

Staunton Spectator.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1877.

Maj. Hanger's Position on the State Debt Unchanged.

The last Valley Virginia made the assertion that Maj. Hanger had changed his position on the subject of the State debt. In his speech at Greenville on last Saturday, Maj. Hanger said that he had not at any time modified or qualified his views as heretofore expressed; that he had not formed or expressed his opinions with a view to their popularity, but spoke his convictions and hoped for approval after striving to demonstrate their correctness.

He then argued in favor of the moral and legal obligation on the part of the State to pay the debt, and in favor of the settlement that had already been made and against the power to repeal the same as had been decided by the Court of last resort in the State.

That in his remarks in July last he had stated as a fact that a levy of 20 cts additional on the present assessment would meet the \$610,000 deficiency existing under the present rate of expenditures. He had then said that if any adjustment were possible, he would be the last man to oppose it.

That while these were still his individual views, as a member of the convention he would be bound by its platform, and would for that reason co-operate in legal and constitutional measures to obtain an honorable and voluntary settlement.

Then arguing by figures he endeavored to show that by measures of retrenchment and a fair trial of the liquor register we could meet all our liabilities without an increase of taxation.

Card of Mr. Geo. Seawright.

Having published the article of the State criticizing the position of Mr. Geo. Seawright, we comply with his request in publishing, "without modifications," his reply, though we think he does himself injustice in prohibiting "modifications," and in allowing his feelings of resentment to cause him to offer an insult to the Editor of the State, by "gentle" and "polite" remarks, which would not consciously do a wrong to any one. The point made by the State was, that there was no parallel in the policy adopted in England and that advocated by the forcible re-adjusters of this State, as in the former case the bondholders had the choice of receiving the payment in full of the principal and interest due them on the old bonds or of receiving new bonds at a reduced rate of interest, whereas in the latter the forcible re-adjusters of this State maintain the policy of giving the creditors new bonds at a reduced rate of interest without offering them the alternative of receiving payment of principal and interest due on the old bonds.

The following is the language of the State: "England gave notice that she would pay off, in cash, all her bonds, or pay the holders in new bonds at a lower rate of interest. The holders accepted the new bonds instead of the cash." "Mr. Seawright proposes to initiate England's cash payment, and leaves the cash out."

If the credit of Virginia was as good as that of England, (and it might have been if her citizens had not impaired it by manufacturing a disunion, and proclaiming their inability to pay,) she would be able to borrow money at a lower rate of interest, and, like England, could offer her creditors the alternative of receiving the cash in payment of old bonds or new bonds at a lower rate of interest. Then it would be here as in England, and there would be, in the language of Mr. Seawright, "no how about repudiation," for there would be no repudiation.

If the bondholders, under the circumstances supposed, would decline to accept the cash in payment of the old bonds this time, they could not do so in 1851, as the bonds are payable in 10 and 34 years from their date.

If the credit of Virginia should be sufficiently good to enable her to borrow money at a reduced rate of interest in 1851, she could then pay off the old bonds and her creditors would have no right to decline payment. Then she could, like England, offer her creditors the alternative of receiving the cash for the old bonds, or new bonds at a reduced rate of interest. This would be honest and in strict compliance with the contract, and no stigma would rest upon the fair execution of Virginia, such as would be stamped upon it by attempted repudiation or "forcible re-adjustment," which could inflict disgrace but render no relief to the State—blanch her cheek with shame and paralyze all her branches of industry—make her an object for the finger of scorn to point at, and her name a by-word and reproach.

Every lover of the fair name and fame of Virginia, and every one desiring to promote her interests in all respects, should labor earnestly to protect her credit and defend her honor, and should vote for such candidates as favor a policy of honorable and fair dealing with her creditors. "Honesty is the best policy."

A correspondent of the State tarsly says: "Preserve our credit—preserve our honor, and in a few years our vacant fields will be full of immigrants, our State securities will command the highest market prices, and our treasury filled with money in abundance. Destroy our credit and immigration will pass us by; we can borrow no money at home or abroad; our merchants will be unable to carry on their business; our agriculturists will be unable to improve their lands."

Ex-Governor Seymour, of New York, has written a letter expressing a deep interest in the success of the State and local tickets at the coming election. He says that believing, as do democrats of New York do, that Mr. Hayes was defeated for the presidency last year, "it would be a source of regret that the means by which he was put into the executive chair should seem to be approved by New York."

Mr. James M. Montgomery who a few years since represented Fayette county in the West Virginia Legislature, and who has been in ill health for some months, died, on Friday week, at his residence at Coal Valley in Fayette county, immediately across the Kanawha River from Cannelton in Kanawha county.

KILLED BY A STRAY.—Last week, in Mercer county, W. Va., Mr. Benj. Mills, a respectable citizen of that county, was sorely in the flesh for a two-year-old steer, which he was attempting to drive from his field, and was struck by a short line.

The Southern Policy.

We learn from the New York World that "there was a meeting at Holyoke, Mass., on Friday night to approve the policy of the Administration, and President Seelye, of Amherst, delivered an address on the occasion which is remarkable for the fact that it justifies the Southern policy of President Hayes on the simple logical ground that this policy is just in itself and should have been pursued from the beginning. This position involves the acknowledgment that the reconstruction policy originally chosen by the Republican party and maintained so long at such cost was essentially wrong and unwise. We think that President Seelye in taking this stand shows his usual honesty and strong common sense. His reasoning is sound, and the Administration to attempt to show that its Southern policy would have been wrong a year ago, while it is altogether good and wise today. It is absurd to maintain that a sound system put in operation six months beyond a certain limit becomes unwise. Therefore, all who are heartily in accord with President Hayes should find aside the pretense that his course is a mere matter of expediency or a piece of political experiment, and adopt the only honest reasoning that President Seelye, even though they were in consequence obliged to concede that the Republican party has been wrong in the past and the Democratic party right. The theory of Stevens, Sumner and their co-peers, that the Southern States had forfeited all their rights by rebellion, was a narrow and bigoted one. Its consequences—the establishment of military governments, the attempt at reconstruction by means of the negro vote, the erection of the color line and the strife and corruption incident to carpet-bag government—were political evils that threatened the whole country with ruin."

CAPTURE OF THE CUBAN PRESIDENT.—The capture of Don Tomas Estrada, President of the republic of Cuba, with other officials that unfortunate political enterprise, reduces the situation in Cuba to very simple terms. The Cuban Secretary of War and others fell in an engagement a few days ago, indicating that the Spaniards have been pushing the republican forces into close quarters. The latter have for some time been reduced to mere raiding parties, and while able to inflict much injury by sudden descents upon plantations and towns temporarily exposed by the absence of Spanish troops, their strength has in no instance enabled them to secure any substantial position outside of the territory forming the base of their operations. It has been wonderful, however, with what tenacity they have held their own so long, baffling for years the efforts of their adversaries to crush them, and inflicting losses which render the success of the Spaniards dearly bought. With the leaders of the rebellion captured or killed, with no resources for establishing an independent government and no prospect of recognition or support from other nations, their cause, while deserving of the best sympathy and aid, is desperate, and their condition precarious and desperate.

THE LATEST CHARLIE ROSS SENSATION.—The Charlie Ross sensation at Richmond, Indiana, which has been so industriously telegraphed about the country, has been spelled by the publication of affidavits giving a full account of the supposed Charlie Ross from his infancy. Mr. Moffitt, who is a wealthy and highly respected citizen of Richmond, declined to tell how he came into possession of the child for the reason that he did not want him to feel otherwise towards himself and wife than as parents until he should become old enough to understand the situation, but by the pertinacity of the Hinmans, the abductors of the child, he was compelled to publish that the child was brought to his house while an infant from a regularly authorized institution for orphan children. This statement is confirmed by affidavits from the president and three of the professors of Earlham college, who were cognizant of the facts.

DOG TAX.—For the information of the public, who doubtless desire to know the amount realized from the tax on dogs in the county of Bedford for the year 1877, where there is a dog law similar to our own, and how said tax was applied, the following statement is prepared from the records of the clerk of the County Court:

Table with columns: Dog tax, Total amount of dogs allowed, Total amount of dogs for sheep killing, Total amount of dogs for sheep killing, Total amount of dogs for sheep killing, etc.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION OF WEST VIRGINIA.—The Primary Convention of the diocese of West Virginia will meet in Charleston, Kanawha county, on Wednesday, the 31st of October. The most important business before it, will be the election of a Bishop, though other matters will also demand attention. There are fifteen Episcopal Clergymen in the Diocese, and about twenty-five organized Parishes, each of which is entitled to send one lay delegate, so that there will probably be forty members in attendance. The Laity have an equal voice with the Clergy in the election of a Bishop, and no election is valid which is not supported by a majority of both orders.

SUCCESS OF THE MOFFETT REGISTER TICKET.—At the primary election in Richmond last Tuesday, the issue being the Moffett Register liquor law, the ticket in favor of that law was elected. The following consisted of the names on the Moffett Register ticket: Gen. O. R. Anderson, D. C. Gray, W. W. Henry, S. H. Pulliam and G. K. Crutchfield.

THE BALTIMORE GAZETTE says the election of Wednesday demonstrates that the color line in that city is broken forever. The negroes, who counted on support from Thompson, voted largely with the Democrats.

DEATH OF REV. W. E. MURPHY.—This able and eloquent preacher, who has been in the flesh for a long time, died in Jonesboro, Tenn., on last Tuesday, the 23rd inst., in the 60th year of his age.

Summary of Valley News.

The Rockingham Register in speaking of the sale of blooded stock by Sam'l Frank, of Burke's Mill, says: "The prices were not extravagantly high, though the stock was thorough-bred and pedigreed. The purchasers were all young men of Virginia."

In looking over the list of purchasers we find that a large majority of them are from Augusta County, and are young men who are devoting their attention to the raising of blooded and improved stock.

Mr. Frank has paid much attention to the raising of thorough-bred stock and has heretofore taken premiums at the County and State Fairs. We are glad to see that our farmers are beginning to find out the importance of improving their stock and that our homesteaders of blooded stock can compete successfully with the Kentucky dealer.

The Grand Jury of Rockingham County, in the case of Sam'l Hall charged with complicity in the murder of David G. Lawson, after a thorough investigation brought in a verdict of "not a true bill." Hall was the principal witness against the parties heretofore convicted.

Rev. W. G. Eggleston, of Harrisonburg, has a book 188 years old. It is entitled "Concordance and Dictionary" and was printed at Danvers.

At the recent Fair of the Piedmont Agricultural Society, Maj. Chismann, of Rockingham, exhibited eight short-horned cattle and received four first premiums and one second. Augusta should look to her laurels.

The Old Commonwealth announces that the Valley convocation of the Protestant Episcopal Church will meet in Emanuel Church in Harrisonburg on Wednesday (to-morrow) afternoon, Oct. 31st.

The Page Courier says: A drove of 750 cattle, from Pulaski county, Va., passed through Luray on Sunday 21st inst., on their way to eastern markets. They had been on the road 30 days.

The Fincastle Herald says that another month's good work has been done on the Buchanan and Clifton Forge R. R. It is thought that the force will be reduced during the winter months.

The Wytheville Enterprise says: We had a pleasant call on Monday from Mr. Edward F. Surber, the very able traveling salesman of the firm of Messrs. J. Bumgardner & Sons, Staunton, Va. From the Shenandoah Valley. One day last week Mr. Cahill, living near Quicksburg, Va., had his arm broken whilst putting up a pair of bars, one of the top ones falling upon his arm.

Mr. David Cahill, who had his arm and hand mashed, whilst uncoupling the engine, at the New Market Depot, a short time ago, died of lockjaw, on last Thursday.

Miss Clara Strickler, of Teaberryville, Pa., on last Friday week, broke her breast bone by falling over a tub and striking upon the handle or upright stave of the tub.

On last Sunday week Mr. Michael Myers of Forestville, Va., was thrown from his buggy, and had his leg broken, half way between the knee and ankle, his ankle was also dislocated and he received besides several severe bruises.

On Wednesday Oct. 17th, Mrs. J. G. Fellows, of Mt. Solon, was thrown from her horse, and had her collar bone broken and her right shoulder and side very severely bruised.

Loudoun county boasts of having Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay in her jail. Both colored.

The Warren Sentinel says more wheat has been sown in that county this fall, than in any previous one since the war.

DISASTROUS FIRE.—A disastrous fire occurred near Fairfield on Thursday morning at about 3 o'clock, by which the barn of Rev. Mr. Irwin was completely destroyed. The entire contents of the barn were consumed, and a quantity of 30 tons of hay, 25 bushels clover seed, 30 bushels oats, one horse and carriage, and all his farming implements, were lost, and not least a further particulars.

HOW IT IS IN HOLLAND.—The Department of State has received a report from our minister at the Hague, in which it is shown, as an illustration of the carelessness and steadiness of the Dutch, that there has not been a bank failure in Holland in forty years, and that the paper money in the banks during that time has been equal to gold. There is no such thing as the failure of a fire insurance company in Holland, and while the rate of insurance does not exceed one-half of one per cent, the companies are flourishing. First class railroads far exceed the rates of the United States, and the officials pay good dividends. Pilfering officials are rarely heard of. No free passes are granted. Dishonesty of any kind or failure in business means public dishonor. Four millions of people live within 20,000 square miles, and all appear happy and contented. The secret of their prosperity is that all live within their income and stick to industry and honesty.

SHORT DRESSES.—It is stated that short walking dresses are now the mode in Paris, and as American women are the allies of the fashions set in that city it would be well that they should be long in finding out the things about the short dresses. Let us compile the "fair" that between the practice of dragging their dresses through the mud and this other extreme of carrying the long skirt in the hand, Paris has at last hit the true average by introducing dresses that will neither sweep the pavements nor impede the weavers when walking.

THE GREEK MESSAGE.—Rev. George L. Leyburn has asked for and received his release from further connection with the Greek mission.

The withdrawal of Mr. Leyburn will not affect the general success of the Greek mission. Dr. Kalopothakis and his five native associates and assistants will go forward as heretofore, and in the course of time, if it shall seem necessary, another missionary may be sent out from this country to join them.

YELLOW FEVER STILL RAGING.—There were five new cases of yellow fever at Ferrandina, Fla., Friday. The weather is unfavorable. A special dispatch says: "We are compelled to further reduce our force to 300 families, business being entirely suspended. There is no other way of keeping the people from starvation, and there is no hope of better times till December. Total deaths to date 91."

CO. GEN. FRENCH SIBTHORP, late Superintendent of the State Penitentiary, died at his home in Culpeper Wednesday night.

THE ARMY AND THE MILITIA.—The Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier says that the Army of the United States is not primarily designed to maintain domestic peace and order and to suppress riotous and falling short of an actual rebellion. This task belongs to the proper sphere of the State governments. It is true that the federal constitution forbids the States without the consent of Congress to keep troops in time of peace, but it declares a well regulated militia necessary to the security of a free State. It is evident that the framers of the constitution never contemplated the maintenance of a large military establishment, as it guaranteed the federal government the power of calling the militia of the several States into the service, providing that in such a case the President shall be the commander-in-chief. Power is vested in Congress "to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, to suppress insurrections and to repel invasions." Congress has passed acts authorizing the President to call forth the militia in certain emergencies. The constitution further gives to Congress power "to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States; reserving to the States respectively the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress." This power has never been fully exercised. It is quite certain, as the Courier says, that the country would tolerate a large standing army until it proposed to encroach on its liberties, and it will continue to regard the use of the army for other purposes than war and the suppression of rebellion with jealousy and suspicion. At the same time, the army, for its legitimate purposes, and within such limitation of numbers as experience has shown safe for the public liberties, shall be made as efficient and well organized as possible.

THE VALLEY OF DEATH.—War has made the once beautiful Valley of Roses, and neighboring valleys south of Staunton, a vale of death. A correspondent of the London Times writes: "All the way from Schipka to Yeni Saghri, at which place we were halted, the bodies of the dead remain on the roadsides, in the corn-fields, in the gardens, on the banks of streams, and in the beds of rivulets. Some hundreds were piled up in a trench, which was a quarter of a mile from where we camped at Yeni Saghri. Desolation and ruin appeared along the whole way."

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STANLEY DELIVER.—A Big Bluff (Ky.) dispatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer says there was a desperate encounter between two highwaymen and a country traveler for a Louisville hardware house Saturday night, near the o'clock, the particulars of which are about as follows: Joseph M. Hausen, traveling salesman for Pratt & Co., hardware merchant at Louisville, was down the railroad at West Cliff, just three miles below this place, and wishing to see Big Cliff he started to walk up, and it was several hours before a train would be going in that direction.

He proceeded to the bridge which spans the Nolichucky river, where he encountered two men of suspicious character who demanded his money. The place of meeting was lonely in the extreme, and a house or person visible, while the bridge upon which they met was over a yawning chasm, 140 feet in mid-air, and to gaze into the same from the top of the bridge, was a fearful sight. If we might so express it, instead of delivering his money to the rascals, the plucky drummer drew a revolver from his pocket and fired at his assailants alternately, one shot of which took effect in one of them, stunning him. One of the would-be robbers was unhurt, and attempted to throw the traveler over the bridge, but quick as thought the latter drew from a sample roll of cutlery a large butcher-knife, and made a rush for his assailant, striking him twice on the head, and pressing him over to the edge of the bridge until he was precipitated into the Nolichucky river, and for some time did not recover. Those who have traveled over the Erie and Pittsburg railroad can appreciate the scene, as they will recall the incident, which was a most daring robbery and perhaps murder.

The traveler left the scene hastily, and arriving at Big Cliff, related his thrilling experience with the highwaymen on the high bridge. He was greatly pleased to find that the principal part of her bonds were issued in the name of the Peabody Educational Fund, and that the amount of her public debt at the close of last year, inclusive of interest past due, did not much exceed twenty-three hundred dollars, and she is a State rich in resources that the continued failure to pay interest on this sum, or to come to some satisfactory arrangements with the Peabody Educational Fund, would be a source of great embarrassment to the unwillingness of her people to be taxed to meet obligations that were honorably incurred and from which, by the railroad facilities thus furnished, they have been largely benefited. Our own Peabody Institute is a sufferer in common with other bondholders, and like the trustees of the Peabody Educational Fund, has been obliged to lessen its expenditures in consequence of the failure of the State of Tennessee to pay its public debt. Our shame to rest upon their State.—Ball. Shme.

DOES REPUDIATION PAY?—The credit of a people is their wealth; if you destroy it every business interest is destroyed. It is the life of the people, which they are engaged to feel and to protect. It will fall like a blight upon their prosperity. The most fatal injury to the credit of a people is the failure of their industrial interests of a State. They feel it more than the capitalists, and when politicians pursue that policy, which injures the credit of those who need capital, they work a serious injury to those who are dependent upon the use of capital to give them labor. The credit of the State gives credit to those who give them work, and enables them to borrow the capital to operate their works, and to employ mechanics, and by preserving the State credit, you give credit to our business men, which is essential to keep business in operation, by the laboring man gets employment. There is no class more deeply interested in maintaining the State credit than the laborer. The State must languish with the curse of repudiation upon it, and as the State suffers all suffer with it. And when you vote for an attempt at repudiation, you vote for an attempt to force the creditors to their terms, or repudiate the debt. They cannot repudiate the debt, and they cannot force those who hold the funded bonds to settle—and all they can do, is to do mischief, by injuring the credit of the State, and the same time, you injure every laboring man, and all who depend upon capital to carry on business. (Washingtonian.)

WELL SAID.—With the general class of repudiators and compulsory adjusters we have no further party. They give us a candid and unflinching opinion, and we have no opposing argument or statement. They can be neither reasoned nor coerced with. As well would it be to try to argue with the wind. They would not receive the truth if it were blazed in their faces by the lightning of the State's credit. They are typifying State credit; and historic renown—its whistled down the wind. These men have had their prototypes in this country, and notably in modern times, in the experience of our own and other nations, and Philosophy, Principle and Statesmanship have ever failed to make any impression upon them. (Winchester Times.)