!

As our people had no experience in the Township system which has been imposed upon us by the New Constitution, they know but little of the duties pertaining to the several Township offices, and the kind of men proper to fill them. For the information of our readers, we take occasion to say that the office of Supervisor is one of very great importance, and the people of each Township should take special care to elect first class men as Supervisors.

There is to be a Supervisor in each Township. This will render it necessary to have six for the county of Augusta. The Constitution provides that "the supervisors of each Township shall constitute the Board of Supervisors for that county and shall assemble at the Court House thereof on the first Monday in December in each year and proceed to audit the accounts of said county, examine the books of the Assessors, regulate and equalize the valuation of property, fix the county levies for the ensuing year—apportion the same among the various Townships, and perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by law."

These are thorough duties, and sound judgment—a thorough knowledge of business and property—skill in accounts, coupled with some legal knowledge, are necessary for the proper performance of them. Supervisors have both legislative and judicial powers. The people should, therefore, see that none of the most upright and intelligent and practical business men be chosen as Supervisors. If they neglect this admonition they will incur, as the power to lay taxes and to expend them rests in a great measure with the Supervisors. In a word, they manage, to a great extent, the affairs of the county.

The hearts of our people of all classes are touched, we hope and believe, by the prompt and cordial assurance of sympathy which comes from our sister State of Maryland and our true friends of Baltimore city. Friends near and far are now our friends and allies in peace, and deserve a high place of affection and honor in the hearts of our countrymen. "Maryland mourns with her sister Virginia!" Let her free-flowing sympathy in this great trial and sorrow, prove how close is the natural community of feeling and interest that unites us; and since all carping and envious tongues would put strife between them. Let us ever cherish the charities and sympathies of the people of the beautiful Monumental City in grateful and faithful remembrance.

Behold, now is the accepted time. Behold, now is the day of salvation. The duties devolving upon the citizen should be discharged with fidelity, integrity, and a rigid and conscientious sense of the responsibility they involve. The duty which now presents itself is that of Registration. It is a duty, because it is necessary to secure the freedom of voting; and this right is necessary to secure good and faithful officers. Delay or hesitation may result in the loss of the opportunity; and the influence you exert in behalf of neglect and indifference—perhaps the very vote you cast away, may influence the result. Register now.

The Petersburg Index speaking of the late dreadful accident in Richmond says: "If Virginia shall hereafter erect a tablet to tell the history of the late disaster, may it be truthfully stated thereon that the people of the State learned from such a sudden and heart-rending reality to discard minor differences and petty animosities, and dated a new departure towards peace and lasting happiness, from the awful event of the late disaster." To this we heartily respond. Would that, to this time, the lesson taught could dwell in the hearts, and influence the action of our people!

When called upon to contribute to the sufferers from the late great calamity, ye who have mercifully escaped, should remember, as some one has beautifully said, that God has written on the flowers that sweeten the air, on the breeze that rocks the flowers upon the stem, upon the rain-drops that refresh the sprig of moss that lifts its head in the desert, upon its deep chambers, upon every pencilled shell that sleeps in the caverns of the deep, no less than upon the mighty sun, no less than upon the millions of creatures which live in its light, upon all his works He has written, "None liveth for himself alone."

Some of our citizens, we understand, labor under the erroneous impression that they are not required to register now, after having registered prior to the last election. It suffices to say that this impression is wholly incorrect, and ought to be removed from the minds of the people. The old Registration goes for nothing, and all who expect or intend to vote at the coming election must register now. Let every good citizen consider it his duty to register, and then to induce his neighbors to do so.

The Town elections out West show decided Democratic gains. Madison, Indiana, elects a Democratic Mayor by 206 majority; last year it elected a Republican by 167 majority. Peru, in the same State, gave a Democratic majority of 131—a gain of 150. Terre Haute also has elected their city officers. The Democrats elected all their city officers. In Columbus, Ohio, by 117 majority. Last year it was Republican.

All the American Bishops at Rome (except the Archbishop of Baltimore), with most of the English Prelates, have signed a protest to the Pope against the dogma of infallibility.

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Remarks of Hon. A. H. H. Stuart. On being called to preside over the meeting held in the Court-house on Saturday night, April 30th, Mr. Stuart spoke, substantially, as follows: We have met together to-night to give formal and united expression to the feeling which fills every heart in this country.

An appalling calamity has befallen, not merely the metropolis of our State, but the State itself. I might even say, it has assumed national proportions, because citizens of other and distant States and countries have shared the fate of our own. No such disaster has bowed down the hearts of the people of Virginia, since the destruction of the Theatre in 1811, when more than seventy of the best and noblest of our land perished in the flames.

Although during the war which recently desolated our country, we became familiar with sorrow and acquainted with grief, no one of the calamities which were then called on the popular heart, as that which we have now assembled to deplore.

When our friends perished on the battlefield, we know that, impelled by a sense of duty, their minds were made up, and they knelt, at every step, they were marching to "glory or the grave." But the catastrophe of Wednesday last was wholly unexpected. Peaceful citizens, of all ages, conditions, and colors, assembled in the Capitol of the State, for peaceful purposes, were suddenly and without a moment's warning, precipitated in an indiscriminate mass of rubbish and mangled members, among fifty persons—some of them, among the brightest and most honored and useful of Virginia's sons, perished in the ruins, and probably one hundred and fifty were severely and many fatally injured.

Such a terrible visitation naturally calls for an expression of our grief for the dead, and our heartfelt sympathy and condolence with their bereaved families and friends. We know that no human power can soothe the anguish broken hearts, but words of sympathy, if properly, therefore, that we should meet together, and offer the tribute of our condolence. But we should not be satisfied with this. We should regard this awful calamity as a warning to us, and to all persons of all conditions of life—on the poor as well as on the rich. We should not forget that, in many cases, whole families have been lost, not merely a husband or a wife or a son, but their stay and support—him to whom they looked, to supply their daily bread.

In cases like this, we should not limit ourselves to words of sympathy. We must show that we have not merely hearts to feel, but hands to be employed. We should exhibit itself in a substantial form, by ministering to the wants of the widows and orphans of those who have perished, and to the comfort and sustenance of the wounded and suffering.

This is one of the occasions on which we feel the inadequacy of the language of our hearts to the emotions which fill our hearts. I shall therefore forbear from any attempt to do so, and content myself with this imperfect presentation of the objects of this meeting, and leave it to you to decide what is proper to be done.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA. SENATE.—Tuesday, May 3rd.—The Senate passed the general election bill from the House, and ordered to a third reading the Senate bill to prevent the sacrifice of property at forced sale. Nothing else of general interest was done.

HOUSE.—The report of the second conference committee on the subject of judges' salaries was disagreed to by a vote of a constitutional majority. The penitentiary deficiency bill was passed.

Both Houses adjourned until Thursday. Wednesday, May 4th.—This day being observed as a day of humiliation and prayer, the Senate bill to prevent the sacrifice of personal property at forced sales was passed by a vote of 17 yeas and 10 nays.

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WARM SPRINGS, VA., Tuesday, May 3rd, 1870. MR. EDITOR.—Again I take the liberty of addressing you, in order to communicate to your Bath readers, a few items of a local nature. There has but little transpired since my last, worthy of mention. We have lately been called to mourn the loss of one of our most highly respected citizens—Mr. John S. Crawford. There perhaps has never a death occurred in the memory of any living citizen of this county, which has caused such profound and universal sorrow in a community as that which prevails over the people of Bath, by the death of this time-honored citizen. How mournfully true it seems, that "Death loves a shining mark."

Although during the war which recently desolated our country, we became familiar with sorrow and acquainted with grief, no one of the calamities which were then called on the popular heart, as that which we have now assembled to deplore.

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DRAMATIC READINGS: ENTIRE PROCEEDS FOR THE Benefit of the Richmond Sufferers! CORRESPONDENCE: STAUNTON, VA., May 6th, 1870. MR. HENRY SCHARF, STAUNTON, VA. My dear friend, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your kind letter of the 3rd inst., and in reply to inform you that the Committee on the part of the Richmond Sufferers, have the pleasure to inform you that the proceeds of the dramatic readings, which were given in the City of Richmond, on the 2nd and 3rd inst., have been forwarded to you, and are now at your disposal. I am, dear friend, very respectfully, yours, J. W. WALKER, Secretary.

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