Staunton Spectator.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1884

The Tariff to be the Issue.

From an editorial of the Balt. *Sun*, under the above caption, we make the following extracts:—

"The people demand lower taxes, and refuse to have their attention withdrawn from reforms in our fiscal policy which alone will make lower taxes possible. The so-called "Danville massacre" was a failure —the Northern heart could not be fired with the old-time fictions of that class. The "Solid South" cry, raised when Carlisle was found to have been elected large ly by Southern votes, had a brief existence outside of the editorial sanctums of two or three organs of the high-tariff interests. At home there is no general social disquiet of which the demagogue may take hold, and abroad there are no differences with reign powers of a character to excite our combative citizen. The quest for an her than that of the tariff is there- nd to fail. The nature of this issue ntly remarkable. It is not a aising more money, but les government collected from ,000,000 more than it need- 5,000,000; next year it ex- $100,000,000, beyond its s excess, being applied to the f the public debt, is creating all barrasments for the friends of nal bank system, and not a few would wish taxes to be reduced merely to save the banks. It tends also to promote the continuance of the vicious policy of buying bullion to be coined into debased silver dollars. Worst of all, the presence in the treasury of an enormous surplus tempts Congressmen into extravagant and improper appropriations, and the departments into ambitious enlargements of their functions. It being a cardinal principle of our government that no more money shall be raised than the public expenditure, economically directed, requires, the very existence of a surplus of 100,000,000 is contrary to the whole spirit of our political institutions. That there should be any objection to so desirable a thing as reducing taxes, in view, especially, of the disadvantages of the opposite course, may seem incredible. Nevertheless there are not a few prominent Republicans who prefer to devise new methods for spending the surplus, instead of taking the short cut of abolishing it."

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"What the Democratic majority in Congress aim to do, under the guidance of such experienced men as Carlisle, Hewitt, Morrison, and others of that thoughtful and conservative stamp, is to remedy the inequalities of the present tariff in the interest of consumers, while allowing raw material to come in duty free in the interests of the manufacturers and of American labor. To lower the tariff is not to destroy the trade of the country, but to promote it, and the yearly requirements of the government are so large that the tariff cannot help being kept high enough to afford incidental protection to those industries that need it. To many minds not the least recommendation of the low-tariff policy is the excelent solution it supplies of the difficult problem of preserving the national bank system. On full consideration of this policy it will be perceived that it is more favorable to the banks than any of the plans elaborated by themselves, or by Comptroller Knox and the Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Carlisle believes that the best way to protect the banks in their circulation is not to legislate directly in their behalf, but to reduce the surplus revenue by means of which the bonds on which the banks base their circulation are being so rapidly redeemed. Were the taxes collected by the government cut down to the needs of an economical administrasion, the national banks might possess their souls in peace for an indefinite length of time. The presence of Mr. Buckner in the committee on banking and currency indicates, therefore, simply that nothing will be done in reference to the banks at the present session, pro or con.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OF A FOOLISH GIRL.—Miss Nellie West, the sixteen-year-old daughter of a London banker, made an attempt to take her own life at Brown's Hotel, Chicago, Monday week. She had put her address on the hotel register as from New York and was assigned to a room. She told the hotel clerk that she could see nobody if any calls were made. Late Monday afternoon a strong odor of gas coming from her room induced the porter to break open the door. Miss West was found unconscious. The room was filled with gas and a half-empty bottle of laudanum was on the table. Doctors resuscitated the unconscious girl after several hours' incessant labor. She said she wished to die, but gave no reason. Mrs. George Clarke, wife of a wealthy merchant, was sent for at Miss West's request and is carefully nursing the foolish girl into life again. The girl had fled from home a [illegible] ago, was found by her father in a convent, escaped from the convent, resided for some time in New York and subsequently went to Chicago, where she was found by Mrs. Clarke

The Business Condition of the Country.

It can hardly be questioned, says the Balt. *Sun*, that the great boom inaugurated in 1879 and 1880 has spent its force, and that business at present is conducted upon a narrow margin of profit. It is only with difficulty that the country maintains itself on the high plane of production and consumption reached in the census year. In some lines of manufacture production has been excessive. Under the stimulus of our high tariff too much capital was put into the "protected" industries, production outran consumption, and in their efforts to get rid of accumulated stocks of goods the manufacturers were compelled to sell at rates that have demoralized prices. Reduced prices have necessitated the practice of close economy if manufacturing is to be continued at a profit. Not unfrequently, the profit has disappeared, and the wheels of mills and factories have been brought to a stop. Such is the explanation of the reduction of wages, strikes and suspensions of which so much is heard from time to time. The iron business is at a low ebb. More than half the furnaces of the country are out of blast. The woolen mills of Rhode Island, the cotton mills of Massachusetts, the knit goods mills in New York, and more recently the spool-thread mills, of whose enormous profits so much was heard a year or two ago, admit the absence on an active demand for their wares. There is a decided increase in the number of failures. The growing frequency of extensive fires—an unfailing sign of tight times and contracting values—is a fact of the same kind. Still it must be admitted that a fair amount of business is being transacted. Railroad earnings show no very material decrease. Careful and conservative traders are making profits, though they may not be on the liberal scale of a few years ago. There is no general stoppage of industrial and commercial activity, as was the case after the collapse of 1873. Values are being readjusted, but the process goes on gradually, without shock or jar. The surplus stocks of incautious producers will after awhile be disposed of, and production will recommence on a healthy basis. The financial condition of the country, taken as a whole, is sound, despite the croakings of "bear" speculators interested in a fall in stocks, and pessimists who lived through 1880 without discovering that that year was better than any of its predecessors. The cause of the present depression is doubtless the tendency, which is a general one in all producing countries, to produce more than can be consumed. The fact that this depression is greatest in the iron, steel, cotton and earthenware industries, which have been most carefully guarded from foreign competition by excessive tariff rates, is suggestive. It is suggestive of the truth that a high tariff is of no benefit either to the capitalist and manufacturer, whom it tempts to excessive manufacturing and its consequent losses, or to the workingman, whom its tempts into occupations which are not permanent, nor in the long run profitable to him. The depressed condition of these industries at present would evidently be impossible, even at present prices, if their raw materials were not subjected to onerous and absurd tariff charges. Cheaper material would permit profitable manufacture at low prices, and what is of the first importance, would enable us to com- in the markets of other countries when, [illegible]

Circumstances Alter Cases.

This trite saying is strikingly illustrated in the difference in the conduct of the press, hostile to the South, in the cases in which a negro kills a white man, and a white man kills a negro. This is forcibly presented in the following from the Richmond *Dispatch*:—

At Yazoo, on Christmas-eve, five white men were shot down by a party of negroes. The fact was duly reported by telegraph, together with conclusive evidence that the assault upon the whites was cold-blooded and premeditated. There was no cause for ill-feeling, unless it arose from a commendable effort on the part of one of the whites who were killed to keep the peace between two negroes. Yet for the most part the Stalwart organs have passed the matter by simply as the subject of a news item, and one of the most infamous outrages that have ever occurred in this country has been made notable by an almost entire absence of editorial comment. When the people of Danville, smarting under the grossest indignities, resisted an assault, which, had it not been resisted, might have resulted in the sacking of the town, and in so doing killed and wounded seven negroes, the editorial columns of th eStalwart papers were rendered lurid with bloody-shirt articles, and some of the more rabid editors threatened the South with armed Federal intervention. They pretended to see in a street fight, which under the same circumstances might have occurred in any community, North or South, and which was incited by emissaries of their own party, evidences of an entire subversion of law, both State and Federal, and a justification in the most high-handed Federal usurpation. They claimed that the negroes that were killed were political martyrs, and they wept in sack-cloth and ashes over their woes. However, in the case of the Yazoo tragedy, where, in a time void of excitement, some of the most respectable citizens of the place were murdered, we fail to discover the slightest suggestion from a Stalwart source that the affair was an outrage, or that it calls for even the mildest condemnation. On the contrary, one of our esteemed contemporaries of the Radical stripe in a brutal effort to be witty congratulates the country that the negro has learned to be handy with the pistol. Yet after all there is some consolation in this discrimination. It is an evidence of Stalwart desperation. Nothing short of a desperate cause would develop such a despicable weakness. In this position we are sustained by the following significant paragraph from the Boston *Globe:*

"Five unoffending white men were shot down by a party of negroes. Of course, neither politics nor race prejudice had anything to do with it. But suppose the white men had killed the negroes instead of refraining from shooting because the streets were full of people. We can readily imagine what the Republican papers in this vacinity would have said about it. They would have had a new rebellion started before night, and would have issued a frantic appeal to our best people to save the country in 1884 by voting the Republican ticket."

In other words, it is anything to save "the grand old party," the violation of truth, justice, and the laws of humanity not excepted.

Major John W. Daniel, author of the [illegible]

Plans of Mr. Morrison's Committee.

Mr. Morrison proposes to call a meeting of the committee on ways and means on Wednesday (to-morrow,) when he thinks a sufficient number of members will be in the city to organize the committee and make preparations for proceeding to business. Mr. Morrison's own idea is to begin at once the task of drafting a new tariff bill, so it can be reported at a comparatively early period in the session, and thus give time for ample discussion and consideration. He favors a measure based on the general features of the proposition reported by him when chairman of the ways and means committee under Speaker Kerr, with such modifications as times and the changed condition of affairs may make desirable. Mr. Morrison favors a reduction in the sugar tariff, and placing lumber, coal and some other commodities on the free list. Horizontel reduction will be the main feature to be urged before the committee and before the House.

Mr. Morrison is quoted as saying since his appointment as chairman of the committee that had the recommendations of the tariff commission at the last session for a reduction of 25 per cent. been honestly carried out he and those who think with him would have been against any further agitation of the tariff at this session. It is very generally accepted that the policy of Judge Kelley and his associates [illegible] of the Republican minority of the committee will be one entirely of delay and obstruction. They will do nothing to assist in the passing of a proper revenue reform bill such as the country needs and desires, but everything to make it obnoxious and susceptible of criticism. Already deliberate misrepresentations of the position of the majority of the committee and its purposes have been widely disseminated by the protection interests. It is the opinion of Mr. Morrison that the majority of the committee will act in harmony, so that he does not apprehend any difficulty beyond that of the ordinary character so far as they are concerned.

THE RATHBONE TRAGEDY.—News has been received by relatives in this country of the death in Hanover, Germany, at the hand of her husband, of Mrs. Henry R. Rathbone, and of the attempt of Colonel Rathbone to kill himself. No particulars of the tragedy which might explain it have been received. Both Colonel Rathbone and his wife were born in Albany, N. Y. Mrs. Rathbone was the daughter of Senator Ira Harris, of New York, and she was well-known in society in Washington and Albany. Colonel Rathbone, though he has lived abroad with his family for some years past, formerly dwelt in Washington, where he is well known.

MAHONE'S MENTAL VISION PERVERTED.—What will Mahone have to say of Virginians next? A month ago, they were cold-blooded murderers. That story was too absurd to be believed, so now he says "the people of Virginia are lazy, and the only way to break them of it is to import Northern labor." His next allegation will probably be that they are fools or lunatics. His moral sense is dull and his mental optics diseased so that his own condition causes the false colors in which objects present themselves to his mental vision.

"All is infected which the infected spy, [illegible]"

Mrs. Ann Eliza Rosecrans, wife of Gen. W. S. Rosecrans, of California, died Tuesday at the family residence in Washington. She had been confined to her bed by cerebral hemorrhage for nearly a year.

A few days ago Frank Boser, of Carlisle, Penn., aged 14 years, smoked a pack of cigarettes in one day. He became ill, vomited frequently, and has died from nicotine poisoning.

Khartoum has been reinforced by Egyptian troops from the south, and nothing further has been discovered regarding the rumored advance of the False Prophet upon the place.

At Atchison, Kan., Saturday night, fire destroyed the new house of Charles E. Styles. Mr. Styles's wife and child perished in the flames, and he was seriously burned.

W. P. Taylor, treasurer of the Petersburg Railroad Company and for many years an officer of that road, died Thursday morning of diphtheria, aged 41 years.

There were 19,669 deaths in Philadelphia so far this year. Of this number, 962 deaths were from diphtheria; 476 from croup, and 535 from scarlet fever.

The ship Ed. Vard, which arrived at New York Sunday, reports the burning of the Julia Feledo, of Genoa, at sea. No one [illegible] on board.

The late King Victor Em[illegible] will be placed in the centr[illegible] Pantheon, in accordance [illegible] of the Vatican.

A severe shock of earth[illegible] felt at Zepee, in Bohemia, [illegible] habitants of the town to [illegible] boring fields.

In Philadelphia Sunda[illegible] Morgan beat his wife s[illegible] will probably die. He[illegible]

General Grant's c[illegible] greatly improved, al[illegible] ab e to sit up in bed[illegible]

M. J. Haden, a [illegible] Louisville, Ky., die[illegible] cisco Saturday.

P. T. Barnu[illegible] ease—old age[illegible]

A [illegible]

MANIFEST[illegible]

ROME, [illegible] tion of Ge[illegible] manifest[illegible] year old[illegible] a subst[illegible] stories [illegible] ter th[illegible] *Adve*[illegible] other[illegible] Hur[illegible] tiga[illegible] ma[illegible] est[illegible] so[illegible] a[illegible]

With [illegible] Speaker [illegible] stead of [illegible] Democr[illegible] life, an[illegible] demora[illegible] phase o[illegible] give ef[illegible] present[illegible] a diffic[illegible] of the [illegible] or pa[illegible] ficulti[illegible] famil[illegible] to be[illegible] factio[illegible] appr[illegible] Spea[illegible] man[illegible] perc[illegible] firm[illegible] act[illegible] me[illegible] tio[illegible] ju[illegible] te[illegible] pu[illegible] H[illegible] m[illegible] t[illegible]

[illegible] therefore, to some [illegible] the stag[illegible] [illegible] esponsible for [illegible] dustries.

TAKES TOO MUCH FOR GRAN[illegible] *Valley Virginian* takes to much [illegible]—The ed and indulges in a mos violent prem[illegible] tion when it says:—

"We take it for granted that there is no a Republican or Readjuster in Virginia who does not desire to defeat the Democratic Presidential ticket next year."

When the election of next year shall take place, the *Valley Virginian* will then learn, if not before, that the Democratic Re[illegible] ters have no "desire to defe[illegible] Democratic Presidential ticket." They cannot do so without gross in[illegible] cy. The fact [illegible] justers is no reason why they [illegible] be Republicans, and if they are not Republicans they will not desire the defeat of the Democratic ticket.

GRANT HAS A FALL.—General Grant, while alighting from his coupé at his house in New York City on Monday of last week, slipped and fell on his left side, receiving a serious injury in the leg. The supposition is that a bruise of the sciatic nerve has been sustained. He was assisted to his bed, where he has remained ever since, lying in one position. The surgeons predict that it will be several weeks before their patient will be able to leave his house.

PROHIBITION IN LOUISIANA.—The National Prohibition Party of Louisiana has been organized at a recent meeting in New [illegible] members agreeing not to vote for any person for any office who will not pledge himself to use his vote and influence to prohibit the licensing or toleration of gambling, drunkenness, and non-observance of the Sabbath throughout the State.

in South[illegible] Virginia, in which he says he has "no doubt every principle enunciated in the platform will be carried out in letter and spirit,' that the dead issues of past canvasses will be buried, and the living issues of to-day carried to the front." Major Daniel expresses regret that anybody got hurt in the Danville affair, but he declares that "the sooner everybody understands that the white people of Virginia do not intend to submit to plunder, outrage, and [illegible] for all concerned [illegible]

A SUCCESSFUL RAILROAD MAN.—Twenty-five years ago a young man named Jerome A. Fillmore, of Pennsylvania, entered the service of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad as a brakeman on a coal train at $25 a month salary. Last week before last Mr. Fillmore arrived in Chicago with his family in a special car as general superintendent of the Central and Southern Pacific Railway system, and everywhere recognized and admitted as one of the finest railway managers in the United States. His salary is $15,000 a year and it would, perhaps, be doubled before he would be allowed to leave the company's service. There is a lesson and an incentive to the youth of the country in Mr. Fillmore's career.

A COMPLIMENT TO MR. THURMAN.—In referring to the mention of Judge Thurman's name in connection with the Ohio Senatorship, the Philadelphia *Times*, independent, says:

"It would be a wise thing for the Democrats of Ohio to honor themselves by honoring Judge Thurman with another term. He is the ripest and purest statesman the party has in the State."

Congressman Wilkins, one of the Demo-

week, carried John Headstrem, John Ahlstrem, and John Ling, three miners, half a mile down the mountain. Ahlstrem and Ling were found Wednesday badly frozen, and will probably die. Hefidstrem, who is still missing, must have been killed.

Adam Hartline, a peddler, was stopped on the highway between Catawissa and Mainville, Pa., and robbed of $350 and jewelry. He was shortly after met by two other men, who asked permission to ride in his sleigh. Hartline refused whereupon one of the men fired twice, inflicting fatal injuries.

There appears to be a revival of attempts to destroy life and property by the use of explosives, in England. Besides the explosion at Birkenhead on the night of the 25th, a dynamite cartridge was exploded in Barrack street, Strabane, county Tyrone, Ireland, Wednesday, destroying the roof of a house.

At Pittsburg, Pa., Saturday the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company obtained a verdict for $471,000 against the heirs of Wm. Phillips, formerly president of the company, who, it is claimed, used money of the company for the purchase of property in his own name.

The General Assembly will meet again to-morrow, Wednesday. The work of the session will now go on without the interruption of a holiday recess, and we hope that no [illegible] other interru[illegible] on till the work for which the Legislatu[illegible] e completed.

Accounts have b[illegible] cisco of the volca[illegible] Augustin, Alas[illegible] wave accompan[illegible] tain was split in [illegible] to the level of the [illegible]

West Virgin[illegible] Horror.

A WOMAN AND TWO CHILDREN MURDER[illegible] AND THEIR BODIES BURNED.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

WHEELING, WEST VA., Dec. 26.—A [illegible] dial fr[illegible] Beverly, West Va., says [illegible] Elizabe[illegible] merfield and two children [illegible] ng on [illegible] ope of Rich Mountain, [illegible] twenty[illegible] s from here, were murder[illegible] some [illegible] wn parties, probably on Su[illegible] the 1[illegible] and their bodies consume[illegible] house [illegible] fired after the bloody wo[illegible] been cl[illegible] ed. A mail carrier on [illegible] enc[illegible] county, wa[illegible] told him a cab[illegible]