Staunton Spectator.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1877.

Facts that should not be lost sight of.

The "repudiators" are clamorous about the increase of the public debt by the accumulation of interest, but not one of these has ever called attention to the reductions which have been made of the principal.

By reference to the report of the Second Auditor for 1873, it will be found that the principal of the debt on 30th September, 1873, was $30,478,146. By report of same officer for 1875, it will be seen that the debt on 30th September, 1875, was $29,514,426, showing a reduction of principal in two years of $963,720.

This is not a bad exhibit—a reduction of the principal of the debt, in two years, of nearly a million of dollars!

Since 1875 the principal of the debt has been reduced to $29,489,326, and if the last Legislature had performed the solemn duty imposed on it by the Constitution, it would have been reduced a million more.

The reduction above referred to was effected mainly by the sinking fund.

The Constitution—Article X, section 8—provides that "the General Assembly shall provide by law a sinking fund, to be applied solely to the payment and extinguishment of the principal of the State debt, which sinking fund shall be continued until the extinguishment of such State debt."

Under this provision of the Constitution, a sinking fund has been provided, which amounts to about four million and a half of dollars. This sinking fund is invested in Virginia State bonds, bearing interest at the rate of six per cent.

This interest constitutes the main revenue of the sinking fund, and the Constitution expressly sets it apart for "the payment and extinguishment of *the principal of the public debt.*"

During the years 1873–4 and 1874–5, the Legislature, as they were bound by their official oaths to do, provided for the payment of the interest on the sinking fund; and with that interest nearly a million of dollars of the principal of the debt was bought up.

The annual interest on the sinking fund amounts to about $270,000 per annum.

As the original State bonds, which have not been funded as "consols" or "peelers," are quoted at $30 for a bond of $100, if this interest had been provided for it would have enabled the commissioners of the sinking fund to buy annually $900,000 of these bonds, or $1,800,000 in the two years. Setting apart one-third of this amount ($600,000) for W. Va. ultimately to settle, we would have had $1,200,000 to transfer to our credit account; and our outstanding debt would have been reduced to a little over $28,000,000. We would also have had $600,000 of West Virginia certificates to add to the two millions which we already hold, to be used as an offset to any possible claim which West Virginia may hereafter assert against Virginia in consequence of Virginia's giving to the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad six and a half millions of dollars of stocks and debts, which belonged jointly to Virginia and West Virginia.

This would have been an admirable arrangement for Virginia, and would have effectually guarded her against any danger arising from the fact that she allowed herself to be "bamboozled" out of six and a half millions of bonds and stocks, of which she really owned but two-thirds.

Another good result would have followed. When the sinking fund buys in bonds, they are not cancelled, but added to the sinking fund, and constitute a part of it. The sinking fund, therefore, by the addition of this $1,200,000 would have been increased from four and half millions to five millions seven hundred thousand dollars, and the annual interest would have raised to $342,000, which, at present rates, would buy in nearly a million of dollars of the debt the following year, and add $60,000 to the revenue of the sinking fund.

No one can deny that there is an imperative duty imposed on the Legislature to provide for payment of the interest on the sinking fund. But the last Legislature shamefully, and in contempt of their official oaths, refused to do it. The obligation to provide for the payment of the interest on the sinking fund is quite as strong as to provide for the interest on the literary fund. Both obligations are imposed by the same Constitution and almost in the same terms. Yet the Legislature provided for one and refused to provide for the other.

Let the people now require every candidate to pledge himself to discharge this Constitutional duty of providing for the payment of interest on the sinking fund, and the principal of the debt will be soon extinguished.

THE WAR.—The telegrams on last Monday were rather premature in their statements. The Russians have not yet taken Plevna. The results of the past week's fighting in Turkey are decidedly against the Russians. It is stated, however, that the Turks have lost 10,000 in attempting to recapture the Grivica redoubts——The Berlin Gazette denies that Germany influenced Servia and Roumania to participate in the Russo-Turkish war——Vice-Admiral Canaris, the Greek premier, died of apoplexy——The Grecian foreign minister says that Greece does not intend to declare war against Turkey.

THE HEALTH OF THE POPE.—A private letter from a distinguished source recently received in Washington, from Rome, confirms the report of the failure of the Pope's health, and says that he is not expected to live till November.

Andrew Richards (col'd) was lynched and hanged by the people of Jacksonville, Ill., last week for assaulting a white woman.

Senator Conkling says he has received more than a thousand letters imploring him to oppose the President's civil service policy.

The democrats of Panola county, Miss., have unanimously nominated a colored man for coroner and ranger of the county.

Five thousands barrels of flour were shipped from Richmond last week for Rio.

Thomas Jefferson's birthplace, Shadwell, Albemarle county, Virginia, is advertised for sale.

THE NEXT UNITED STATES SENATE.—The Washington *Star* says "some over-sanguine democratic politicians are solacing themselves with the hope that, in view of Senator Morton's critical condition and the possible deflexion of several "carpet-bag" senators, the democrats may obtain control of the Senate when it meets next month. Allowing for the absence of Mr. Merton when the Senate meets, the republicans (counting Senator David Davis, who has been placed on the standing committees of the Senate as a republican,) would muster 39 and the democrats 33, which would give the former a majority of 6. Should it become necessary to fill Mr. Morton's place on account of his resignation or death, a democrat would occupy his seat, and the Senate would stand: republicans, 39; democrats, 34.—If the three South Carolina and Louisiana vacancies are filled by democrats, as they undoubtedly will be, the republicans would still have a majority of 2. As for the disaffection of the southern republican senators, extending to their desertion of their party, it is all moonshine. They would have nothing to gain by such a course, except the detestation of the republicans and the contempt of the democrats. Some stress is laid on the fact that Senators Booth, Christiancy and Edmonds have sometimes been found voting with the democrats, and the hope is indulged that they may unite with them on many important questions. While it is true that certain republican senators have differed from their colleagues on a few purely partisan questions, like the Pinchback case, it is not at all likely that on the matter of appointing the standing committees of the Senate they will be found voting against their party. But at this distance it looks as if the democrats would have a fair majority in the Senate after March 3, 1879."

The New York Graphic says "that there is now no more mistake about it. Better times are not only coming but have actually come. Everything promises a better fall and winter trade than we have had for the last four years. We not only have enourmous crops, but it is settled that there will be a market for them on the other side of the water at very good prices. Coal has advanced, and the best authorities believe that it is not likely to fall back to the old figures. Merchants, everywhere, who are out of debt, are preparing for the largest demand they have known for years. There is a general feeling of confidence in all commercial quarters. Bottom prices have been reached, and with proper legislation by Congress there is scarcely a doubt but that there will be a large and profitable business transacted during the coming year." So mote it be.

A large and spirited meeting of the citizens of Germantown, Pa., was held on the 11th inst., to take steps to celebrate the centennial anniversary, October 4th, of the battle of Germantown. Special invitations were extended to the Governors and residents of the Southern States, whose troops took part in the battle, Virginia being the principal State mentioned. It is expected that about three thousand members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, labor organizations, and employees of the different industrial establishments in Germantown, the proprietors of which have announced their intention to close their manufactories will participate in the parade.

A California paper describes "the latest thing out" as a new horse-shoe made out of three thickness of rawhide, compressed together by heavy pressure. It is said to last longer, "weighs only one-fourth as much as the common shoes, never splits the hoof, and has no bad influence on the foot. It is so elastic that the horse's step is never uncertain. This will remind the farmers who drove cattle and horses across the plains in early days of the fact, now almost forgotten, that this is no new invention, for the cattle and horses, too, were often shod with shoes made out of buffalo hide, cut from the neck, where the skin is almost an inch thick.

HUNG IN A CHURCH.—In Early county, Ga., recently, a negro man committed an outrage upon a young white girl. Being arrested and arraigned before the judge of the County Court he confessed the crime and was remanded for sentence. On the night of the same day some unknown persons broke the jail, took the prisoner therefrom, carried him a half mile away and hung him to a joist of the new colored church, where he was found the next day.

The Lexington *Gazette* utters this warning, which the Relievers would do well to heed: "The men who are tampering with the public faith may yet rue the day when they taught such disregard for the rights of property. They are sowing to the wind; let them take care they reap not the whirldwind. The Paris Commune first destroyed the public buildings, and then the torch was given to the private dwelling."

One of the largest women in the world, Fannie Wallace, died last week, at Ephrata, Lancaster county, Pa. She was fiftyfour years old, seven feet four inches in height, and weighed 585 pounds. Her coffin was seven feet four inches in length, three feet six inches in bredth, three feet six inche in depth, and two feet wide at the foot. It required eight men, with block and tackle, to lower her in the grave.

A THRIFTY COLORED FARMER.—Jack Wilson is a colored resident of Meriwether county, Ga., who has bought and paid for 700 acres of land since the war. He will make this year sixty or seventy bales of cotton, 1,500 or 2,000 bushels of corn, has ten or twelve males all in fine condition, and raises his own meat.

A. C. Thomas, of Chicago, estimates the quantity of wheat "in sight" last Saturday at 4,814,990 bushels, against 4,145,195 a week previous; corn, 10,963,255 bushels, against 12,150,647 a week previous.

The operators of the coal mines at Wilkesbarre, Pa., say that all attempts to effect a compromise with the strikers have failed, and nothing further will be done by them to urge resumption.

The Norfolk *Day-Book*, in its issue of the 13th, severs its connection with the Republican party, and says it will in future be independent.

A colored man was killed by a white man, at Vineland, N. J., on last Friday. Call out the troops, Ulysus.

THE EXTRA SESSION.—The extra session of Congress, which begins on the 15th of next month, is likely to be of unusual interest. While the message of the President is expected to be brief, and confined to the special business for which the session has been called, the House will have to elect a Speaker, the Senate will have to act on the appointments made by the President since it adjourned, and there are threats by republican politicians that the question of the confirmation of these appointments will become the occasion of an organized war on the President and his cabinet. Should these expectations be realized the extra session will be exciting, and may last till the regular session meets. The army estimates are said to be ready to be presented to Congress when it meets, and it is thought there will not be much trouble or delay over the army appropriations. The fortunate determination by the President that the army shall not be used to interfere in Southern political affairs will remove all opposition which had arisen at the last session from that source to the army appropriation bill. It is conjectured that there will be enough republicans to act with the democrats in both houses to repeal the tenure-of-office act.

COUNTY NOMINATIONS.—The Nansemond county convention, held at Suffolk Monday, nominated Capt. Samuel H. Shriver for the House of Delegates.

Major W. G. Hardesty, of Clarke Co,, has been nominated for the House of Delegates.

Hon. James Barbour has been "unanimously nominated by the Conservatives of Culpeper for the House of Delegates.

Messrs. R. T. Barton and Nimrod Whitacre have been nominated for the House of Delegates, to represent Frederick county.

The conservatives of Essex county have nominated Mr. Patrick Warren for the House of Delegates. The republicans of King George county have nominated Dr. W. B. K. Price for the House of Delegates. James B. Ficklen has received the conservative nomination for Buckingham county, C. A. Bohannon for Gloucester, and Capt. R. E. Bland for Prince George's county.

The Sugar Crop of Louisiana for the present year, it is confidently expected, will amount to not less than 200,000 hogsheads, which would be an increase of more than 30,000 hogsheads over last year's crop. The consumption of sugar in all parts of the world is constantly increasing—increasing with amazing rapidity, in the United States alone, during the year 1876, the total consumption, including the product of the maple tree and the sugar made from molasses, is estimated at not less than 745,000 tons. This is fully one hundred per cent. more than the amount consumed in 1863, or than the average of the decade immediately preceding that year. So there need be no fear of an over-production of sugar in Louisiana.

ALL THE FOOLS NOT DEAD.—The next Congress will be asked by a numerously signed petition to abolish the office of Presidency, and place the Government in the hands of a Council of State, composed of seven members, four to be elected by the House and three by the Senate, from members of their respective Houses for two years, one or all to be removed at any time by the House electing him, and all to have the rights of members. The events of the current year have done more than those of the century that preceded it to induce the people to desire a change in the form of Government, but of all the numerous alterations proposed the one alluded to above deserves the least notice.

On horse back in front of Maj. A. McNeer's residence, in Hinton, on the 5th instant, by the Rev. O. F. Burgess, Mr. Henry Ballengee, and Miss Sarah Meadows, all of Summers county W. Va.

"Under a tree in rainy weather,
I married this man and this woman together;
Let none but him that rules the thunder,
Put this man and this woman asunder."

A MAN KILLED.—On Monday the 10th, as one of the freight trains, drawn by engine No. 36 was coming in from the West a man by the name of John McDonald, was run over and killed. his brains being torn out and scattered on different parts of the engine. No blame is attached to the worthy engineer, as he did not see him until it was too late to stop. Whiskey was no doubt the cause of his being on the track.—*Mountain Herald.*

At Columbia, S. C., on Wednesday, the Grand Jury found true bills against ex-Lieut. Gov. Gleaves, ex-Treasurers Parker and Cardoza, and ex-Comptrollers Dunn and Hoge, ex-Speaker Lee, Clerks of General Assembly Woodruff and Jones, ex-State Senator Owens, and others, on various serious charges of fraud in connection with the discharge of their official duties.

In Louis county, Va., last week, a Miss Knuckles died after a painful illness. Her sister came into the room where the body was lying and threw herself on the bed in a paroxysm of grief, and, as was supposed at the time, fainted. When her friends made an effort to revive her it was found that she was dead.

The late fall in State bonds can certainly not be attributed to General James A. Walker, the conservative nominee for Lieutenant Governor, for that gentleman, in a speech at Wytheville last Monday, said that "repudiation is larceny, and forcible readjustment is highway robbery."

Each saloon that sells a keg of beer and one gallon of whiskey by the glass per day—and there are few that sell less—will have to pay into the State Treasury under the Moffett Register Bill about $450 per annum, a sum equal to the license tax paid by a half dozen liquor retailers last year.

The Colored People of North Carolina are to hold a delegate convention in Raleigh on the 18th of October to devise plans for their educational, material and moral advancement as a race, which, the call says, "are and should be at this juncture paramount to all other issues."

The total number of postage stamps of all kinds and denominations, stamped envelops and newspaper wrappers issued during the year ending June 30th last by the Post Office Department was 1,060,263,909, valued at $26,525,836.

Miss Florence Pitman and Miss Mary Nelson, of Albemarle county, will go to Japan in October as missionaries. Two young ladies from the same county, Miss Lottie and Miss Eddie Moon, are already in China in the same capacity.

We clip the following from the Winchester *Times:*

To the Editor of the Times:

Although the proper disposition and arrangements, in reference to the public debt of the State, belong, appropriately, to the Legislative and not to the Executive department, under that practical operation of our republican system, which approves the exercise of the *veto* power only in the exceptional cases of improvident or fraudulent or unconstitutional legislation, yet the discussion of the subject, during the canvass for the Gubernatorial nomination, may result in eventful benefit, notwithstanding the surrounding circumstances were unpropitious for its dispassionate and balanced consideration, and was ill-timed, because it was not inaugurated until a large portion of the delegates had been appointed. There had existed much smothered uneasiness and dissatisfaction, mistaken conception of facts—even, with some, as to the origin of the debt—and crude ill-digested views as to the duty and power and extent of the resources of the State. The inflammation has been brought to the surface, and some material progress has been made in reference to the adoption of a vigorous and efficient treatment for relief.—We may anticipate, now, that some substantial and definite action will be taken to reduce expenditures all along the line, and to diminish, if possible, by some friendly adjustment, the amount of annual interest accruing upon the debt, and thus avoid any increase of the rate of taxation beyond that which the State has heretofore imposed.

It can scarcely be hoped, however, to accomplish the great result without men of the proper stamp in the Legislative halls. Capacity, experience, energy, integrity—nothing selfish or time-serving—must constitute the essential elements of the representative body. The Convention most considerately admonishes the people of the necessity of committing their trusts to the charge of men who will scrupulously guard their interests and their honor, and you have, well and earnestly, urged the considerations that relate to the selection of such, not only in our own but in all other counties.

Among those who have been presented for the House of Delegates, I observe, is Gen. John Echols, of Staunton. I make no invidious distinction, when I express the gratification, which will be felt at the announcement, by all who take a deep interest in preserving the good name and credit of the State and, at the same time, of reaping the fruits of a comprehensive economy in the administration of its affairs. There could scarcely, moreover, be selected anywhere a gentleman who would render more effective service in conferences and the consideration of plans for the adjustment, with the creditors of the State, of the public debt, upon a reduced ratio as to its amount or its per centage of interest. His business capacities and enlarged views as a statesman, united with the possession of those peculiar qualities which constitute the reliable and successful parliamentary leader, point to him as one who would be not less an eminent counsellor and benefactor in the Legislative counsels, than an ornament to the constituency which may elect him. CIVIS.

Nominations are being rapidly made throughout the Commonwealth for the General Assembly, and everything will soon be in readiness for the active work of the canvass, which promises to be "short, sharp and decisive." Each day we receive news of some new name, or are advised of the re-nomination of some old favorite.

In Gloucester Gen. Taliaferro has, by unanimous request of the county meeting, consented to become a candidate, and Mr. Bland will also be renominated; in Campbell, we are more than gratified to find they nominated Charles W. Button, of the *Virginian*, whose devotion to the true interests of Virginia are well known, and with him H. H. Withers of the last House, and Col. H. Read Howard; in Caroline, we yesterday announce Major Peatross and Mr. Kid, and now we have William Matthew returned from Loudoun, with Mr. Cooke D. Luckett, a new man, but both good men.

Let the friends of the State's credit be vigilant and active everywhere, and the honor of Virginia is safe.

We have already referred to the candidacy of Gen. Echols in Augusta. We take occasion to reiterate that Virginia cannot have too many men like Echols, Button, Eubank, Betts, and others of that class in her State councils at this time. We trust that their number will increase.—*State.*

TERRIBLE DISASTER.—A terrible marine disaster occurred in the English Channel, on the night of the 11th inst., seven miles off Portland. The British ship Avalanche, Captain Wilburns, from London, September 4th, for New Zealand, collided with the British ship Forest, Captain Lockhart, from London, for New York, off Portland, and both vessels foundered. Ninety-six persons were drowned. The Forest was in ballast and had a crew numbering twenty-one; Captain Lockhart, the chief mate, and seven others were saved. The Avalanche had a crew of thirty-two and fifty passengers; the third officer and two seamen only were saved.

A later telegram says: The Forest struck the Avalanche between the main and mizzen-mast, nearly cutting her in two. The latter sunk immediately; the Forest, though utterly wrecked, kept afloat an hour or two. Three boats were launched from her; only one of which has yet been saved. It contained the twelve persons already mentioned as saved. One boat was washed ashore, and also several bodies. The other boats are feared to be lost. The Avalanche had twenty-six saloon, seventeen second-class and twenty third-class; mostly colonists. The accident occurred at half-past nine o'clock last night, seven off Portland.

GOV. HAMPTON THREATENED WITH ASSASSINATION.—Gov. Hampton, of South Carolina, was in Chicago on Wednesday, on his way to Rockford, Ill., where he had an engagement to address the agricultural society of Winnebago county. He stated to a reporter that he had in his possession letters threatening his assassination if he attempted to deliver the contemplated address, "but these letters were written by cowards." The meanest anonymous letter ever written, he thought, was mailed from Chicago, and was addressed thus:

"To Wade Hampton, Columbia, S. C., or wherever else the damned villain may be. Curses on his soul."

In regard to ex-Gov. Chamberlain's alleged connection with the South Carolina ring plunderers Gov. Hampton said: "I can't say to what extent Chamberlain realized on these spoils. He was connected, I know, with nearly all the boards, but he says himself that he was ignorant of the villainies that were being perpetrated on the people."

HOOD'S BRIGADE.—All old soldiers of the army of Northern Virginia will remember Hood's old brigade. Well, he has started to raise a new one. A gentleman who was lately at the Alleghany Springs was asked if he had seen Hood's brigade, and on answering in the negative it was pointed out to him. The gallant general has nine children, all under the age of eight years, and three pairs of them twins. They are officered by four nurses, a governess, his wife and his mother-in-law, and the corps present a fine appearance on dress parade.—*Raleigh (N. C.) News.*

FLOUR FOR AFRICA.—One day last week the schooner Georgetta Lawrence, Charles H. Robinson master, cleared at the customhouse for Cape Town, Africa, with a cargo of 4,200 barrels of flour, shipped by the Gallego Mills Company. It has been many years since a shipment of flour has been made to this port.—*Whig.*

For the SPECTATOR.

M. Harvey Effinger.

This gentleman, late a citizen of Staunton, whose death occurred at the White Sulphur Springs on the 17th instant, was born in Harrisonburg in the year 1814. Trained to the mercantile business from early life, he successfully pursued in that place the business of a merchant for many years. In 1867 he moved to the city of Staunton, and took charge, as Cashier, of the First National Bank, just then established there.

In any position in which Mr. Effinger has acted, he has clearly demonstrated the possession of business qualities of vey high order, being alike remarkable for industry, promptness, integrity, and a sound and excellent judgment in all his transactions.

As Cashier of the First National Bank, an office which involves largely the management of such institutions, he acquitted himself most honorably, and to the great advantage of the Bank, making it, during his administration of affairs, a success rarely equalled by similar institutions of the country.

The writer has known Mr. Effinger from his early boyhood, and to some extent has been an observer of his general course of life. To integrity of opinion and purpose in all transactions with his fellow men, he united an indomitable energy and perseverance with strict and honorable punctuality in every transaction, commercial, financial, or social. With qualities very prominent as an affectionate husband and a kind and indulgent father, he united a thoughtful and judicious benevolence towards the deserving poor or dependents around him. His philanthropy was not of that kind that sounds a trumpet in its advance, but quiet and discriminating, delighting to assist those who assist themselves; and in this way, unknown it may be, even to his neighbors, he often made himself a true benefactor te others, justifying the affectionate expressions of a poor but worthy colored man, uttered at his bed side only a few hours before his death, who said, with deep feeling: "But for you, dear friend, I should now be houseless and homeless, without a shelter over the heads of my family." Others who had not a like opportunity of thus softening the pillow of death, will not less feel deep obligations for kindness timeously bestowed.

The life of Mr. Effinger, as a citizen and a man of business, is eminently worthy of imitation. His thorough belief in the great doctrines of the Christian's faith, his abounding charity toward all his fellow-men, and the earnest attention he gave, especially in his latter days, to the claim of the gospel upon him, and, as he hoped, an humble submission to such claims, give to his bereaved family a cheerful confidence that their loss of him is his eternal gain.

AN OLD FRIEND.

White Sulphur Springs Aug. 27th.

EXPERIMENTS WITH MOFFETT REGISTER—RICHMOND WILL PAY ONE-FOURTH OF THE TAX.—Richmond, Sept. 12, 1877.—Judging by the experiments of two days, the Moffett register will produce quite as much revenue as its projectors claimed. Selling spirituous liquors at 12½ cents a drink and lager at 5 cents a glass to yield $1.50 tax per day it will only be necessary for the bar-keeper to take in about $8 in money. Notwithstanding State and city ordinances, nearly all of the saloons keep open 365 days in the year, and we have 550 places where the register is sold.—Thus we assume that the Moffett register tax will yield nearly $197,000. Under ordinary circumstances, Richmond could be relied on to pay about one fifth of the liquor tax.

The chief objection I have always had to the law is that it imposes the entire burden upon the cities. The country people will not pay much. For this reason, if the law proves tolerably successful, I am sure it will be fastened upon us, at least until we are out of our financial trouble.

At present there is not a dollar in the State treasury—not unless it has been borrowed from the banks to-day. It is true that the liquor dealers will pay the Moffett tax in coupons. If they do with any degree of unanimity the next time State taxes are due coupons cannot be found to pay them. There are not coupons enough maturing for both purposes, and the effect will be that *all* the coupons will be absorbed and there will be left a very large sum that can only be paid in currency. I expect to see the coupons advanced in price.—*Chronicler.*

THE COMING FAIRS—WHEN THEY ARE TO COME OFF.—The Fair of the Virginia State Agricultural Society will commence on Tuesday, October 30th.

The Fair of the Lynchburg Agricultural and Mechanical Society will be held on the 23d, 24th, 25th, and 26th of October.

The Baldwin-Augusta Fair will be held at Staunton on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of October.

The Fair of the Tazewell County Agricultural and Mechanical Society will take place on the 2d, 3d, and 4th of November.

The Fair of the Piedmont Agricultural Society will commence on October 16th and continue until the 19th.

The Virginia and Tennessee Border Fair will take place on the 9th, 10th, and 11th of October.

The Washington County Agricultural Fair will be held at Abingdon on the 26th of September.

The Fair of the Roanoke and Tar River Agricultural Society will take place at Weldon, N. C., on the 23d, 24th, 25th, and 26th of October.

The Fair of the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Society, at Winchester, will take place on the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th of October.

The Loudoun Fair will commence on Tuesday, October 16th, and continue three days.

The Fair of the Southwest Virginia Agricultural Society will be held at Wytheville on the 3d, 4th, and 5th of October.

The Richmond *Whig* predicts that not a single man will be elected to the Legislature who is in favor of levying a tax sufficient to pay the interest on the public debt. This will manifest a demoralization fatal to the credit of the State, and indirectly injurious to American credit generally. If the great State of Virginia can repudiate her obligations, deliberately incurred and created for valuable purposes, of which she enjoys the benefit, the damage will not be confined to the dishonest State, but will be felt by other States, which will find the money markets of the world, if not closed against them, reluctant to receive their proposals. While no State has a valid excuse for repudiation, it is difficult to concieve of a more unpardonable delinquency than that of Virginia, which could meet her honest obligations by a tax not larger than is paid in many States, but which deliberately adopts the course of dishonesty, because it is easier in the beginning, and because there is no superior law to compel an honest recognition of her indebtedness.—*Providence Journal.*

The *Old Commonwealth* says that "Ex-Senator Lewis has discovered that there is no Republican party in Virginia. In a card declining to be a candidate for the House of Delegates, he divides the people of Virginia into 'funders' and 'anti-funders.' We do not exactly know who gave him the authority to thus classify the people. From his card we suppose that he is no longer a *Republican*, but an 'anti-funder,' whatever that is, and in the language of Shakspeare might have added:"

"So the remembrance of my former love,
Is by a newer object quite forgotten."

A pithy exchange remarks: "The suggestion of an increase of the poll tax for educational purposes is liable to the objection that the heads of so many people are already taxed at double their value." We suppose the brother has been there, and "knows how it is himself."

BLIGHTED TREES.—When the funeral sermon of David G. Lawson, who was assassinated some two years and a half ago, was preached, the officiating minister, we learned, prayed that the trees might be blighted in the direction of the course the assassinator fled. On Sunday last, desiring to know more about the matter, we drove to the spot where the murder took place. We stopped the carriage, and waited for Mr. Kniten, who was coming, and we happened to halt right on the spot where the murder was committed. Mr. Lawson was shot from behind, the report of the gun or rifle, causing the horses to run off, and we were shown the rock over which Mr. Lawson's wagon ran.—Looking back a few yards we noticed a clump of pines which had died, and is the supposed spot where the murderer stood. Casting the eye in the direction of Mr. Shiflett's house, we noticed in an almost direct line that a number of trees had died, whilst around were healthy trees and shrubbery. We did not attempt to trace the blighted trees, but were informed that they were killed up to Shiflett's fence, some two miles down the mountain.

When we first heard of this information, we were disposed to doubt it. But seeing sometimes is believing, and we certainly believe in the trees being blighted. Whether they were special work of Providence or not, or whether they died in the natural course of events, we are unprepared to say. The fact of their death, however, is correct.—*Old Commonwealth.*

The *Valley Virginian*, the only Republican newspaper in the State, grows indignant at the insinuation that it holds repudiation sympathies, and declares that there is no party politics in the present issue. It further says that no legitimate interpretation of the issue can give a partisan phase to it. Well, certainly the *Virginian* has a very queer idea of consistency. If supporting the Independents and the pseudo "Relievers" in opposition to the regular nominees of the Conservative party who place an honest construction on the platform, accords with its anti-repudiation declaration we are very much mistaken. Nor is this all. It looks as if its ideas of partisanship were rather vague and confused. It is certainly laboring most zealously to split the Conservative party and trying to rally the remnants of radicalism to the same work.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

MURDER.—A dispatch from Bloomsburg, Pa., states that John Vanliew, a prominent granger, was found dead near his home near that place. He was shot after 11 o'clock on Saturday night, as the farmers in the vicinity heard the shot. The skull of the unfortunate man was crushed, as if beaten with a stick. Several slugs were found in the chest. The deceased lived unhappily with his wife. His son, Charles, aged nineteen, is said to have exclaimed one day, that "if his father should again whip his mother he would blow his damned brains out."—Nothing that would throw any light on the bloody deed was developed at the coroner's inquest. Deceased was in good circumstances.

BARN BURNED.—On last Tuesday morning, about 2 o'clock, near Mt. Jackson, Va., a barn belonging to Leonidas Triplett, jr., was destroyed with all its contents, by fire. All his straw, oats, and farming utensils,—a drill, reaper, mower, wagon, ploughs, &c., were consumed by the flames. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.—The loss is estimated at from $1,800.00 to $2,000.00.—*Shen. Valley.*

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

MR. E. BROWNOLD has the honor to announce that he has engaged the

World Renowned Pianist and Composer,

Dr. Gustave Satter,

for a third and last appearance in Staunton,

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th,

AT THE LOWER GRANGE HALL,

when this illustrious artist will give a selection from four splendid pieces.

TICKETS 50 CENTS EACH, are to be had at Mr. Brownold's Jewelry Store, and at the door.

PROGRAMMES at the door.

Concert begins at 8 o'clock—Doors open at 7 o'clock. sep18-1t

FALL CLOTHING.

J. W. ALBY & CO.,

No. 21, New Street.

We have just received a sample lot of

FALL CLOTHING!

made up with a view to this market, which will be sold CHEAP for the MONEY. Our stock consists of all grades of goods from the lowest to the highest prices. We have received in addition a very large assortment of the latest style **HATS.** Also a large assortment of

Gents' Furnishing Goods.

☞ Call and examine our stock. We guarantee all goods to be as we represent them.

SPECIAL.—Persons owing us will please call and settle without further notice. sep18-3t

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!

I take great pleasure in informing my friends and the public, that I am now in receipt of the largest and best assorted stock of

FALL AND WINTER GOODS

it has ever been my pleasure to offer comprising every thing to be found in a

FIRST-CLASS DRY GOODS HOUSE,

and at prices that cannot fail to make an impression.

In making this purchase I have striven to get the very best goods, and at such POPULAR PRICES, as to guarantee satisfaction.

All I ask is a call and examination before purchasing. W. H. WELLER.

N. B.—**Black and Mourning Goods a specialty.**

sep18 W. H. WELLER.

BLACK CASHMERES, HENRIETTA CLOTHS, and all new shades of DRESS GOODS, very cheap, at W. H. WELLER'S.

FOR a Bargain in a BLACK SILK, go to W. H. WELLER'S.

REPPELLANTS in all shades and prices, at W. H. WELLER'S.

FOR A HANDSOME **Cassimere Suit** for Men and Boys, go to

sep18 W. H. WELLER'S.

BLACK ALPACAS very low, at W. H. WELLER'S.

FOR THE CHEAPEST AND BEST KID GLOVES, go to

sep18 W. H. WELLER'S.

FOR COTTONS SHEETINGS, TOWELS, CRASH WINE CLOTHS, NAPKINS, DOYLIES, &c., &c., go to

sep18 W. H. WELLER'S.

FOR BLANKETS, COMFORTABLES, SHAKER FLANNETS, GILBERTS FLANNELS, RED FLANNELS, FACTORY TWILLED FLANNEL, Go to

sep18 W. H. WELLER'S.

CORSETS, RUFFLINGS, BUSTLES, TIES, HANDKERCHIEFS, GLOVES, HOSIERY, KNITTING COTTONS, COLLARS and CUFFS, and NOVELTIES of all kinds, go to

sep18 W. H. WELLER'S.

HARRIS'S SEAMLESS

and other

KID GLOVES,

IN NEW CLOTH SHADES,

Just opened at

sep18-2t D. A. KAYSER'S.

BLACK, NAVY BLUE and SEAL BROWN

FRENCH CASHMERES,

VERY CHEAP, AT

sep18-2t D. A. KAYSER'S.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEW GOODS!

A full stock of NEW GOODS of the

Very Latest Style,

just received and to be sold at the

VERY BOTTOM PRICES FOR CASH,

by D. A. KAYSER.

sep18-2t

LAND SALES.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF Valuable Grazing and Farming Lands in *GREENBRIER COUNTY, W. VA.*

Pursuant to a decree of the circuit court of Greenbrier county, rendered at the May term, 1877, in a suit in chancery therein pending, between H. R. Beard, Pl'ff, and Matthew Arbuckle and others Defendants, the undersigned commissioner, appointed for the purpose, will resell at public auction, to the highest bidder, in front of the Hotel of W. W. Moore, in the town of Lewisburg, on

Monday, the 8th day of October, 1877,

the following valuable tracts of land, as the property of said Arbuckle, viz:

1st. A tract of **348½ acres,** more or less, known as the Dotson place.

2nd. Two tracts adjacent to each other, and the first joining the said Dotson place, said to contain **500 acres,** but which will be sold by the acre, and the exact quantity ascertained by survey.

3rd. A tract of **73¼ acres,** more or less, known as the Price land, and joining the second of the two tracts last above named.

4th. A tract of **277 acres,** more or less, known as that part of the Byrd place not sold to C. H. Hares and wife; the said 277 acres consists of seven small tracts of 20, 12½, 72, 16¾, 6, 14, and and 30 acres, respectively, all of which, however, except the said 20 acres, lie together and will all be sold as one tract.

5th. A tract of **279½ acres,** more or less, known as the Dunn land, consisting of six small tracts of 43, 47, 9, 14½, 86, and 80 acres, respectively—the 86 and 80 acres being bound for unpaid purchase money, will be sold separately.

These lands have long been known as among the best, if not the very best, in this county, and offer a fine opportunity either for investment or speculation. A plat and survey of said lands will be exhibited at the sale.

TERMS OF SALE.—The said lands will be sold for enough cash in hand to pay the proportionate part of the costs of suit and expenses of sale; balance upon a credit of 6, 12 and 18 months from day of sale, with interest thereon from said date; bonds with approved personal security will be required for the deferred payments, and the title will be retained as further security until all the purchase money is paid.

JNO. W. HARRIS,

sep4-tds Pr's fee $21 00. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONERS' SALE OF A VERY VALUABLE FARM ON MIDDLE RIVER IN THE COUNTY OF AUGUSTA.—The undersigned Commissioners of sale, in pursuance of a decree of the circuit court of Augusta, rendered at the March term, 1877, in the chancery suit of *Huber* vs. *Patterson and als*, will sell at public auction, on the premises, upon

Saturday, August 4th, 1877,

that very desirable farm lying on the North side of Middle River, in the county of Augusta, upon which John A. Patterson at present resides.

The Farm contains about **500 Acres,** is productive, and also well adapted to grazing. It has on it a large two-story BRICK MANSION, in good condition, together with all necessary out-buildings, including ice-house and spring-house. These buildings, except the barn, are first-class.

TERMS:—Cash in hand to pay costs of the above-named suit and of sale; balance in one, two, and three years, equal instalments, bearing interest from day of sale, for which bonds, with approved personal security will be required, and the title will be withheld as ultimate security. ALEX. H. FULTZ,

THOS. C. ELDER,

BENJ. G. PATTERSON,

jy3-tds Commissioners.

POSTPONEMENT.—The above sale is postponed until

Saturday, September 8th, 1877,

ALEX. H. FULTZ,

THOS. C. ELDER,

BENJ. G. PATTERSON,

aug7-tds Commissioners.

Further Postponement.

The above sale is again postponed until

Saturday, October 13th, 1877,

at which time the Commissioners are determined to sell if possible. It will be the *third* offering of the property.

ALEX. H. FULTZ,

THOS. C. ELDER,

BENJ. G. PATTERSON,

sep11-tds Commissioners.

TRUST SALE OF MOSSY CREEK LANDS.—As trustee of J. M. McCue and in obedience to a decree of the circuit court of Augusta county, rendered on the 10th day of July, 1877, in the case of "McCue's Trustees vs. McCue and others," I will offer for sale, on

Saturday, the 25th day of August, 1877,

in front of the Court-house in the city of Staunton, two parcels of the McCue land, adjoining the Mansion House tract, one of them adjoining N. I. Buck's lands, containing **23 acres, 1 rood and 27 poles,** and the other adjoining J. H. Todd's lands, containing **17 acres and 8 poles.** I will also offer the Saw Mill Tract, estimated to contain about **1200 acres.**

The above two parcels of land and the Saw-mill tract, were sold in the month of May, 1877, by J. E. Neal, and the terms of sale not having been complied with by him, they will, in accordance with said decree, be re-sold at the cost and risk of said J. E. Neal.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash in hand to pay costs of sale, and the balance of the purchase money in four equal annual instalments with interest from the day of sale, bonds with approved security to be given by the purchasers, and the title to be retained as ultimate security. Possession given on the approval of the sale by the circuit court of Augusta county.

☞ Compliance with the terms of sale will be strictly required on the day of sale.

HUGH W. SHEFFEY,

jy10-tds Trustee.

POSTPONEMENT.—The above sale is postponed until

Saturday, September 22nd, 1877.

sep11-tds H. W. SHEFFEY, Trustee.

COMMISSIONERS' SALE.—By virtue of a decree of the circuit court of Augusta county, rendered at the June term, 1877, in the suit of "Propes vs. Trice," the undersigned Commissioners will, in front of the Court-house of Augusta county, on

Monday, the 24th day of September, 1877,

(Court-day,) proceed to sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, three lots of land with improvements thereon, belonging to T. G. Trice, situated