

# Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR

Friday, Dec. 12, 1862.

## Remedy for Extortion.

There has been so much said upon the subject of extortion, and seemingly to so little purpose, we almost grow sick when we see the word. Abusing the extortioners is somewhat like abusing the traffickers in mean whiskey—the more they are abused the worse they become. No man takes what is said to himself, for the reason that what is everybody's business is nobody's business. We have long since given them over to the devil and the gnawing of their own consciences, and now only refer to the subject to suggest a remedy. No man is so blind that he cannot see, nor so ignorant that he cannot understand, that the extortionate prices of food and clothing are seriously threatening the overthrow and ruin of our Government. The evil may be palliated, possibly remedied, by the following means:

Let a day be fixed for the funding of the notes now in circulation, and if not funded by that time, they shall not be funded at all, but be left to be redeemed according to their face, six months after a treaty of peace concluded with the U. S. Government. If funded, that diminishes the circulation to that extent. It is the demand and supply, and the amount of money in circulation, that rule prices. Let the new issues be made fundable peremptorily, at short intervals, thus to prevent a redundancy. Let Congress levy a direct tax to meet the interest of the funded debt, by that means to keep up the credit of the Government. Let an act of Congress be passed fixing prices on all necessaries of life—corn, wheat, flour, rye, oats, barley, potatoes, beans, turnips, and so on throughout the list. So also on cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar and molasses—on boots, shoes, leather, jeans, linsey, cotton cloths and yarns. Let it be required, as a writer has already suggested, that every person who is a trader and speculator shall say on oath what his profits have been the last 12 months, and after allowing him a reasonable per centage, require that he shall pay the overplus into the Treasury, to pay the interest on the funded debt.

Something like this must be done, else the army will be dispersed, the Government broken up and the South subjugated. Prices of all food of whatever kind, whether for man or beast, are daily increasing, and daily in confidence diminishing in the ability of the Government to redeem its issues. The prices given for everything and anything, prove the estimate set upon our currency—shoes 10 to \$12 a pair, boots 20 to \$30, a pair of jeans pants \$20, a jeans coat 30 to \$40, a bushel of corn 2.50 to \$3, a bushel of wheat \$4, a barrel of flour \$25, a bushel of sweet potatoes \$5, and so of everything that is bought and sold. Now what people can stand such prices?—what Government that gives such prices can foot the bill?

If the prices were fixed, every body would be satisfied but the Jews, and the cormorants in our midst.

To leave prices to the laws of trade is idle. An extraordinary state of things now exists, calling for a palliation or an effectual remedy. The latter is almost, if not entirely, impossible. The cry is universal, to put a stop to extortion, and let the effort be made. Who in our Congress has the moral courage to perform it? Political men should be bold in offering corrections for evils, without regard to the loss of the favor of that class who would let the Government sink, who heaped up treasure. If we prize liberty, the evil must be put down. Humanity appeals to us to do it. The poor and the families of soldiers appeal to us to give them bread, and shoes and clothing. Shall we hesitate? The honest man says no! The soldier's wife and children say no! and the army with one voice says no?

## Fredericksburg.

Affairs at Fredericksburg stand pretty much as they have for two or three weeks past.—Burnside had planted his cannon on the opposite hills, and so arranged as to point into nearly every street of the city. It is hardly probable that he will make an attack, as he was, on Saturday last, fortifying to prevent a flank attack.

A skirmish occurred on Tuesday of last week between several of the enemy's gunboats on the Rappahannock, near Port Royal, and a section of the Beauregard Artillery of Lynchburg, in which Mr. W. A. S. Clifton, son of Rev. J. C. Clifton, of the vicinity of Lynchburg, was killed. No other loss sustained on our side. Three shots from the rifle pieces took effect on the Yankee craft.

## Special Election.

At a special election in Annerst last week, to fill the vacancy in the Legislature occasioned by the resignation of Col. Davis, the Hon. Paulus Powell was elected by a small majority.

## The Salt Question.

As suggested by Mr. Humes, in our last issue, a meeting was held at the Court House in this place on Tuesday last, to initiate arrangements for procuring salt under the county contract. A great deal of earnestness and decision were manifested. A committee of four were appointed—consisting of Dr. A. R. Preston, F. B. Hurt, A. Davis and Dr. R. C. Craig—to wait upon the proprietors of the Works, and see what arrangements could be made, and report to an adjourned meeting at the Court House on Saturday next.

The people of the county are requested to attend the meeting on Saturday.

## Good, as far as it Goes.

Gen. Williams, in command at New River, has put a flea in the ears of speculators, by issuing an order that nothing necessary to the subsistence of the army, shall pass Dublin Depot on the Va. & Tenn. Railroad.

For the Virginian.

SALTVILLE, Dec. 4th, 1862.

JNO. N. HUMES, Esq., Abingdon, Va.: Dear Sir—Yours of the inst., enclosing a copy of a letter from Gov. Letcher, is received. We see nothing in it to cause us to change the position taken in our former letter to you, viz.—that we cannot pay those certificates. We have said to you and to the Governor, that if he (the Governor) would recognize our arrangement with your county as a contract, and would allow us a credit for filling it, on our contract with him, we would cheerfully fill it, otherwise we could not, because we had not the ability to do it outside of his contract. We still maintain that we never had a contract with Washington county; and we further maintain that Washington county will have received, by the 1st of January next, as much salt through ourselves, and the Governor, as was contemplated by the arrangement made between our Mr. Buchanan and your County Court. So if this arrangement, as we term it, should indeed be a contract, we contend that by the deliveries of salt by ourselves and the Governor, it will be substantially complied with. It is true that salt delivered by the Governor, will cost the county higher than \$1. But we proposed in our letter to Governor Letcher to deliver the salt at \$1 to Washington county, if he would credit us with the salt. Subsequently to this, as you remember, we proposed to give Washington county salt water to the amount of \$5000. If this last proposition is not acted upon, we are still willing to make an abatement of \$1 per bushel on the salt which the Governor will deliver to Washington county. The abatement of course to be for the benefit of the county.

The Governor, as you perhaps know, pays us \$2 per bushel for salt.

It is true, the Governor contracted with Charles Scott, G. W. Palmer and myself, but it was well understood by the Governor and other parties, that Stuart, Buchanan & Co., were to furnish the salt until the new concern could put up the necessary works; and it was also well understood that the entire surplus of Stuart, Buchanan & Co., would thus be exhausted. The new concern alluded to, have not yet completed their works, although they have been diligently engaged about the same; and the probability is, that these new works will not be completed before Christmas, though a portion of them will go into operation very soon, if the kettles are not delayed on the road. Very respectfully,

STUART, BUCHANAN & Co.

## Abstract of Lincoln's Message.

RICHMOND, Dec. 5.—Lincoln in his message to Congress, says the relations of the United States with foreign nations are more satisfactory than a nation so unhappily distracted might have apprehended. In June there were some grounds to expect that the maritime powers, which had universally recognized the insurgents as belligerents, would soon recede from that position, but temporary reverses to the national arms have delayed that act of simple justice. Our struggle has been contemplated by foreign nations with reference less to its own merits than to its supposed effect on those nations.

The organization of banking associations, to which the government might furnish circulating notes, on the security of United States bonds deposited in the Treasury, is recommended. These notes being uniform in appearance and security, and convertible always into coin, would protect labor against the evils of a vicious currency, and facilitate commerce by cheap and safe exchange.

In his inaugural address he briefly pointed out the total inadequacy of disunion as a remedy for the difference between the people of the two sections. The language is repeated. He then says there is no line, straight or crooked, suitable for a national boundary upon which to divide. The fact of separation, if it comes, gives upon the part of the seceding section, the fugitive slave clause, along with other constitutional obligations upon the section seceded from. Another objection to a separation into two nations, is that the people of the greater interior region would be cut off from outlets to the coast, by embarrassing trade regulations. After further discussion of the subject, he says, "our strife pertains to ourselves, to the passing generations of men, and it can, without convulsion, be pushed forever with the passing of one generation." He then recommends that Congress propose amendments to the Constitution, providing for abolishing slavery before the year 1900, owners to be compensated and all slaves of disloyal owners, now enjoying actual freedom, to be forever free. This proposition is discussed at length, to show that it would shorten the war and perpetuate peace. Neither the war nor proceedings under the proclamation of September 22d will be stayed because of recommending this plan.

He closes as follows: We say we are for the Union; the world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union; the world knows we do know how to save it. We,

even we, here hold the power and bear the responsibility. We shall save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth. Other means may succeed, this cannot fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud and God forever bless."

## HORNER'S LETTERS—No. 1.

For the Virginian.

BEAR COVE, WISE CO., VA., Nov. 25.

Mr. Cole & Barr:—Dear Sirs—I have bin wantin to write to you a long time, but some how or other these war times has so unsettled my thinkin and actin fackelties, that I haven't felt qualified to do the subjects justice I want to discuss. I'll try; but, before enterin upon 'em, I'm quite sarin you'd like to hear a word or two about the old man Shadrach and brother Bednigo. Daddy, when you last heard of him, was barely able to ride the old yaller Jack General Jackson to meetin, but he isn't as doncy now as he was then, and says that the vile doins of the Yankees—both them at home and them from a distance—has made his blood bile as hot and as quick as it did when he went to Norfolk in the old war, and if it wasn't for the rumatiz, which gives him a squeeze now and then, he'd shoulder Betsy—the same old flint-lock that bro't Bill Collins outen the tree—and jine the boys that's fightin for our rights and privileges, and vines and fig-trees. Bednigo is in the wars, fat and sassy and ragged; but as I have some things to say in this letter that'll make some folks think queer and others feel mean, if they have any feelins, I'll not stop to talk about daddy and Bednigo, but come strait up to the subject at once, without any simiquivers.

I was in Abingdon a few weeks ago, and the reason why I didn't call to see you was, that I know'd you'd keep me a month and ax me a thousand questions, when it was my business to look round and larn, instid of larnin other people. I put up at the house of my good old friends Benham & McCarty, but they was gone—one to General Floyd and tother to Kaintuck—and I didn't know the man that kept the house, nor I didn't want to know him, for its my notion that a house without wimmin is like an empty jar of preserves or a cherry pie without inards. But the landlord was a fat, jolly kind of a feller, with a stumplek stick out like a pot-leg, and treated me mity well, tho' I couldn't tell whether he kept the house or the house kept him, as he seemed to have a sort of garden, who flew round like one side of a sled, and took in and paid out all the money.

But I didn't set down to write about landlords nor taverns, but to tell you about some things I saw and somethings I heard, bearing upon the present war, as is helpin the Yankees a maxin eight more than a body would think without studyin. Bednigo, as I told you, is in the wars, ragged and barefooted, and as Abingdon is a big place, or a little place with big ways, and ought to have a heap of goods, I thought I'd look round and git him some clothes and a pair of shoes. After lookin round at all the stores without findin what I wanted, a solemnly lookin feller behind a pile of tobaker boxes in one of the stores told me I could find shoes and linsey both in a cellar down the street and also at the Government office. Well, ses I to myself, ses I, shoes and linsey in a cellar, and linsey and shoes in the Government office, that won't do, and if it hadn't bin for the man's serious lookin face, I'd a thought he was quizzin me. But, howsoever, I santered to the cellar, and walked in, and sure anuf, there was shoes and boots of all sizes, linseys, and buttons, and crockery ware, some with handles and some without handles, some made to honor and some made to dishonor; and now, thinks I to myself, thinks I, Bednigo shant go ragged and barefooted no longer, and the old woman shall have a crock with a handle to it to put her milk in. So I picked up a pair of boots that was marked five dollars on the soles, tho' somebody had tried to scratch it off, and ses I to the man, Mister, ses I, what do you ax for them boots? Twenty dollars, ses he, Twenty what? ses I. Twenty dollars, ses he, squeein it out like the whistle of a steam engine. He had some shoes, that sed on their soles they had cost two dollars, and he axed me eight, and some that sed on their soles they had cost three dollars, and he axed me twelve, and so on with-everything he had, and it seemed to me that all he had hant at skool was, to multiply by four.

Well, ses I to myself, ses I, Bednigo, you'll have to fight and go barefooted, and go barefooted and fight awhile longer yet, before I'll let a man leece me with jay eyes open and with my own consent, but I'll try him on the linsey question and git the full measure of his patriotism, as I know'd it didn't cost more than seventy-five cents a yard at the outside—ses I, what do ax for jeans? Five dollars a yard, ses he! Jerusalem and Timothy Tims! says I, five dollars a yard for linsey, ses I! Why man, are you a Jew, or a Yankee, or the devil, or all three mixed up? Why, ses he, I only ax you for my goods in proportion to what I have to pay for 'em! What in the devil (God forgive me for swearin) have I to do with what you have to give for corn, ses I? I haven't sold you no corn at four or five times its honest value, and if somebody else has, is that a common sense reason that I should stand here and let you skin me like an eel? Sell your shoes for twelve dollars, and your linsey for five dollars, and your crocks with handles to 'em for two dollars, to them that skinned you on the corn, and dont stand there and try to pull my skin off because somebody else has pulled yours off on the corn question. He looked sorter tookin in, and I had a great mind to take him by the ankles and go to splitin logs with him.

I left that cellar, where nothin had sales but me and the boots and shoes, and santered down to the Government office, and there in a little caddy-bunk in one corner of a big room, I saw a pile of linsey as high as a man's head, and half a dozen boxes of boots and shoes. I was sorter afozen to ax the men any questions about the goods, as I supposed they was clerks in the Government employ, and in course had no right to spekiate, as the Army Regulations in sperret ses they shant. And that's a good regulation, for the Government aint goin

to give a clerk a hundred dollars a month to wait on the soldiers, and then allow them to sell a poor barefooted soldier a pair of boots that will take all his wages for two months, while his little ones at home may be cryin for bread. Knowin all this, I say, I was sorter afraid to ax them if they had the shoes and linsey to sell, but lookin sorter innocent, ses I, Mister, ses I, what do you ax for that linsey and them boots? Five dollars a yard and eighteen dollars a pair, ses he! Jehosafat! thinks I to myself, what's the world a comin to? I vanossed that ranche sure, bein entirely satisfied, and thought I'd santer round for awhile and catch as many pints as I could. The first man I met had a dirty face and wore spectacles, but he had an honest expression and benowlence in his eye. Ses I to him, Mister, ses I, who sells linsey and shoes in that big office yander? Two men, ses he, one's a clerk in the office and tother isn't.—How's that? ses I—he's an able-bodied lookin man and seems under forty-five, and if he aint a clerk how does he keep outen the army? Dont know, ses the man with the spectacles, maybe he is a clerk when the recruit officers is about, and when they aint, he isn't.

Well, ses I, is them and the man in the cellar all the extortioners about this city? No, ses he, not by a jug-full—nor they aint the worst, neither. The man in the cellar has some excuse, for he's sickly, and cant go into the army, and I believe he has a good heart in him, but has been led astray by the love of money. There's a heap of people all over the country and in all the towns, that's buyin up all sorts of things and sellin 'em to the wives and children of soldiers at 5 or 6 times their value, while the husbands and fathers of these wimmin and childer are away off on the bloody battle-field, ragged, and barefooted, and hungry, and fightin for them that's grindin in the faces of the poor. True as prechin, ses I, and God willin, I'll put all these fellers in my letters before I'm done, and if any on 'em dont like it they can lump it, for I believe I'm called to the work!

Now, Mister Editors, while these things is tolerated, how in the name of common sense and common humanity is the poor families to keep from starvin and bein tattered in rag? and how is our great and noble cause to prosper? How is a soldier, or anybody else, to buy shoes and britches, and keep the pot a bilin? It cant be did. My notion is, that this extortion all over the country, is whippin us a great deal faster than the Abolitionists can do it, and if we ever gain our independence, we'll first have to hang, or burn, or shoot, or drown, the miserable extortioners that's suckin in the blood outen the Confederacy, & wringin the tears outen the people.

I'm sorry my letter's got so long, for I havent begun to tell all that's in me. With God's blessin I'll write to you often while these long nights last, and I'll tell you things that would almost bring tears outen the mile posts and telegraph poles on the railroads. I'll tell you about Government clerks spekiatin and extortionin in things that's necessary to the comfort and very existence of the wives and children of absent soldiers, and in course neglectin the business that Government is givin 'em a hundred dollars a month to attend to. I'll tell you about officers in the Commissary department goin into cahoot with outsiders, and spekiatin in beef, and pork, and mutton, and linsey, and cotton, and so forth, and leavin in undone what the Government is payin 'em to do. I'll tell you what people ranseakin the whole country to buy wheat, and corn, & flaxseed, and linsey, and soap, and beeswax, and taller, and any and everything else they can lay their greedy hands on, to make a monopoly so they may coin money outen other people's miseries, and then git down on their knees and ask the Lord to bless our soldiers and our cause. I'll tell you all about these things, and then I'll come round by the Salt Works, and the way I'll let the eat outen the wallet there will be wonderful to look upon. And I want you to print my letters, and to print all that's in 'em, for Deuteronomy ses, and he was a mity good man, that you shant muzzle the ox that treads out the corn.

So no more at present, but yourn till death,

MESHACH HORNER.

Noty Beny.—I'm glad to hear that the Capt. of the Government office made the spekiaters pack up their linsey and shoes and take 'em outen his office, as he didn't intend to have sich a business goin on there. That was right, but it would a bin a heap righter if he'd a turned 'em off and let 'em go into the army, where they ought to be.

## Gallant Conduct of the People of Granada, Miss.

MONTE, Dec. 7, 1862.

The Tribune learns that the enemy's forces which approached Granada were a portion of Gen. Curtis' command, numbering fifteen hundred infantry and a section of artillery. They came from Helena and halted within three miles of Granada. There were no Confederate forces to meet them, but the people rushed to arms and by courage and judicious bushwhacking drove them back to Judge Fisher's plantation, ten miles from Granada, where they made a stand and commenced throwing up fortifications. Heavy rains have made the roads almost impassable, and it was supposed would render their retreat impossible, and the Confederates, by quick movements, may bag them. The Yankees de-troyed the railroad bridge three miles from Granada.

## From the Valley.

Mr. John B. Tilden arrived here Sunday night directly from the Valley. We learn from him that Winchester was evacuated by our troops on last Tuesday night, and was occupied by about seven thousand of the enemy the next day. No Government stores were lost. Saturday week the camp of White's cavalry near Berryville, was surprised by several hundred Yankee cavalry. A portion of White's men were captured, and the balance saved themselves by a hasty retreat. In the meantime about eighteen Confederates who had been on picket came up, and gallantly cut their way through the Federal forces, killing seven, and mortally wounding ten others.—Had the main body of our forces acted half so well, it is said that the enemy would have

been discomfited. Maj. White, in attempting to rally his men, was wounded twice.

Our informant states that the enemy are sweeping everything before them wherever they go, even killing the poorest milch cows out of pure wantonness. Nothing is spared by the vandals. Several prominent citizens were arrested and taken off. Gen. Geary is said to be in command.

Our forces were at Strasburg when Mr T. left. Brig. General W. E. Jones commands.—Lynchburg Virginian of Tuesday.

## Latest from the North and Europe.

WARM WORK PREDICTED NEAR FREDERICKSBURG.

Increased Distress in Manufacturing Districts.

Unsatisfactory Relations Between France and England.

ANOTHER NOTE FROM FRANCE IN RESPONSE TO RUSSELL'S REPLY.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8.—Northern dates of the 4th have been received by the Associated Press.

The papers say that the Confederates are puzzled as to Burnside's plans of campaign; that the fact that the Federal army has remained quiet near Fredericksburg for a week, is taken by Lee as an indication that he is not to be moved on from that point.

Washington correspondents doubt the report that Burnside has been suspended.—They also predict warm work at Fredericksburg before many days.

The proceedings of the Yankee Congress are unimportant.

The steamer China brings Liverpool dates to the 22nd of November.

There is increasing distress in the manufacturing districts, which is attracting more attention from Government.

The elections in America is the theme of general comment. The prevailing impression is that the Democratic successes are a step towards peace.

The London Herald says the relations of France and England have assumed an unsatisfactory character, and that Cabinet Councils are frequent.

It is rumored that France has sent another note to England in response to Russell's reply.

The Saturday Review thinks Napoleon has movements about which do not appear on the surface of his mediation scheme, and that the express mention, by his minister, of the name of the Confederate States, which they selected for themselves, virtually involves recognition, and the proposed armistice implies an opinion which may shortly be uttered in language more intelligible than words.

The same paper hints at a probable alliance with the Southern States in connection with the Emperor's designs on Mexico.

There has been a slight advance in cotton at Liverpool.

## Handsome Affair in Westmoreland.

On Tuesday night last, says the Richmond Dispatch, Col. R. L. T. Beale, commanding the 9th Virginia cavalry, sent a detachment of forty-one men, under Maj. Waller, across the Rappahannock river, to Lee's town, in Westmoreland county, where they surprised and captured the Federal pickets on post at that point. They then proceeded to the farm of Dr. Tom. Taylor, about three miles from Lee's town, where the picket camp of the enemy existed. This camp they dashed into and surprised, capturing the whole camp, consisting of forty-eight men, including a Captain and Lieutenant and two commissioned officers, of the 8th Pennsylvania cavalry, with their sabres, carbines, and pistols. They also captured fifty-one cavalry horses, with their equipments, and as much sugar and coffee as the men could bring off conveniently. The point at which this occurred is some twenty miles below Port Royal, and about thirty-five from Fredericksburg. The next morning, about daylight, the expedition safely crossed, with their captives, to the Essex side of the river.—Lynchburg Virginian, Dec. 8.

The following pickle for beef, recommended by Admiral Peacock of the British Navy, has been tried by a gentleman of this place for many years, who deems it invaluable:

## Peacock's Pickle for Meat.

Water, 4 gallons; sugar or molasses, 1½ pounds; saltpetre, 2 ounces; salt, 6 pounds; boil all together and skim it, then let it cool. The meat being placed in a vessel intended for it, pour the cold pickle on the meat until it is covered. In that state, keep it for family use. The beef after lying in the pickle for ten weeks, has been found as good as beef that had been salted for three days, and as tender as chicken. If the meat is to be preserved for a considerable time, the pickle must be boiled and skimmed once in two months, throwing in during the boiling, two ounces of sugar and a half pound of salt. Thus the same pickle is incomparable for curing hams, tongue and hung beef. When tongues and hung beef are taken out of the pickle, cleanse and dry the pieces, then put them in paper bags and hang them in a dry, warm place. Some who have tried this method, choose their meat saltier, and instead of 6, use 8 or 9 pounds of salt. In very hot weather, it is necessary before the meat is put in the pickle, to rub it well with salt, and let it lie one, two or three hours, till the bloody juice runs off. If the meat in this case is the least tainted before it is put in the pickle, it will be entirely spoiled in one day's time in hot weather. Peacock's Pickle is found so valuable that no family ought to be without it. Sixteen gallons will pickle 400 pounds.

Sixteen gallons water, 8 ounces saltpetre, 30 pounds salt, and 1½ gallons molasses, for 300 pounds.

BOSTON, Dec. 3.—The British barque Mary, at Queenstown, November 19th, from Yarmouth, N. S., spoke October the 30th, in latitude 41, longitude 61.30, the rebel steamer Alabama.