

Staunton Spectator. WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1886. DEVELOPMENT IN THE EAST.

The movements of the governments of Western Europe for selfish aggrandizement in Asia are working up questions not originally contemplated, and in which France will probably receive but little for the large expenditures of money and human life she has made in conducting her invasion into China.

The progress of similar development in China has awakened a new interest. French schemes of conquest are turning out poorly for that country. French jealousy called upon the government to halt as the results of war were opening the land of pagans to English and German enterprises in planting the means of new and modernized industries.

The above communication appears as requested. Staunton cannot undertake, of itself, to build even a narrow-gauge railroad to McDowell. A scheme for a line of improvement in that direction was considered here only in connection with a full and cordial co-operation on the part of Highland.

With constant official relations, first with the Virginia Central, when its extension had only reached Covington, and then with its successor, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, no man is more thoroughly acquainted with the interests of this line and its connections, than General Wickham.

As President, Receiver, and Vice-President, he has labored with great ability and untiring zeal for its success. A vacancy having occurred in the office of its general manager, he is again called to the performance of its duties as Vice-President.

Conspicuous as a leader from early life, he has filled many positions of the highest trust and honor in the service of the Confederate Government, or as an experienced railroad officer he has always commanded the fullest confidence and highest respect.

This brings us to the point of the case.—We see no prospect of action by this city or Highland. On the other hand, without the agency of either, a branch road is making its way from the Baltimore and Ohio line over the valley of the South Branch which head-springs are at Monterey.

It will only be a question of time, and exactly by the power of action we would have this city and Highland to pursue, when it will scale the watershed which is the centre of a magnificent country, loaded with undeveloped wealth.

From it go rolling streams, and gathering as they fall through many valleys the evidences of a wide expanse of territory, await enterprise only, to return a hundredfold its present value.

Railroad to the Northwest. Editor of the Spectator:—As the plan proposed by you sometime since for constructing a Railroad from Staunton to Highland county, seems to have failed on account of lack of enterprise or capital on the part of Stauntonians and Highlanders, allow me to suggest a plan that I consider more feasible, and much more easily accomplished, and one, while it would accomplish the same ends proposed for Staunton and Highland, would greatly redound to the monetary interests of that great trunk line known as the C. & O. Railway, viz: The construction, by that Company of a narrow- or standard-gauge branch road from Buffalo Gap to McDowell, a distance of but 25 miles.

The first purpose of this branch road would be to connect the Directors of said Company, would be, "Will an enterprise of that kind pay?" From my knowledge of the vast amount of merchandise produced in the Highlands annually by wagons to Staunton, and the amount of commodities brought back by the merchants and citizens of Highland, and Potomac, and Shenandoah, and the part of Bath county, besides the entire cattle-trade of these counties, which that route carries, and also from the fact that right here, at Staunton, and in its vicinity, lie buried millions of tons of the very best iron-ore, which, with good railroad facilities, could be transported to the sea and carried off in its crude state to furnaces elsewhere, or be manufactured into pig-iron by means of the blast-furnaces here, and then seek the market over its road, I would say that it would pay and pay largely.

I do not know of any road of its kind in the State, and it is a fact that in a few years' time from a branch from Buffalo Gap to McDowell. Now, Mr. Editor, if you could be induced to take up this project, and present the facts to the C. & O. Railway Company, and if they will consent to operate at once, and by next Fall, in time to take off our cattle to market, the whistle of the engine will be heard in Maryland, and Staunton and Highland will have a good Railroad connection—"a consummation devoutly to be wished." More anon.

THE OHIO SENATE DEMOCRATIC.—The Supreme Court of Ohio having made a decision in the Hamilton county contested election case, the effect of which is to give the democrats four seats in the State Senate, several items of the alleged republican programme for the coming session will, as the Balto. Sun says, have to be omitted, and one, in which Mr. John Sherman is interested, will need looking after.

As a result of this decision, the Senate will stand 20 democrats to 17 republicans. This will prevent the projected re-districting of the State, which was the main purpose in the interest of republican candidates, and it will also prevent the reorganization of the State institutions on a partisan basis.

The lower branch of the Legislature consisting of 58 republicans to 52 democrats, there will be a republican majority of three on joint ballot, so that Mr. Sherman's objection to the United States Senate is still possible and probable, but, as was said above, will be looking after in a State where so many legislators are party men. The decision of the Supreme Court, which has so changed the aspect of affairs, must be to the Senator a painful reminder of 1876. It is, in effect, that the Circuit Court erred in "going behind the returns." The returns may bear evident marks of fraud, but it is not that court's business to cook them to the proper degree of palatableness. This means in the case of the Hamilton county elections that a great wrong done to a majority of voters cannot be righted; but that too was what the electoral commission's decision in regard to the Louisiana returns in 1876 meant.

REFORMED CHURCH.—We learn from the Shenandoah Herald that the Virginia Classis of the Reformed Church, held a special meeting in the Reformed Church of Woodstock, Friday afternoon, Dec. 4th.—The regular officers not being present, A. K. Kline was elected President, pro tem., and Rev. S. L. Whitmore, of Winchester, stated clerk. Their business consisted in receiving Rev. C. Gumbert from the Somerset Classis, and confirmed a call given him by the Middleburg charge. Appointed Revs. Dr. S. N. Callender, B. R. Canahan and A. B. Bowers to install him. Rev. G. H. Martin, D.D., from Maryland Classis, received and confirmed the call given him by the Timberville charge. Appointed Revs. Wetz, M. D. G., Whitmore and H. Tallheim, on committee of installation.

MAJOR DANIEL'S GRATITUDE.—In response to a telegram from Senator Lovensstein, secretary of the Virginia Democratic caucus, informing Hon. John W. Daniel of his nomination for the United States Senate, a reply was received Tuesday last week, in which Mr. Daniel says: With profound and solemn gratitude I have received your kind and generous nomination as Senator of the United States by the democrats of the General Assembly. To one and all of my democratic brethren who have conferred upon me this exalted honor I beg you to present my thanks, with the assurance that I will endeavor to prove worthy of the trust.

A MAN DROWNED.—Wm. Connelly, of New York, was drowned in the river at City Point, Va., Tuesday, while en route from that place to Clarendon, on the James river, to accept the command of a foundry there. He was standing on the deck of a schooner on which he had taken passage, when he was struck by the mainmast and knocked overboard. The Temperance Cause is making decided headway in Alabama. At the municipal election Monday week the democrats were the most thriving towns in the State, and prohibitionists carried four wards out of five. The lines were closely drawn. At Gadsden the city council has raised the retail liquor-license from \$500 to \$1,000.

SUICIDE OF A WOMAN IN PAGE COUNTY.—Mrs. Beaver, wife of Daniel Beaver, farmer, of Page county, committed suicide on Friday week, by jumping from the garret-window of her residence to the ground below. She lingered until Saturday evening, when she died. Her mind had been impaired for several weeks past.

The New Senator. COMMENTS OF THE VIRGINIA PRESS ON THE CHOICE.

Lynchburg Virginian: We conscientiously believed, and said so, that Major Daniel was the best equipped and most suitable man for the place. But this we could say, and say without criticism or disparaging the eminent services or unimpeachable character of the other worthy gentlemen who aspired to this great honor.

Alexandria Gazette: But while Mr. Barbour was the best man for the place, we think that the gentleman who has been chosen is a man of high and honorable character, and we think that he will do credit to himself and honor to his State by the manner in which he will discharge his high and responsible duties.

Winchester Times: Major John W. Daniel will make a brilliant representative of the State in the Senate. His splendid oratory and high character, and the fact that he will do credit to himself and honor to his State by the manner in which he will discharge his high and responsible duties.

Charlottesville Chronicle: The smoke of the battle has passed away and John W. Daniel, of Lynchburg, is the victor. Now that the friendly struggle is over, we hope that the friends of the victor will be able to decide of a Legislature fresh from the people, and fairly to be presumed to reflect the true sentiment of the people.

Petersburg Index-Appel: Both were regarded as worthy, able men, and so far as the gift of their party to bestow it, it was simply a question as to which of them, taking all circumstances into consideration, would be the best man for the place. The Democratic party, we think, will be well served by the choice of Major Daniel.

DAVIDVILLE REGISTER: We honor Mr. Barbour for his services to the Democratic party, and we trust that our respect for him will never be diminished. The special gifts of Major Daniel peculiarly fitted him for representing Virginia at this time in the Senate, and we think that the best of the subject by those who voted for Major Daniel in the caucus.

SERVIAN VICTORY.—Belgrade, Dec. 13.—A telegram from the front states that a long and bloody engagement took place yesterday between the Servians and Bulgarians. The town of Veliki-Lozov was captured by the Servians, and the Bulgarians belonging to the First division of the Bulgarian army, who attacked the Servians, upon finding themselves outmaneuvered, fled in confusion, leaving behind them a large number of arms, and a great number of wounded men.

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A MERCHANT'S SUIT FOR DAMAGES.—CHARLES H. HARRIS, of the city of Staunton, a party of men disguised with large and grotesque masks and placed in a pony carriage to parade through the streets, and the turn of the streets without giving any reason, and the merchant has entered suit for damages against the city.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY. TUESDAY, DEC. 8TH.

SENATE.—A communication was laid before the senate, asking the general assembly to pass a law allowing school trustees a reasonable per diem for time employed in the discharge of their duties. This bill was adopted by the recent convention of school superintendents.

Mr. Munroe moves the tax-payers of Staunton present the senate to-day and now goes to the governor. A joint resolution to elect a 10 o'clock Thursday, December 13, to elect a judge for the county of Wythe. Under the rules the resolution goes over until to-morrow.

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