Staunton Spectator.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1877.

The Electoral Commission.

The decision arrived at by the Electoral Commission on last Wednesday created a great deal of interest throughout the country. It was a great disappointment to the Democrats and had quite a depressing effect upon their spirits, and inspired the Republicans with renewed hopes of success. The following is the minute of the official record of the Commission:

On motion of Mr. Justice Miller—

Ordered, That no evidence will be received or considered by the Commission which was not submitted to the joint convention of the two Houses by the President of the Senate with the different certificates, except such as relates to the eligibility of F. C. Humphreys, one of the electors.

The vote is as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Bradley, Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Garfield, Hoar, Miller, Morton and Strong—8.

Nays—Messrs. Abbott, Bayard, Clifford, Field, Hunton, Payne and Thurman—7.

On motion of Mr. Abbott—

Resolved, That in the case of Florida this Commission will receive evidence relating to the eligibility of Frederick C. Humphreys, one of the persons named in the certificate No. 1 as elector.

The following is the vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Abbott, Bayard, Bradley, Clifford, Field, Hunton, Payne and Thurman—8.

Nays—Edmunds, Frelinghuysen, Garfield, Hoar, Miller, Morton and Strong—7.

The most unfavorable feature of the action of the Commission was the fact that it was done, seemingly, by a strictly party vote. The effect of the first order, excluding all testimony not submitted to the two houses by the president of the joint convention, is to shut out all the testimony by the House showing the fraud of returning officers. The Democrats were anxious to show the corruptions of the returning boards, but it is probably just as well as it is, for if that had been the case, the time between now and the 4th of March would have been consumed in the investigation and discussions, and if no election had been made by that time, the present Vice President Ferry would have been acting President.

On Thursday, before the Commission, the case of Humphries being up evidence was given and the ground taken by the Democratic side that his letter of resignation of the office of United States shipping commissioner to Judge Wood, and the latter's acceptance of it by letter written in Ohio in October last, was not a legal or effective resignation, the acceptance not the act of the Circuit Court of Florida, the court not being then in session, and there being no record since of such resignation. The argument was opened by Judge Hoadley, holding that in the event of the election of an ineligible individual the election was void. Mr. Shellabarger followed on the other side, alluding, however, to the quo warranto proceedings, which he alleged were not before the Commission, being only alluded to in the certificate of Gov. Drew, and indicating very clearly the ground of the republican side that all that was done by the courts, Legislature and Governor of Florida after the 6th of December, the day of casting the electoral vote, was a nullity.—Mr. Evarts argued to the same effect.

Argument in the case was closed by Mr. Merrick, in opposition to the eligibility of Humphreys. In making it he was subjected to a running fire of questions that interrupted but did not break the thread of his argument, and, on the whole, seemed to strengthen his points.

On Friday, the electoral commission, was in session from 10 o'clock A. M. to 8 o'clock, P. M. By a vote, eight to seven, the same as decided the question of the admission of testimony, the commission declared that the four electoral votes of Florida should be counted for Hayes and Wheeler, thus recognizing the eligibility of Humphreys.

The following are the points of the decision:

First. The commission, exercising the powers of both houses under the law, and having examined all the certificates and papers referred to them, find that they have no authority to hear evidence aliunde, or in other words, to hear evidence outside of the certificate of the Governor of the State of Florida, founded upon the determination of the canvassing board of the State as to its vote. Second. The commission could not consider as evidence any act of the Legislature or courts in determining whom the State had appointed as electors after the day the said electors gave their vote.—Third. In regard to the alleged ineligibility of F. C. Humphreys there was not sufficient proof that he held office on the 7th of November.

On Saturday, at 1 o'clock, the two Houses of Congress met in joint session to receive and consider the decision of the Electoral Commission on the vote of Florida.

When the decision was read, Representative Field presented objections signed by the required number of Senators and Representatives as follows:

Senators Jones, Cooper, Barnum, Kernan, Saulsbury, and Macdonald, and Representatives Knott, Field, Holman, Tucker, Thompson, Jenks, Fenton, Saylor, Wise, Morrison, Hewitt, and Springer.

The Houses then separated to consider the objections. Without taking action upon them, the House at 3 P. M., voted to take a recess until Monday at ten o'clock—ayes, 163; nays, 108.

The principal objections to the action of the Commission were that the commission had excluded all evidence taken by the two houses of Congress as to frauds, &c., in the Florida election, as as well as all evidence to prove that the State of Florida, by all departments of her government, has repudiated the certificates of Governor Stearns and the returning board.

The Senate, without discussion, accepted the decision of the Commission, and notified the House that they were ready to proceed with the count. But they took a recess until Monday, upon being notified of the action of the House.

In the Senate a motion for recess to Monday was urged by the Democrats but lost—ayes 26, noes 44—strict party vote.

Mr. Sherman offered the following:

Resolved, That the decision of the Commission upon the electoral votes of the State of Florida stand as the judgment of the Senate, the objection made thereto to the contrary notwithstanding. Adopted by a strict party vote.

The acceptance by the Senate of the decision of the electoral commission puts it out of the power of the House to change the result, as under the late law it requires the negative vote of both Houses, acting separately, to reject the decision of the Commission.

We suppose that, on yesterday, there was a warm discussion in the House, and that the House voted to reject the decision of the Commission in reference to the vote of Florida. But as it cannot prevent the vote of that State from being given to Hayes, the Electoral Convention, composed of the two Houses in joint session, will proceed to count the votes of other States. There will be no farther difficulty till Louisiana is reached, the decision upon which will most probably determine who will be declared our next President.

The feeling of the Democrats at present is that of discouragement.

They fear that the members of the Court, like the members of Congress, are controlled by their party feelings.

THE MAY-BENNETT DUEL.—The N. Y. *World* says that a statement which seems to be authoritative is now current in "society circles" as to the true proceedings in the May-Bennett duel. It is asserted that when the seconds asked the principals if they were ready, Mr. May twice replied that he was not; that after the second asked, the snap of a pistol was heard; that Mr. May's second thereupon advanced in front of Mr. Bennett and asked if it was his pistol which had snapped; that Mr. Bennett exhibited his weapon in proof that such was not the case; that Mr. May then spoke up and said his pistol had accidentally snapped; that after this the seconds adjudged to Mr. Bennett the right to fire; that Mr. Bennett levelled his pistol, took aim, and then, suddenly throwing up his arm, fired in the air. Whereby the duel ended with no blood.

THE DISMISSAL OF MIDHAT PASHA. The sudden dismissal of Midhat Pasha from the position of Grand Vizier of Turkey was evidently a surprise to Europe, and gave rise to many speculations as to its cause and purpose. The fact that Edhem Pasha was appointed to succeed him led some to suppose that the meaning of the movement was a change of policy, but beyond the merest speculation there is nothing to show any intention on the part of the Porte to make any modification of its policy which would not have been made had Midhat been retained. Indeed it would appear from one account that the dismissal of the able and imperious Grand Vizier was due to the discovery of a plot in which he intended to effect a coup d'etat to accomplish the abdication of the Sultan and make himself dictator.

THE BOTTOM FALLING OUT.—The Washington correspondent of the Springfield (Mass.) *Republican* thinks it is not strange that many of the republican leaders are growing discouraged.—One of them remarked the other day, "The bottom is falling out." Logan beaten in Illinois and an independent sent in his place; Butler losing caste in Massachusetts; Hoar sent to the Senate in place of Boutwell; New Jersey sending a democrat to the Senate; Alcorn and Robertson from the South going over to the other side, until it is evident that the Senate can no longer (after this session) be relied on as republican, even less than is a republican President—truly the tide is sweeping on in a fearful manner, and it threatens to overwhelm a once powerful party.

DEATH OF REAR ADMIRAL WILKES.—Rear Admiral Wilkes, U. S. N. retired list, died in Washington city last Thursday morning. Admiral Wilkes conducted the famous Wilkes exploring expedition to the South Seas in 1863, and during the late war captured the Confederate ministers Mason and Slidell while on board the English steamer Trent, bound to London, and was afterwards compelled to surrender them to the protection of the British flag. Admiral Wilkes has been in bad health for a long time.

ROBBERY OF A MAIL BAG.—A mail bag containing letters and about $25,000 worth of checks and drafts, while en route from Newport, Ky., to Cincinnati, was opened and the contents abstracted. The First National Bank of Covington, had over $10,000 worth of checks in the bag, and James Taylor & Sons, bankers, a still larger sum. Among other papers was a gold draft for $5,000 on a California bank. No clue yet to the thief.

TOOTHACHE CAUSING A FIRE.—On Wednesday week, a colored servant, in Winchester, in the employ of Rev. Dr. Rogers of the M. E. Church South, suffering with the toothache, put hot bricks in her bed, which set fire to the bed clothes. When these burning clothes were thrown out of the window, it created an alarm of fire which caused the firemen to turn out.

BURIED ALIVE IN A MINE.—While workmen were digging iron ore at the mine of Daniel Laner at Hensingerville, Lehigh county, Pa., Monday of last week, the ground caved in, burying Henry Hunsberger, Lewis Engle, Reese Lewis and David Frederick, under ten feet of earth. The first three were killed, and Frederick sustained severe inquries, but will recover.

THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO ABOLISH OFFICES.—The House Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, to which was referred that portion of the Governor's message recommending the abolition of the offices of Second Auditor and Register of the Land-Office, held a meeting Wednesday and resolved unanimously that it is inexpedient to abolish those offices.

INCENDIARY FIRE IN PENNSYLVANIA.—Five buildings, including the store of the Susquehanna Coal Company, were destroyed by fire at Nanticoke, near Wilkesbarre, Pa., last Wednesday morning. Loss $50,000; insurance $30,000. The fire was caused by incendiaries, who are supposed to be "Molly Maguires."

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FAMILY OF P. P. BLISS.—Mr. Moody announces at Boston that the contributions from different parts of the country for the family of Mr. P. P. Bliss, the revivalist, have been so liberal, that with the addition of what he left they are well provided for, and that collections should cease.

DR. MOFFETT'S PUNCH.—The Richmond *Whig* of last Thursday says that Dr. Moffett's liquor-punch or indicator has been somewhat improved, and is now before the Senate Committee on Finance, where the plan for raising the revenue by this machine will receive the attention due it.

Pneumonia is prevalent in different portions of Rockingham county.

DEATH OF A VETERAN JOURNALIST. The Hon. John S. Gallaher, third auditor of the treasury under the Fillmore administration, and afterwards for many years a clerk in the Treasury Department, died at his residence in Washington on the 5th inst., in the 81st year of his age. Mr. Gallaher was a practical printer, and after the war of 1812, in which he was a soldier, worked as a journeyman on the old National Intelligencer. He was a native of Jefferson county, Va., and more than a half century ago published a paper at Harper's Ferry called the Farmers' Repository, which was afterwards merged into the Virginia Free Press at Charlestown, with which he was associated for many years. Mr. Gallaher represented Jefferson county in the Virginia Legislature for several sessions, and was afterwards transferred to the State Senate, where he served with much credit. He afterwards edited the Winchester Republican, the Richmond Whig and the Richmond Republican. He advocated the nomination of Gen. Taylor for the presidency over Mr. Clay in 1848, and upon his election was appointed third auditor of the treasury, which position he held until Mr. Pierce's election to the presidency. For several years Mr. Gallaher was one of the leading editorial writers on the National Intelligencer, and besides being a gentleman of extensive information, was recognized as a writer of much force. As a man he was singularly pure and straightforward.

THE EXECUTION OF TWO ASSASSINS. At Port Tobacco, in Charles county, Md, last Friday, two colored men, named Charles Henry Simpson and Martin Henry, were hanged for the murder of John W. Everett, a much-esteemed young man, who was killed while asleep in his room over Warring's store, where he was employed as a clerk, near Glymont, on the Potomac river, on the night of July 10, 1876. The assassins were foiled in their purposes of robbery by the resistance of the iron safe in the store, and their total booty did not amount to much over thirty dollars in money, besides some articles of clothing, &c., which afterwards assisted in identifying them as the assassins. Both the murderers fully confessed their participation in this crime, as well as in a long series of burglaries in the Potomac counties of Maryland.

CASE OF STARVATION IN RICHMOND. On Monday of last week, in Richmond, as J. B. Elam and some ladies were out on a mission of charity, they discovered the dead body of a man named Samuel Hibbard, aged about 55 years, in a house on Twenty-second street, in rear of the Bellevue school. The body was lying in a bundle of rags, surrounded by his wife and daughter. Hibbard died about 3 o'clock from the effects of want and exposure. The family was found in a famishing condition. Aid was at once given the sufferers, a neat coffin procured, and decent interment given the body of the unfortunate man.

BOY KILLED BY A BASE BALL.—On Monday of last week, as we learn from the Salem *Register*, Milton Chapman, aged 17 years, son of Nathan Chapman, Esq., of Cave Spring, Roanoke county, whilst endeavoring to catch an India rubber base ball, was struck with it behind the ear and instantly killed. This should be a warning to boys, and the wonder is that more serious accidents at that game do not occur than do, though they are of sufficient frequency to cause alarm.

DEFEAT OF INDIANS BY GEN. MILES. Gen. Miles, with about three hundred infantry, gained a signal victory over about eight hundred Cheyennes and Ogallallas, under Crazy Horse, on the 8th of January, on Tongue river, Montana. The battle lasted for five hours, a heavy snow storm prevailing during part of the time. The loss of the Indians was very severe, many of the positions from which they were driven being found covered with blood. Gen. Miles lost four men and six wounded.

FINED FOR TRAPPING PARTRIDGES. The Winchester *News* says that "a man from the country was arrested last Wednesday, having in his possession 40 live partridges he had trapped, and was offering for sale. He was carried before Justice Crebs, fine $10 and cost. The birds were turned over to Mr. Calvert who will turn them out in the spring."

ARMS FRACTURED IN SHENANDOAH.—Geo. Painter, son of Dr. S. S. Painter, had his arm fractured by being thrown from a horse, and Samuel Hoover, near New Market, had his arm broken by being struck with a piece of wood whilst loading wood on his wagon. As one end of the piece of wood fell down the other end flew up and broke his arm.

INDIAN DEPREDATIONS.—The Apaches are killing and plundering the settlers in Southeastern Arizona, and the Governor believes that section will have to be abandoned unless military operations against the hostiles are more efficiently conducted.

Mr. W. W. Corcoran, of Washington, is now 78 years old. He has spent $250,000 on the Corcoran Gallery and the grounds on which it stands, and $100,000 on the original collection of pictures and statuary; and for an endowment fund he has given $900,000.

MARRIAGE OF WHITES AND BLACKS.—The Rhode Island House of Representatives have passed the bill permitting the intermarriage of whites and blacks in that State. Thirty-seven voted for and twenty-eight against the bill.

STABBING AFFRAY.—At Red Sulphur Springs, Monroe county, W. Va., on the night of the 1st inst., a difficulty occurred between Mr. Walter Adair and Mr. James Tiffany, which resulted in the serious stabbing of the former.

HOUSE BURNED.—The house occupied by Mr. Geo. Willey, near Middletown, Frederick county, with most of the furniture, was burned last week. He had but recently married and had just begun house-keeping.

REVIVAL IN LEWISBURG.—An interesting revival is in progress in the M. E. Church South in Lewisburg, Greenbrier Co., W. Va., and a number have professed conversion.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—In Fayette county, W. Va., on the 2nd inst., whilst Mr. Hazel Withrow, son of Mr. Jack Withrow, was carrying a log, he fell and the log falling on him broke his neck.

BY TELEGRAPH!

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12, 1877.

Florida and Illinois were counted for Hayes, and Indiana and Georgia for Tilden, to-day. Count proceeded to La. which was referred to the Electoral commission. Both houses and the commission have taken recess until to-morrow. 56.

A heated discussion arose in the House over Electoral Commission decision to count vote of Florida for Hayes. David D. Field closed his speech as follows:

"Shall this gigantic fraud be executed? Growing in magnitude in exact proportion to the theatre on which it is to operate and to that period of time thro' which it is to be felt. Shall the moral cement of this great nation be dissolved by fraud which has no parallel in the past? Shall the Chief Executive Magistrate of forty-five millions be inducted into office by the vote of Charles H. Pierce, a convicted felon of Florida.."

As he uttered these words, Mr. Field sat down amidst a profound sensation and a storm of applause, which the Speaker was unable to suppress.

On the vote to non-concur in the decision of the Electoral Commission, there were 168 in the affirmative and 103 in the negative.

Both Houses then convened in joint session and count proceeded until Louisiana was reached, which of course was objected to on account of two of Hayes electors' ineligibility, being federal office-holders, and the illegality of Returning Board, consisting of only four members, which Board the law says shall consist of 5 members and of different political principles. Both Houses referred objections and papers to the Commission and then separated. Commission will not reach a decision upon Louisiana before Friday or Saturday next.

The sensation of the day was the reading of the third electoral college vote of La. consisting of four John Smiths.—John number one was elected President and John number 4, Secretary, &c. Going through all the formalities the reading produced uproarious laughter. Several senators and representatives objected to its reading. President Ferry said it was impossible for him to interfere, as a copy was coming by mail, and another was received by special messenger. It was read entire to great consternation of the convention, and convulsive laughter of the immense throng in the galleries—it cast the vote of the State for Peter Cooper! SMYTH.

44th Congress, Second Session.

SENATE.—Monday, Feb. 5th.—A bill was passed appropiating $350,000 to provide for a deficiency in the appropriation for the public printing. Mr. Cooper submitted the views of the minority of the sub-committee of the committee on privileges and elections in regard to the Florida election. The bill to abolish the board of metropolitan police commissioners of the District of Columbia was reported back from the committee on the District with a recommendation that it be passed, notwithstanding the veto of the President. Mr. West made a personal explanation denying any complicity in trafficking in electoral votes. A resolution was adopted to bring before the bar of the Senate J. F. Littlefield for his failure to appear and testify before the Senate committee on privileges and elections instructed to inquire into Louisiana matters. The message of the President in regard to the resumption of specie payment was laid before the Senate.

HOUSE.—In the House the only business transacted was its non-concurrence in the Senate amendment to the fortification and Military Academy bills.

SENATE.—Tuesday, Feb. 6th.—Mr. Cameron, from the committee on foreign relations, reported, with amendments, the bill recently introduced by Mr. Whyte to encourage and promote telegraphic communication between America and Europe. The principal amendment provides that the rates charged to governments shall not exceed those charged individuals. The Senate considered at length, without coming to a vote, the bill to amend the Pacific railroad acts. The Senate refused, by a vote of yeas 33, nays 22, to pass, over the President's veto, the bill abolishing the board of metropolitan police commissioners of the District of Columbia, the necessary two-thirds not voting in the affirmative.

HOUSE.—In the House the deficiency appropriation bill was called up, and its consideration occupied most of the session; it appropriates $1,417,000. A resolution was adopted for the printing of the testimony taken before the committee on Louisiana affairs, which has not been printed.

SENATE.—Wednesday, Feb. 7.—A resolution was introduced to repeal the act to incorporate the National Life Insurance Company, and to provide for winding up its affairs. A bill was passed authorizing the commissioners of the Freedmen's Savings and Trust Company to buy and sell certain real estate and other property. The bill to amend the Pacific railroad acts was further discussed. The Senate, by a vote of 28 to 20, refused to agree to the House amendment to the bill appropriating $350,000 for the printing deficiency requiring that government printers shall not be paid more than is paid for similar work in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

HOUSE.—The proceedings of the House were devoid of interest.

SENATE.—Thursday, Feb. 8th.—A bill was introduced to authorize the taking of certain parcels of lands for the Congressional Library. House bill to pay James B. Eads $500,000 in money for construction of jetties at the South Pass of the Mississippi river, was indefinitely postponed, the sentiment being in favor of paying him in bonds, which he desires. The Indian appropriation bill was taken up and passed.

HOUSE.—Mr. Buckner introduced a bill abolishing the board of commissioners of police of the District of Columbia. A letter was read from J. Madison Wells and Thomas C. Anderson, of the Louisiana returning board, complaining that they were confined in a damp, dark dungeon in the cellar of the capitol.—After debate the matter was referred to the special committee on the Louisiana election to inquire whether such a state of affairs existed as described by Wells and Anderson. The House then considered in committee of the whole the deficiency appropriation bill.

SENATE.—Friday, Feb. 9th.—A committee of conference was ordered on the fortification appropriation bill. Mr. Whyte presented resolutions of the Baltimore Board of Trade in favor of repealing the tax on bank deposits and capital; also, a bill to remove the political disabilities of H. H. Lewis, of Baltimore.—Senate bill to encourage and promote telegraphic communication between America and Europe was called up and passed. The remainder of the session was devoted to debate on the bill to amend the Pacific railroad acts.

HOUSE.—Majority and minority reports were made from the committee on Louisiana affairs; the former claims the election of the Tilden and Hendricks electors, and denounces the action of the Louisiana returning board as fraudulent and void; the minority report declares the republican electors were duly elected, and sustains the action of the returning board as complying with the forms of the State law and in compliance with the constitution of the United States.

Capt. C. R. Mason of Staunton.

Mr. Frank Smyth has been publishing for some time a series of sketches of the self-made man of Virginia in *Frank Lesslie's Chimney Corner*. A recent number contains the following sketch of our valuable and esteemed citizen—Capt. C. R. Mason—which will be read with interest:

Claiborne Rice Mason was born in Hightown, Duchess County, New York, when the bells were ringing out the old eighteenth century and joyfully chiming in the new, the nineteenth century; so that he is seventy-six years of age. But persons not knowing it would take him to be only sixty-five, he is such a hale, hearty and active old gentleman. He removed to Chesterfield County, Virginia, with his parents, when only three years of age. His father was a miner in the old Chesterfield coal-mines.

Until he was sixteen or seventeen years old, Claiborne worked about his father's house. He was emphatically a handy boy, and turned out a mechanical genius. He could do carpentering, blacksmithing and stone-masonry. He is self-educated in all that is taught in school, as he is in mechanics, railroading and engineering. His first employer, when he went out into the world to work for himself, was Mr. Nat Crowe, carpenter, of Manchester, Va. He had only been in his employment six months when he was raised to the foremanship of the shop, and before his eighteenth birthday.

He remained at the carpentering business about a year and a half, when he left it and engaged in blacksmithing. He worked at this trade less than a year and a half, when he engaged in stone-masonry with Mr. Edson, at Bermuda Hundreds.

After a year's experience in this mode of making a living, he turned to coalmining in the Black Heath Pits, Chesterfield County, Va., and also with Mr. Welsh, of the same county.

In 1822, Mr. Mason went to Norfolk, Va. He here found work in the Gosport Navy-yard, on the old Pennsylvania ship-of-war, for a little over a year. Mr. Mason next removed to Richmond, Va., and entered the employ of Messrs. Healy & Knox, contractors on the James River and Kanawha Canal, at the locks near Richmond. His duty on the canal was lock-masonry and grading, and was engaged at it with this firm for two years.

In 1829, the first railroad in the Old Dominion was projected, and Mr. Mason assisted in making the survey for it, being ax-man, or assistant engineer, and undertook a small contract in grading it. The road extended from the coal-pits to the company's wharf on James River, opposite "Rockett's," at Richmond, and was ten miles long. It was completed July 4th, 1830. Mr. Mason came to Richmod after the completion of the road and entered the employ of Edmund Brown, a manufacturer of plug-tobacco, as overseer.

About 1831 Mr. Mason entered steadily into railroading; first upon the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad, at laying the track, until its completion in 1832; next upon the Norfolk and Weldon.

In 1833 he commenced work on the Baltimore and Ohio and the Baltimore and Washington branch road, at laying track, constructing turnouts, depots, etc., working for both a year and half. In the Spring of 1835 he was engaged at similar work on the old Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad, with the addition of putting up the pumps on the road, and finished it in 1836, just forty years ago.

Mr. Mason took an active part in getting subscriptions for the old Louisa Railroad, the nucleus of the present Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. He thoroughly canvassed Louisa County, procuring five-dollar subscriptions to have the survey made for the road, heading the subscription-list with five dollars. The first "break of ground" was made by Mr. Mason in 1836, and he finished the first three miles of it. The road extended from the courthouse of Louisa County to the junction with the Richmond and Fredricksburg Road, in Hanover County, some twenty miles from the city of Richmond, and was completed in 1837. From its completion until 1848 he was Superintendent of Repairs, when it was extended to Gordonsville at one end, and to Richmond at the other. It then became the "Virginia Central Railroad," and Mr. Mason was elected by the directory General Superintendent, and continued in the office until 1852, when he resigned the position, and from that year to 1873 he was a contractor on the road.

While constructing the above road, he was also at work on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, between Charlottesville and Lynchburg, from 1855 to 1860. He finished up twenty one to twety-two miles that other contractors failed to complete. The road is now known as the Washington City, Virginia Midland and Great Southern Railroad.

From the Fall of 1873 to 1874, Mr. Mason was engaged in grading the Valley Railroad between Staunton and Lexington, Virginia. He completed twenty-one miles of it, when the financial panic put an end to all internal improvements.

At the commencement of hostilities between the North and the South, Mr. Mason raised a company of infantry, was elected captain of it, and attached to the Fifty-second Virginia Regiment.

At the time he was mustered into service he was sixty years of age; but, notwithstanding his years, he generally managed to keep up with Jackson's "foot cavalry." Shortly after entering the army he was made Quartermaster of General Ed. Johnson's command, and subsequently (1862), General Thomas Jackson ("Stonewall") had him detailed for duty with his famous brigade. He served with General Jackson at the second battle of Manassas and the seven days' fight around Richmond.

This sketch would be incomplete without the following incident: General Jackson had just arrived from the Valley, and was encamped on the north side of the Chickahominy. The fighting had commenced, and, to Jackson's mind, was going against the Confederates. The roaring of artillery was sounding nearer, and nearer strong evidence that the Union forces were driving the Southerners. Jackson tried in the morning to get across the river higher up than where he was then encamped, but was prevented by an opposing fire. The battle raged, and Jackson became excited and more impatient every moment to cross the river. He bethought of Captain Mason, and a courier was dispatched for him. The captain, just about that time, was cooking his dinner in a skillet. He had bacon and greens that day—poor fare for a millionaire—and he was "chunking" up the fire under the bacon and the greens when courier the rode up in hot haste.

Courier—Captain Mason, General Jackson desires to see you immediately.

Captain M.—Tell the general I'll be there directly.

He continued his cooking operation. In a few minutes more another courier came rushing up to the skillet of bacon and its owner.

Courier—Captain Mason, General Jackson wants to see you immediately, without delay, in his tent.

Captain M.—Tell the general I'll be there in a few minutes—just as soon as I finish cooking some bacon and greens.

The captain commenced on the favorite Virginia dish, but before he had made much headway, Major Wm. Allen, Colonel Jones and another officer of General Jackson's personal staff, rode up "without delay," to Jackson's quartermaster.

All Three (sotto voce)—Captain Mason, General Jackson is very anxious to see you at headquarters, instantly. He is very impatient at your delay.

Captain M.—Tell General Jackson I'll be with him as soon as I finish eating my bacon and greens—in ten minutes.

And he kept his word.

General J. (anxiously)—Captain, do you hear those cannons?

Captain M., (solemnly)—Yes, I do, general.

General J., (pausing)—They are very regular?

Captain M.—Yes, general, they are.

General J.—I'm afraid Huger has not come up to Magruder's support. It is very important that I should get my artillery across the river as soon as possible. I can get the infantry over immediately, but I do not want to; I am anxious to cross over with the artillery first, and at the earliest possible moment (*anxiously*). Now, how long before you could make a bridge to rush the artillery across on?

Captain M.—I can't tell until I see the ground *first* and select a crossing. I think I can make it in two hours.

General J. (brightening up)—Are you not too quick in your calculations? Can you have it done in that time—*two hours?*

Captain M. (smiling)—Well, I don't know; I'll go and see, and come back and let you know.

General J.—Do, captain?

The captain went and made a survey of the river and returned to headquarters.

General J.—Can you do it, captain?

Captain M.—Yes, general; I can make it in two hours.

General J.—Good, captain! good! (*feelingly.*) If you ever wish to render your country a service, *now* is the time to do it! Have the bridge made at the quickest possible moment, as I do not wish to cross until the artillery can go first. (*Abruptly.*) Do you hear those cannons? They are very rapid and regular.

Captain M.—Yes, they are.

General J.—Captain, what force do you want?

Captain M.—About a thousand men and forty to fifty of John Harman's wagons.

General J.—You shall have them, captain. Do you want anything else—any axes?

Captain M.—No. I have plenty of axes I captured the other day.

General J.—You shall have anything you want. I will order the engineers to have the men and wagons sent to you immediately.

The men and wagons were sent to Captain Mason, and at 2 P. M. he commenced building the briedge across the Chickahominy. The bridge was three hundred feet long. It is stated that, about the same hour, the engineers went to drawing up plans and specifications for the aforesaid bridge *in their tents*, as they were ordered by "Stonewall" to render all possible aid to Captain Mason. When close on four o'clock, the scientific gentlemen and red pencils came upon the scene of action and beckoned to Captain Mason to draw near, that they had a drawing for the bridge, and they wanted to explan to him how he was to proceed with it, and commenced unfolding the bridge diagram *on paper?*

Captain M.—What have you got there—pictures?

Engineers—A plan for the bridge, captain.

Captain M. (smilingly)—*The bridge is built, gentlemen.*

At that moment the captain turned round, and he saw General Jackson and his ataff approaching him, the army on the march and the artillery in advance.

General J.—I am here, captain; you see what confidence I have in you. It wants *ten minutes to four.*

Captain M.—All right, general; the bridge *is finished.* But just wait two minutes, until I throw some more dirt over that crack, to keep that off-mule from shying and tumbling into the river. You can go ahead now, general."

Jackson went "ahead," and behind him the scientific men with the "pictures" and pretty red pencils. Captain Mason returned to his tent, but had not proceeded far when he heard the ringing order, away in his rear, "Charge!" Looking round, he saw a cloud of dust, horses and cannons going like the whirlwind in the direction of the sound of the cannonading. Jackson's flying artillery arrived just in the "nick of time" to turn the tide of battle in favor of the Confederates; he opened up upon the Union forces, as usual, in their rear (where they always expected him afterward,) and threw their ranks into confusion. General McClellan has to thank Captain Mason, his skillet of bacon and greens, and Stonewall Jackson, for his defeat.

A year or two after the termination of the war, Capt. Mason resumed operations on the Virginia Central Railroad and the Covington and Ohio Railroad. He did more than any other contractor in the construction of the great thoroughfare between the seaboard States and the Western cities; the grading and track-laying were executed by him. He furnished all the ties for the road between Covington and Kanawha Falls, and the tunnels are monuments to his handiwork; Mason's Tunnel, one-fourth of a mile long; Lick Run Tunnel, one-tenth of a mile; Morse's Run Tunnel, one-tenth of a mile; Lewis Tunnel, near the famous White Sulphur Springs, seven-eighths of a mile. This tunnel had to be cut through solid rock the seven-eighths of a mile, and broke two or three parties before Capt. Mason undertook to make daylight shine through it.

Another stupendous undertaking was the trestle-work and filling-up over Jerry's Run and the Back Bone Cut. The amount of work he accomplished on this road reached *one million* of dollars, and not a foot of it was ever pronounced defective. From 1875 to the Spring of 1876 he was engaged in the masonry and grading of twelve miles of the Cincinnati and Southern Railroad in Kentucky.

Capt. Mason lost one or two fortunes in railroad stocks. Of late years he has put his savings in argriculture and stock-raising. He owns six farms in Virginia and West Virginia, well stocked and improved; two in Augusta County, near Staunton, Virginia; "Falls Plantation," on James River, opposite Richmond, Va.; one in Orange county of thirteen hundred acres; one in Summers county, W. Va., of four hundred acres; and one in Highland county, Va., of four thousand acres—just a plantation apiece for each of his sons and daughters.

Socially, he is a quiet, plain and unassuming gentleman, and one of nature's noblemen an honest man. His usself ishness and kindness of heart is proverbial, and the most indulgent of fathers, never denying his children anything. His career presents a noble example to the young men of the day who are waiting to step into "soft places" *of ignoble ease and idleness!*

A gunpowder explosion killed fifty and wounded one thousand persons in India.

The Egyptians have again been defeated in Abyssinia.

Cholera accompanies famine in parts of India.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY.

FINE RESIDENCE.

As Trustee in a deed of trust executed on the 26th day of April, 1876, by P. B. Hoge to the undersigned as Trustee, recorded in the Clerk's office of the Court of Hustings for the city of Staunton in Deed Book No. 7, page 262, by direction of the beneficiary, I will proceed, in front of the Court-house, in Staunton, on

Thursday, the 15th day of March, 1877,

at three o'clock, P. M., to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, that substantial Brick Building, on Beverly Street, near the top of "Gospel Hill," in which P. B. Hoge now resides, situated between the residences of DAVIS A. Kayser and Joseph F. Tannehill. This is the most desirable property that has been offered for sale in the City of Staunton for many years, and is one of the finest residences in the city, it being a large and commodious two-story brick house, with basement room, and with sufficient ground both in front and in rear for yard, &c.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash in hand sufficient to pay the costs of the sale, and the costs of drawing and recording said trust deed, and to discharge and satisfy the debt secured by said trust deed. As to proper terms as to payment can be made on day of sale.

feb13-tds EDWARD ECHOLS, Trustee.

STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING.—There will be a general meeting of the Stockholders of the Mechanics' Building Association at the office of Ker & Morton, on Thursday, the 15th Feb., for the purpose of electing three Directors to complete the Board. By order of the Board. JAMES KER,

feb13-1t Secretary.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

1877. FEB. 8th. 1877.

BARGAINS!

R. W. ELSOM,

Will continue the sale of

DRY GOODS,

NOTIONS,

AND

QUEENSWARE,

FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS AT

PRIME COST

FOR CASH,

In order to make room for his

SPRING STOCK

NEXT MONTH.

REMEMBER THE PLACE FOR

BARGAINS IS

R. W. ELSOM'S,

No. 17, Main St., next door to Marble Yard.

feb13-1y

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF Valuable Farming Land in *GREENBRIER COUNTY, W. VA.*

Pursuant to a decree of the circuit court of Greenbrier county, rendered at the October term, 1876, in a suit in chancery therein pending between H. R. Beard, plaintiff, and Matthew Arbuckle et als, defendants, the undersigned Commissioners appointed for the purpose, will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, in front of the Hotel of W. W. Moore, in the town of Lewisburg, on

Wednesday, the 14th day of March, 1877,

the following valuable tract of land, the property of said Arbuckle, viz: A tract of **148 acres** about two miles South of Lewisburg, known as the Creigh place or Arbuckle's home place.—The improvements are first-class, and consist of an excellent Brick House, with all necessary out-buildings in fine condition. The land is all arable and in a high state of cultivation. This farm is convenient to town, school, churches, &c., and is near Ronceverte Depot, on the C. & O. R. R. It is desirable either for a permanent home or as a summer residence.

TERMS OF SALE:

One-third of the purchase money to be paid in cash—balance on a credit of one and two years, with interest from day of sale. Bonds with approved personal security will be required for the deferred payments, and the title will be retained as further security till all the purchase money is paid.

ALEX. F. MATHEWS,
JOHN W. HARRIS,
feb13-4t Pr's fee $12.50. Commissioners.

COMMISSIONERS' SALE OF VALUABLE MINERAL LAND.—By virtue of a decree of the circuit court of Augusta county, entered in the cases of *Anderson vs. Bell*, on the 3rd day of November, 1876, the undersigned will proceed on

Wednesday, the 14th day of March, 1877,

to sell at public auction, in front of the Court-house, *in the city of Staunton*, a tract of mountain land, situated on South mountain, near the town of Waynesboro', containing about **seventeen hundred acres**, being the property of Jno. J. Bell. This land is well timbered and is thought to contain valuable deposits of iron, and the sale will afford a rare opportunity to those desirous of investing in mineral lands.

TERMS—Cash in hand sufficient to pay the costs of suit—the balance on a credit of one, two, and three years, the purchaser executing bonds with good personal security for the deferred intalments, and the title retained as ultimate security.

R. P. BELL,
WM. PATRICK,
feb13-4t Commissioners.

IN VACATION.—In the Clerk's office of Highland Circuit Court, February 1st, 1877:

J. C. Newman, David W. Sweeker, and Robert N. Phares, late merchants and partners doing business under the firm name and style of Newman, Sweeker & Co.,

vs.

Sol. K. Nelson

In Chancery.

The object of this suit is to recover against the Denfendant Nelson, the sum of $24.33, with interest thereon, from the 24th day of January, 1877, till paid, and the costs of this suit, and to attach the real estate belonging to the Defendant Nelson in the county of Highland, and make the same subject to said debt, interest and costs.

And it appearing from affidavit filed in the papers of this cause that the Defendant is not a resident of this Commonwealth, it is ordered that he do appear within one month after due publication of this order and do what is necessary to protect his interests herein.

Copy—Teste,
J. C. MATHENY, Cl'k.
CHAS. P. JONES, p. q. feb13-4t

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, Staunton, Feb. 12th, 1877.

P. H. TROUT vs. FRANCES GREENE, et al, pending in chancery in the circuit court of Augusta. All perrons, parties to the above suit, or in any wise interested therein, and especially all persons holding liens upon the land in the bill mentioned, are hereby notified that in pursuance of decree rendered by said court in said cause on the 1st day of Nov., 1876, I shall, at my office, in Staunton, on

Thursday, the 15th day of March, 1877,

proceed to take, state and settle an account, showing 1st, The unsatisfied bonds of the Def't