Staunton Spectator.

TUESDAY. JANUARY 4, 1881.

THE NEW YEAR.—The clock of time has sadly tolled the knell of the old year, and merrily chimed the advent of the new, which has entered upon its course,

We earnestly hope that it will be a year of happiness and prosperity to all our many readers. As the *Montgomery (Md.) Advocate* says, from time immemorial, it has been a period of good resolutions and brave promises, which, as a rule, are broken, scattered and forgotten long before St. Valentine sets youthful hearts aquiver. Still, it is a time of hopefulness, not every promise is broken, and the cheerfulness, and good feeling which pervade the season, work a happy encouragement for the despondent and unfortunate. The mirth and jollity and solemnity of Christmas have not yet passed away, and every man's "good will" seems to be freely offered to all who care to take it. A sensation of youthfulness tingles along our nerves, and the steep difficulties which beset us a while ago, are graded down to gentle and easy slopes which only exhilerate our energies.

We sincerely trust it may be such a season to those of our patrons who are fighting the "battle of life," and that the close of 1881 will witness the fulfillment of the promises and hopes with which it so brightly opens.

VENNOR'S PREDICTIONS FOR JANUARY.—Mr. Vennor, the Canadian weather prophet, having come very near the exact condition of the weather for December in his predictions, his forecast of what may be expected in January becomes of interest. Mr. Vennor says: "I anticipate that New Year's callers will have heavy sleighing this year from Montreal to Washington, and that a cold snap during the first part of this month will preserve it for that period. I expect blockades of snow, in the United States about the 7th and 8th of January, and rainy days during the month will be exceedingly few. The second quarter will open with heavy falls and terminate in a cold snap. The middle of the month will bring snow-falls, which will terminate in milder weather toward the end of the third quarter. The thaw, which will be interrupted by a brief cold spell, will extend from about the 18th of the month into February.—The record of this month will show it to have been a severe one, and the general conditions of the weather will remind us of some of what are called real old-fashioned winters."

THE LURAY CAVE AND HOTEL.—Hon. Mark Bird, judge of the eighteenth judicial circuit of Virginia, granted a charter of incorporation to Robert R. Carson and others, to be known as "The Luray Cave and Hotel Company," for the purpose of acquiring, owning and holding in fee-simple the cave known as the "Luray (Va.) Cavern," and constructing all buildings necessary for conducting the business of hotel-keepers. The capital stock of the company is to be $100,000. The amount of real estate proposed to be held by the said company is one thousand acres of land. The president of the company is F. J. Kimball, president of the Shenandoah Valley Construction Company, and the directors are officers of that company and the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company.

SCARLET SCOURGE.—Much excitement prevails at Houtzdale, Clearfield county, Pa., over the ravages of the scarlet fever, among the children.—Eighteen children died Friday from the disease, and many new cases were reported. It is but a few days since the first case was made known, and already thirty deaths have resulted from the fatal fever. Physicians have been summoned from all the neighboring towns, as the few doctors in Houtzdale were all overworked, and could not possibly attend to all the demands made upon them. There is scarcely a family in the town that is not plunged into grief at the untimely death of their children.

CONTRAST IN THE WEATHER.—It seems strange that whilst it was so very cold here last week, that it should be raining to such a degree in England as to produce great freshets which effected very great damage. Whilst the snow which had previously fallen in Scotland, England and Wales was rapidly thawing, the weather here was unusually cold, and attended with a succession of snows which aggregated a depth of three feet.

A CONFESSION.—Burnham Wardwell, who was the warden of the Virginia penitentiary during the reconstruction period, writes to the New York *Sun*:—"I mingled freely with the institution of slavery for twenty-two years in Virginia. At no time did I see anything so depraved, wicked and brutal as has been practiced at the Massachusetts State prison, Tewksbury baby slaughter-pen, and Westboro' Reform School, so-called."

A fish-preserving company has been organized in Philadelphia, with a capital of $200,000, whose object is to freeze and keep in a state of preservation shad and other salt-water fish in the United States and market them at times when such fish are not in season. The company expects to procure enough shad during the season from the Delaware and Potomac rivers to enable it to carry on the business successfully.

"George Eliot" was quietly and unostentatiously buried in Kensal Green cemetery Wednesday last not far from the grave of the late Mr. Lewes. Her funeral was attended by a number of distinguished men of letters.

John F. Hurt, a well-known citizen of Bedford county, fell through a railroad bridge at Lynchburg, Va, Wednesday, into Blackwater creek, and was drowned.

Mr. Alexander Agassiz has given $230,000 to the Musem of Natural History at Cambridge, Mass., since 1871. He made his money in the Lake Superior copper mines.

The freight trains are now running over the Charlottesville and Rapidan railroad. Freight is delivered at Charlottesvile in 24 hours after leaving Baltimore.

Under the law of compensation the present exceptionally severe winter is accounted for by the equally exceptional mildness of last winter.

THE WEST VIRGINIA REGULATORS.—A dispatch from Parkersburg, W. Va., says: "The Red Men, or Vigilants, are still keeping certain neighborhoods in the adjacent counties lively. A few nights since, a man who had been a mail carrier, having made himself obnoxious to the Regulators, was taken out of a house in Ritchie county and severely whipped. Following this comes an additional account from Calhoun. A man named Davis, who lived on Spring creek, Roane county, had done something which gave offense to the regulating gentry, and a few nights since the Ragulators made a raid on his house for the purpose of measuring out justice in their peculiar way. Davis had been apprised of their intention and was on the lookout for them, for when the band came they were confronted by Davis and his wife standing in the doorway, who warned them off. Not heeding this, the band still approached. Davis and his wife then opened fire on the marauders, and their leader (Strouse) fell to the earth a corpse. Maddened by the death of their captain, and the gang failing to bring the inmates out by any other means, they set fire to the house. In the meantime the dastardly crew surrounded the premises, and as Davis and his wife ran out from the building the former was easily caught. He was then severely whipped, and had both his ears cut off close to his head."

OUTRAGEOUS CONDUCT.—The *Border Watchman* published in Union, Monroe Co., W. Va., says that, on the 16th ult., a Mr. Reynolds, employed upon the farm of Mr. Thomas Nickell, in Second Creek District, Monroe county, was taken from the house by several negroes and beaten so severely that he could scarcely speak. Reynolds, who was slightly intoxicated, was sitting by the fire when he was accosted by one of the negroes, and asked to step to the door, and upon doing so was seized and carried some distance from the house. His cries were finally heard by one of the family, who went to his rescue, and the negroes fled. Reynolds did not recognize his assailants as it was quite dark. He cannot account for such treatment, and does not know how he incurred their displeasure. No arrests have been made."

FATAL AFFRAY AT SMITHVILLE.—On Friday evening a week, a difficulty occurred at Smithville, Va., 15 miles West of Fortress Monroe, between a white man named Dunn and a party of colored men who had met to organize a military company. One of the men caught Dunn by the whiskers and slapped his face, whereupon he drew a single-barreled pistol and killed the negro. Dunn then ran into a store and loaded his pistol, when the crowd, headed by Dan. Cook, with a drawn sword, attacked him. He shot Cook dead in his tracks, after which he seized a butcher knife and cut his way out. One man, named Ed. Drew, was badly cut in the abdomen, and will probably die, while others were more or less injured. Dunn gave himself up, and is now in jail in Williamsburg.

MURDER AND LYNCH-LAW IN PENNSYLVANIA.—On Monday morning of last week, Jacob Gogel and his wife Anna, residing four miles from Bethlehem, Pa., were found dead in their bed. Their heads were nearly severed from their bodies, and a bloody axe was found in the apartment. The walls were splashed with blood, and altogether the room presented a shocking sight. Joseph Snyder, who boarded with the Gogels, was believed to be the murderer. He was caught by an infuriated mob soon after the discovery of the crime, and was hanged to the nearest tree. Gogel was a day laborer, about forty years of age, and leaves three children. The motive for the double murder is unknown.

A PRESENT FOR GEN. GRANT.—The Philadelphia Record states the subscriptions to the fund of $100,000 to be raised by Philadelphians for Gen. Grant are all in, and the transmission of the check awaits the word from the ex-President that he is ready to receive it. The Record further says this is entiely a private affair, and has nothing to do with the raising of the fund stated by the New York Times. It also says that one gentleman, a Philadelphian of large means, who is a warm friend of the General, sent his name at once for $25,000, with a letter stating that if it was necessary he would give his own check for $100,000, or that he would be willing to pay a life annuity to the ex-President of $25,000 a year.

ROCKBRIDGE ENTERPRISE.—The last issue of the Rockbridge *Enterprise* announces that the paper has passed into the hands of a Joint Stock Company, and will be published under the name and style of "The Rockbridge Enterprise Publishing Company."

The managment will be as follows: James A. Fazier, Manager of the Finances; Judge Jas. Patton, Editor-in-chief; A. J. Hanger, Business Manager; Horace Wilkinson, Foreman in Printing Department.

The completion of the Richmond and Allegheny railroad, between Buchanan and Williamson, Va., will be celebrated by the people of those two places and those living along the line by a big jollification and excursion between the points named. The "rousement" is to be closed out with a ball at Buchanan.

Mr. Wm. L. Royall, of the New York bar, has written a reply to Judge Tourgee's book entitled "A Fool's Errand," which he characterizes as a willful, deliberate and malicious libel upon Southern people, and he refers to the author of the book as "one of the most contemptible fellows of those who have libeled that people."

GENERAL LEE'S BIRTHDAY.—The military of Charleston, S. C., will celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of Gen. Robert E. Lee, January 19, by turning out in uniform, without arms, and attending a gathering at Military Hall, where an oration appropriate to the occasion will be delivered by Col. Hugh S. Thompson.

BEAR KILLED.—The *Greenbrier Independent* says that Mr. Samuel M. Pollock killed a bear on Tuesday last, on Greenbrier Mountain, which weighed about three hundred pounds net.

A TRAGIC DEATH.—Hon. A. C. Tate, of Clearfield, Pa., while attending the funeral of Dr. Crouch, Tuesday afternoon, fell dead from heart disease at the grave of Dr. Crouch.

The versalite editor of the Richmond *Whig*, having imbibed of the Castalian fount and having become poetically exhilerated, with pencil in hand, and "eye in frenzy rolling," for the edification of a startled public, indited the following lines which make "Old Mother Goose" blush with envy:—

A FEW SKETCHES FROM POLITICAL COCK ROBIN

Who'll take the Funder Nomination?
I, says Barbour—Jim;
The chances are d—d slim,
But I'll take the Nomination.

Who killed the July ticket?
I, says John T. Inthecool;
With old Barnum for my tool,
I killed the July ticket.

Who'll head the Republican party?
I, says Samuel Yost;
I'm not a leader of much to boast,
But I'll lead the party.

Who'll head the ticket?
I, says General Wickham;
I'll help the Funders to lick 'em,
I'll head the ticket.

Who'll be United States Senator?
Whereupon all the aforesaid
And seventeen others stepped
Up and said, they'd take sugar in theirn!

MARRIED SURE ENOUGH.—Social circles in New Orleans were agitated a few weeks ago by the announcement of the marriage by a civil magistrate in Roanoke county, Va., last summer, of Mrs. Emma Doswell, a member of a leading New Orleans family, to Frank T. Howard, son of the manager of the Louisiana lottery. This was speedily followed by a denial of the marriage by Howard, and threats of summary punishment from the brother of the lady. Everything now, however, is doubtless lovely, for the New Orleans papers contain a notice of the marriage, at Bay St. Louis, Miss., Sunday week, of Frank T. Howard and Mrs. Emma Doswell, a Catholic priest officiating.

The *State* says that the *Whig* and *Dispatch* in their discussion over the question as to what the United States Government "can do," and what it "can't do," remind one very much of the poor fellow in jail, whose friends, seeing him looking through the cross-bars, expressed surprise, and, with indignant warmth, declared, "Why, they can't put you there!" "Well, I don't know what they can't do; but you see they have done it, for I am here," he replied. And so it will be pretty much with the United States whenever it takes a notion to do a thing, and it will make very little difference which party keeps "the keys of the jail."

JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES.—Under the title, "Statistics of the Jews of the United States," the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has published Mr. William B. MacPenburg's report. He has been engaged some five years in collecting and arranging the Statistics," from which we obtain the following summary: Jewish population of the United States about 250,000; number of congregations 278, with a membership of about 13,000; value of real estate and other property (synagogues, hospitals, cemeteries, &c.,) owned by congregations and beneficent societies about $7,000,000.

A VETERAN'S DEATH.—Anthony Deiters, a resident of Wheeling, W. Va., died on Tuesday, aged 93 years. He was a Prussian by birth, and at the age of 17 entered the German army as a substitute for his father. After some eleven months of fighting he was captured by the French army, and he became a French subject. From that time until the close of the said war he fought in the French army, a period of seven years and three months, receiving nine wounds. He took part in most of the great battles of Napoleon Bonaparte.

A THIEF ARRESTED IN WINCHESTER.—On Sunday of last week, the police of Winchester arrested a man who gave his name as Frank Kramer, on the charge of stealing a valise from Jas. A. Hinkins, at Strasburg. The offence was proven, and Justice Krebs ordered him to receive fifteen lashes. As the police have reason to believe that he is an old offender, and probably be wanted elsewhere, he is detained in jail for the present. He is a German, about twenty-five years old, five feet nine inches high, with black mustache and gray eyes.

PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.—It seems wonderful that any nation, in this era of enlightenment, would seek, as the German Government is now doing, to persecute the Jews. This conduct can only reflect discredit on that nation of learning—it cannot destroy the jews, who seem to flourish the more they are trampled upon. They will continue to subsist and to flourish. The light of their genius cannot be hid under a bushel, and their intelligence and enterprise will continue to bless all nations.

SWELL HEADS.—Whether the paragraphist in the Lynchburg *Virginian* "has been there" and speaks from experience we know not, and hope and believe not. He says:—

"Since Christmas many a chap has opened his eyes in the morning feeling that he had a head on him as big as a hogshead. He went to sleep feeling like he owned a bank and woke up as poor as "Job's turkey," and looked meaner than the dog that licked Lazarus. It is sad."

Commenting on the fact that while the average value of farm lands in the United States has increased during the past year eight per cent., the price of Virginia farms has only advanced 1.4 per cent., the Lynchburg *Virginian* says:

"The wonder is, that, with the studied effort made by a certain political party and press in this State, to spread abroad the most exaggerated reports of its poverty and the extremity to which the people are reduced, Virginia has not retrograded even further."

The Legislature of Illinois will, at its approaching session, be asked to pass a law making it an offense to sell, give, hire or loan a pistol, or other deadly weapon to any minor. The enforcement of such a law would undoubtedly greatly reduce the lists of crimes and accidents.

ATTEMPTED INCENDIARISM.—We learn from the Front Royal *Valley Independent* that an attempt was made on Saturday night a week to burn the Depot building of the Shenandoah Valley R. R. at that place, but, fortunately, the fire was discovered in time to prevent any damage.

GEN. WICKHAM.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *American* says that Gen. Garfield will tender the Secretaryship of the Navy to Gen. Wickham, of this State.

The Readjuster Conference

The Alexandria *Gazette's* Washington special says that:

"Gentlemen here from Richmond report that the conference of the Mahoneites there last Wednesday night lasted from 8 until 3 o'clock; that all the prominent Mahoneites in the state, except Riddleberger and Lacy, were present, also several Republicans and negroes; and that they determined upon an address to the voters of the State, which will be issued during the next three or four days. The impression among them was that Massey will have to remain where he is, and that it would not be well to send two United States Senators from one city. Mr. Cameron will be their candidate for Governor and Mr. Riddleberger for the Senate. The Mahoneites will call a State convention to nominate a State ticket. It was understood among them that General Mahone is as much opposed to Wickham, Jorgenson, Dezendorf, and the other Republican leaders in the State, as he is to the Democratic leaders, and that he said he would be silly to antagonize the administration if by not doing so he could obtain the Federal patronage of the State, and thereby be enabled to help his friends. He also said that under the present assessment, with the strictest economy, it would be almost impossible to carry out the plans of his party."

So the Mahoneites, says the Lynchburg News, are complacently dividing out the spoils among the leaders, that is all they care about. Their love of State is bounded by their greed of office. The one is merged into the other. The Boss, having provided for himself, is now seeking to pension off his satellites. But the people may have something to say in the matter—the people who are more interested in the honor and welfare of the State than they are in the personal fortunes of Mahone, Cameron, Riddleberger & Co. We shall see.

SOUTHERN WHITE REPUBLICANS.—It is a matter of profound regret and wonder to us, that any man living in the South should act with the Republican party, and countenance its efforts at centralization, and the building up of monopolies, and the subversion of the constitution.

Is it not wonderful that there should be one man in the whole South who would stoop so low and be so forgetful of the interest of his section, and the good of his people as to act with the Republican party? Uninfluenced by the emoluments of office, could such a one be found? We think not. Who are the white Republicans of the South? Certainly not the pure and intelligent men, "native to the manner born," and loving and maintaining the constitution of their fathers. But men of desperate fortunes—aliens indeed and in truth—reckless of the weal or woe of their section, and willing to barter honor and the respect of their fellows, aye, everything that a man should hold dear, for the paltry pay of office. Who are the white Republicans of the South? Either men installed into office by the powers that be, in opposition to the wishes of the people of their section, or forsooth, a meaner and hungrier set, who are seeking their places.—*Nelson Examiner.*

The denunciations of the *Examiner* are too sweeping and consequently do injustice to many Republicans in the South who are Republicans on principle and honest conviction.

TALKING TO A DEAD MAN.—The facts we report are of such a nature that anybody, at any time, can, by driving eight miles from this city on a good road, obtain auricular evidence of what we state.

One-half mile below Huffman's mill, on the southeast side of North Elkhorn, just at the bend of the creek and in a flat bottom, is a grave which has been there for nearly seventy years, but nobody knows whose it is.

If any body goes there in a time when there is no noise about, so that a very faint voice can be heard, and will stoop down and put his ear down on that grave, and say, "Good morning, old gentleman; what can I do for you this morning?" He will answer, *Nothing at all.* If you say to him, "Is there any news this morning?" he will say, *Not a word.* If you say to him, "Are you uncomfortable this morning, or not?" He will answer, *Not.* If you say to him, "Can I do anything for you to-day?"—He will answer, *Nothing.* If, on the other hand, you ask him what his name was when alive, you can not hear any sound from him.—*Lexington (Ky.,) Press.*

As strange as the above may appear, those who read it understandingly will see at once that it is strictly true, and not of that grave only, but of all.

NEGRO MAN WITH HORNS.—The Alexandria *Gazette* thus describes the remarkable *lusus naturæ* of a negro man with horns, who was on exhibition in that city last week:—

"The horns, two in number, growing from the center of the forehead in different directions, downward, and resembling those of a goat, are of a substance similar to the nails on the old man's fingers. One of the horns is about three inches long and the other about two and a half. In response to questions, the man stated that his name was Drewey Riddick; that he was born and reared in Martin county, North Carolina, where he now lives and owns a small farm; that he had been a slave and was the property of Mr. Noah Riddick; that he was now sixty-four years of age, and the horns did not commence to make their appearance until he was thirty-five years old, since which time he has frequently cut them close to his head; that several doctors had examined the horns, but declined to remove them; that his grandmother was the only member of his family, except himself, who ever had anything of the kind, and she had a horn similar to the large one on his head, on her arm. The man is certainly a great curiosity."

Rev. Mr. Denison, of Hampton, Va., writes of the twelve captive Indian warriors from Florida received by him into the church:

"We are not deceived into thinking that these Indians present a highly civilized type of piety, but after careful observation, we are forced to believe that, as regards the pith and marrow of Christianity, they are our beloved brethren, for this one thing they do if ever men did it, forgetting the things that are behind, they press toward the mark. One point in theology they understand and only one. It is to walk the new road in the help of Jesus, and they show their faith by their works. They are patient in study. They are always found on the side of law and order. Digging in the earth is not the chief joy of an Indian warrior, but Koba writes, 'I pray every day and hoe onions.'"

COLD IN ALBEMARLE.—A letter to the *Dispatch* from Shadwell under date of Dec. 31st, says:—

"Thursday night was the coldest ever experienced at this place. So says the oldest inhabitant. At 7 o'clock this morning the thermometer stood at 14° below zero. Ice eight inches thick on the Rivanna. Snow thirteen inches deep and badly drifted."

Habitual Costiveness

is the bane of nearly every American woman. From it usually arises those disorders that so surely undermine their health and strength. Every woman owes it to herself and to her family to use that celebrated medicine Hunt's Kidney-Wort. It is the sure remedy for Constipation, and for all disorders of the kidneys and liver. Try it in liquid or dry form. Equally efficient in either form.—*Boston Sunday Budget.*

The South As It Is.

ITS SUPREME WANT AND ITS GREATEST PERIL.

Mr. A. K. McClure, editor of the Philadelphia *Times*, has reached Cincinnati from his tour of the South, after having visited Richmond, Charleston, Atlanta, New Orleans, and other leading Southern cities, from which he wrote entertaining and instructive letters to his paper. From Cincinnati he sums up his impressions as follows:

"The South is not animated by partisan hostility to the coming President. On the contrary, there is every disposition to commend and support cordially and to blame with reluctance. There is no desire to command the spoils of power, but there is an earnest and almost universal desire for peace—that peace that honest government should give to an honest people. The supreme want of the South is a thoroughly competent and upright civil service, and that should not be sought as a favor from any faithful President. It is not only a matter of right to every section, but it is a matter of imperative duty on the part of the government.

"A vast preponderance of the turbulence that has disgraced the South during the last decade has been created by characterless, unscrupulous and often recklessly dishonest federal officials. United States judges have been appointed because of their utter hostility to the South, who would not be charged with the administration of justice in the North. Marshals have been selected mainly for their willingness to prostitute their official power, to foment sectional strife, to oppress unoffending citizens and to pollute elections. Postmasters have been appointed who were utterly incompetent, in some instances being unable to read or write, merely because they were potential in demoralizing and controlling the ignorant blacks. Customs and revenue officers have been selected to make the collection of revenue secondary to the corrupt control of elections. United States commissioners have united with district attorneys and marshals to plunder the government by the wanton vexation of struggling business interests in the South, and the special agencies of the government are crowded with noted criminals as rewards for noted political crimes. In several of the Southern States I found convicts, fugitives and outlaws enjoying the patronage of the administration and inviting public contempt for government and law by their shameless distinction. This blot—not upon the South, but upon the North, whose administration is guilty of its creation—has lasted with more or less prominence for a dozen years, and it has been the most fruitful of all the many fruitful sources of sectional turbulence.

"The one great peril to the South for which I can see no immediate remedy is the now inevitable division of the white vote of the South and the certain appeal of contending factions to the blacks as the arbiter of disputing ambition. I have until recently shared the very general belief of the North that the division of the white vote of the South must be fortunate for the black voters, as it would create rivalry in extending the fullest protection to the blacks. I am now thoroughly convinced, against all my wishes, that the necessary and now near division of the whites will be fruitful of great demoralization to both races, and that it will be the severest trial of the wisdom of universal suffrage. There is now nothing to demoralize the black man or to divert him from his industry and the education of his children. He is rapidly becoming the owner or lessee of lands and is his own farmer, and is, in many instances, accumulating wealth with habits of industry; but when the white man locks horns with his fellow in the battle of ambition, the most artful demagogues will best control the ignorant freedmen and the degradation of both races must follow. The factory and the school must be the great civilizer of the South, and I am glad to see that Northern and Southern radicals agree in the United States Senate in nationalizing education. It is needed in the South to an extent far beyond what is generally understood in the North, and there will be no material elevation of the black race until the ignorant classes of both whites and blacks can be educated. There is cordial sympathy, as a rule, between the intelligent whites and the blacks; much more than there is between the whites and blacks in the North.

"The manufacturers of the North must soon go South with their cotton spindles and looms, and those who go earliest will reap the richest harvest. Those who say that capital is not safe in the South either know not what they say or mean to be untruthful. In every Southern State there is a supreme desire to have the factory everywhere that the raw material is furnished. The cotton crop of this year will be worth three hundred millions of dollars, and when simply spun into yarn will be worth nearly three hundred millions more. Where in all the world is there so wide and so tempting a field for legitimate enterprise and large profits? I believe that half the whole cotton product will be spun in the South before another ten years, and the succeeding decade will furnish Southern factories for the entire crop."

CHARLIE ROSS.—Charlie Ross' father has examined over 300 lost children, spent $60,000, and no Charley yet. The latest clue comes from Peter D. McCallum, Crimar postoffice, Canada, to Mayor Stokely, of Philadelphia, in which the writer says:

"Will you be so kind as to inform the parents of the boy Charlie Ross, who went missing some years ago, that there is a boy who answers to the description of the lost boy, Charlie Ross, and as I saw the likeness in wax I am positive that the boy in question is a perfect likeness of it. He is about thirteen years of age by his appearance, and knows that he was carried away and left with a woman to take care of him, but does not know where he came from. If Mr. Ross is still alive, by communicating with me by letter, and if there are any of the family bearing a resemblance to the lost boy, if he would also send his or her likeness I could judge better by a close examination of the boy in question. By addressing any communications to me I shall give my best attention to them in letting Mr. Ross know all the particulars about the boy, as far as I know."

No more Hard Times.

If you will stop spending so much on fine clothes, rich food and style, buy good, healthy food, cheaper and better clothing; get more real and substantial things of life every way, and especially stop the foolish habit of employing expensive quack doctors or using so much of the vile humbug medicine that does you only harm, but put your trust in that simple, pure remedy, Hop Bitters; that cures always at a trifling cost, and you will see good times and have good health.—*Chronicle.*

FEED THE BIRDS.—The Staunton SPECTATOR is right, and we cheerfully copy what it has to say about feeding the birds. This is a terrible time on them, and as we value the sweet melodies of their springtime concerts, we should seek to give them relief in the hours of their keenest suffering.—*Bridgewater Journal.*

Mr. Miller keeper of Shockoe Hill cemetery and his son of Richmond, were both wounded by pistol shots on Friday the 24th ult. by a party of negro boys, whom were making a disturbance in front of his residence, whilst they were remonstrating with them to cease their noises Mrs. Miller was very ill.

Genl Le Duc, Commissioner of Agricultur has completed arrangements for the establishment of an experimental tea-farm, about twenty miles from Charleston S. C.

For the SPECTATOR.

Geological and Mineralogical Explorations by Prof. Wm M. Fontaine of the University of Virginia.

EDITORS SPECTATOR:—

Gentlemen:—I have recently corresponded with Prof. Wm. M. Fontaine, of the University of Virginia, on the subject of the geological and mineralogical explorations which he proposes to commence in April next, and to continue during the Summer, and I am gratified to be able to state, that, in a letter which I received from him a few days ago, he announces his purpose to commence operations near Waynesboro', and to extend them Southwestwardly, along the mountain ranges and spurs, which lie near to the projected extension of the Shenandoah Valley R. R., to some point in Rockbridge not far from the mouth of North River.

Several considerations have influenced Prof. F. in determining to commence his operations at this point, viz:

1st. Its proximity to the University, being not more than 24 miles distant.

2nd, The abundance, variety, and fine quality of the ores, and other substances of commercial value, which are known to exist in the region which he proposes to explore.

3rd, The urgency of the demand for an immediate scientific examination of this particular locality, as Pennsylvania capitalists have already constructed a railroad, which connects Philadelphia with Waynesboro,' and propose, during the coming Spring and Summer, to extend it as above stated, to some point in Rockbridge, where it will connect with the Richmond & Alleghany R. R. As the Shenandoah Valley R. R. was originally projected, and is now being extended mainly with reference to the development of the minerals along its line, it is obviously proper that the people of Virginia shall manifest a purpose to cooperate with the projectors and owners of this road, in advancing the laudable object they have in view.

Crude observations and some practical explorations have developed the fact that there are large deposits of specular and hematite iron ores, manganese umber, ochre, and kaolin, on, or near the proposed line of exploration, and not far from the projected route of the R. R., but thus far there has been no scientific investigation of the extent and value of these deposits. Should the results of Prof. Fontaine's researches correspond with the popular estimate of the extent and value of these mineral substances, large investments of foreign capital will be made, and a cordon of iron furnaces erected at an early day between Waynesboro' and the mouth of North River; thus giving such an impulse to our industry and material prosperity as has never been witnessed before.

It is known to most of your readers, that a number of Northern gentlemen of skill and capital, have at various times been "prospecting" through this region with a view to the purchase of mineral properties, and the erection of furnaces, foundries, &c. Two causes have, heretofore, restrained them from making investments. One was, the want of facilities of transportation; and the other, the absence of accurate and thorough knowledge of the nature and extent of the ore banks.

The speedy construction of the Shenandoah Valley R. R., and the probable extension, in the near future, of the Valley R. R. from Staunton to Salem, will remove the first difficulty, and the Report of Prof. Fontaine will obviate the last.

The explorations of Prof. Fontaine may, also, be the means of revealing the existence of other minerals in these mountains of which we are now ignorant. There is a tradition among the people in the neighborhood of Greenville, which I remember to have heard many years ago, that both silver and lead had been found in the mountains a few miles South of that village.

When it is remembered that Prof. Fontaine is one of the most distinguished and experienced of living geologists and mineralogists, and is accredited, as such, by men like Wm B. Rogers and other leading scientists of the United States, there can be no question that his Report of the results of his investigation will be accepted as authentic and satisfactory by all who may desire to purchase mineral property.

I regard the fact, that Prof. Fontaine is about to make this exploration, as one which is to have a deep and abiding influence on the future wealth and prosperity of our county. Indeed, shall be disappointed if it (connected with the extension of Shenandoah Valley R. R.,) does not lead, in a very few years, to the investment of hundreds of thousands, if not of millions, of dollars of foreign capital, within the limits our county.

The coal and coke of West Virginia can be brought down on the Richmond & Alleghany R. R. at low freights, as they will be on "down grade" almost the entire way to the iron mine. Cheap fuel will thus be provided, and as limestone is abundant, and near at hand, there is no locality at which iron can be produced at less cost.

It must also be remembered that in the course of his explorations, Prof. Fontaine will be obliged to pass quite near several large deposits of kaolin, suited not merely for making fire-brick to line furnaces, but also for the manufacture of table ware, and terra cotta piping for drainage and other purposes. It is also known that at one or more points on this route, pure white sand has been found, quite as well adapted for the manufacture of the best quality of glass as that which is now brought for that purpose from Missouri to Wheeling and Pittsburg. Why, then, should not these valuable materials be utilized in the county in which they are found?

Some may regard these as dreams of an enthusiast. Such is generally the estimate placed on suggestons which pass out of the usual track of popular thought. I remember when, in a public speech in our Court-house in 1848, I expressed the confident opinion that a trans-continental railway from St. Louis to San Francisco, and probably another from Memphis to San Juan, would be constructed within 20 years from that day, the announcement was greeted with shouts of derisive laughter; and when, after the merriment had subsided, I added that men were then in the sound of my voice who would live to see the tea, and silks, and spices of Japan and China pass across this continent to a European market, people seemed to think that I had absolutely taken leave of my senses!

Yet all these things which then seemed to be so strange and incredible, are now, and have for years been, familiar and accomplished facts.

The world moves. This is peculiarly an age of progress. It is our duty to keep pace with the spirit of the age in which we live. A new life is breaking in on the south. We see the rosy tinge in the east, which is the harbinger of a brighter day than any we have ever witnessed. Let us, then, be of good cheer, and endeavor to secure the advantages which a beneficent Providence may place within our grasp. If we do our duty, I venture to predict (though I shall hardly live to witness its fulfilment) that the census of 1890 will show an increase of the population, wealth, and prosperity of Virginia, which will greatly surpass anything known in her past history.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

ALEX. H. H. STUART.

The religious editor of the *Whig*—whether Elam, Mahone, Jno. S. Wise or Parson Massey, we cannot say—having retired after giving its readers a plendidly written and instructive essay on christian doctrine—the political editor has resumed sway. He is still serious of something more definite from the Virginian; but with the permission of our cotemporary we will bide our time until a more convenient season. In the meantime the poet of the *Whig* may catch additional inspiration by consulting Mr. Longwood, of Finly's precinct, Campbell county.—*Valley Virginian.*

There has been great destruction of property by floods in Corrunna, Spain.

HOW THE PENITENTIARY CONVICTS SPENT CHRISTMAS.—Christmas day was observed at the penitentiary in a way unusual in such institutions, and the day will doubtless be remembered with emotions of pleasure by the unfortunate inmates. Superintendent Williams gathered together the vocal and instrumental talent of the place, and after several rehearsals, succeeded in organizing a pretty good variety company. At 10 o'clock Christmas morning the female convicts, neatly attired, were assembled in the chapel, and the performance, consisting of vocal and instrumental selections, recitations, and finally jugglery, took place. The audience manifested great delight at the performance. In the evening it was repeated for the benefit of the male convicts.—*The State.*

LEG BROKEN.—Jimmie, a young son of Mr. Robert Smith, at the Town Gardens, slipped last Tuesday, on the floor and fell, breaking his right leg close up to the hip joint. It is a very bad break. Dr. Godfrey Miller was called in and rendered the requisite surgical aid.—*Winchester News.*

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

COMMISSIONERS' SALE of a valuable Distillery and other property. By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Augusta county, entered on the 22nd day of November, 1881, in the cases of Riley's creditors vs. Riley and Bumgardner & Haile vs. Riley's Trustee and others, we will proceed, on the premises, on

Saturday, the 29th of January, 1881,

to sell at public auction, the following valuable parcels of land, situated in Augusta county, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway and Hebron Church road about one mile west of the City of Staunton, and owned by John E. Riley and Bumgardner & Haile.

1st. A tract containing 4 acres, 3 roods and 23 poles adjoining the "Dwelling house" tract.

2nd. Two tracts adjoining above containing one and two acres respectively.

The three foregoing tracts may be sold together or as one tract if the Commissioners' deem it more advantageous to do so.

3rd. The tract of meadow land adjoining the "Distillery" tract and containing 2 acres, 3 roods and 25 poles.

4th. The 24 acres on "Sheffley" tract, adjoining 1st and 2nd above.

5th. The "Dwelling House" tract and Distillery tract. The "Dwelling house" tract contains 4 acres and has on it a comfortable and convenient dwelling house and necessary outbuildings, and a fine young orchard of select fruit.

The "Distillery" tract contains 1 acre, 1 rood and 15 poles, and has on it one of the best located and best arranged distilleries in the Valley, with a capacity of from 45 to 50 bushels per day, and ample water power for all pumping needed. The machinery and fixtures are complete in every respect, in good repair and good running order.

These two tracts may, at discretion of commissioner, be sold separately or together.

TERMS OF SALE.—Cash in hand to pay costs of suit and sale and as to the residue upon a credit of one, two and three years in equal annual instalments for which purchaser will execute bonds with approved personal security bearing interest from day of sale and title retained as ultimate security.

A "Plat" of the property will be shown by either of the undersigned.

WM. E. CRAIG,
LEWIS M. BUMGARDNER,
Commissioners.

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THE WORLD FOR 1881.

The World for 1881, will be the best and cheapest newspaper published in the English tongue on either side of the Atlantic.

With new presses surpassing any ever before manufactured even by Hoe & Co.; with new and unequaled typographical and business facilities of all sorts, and with a better organized telegraphic correspondence throughout the world than that of any other American journal, THE WORLD for 1881 will afford its readers daily a complete, condensed and trustworthy record of all current events.

In its Five Minutes With the News of the Day THE WORLD meets and keeps pace with the increasing demands made by rapid transit, the telegraph and the telephone, on the time and attention of business men.

Its daily cable letters from London bring the Old World to the breakfast-table of the New.

In its Wall-Street Gossip and its Items for Investors, taken together with its accurate, candid and absolutely impartial Financial Article, THE WORLD daily presents an unrivaled picture, not only of the true condition of the multitudinous enterprises in which the adventurous and active people of this country invest their savings, but also of all the fluctuating influences exerted upon those enterprises by the speculations and the speculators of the Stock Exchange.

No man who owns or expects to own an interest in any corporate property can afford to miss for a single day the information, information exclusively given in THE WORLD, and only to be obtained in the rational and legitimate course of inquiries affecting stock values, but also as to the plans, schemes and combinations which are incessantly making and unmaking in and out of Wall street to affect those values.

THE WORLD contains also every day the freshest, fullest and most instructive notices of everything new and interesting in the realms of art, of literature and of social life.

It is the accredited organ of the colleges of the Union, and the accuracy and vivacity of its sporting columns, covering all the various forms of athletic amusements which have multiplied among us of late years, commend it to the "rising generation" throughout the country.

As the only metropolitan morning journal published in the English language which maintains an unswerving fidelity to the great enduring principles of the Democratic faith in politics, THE WORLD for 1881 will be found, where for the last five years THE WORLD has been found, absolutely loyal to Democratic principles absolutely independent of all persons, cliques and factions within the Democratic party.

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