

Staunton Spectator. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1885. THE TIMES.

Under our system of government, we drift so rapidly from one scene of political agitation to another, that the people are deprived of repose in the almost continuous excitement of partisan conflict.

There can be no question of the fact, that the frequency of elections, two in the old and one in the new-named years, with weeks and months of agitation previous to election days, in which every voter is absorbed in one way or another, is a drain upon the resources of the country, which in Virginia have felt in no little degree.

This burden has, however, to be endured until we can do better. A careful examination of the situation will demonstrate the fact, that the chief difficulties of our more rapid progress in material development and prosperity arise from the plain truth that our local interests cannot move forward as they otherwise would if the energies of the people were not hampered as they are.

Yet, we are a favored people, and that citizen is an idiot who is not prepared to explain with sincerity, "Thank God, I am an American!"

THE WAR CLOUD.—In accordance with the Queen's message to the House of Commons the British war (the Thursday) called out the army reserves, and the country was in a state of excitement.

It is gratifying to note that the Virginia Democrats are beginning to get the question of selecting a Governor, and candidates are being brought out. It does not seem as if the man who will fill the high place will not suffer by having his merits fully canvassed.

A Favored People. As the New York World truly says, we are a favored people and ought to be duly grateful to Divine Providence and the Continental Congress for the many advantages we enjoy.

Look across the Atlantic and what do we see? France fighting with China; England getting slaughtered in the Sudan; Turkey battling with the Albanians; Egypt at war with the Haddis; Russians and Afghans facing each other with arms in their hands; Great Britain and Russia ready to fly at each other's throats; France under the shadow of Communism; Ireland sullen and angry; and everywhere the terrors of Nihilism and Dynamite threatening nations with destruction from the palace to the hovel.

Turning our eyes to this side of the ocean, what spectacles do they behold? Barroo bullying his neighbors; Mexico massing troops against Barroo; a revolt in Columbia, and Chili and Peru still with unsettled troubles.

Yet here we are in the United States laughing and growing fat, crazy for rolling, setting our strikes by contending boats for labor, looking confidently for business revival, reforming our Government, discarding some of our follies, and doing nothing but cholera and taxation. We are even prepared to defy these enemies—the one by cleanliness and sanitary skill and the other by honest reduction of our expenses.

The one fighting we hear of among our own people are the battles for the spoils, and, like all battles, they are described as terrible and destructive only through the vivid imagination of war correspondents. Actually, they are very harmless skirmishes, fought in good temper and without fatal results. Only slight wounds are received and the wounded find consolation and comfort in the easy-going ambulances of Civil Service Reform.

We recently cast a vote in a great Presidential battle which was magnificent evidence of the strength and endurance of our Republican government. Ten millions of freemen decided in a day, intelligently and peacefully, the political destinies of the nation for four years to come—ten millions of freemen so evenly divided in their opinions and wishes that only a small popular vote was found on the side of the winning candidate.

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THE INDUSTRIAL CONVENTION.

The committee appointed to prepare business to facilitate the deliberations of the Convention, which will meet in Richmond on the 15th instant, have been busily at work.

Hon. Absalom Koiner, of this county, will be the President, and a number of gentlemen from different parts of the State will be Vice-Presidents.

Propositions will be submitted— 1. For a plan for permanent organization of a State Agricultural Association. 2. To prepare the draft of a bill for amending and re-enacting the present law establishing the Department of Agriculture, to insure its greater efficiency.

On Monday morning of last week, the dwelling of Mr. S. B. Clowes in Lexington was burned. The fire originated in the garret, caused by a defective flue. The furniture and contents were saved. The loss about \$1,200. No insurance.

The Rockbridge county News says that on Friday, the 30th of March, "the large, three-story, manufacturing establishment belonging to Mr. G. P. Hutton, of Colliersville, took fire while the men were at dinner, and was entirely destroyed.

On Monday morning last, Cluverius was taken from the jail to the police court for trial. Great crowds of people assembled there, anxious to get a look at the prisoner. He seemed to be more disconcerted than at any time since his arrest.

When the prisoner was being returned to the jail, the streets were lined with people, who were looking at the prisoner. The carriage bearing the prisoner was driven rapidly, and hundreds ran after it to see the prisoner.

The Lillian Madison Murder.

The murder of F. Lillian Madison, whose body was found in the Old Reservoir in Richmond, remains as much a mystery as ever.

It seems that the letters which she claimed to have received from a lady in Richmond were not hers, but were written by Lillian Madison herself, as is shown by a comparison of the handwriting with letters she had previously written to that lady in Richmond, who had been a schoolmate of hers at Brington School.

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THE FUNERAL OF MISS ANDERSON—THE BECHENBROOK FOUNDRY—THE POST OFFICE NEWLY LOCATED—THE ODD FELLOWS—EPIDEMIC BURNED—THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY.

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Mr. Van Opstal to Col. Peyton on Grape Growing, Wine Manufacturing, &c.

As the growing of grapes and the manufacture of wine is exciting much interest among many in our county, the following extract from a letter of Mr. Van Opstal, of New York, to Col. J. L. Peyton, will be read with interest.

"Norton and Cynthiana wines are now the most looked after and the easiest to sell. We are getting now from \$1.15 to \$1.25 per gallon for the wine by the barrel, and who failed last year, has now a surplus of Norton grapes planted on his farm, of which 40 acres are about four years old, the balance not being in bearing yet.

"The best and most reliable place to grow the Cynthiana and Norton plants is of Best & Sons, Muscatine, Iowa. It is a reliable house in every respect, and when you buy from them you will get good quality plants and good advice. The Cynthiana is a fine grape, and when you plant it you will get good fruit. The Norton is a fine grape, and when you plant it you will get good fruit.

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Sectional issues seem to have given the go-by very effectually since Cleveland became President.

It is apparently the President of a thoroughly reunited country, and his advent most dreamily of the Democratic party alone is due the praise, for prior to the demise of the Republican party it was nothing but sectional.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Virginia—In Vacations—in the Clerk's office, Circuit Court for Augusta county, March 20th, 1885.

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