

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR

Friday, Dec. 19, 1862.

The Salt Question.

In our paper of the 21st November, we promised to give the next week a letter from Messrs. Stuart, Buchanan & Co., in regard to the salt supply for this county. Not having been able to issue our paper till week before last, and the letter referred to having been mislaid, we could not comply with our promise to give the letter week before last. Upon our application, Messrs. Stuart, Buchanan & Co., have furnished us a copy, which we give below:

SALTVILLE, Nov. 18th, 1862.

JNO. N. HUMES, Esq., Abingdon, Va.,
Dear Sir—Your favor of the 17th inst., is received.

For the expression of your private and personal friendship towards us, we are obliged to you, and we trust that nothing will occur between us to change those sentiments on your part.

Be assured that they are and will continue to be fully reciprocated. We are fully aware of the feeling of the people generally of Washington county, on the subject of the contract which they claim was made between the County Court of their county and our firm.—We know that feeling to be much stronger than you have expressed it.

We have even been told that the people of your county would come and help themselves to salt. Whether they are disposed to carry matters to this extreme or not, cannot affect the facts we are about to consider, and will not affect our course in the matter. But to the point—will we honor the orders drawn on us by the various salt commissioners of Washington county?

We answer, we will not, because we cannot, and why? We answer that we are under neither legal or moral obligation to do so.

As we are not capable of arguing legal propositions, we will merely state that two of the best lawyers of your town stated that there was no legal obligation upon us. But we are not driven to the extremity of shielding ourselves behind legal technicalities. We are willing to take the broad moral ground upon which, no doubt, we will be tried by public opinion. How then does the question stand in a moral aspect? Let us review the facts and begin with the beginning.

We believe the subject originated from a letter addressed by us to Jno. W. Johnston, Esq., of your place, on the 20th June last.—That letter speaks for itself, and we would like to have it considered as incorporated just here. Perhaps Mr. Johnston or Mr. Kregger can furnish you with it.

In that letter, we asked the Court to appoint an agent either to contract with us for a year's supply at \$1, as contemplated by the act of the Legislature, or to receive and distribute salt for Washington county at our selling price from time to time. The June Court, we believe, had the Justices summoned to consider the subject at the July Court. At the last mentioned Court, the writer was not present, but Mr. Buchanan, of our firm, was, and from him and a number of others, we ascertained these further facts:—that a contract, such as we had made with many other counties of the State, viz:—20 lbs. to the inhabitant as a year's supply, at \$1 per bushel, was offered to the Court and declined—that there was great outside pressure from the people attending the Court against any contract being made—that many petitions were presented to that effect, and that finally the arrangement now set up as a contract, was agreed on. This arrangement, as we understand it, and as we contend was well understood by the Court, bound neither party further than our Mr. Buchanan's statement expressed in the order of Court, which, viz:—"that it was his or our intention and desire to furnish the people of Washington county with salt," or something to that effect, for we have not a copy of the order present. We are sure that our obligation did not extend beyond the words *intention and desire*.

Now let us ask, was not that intention and desire evinced by supplying the salt from that time to the day the Governor's proclamation came out, prohibiting the removal of any salt from these works?

It is true, that proclamation was afterwards rescinded, but not until every pound of salt which we could make for several months over and above our contracts was promised and contracted to the Governor. And is it not well known in this vicinity, that but for our promising him the amount of salt demanded, our works would have been seized, and we turned out of possession.

Now, suppose that from a wish to carry out our desire and intention towards Washington county in furnishing her salt, we had refused to contract with Gov. Letcher and he had seized our works, as he doubtless would have done, why then Washington county would have received her fair distributive share of salt through the Governor's agent; and that is exactly what she will receive as matters now stand. Therefore we contend that as to legal obligation, there is none—and none was ever intended by either party; and, as to moral obligation, if any, we were entirely absolved from it by the act of the Legislature making our works liable to seizure, and the proceedings under said act.

We hope, however, that you will not infer from our formal manner of arguing this question, that we are not duly alive to the distress of our neighbors in regard to salt. We assure you that we feel the deepest concern on the subject; and we think, after giving the subject a good deal of reflection, that there is a remedy, and a peaceable remedy, in reach of every farmer in your county. It is this—let each farmer, or a number together, bring their kettles to this neighborhood, and procure salt water of us in quantities sufficient to answer the present demand; or let them take the water to their homes in barrels, and make the

salt. It is believed that 30 gallons of water will make a bushel of salt, and we think we can spare enough to meet pressing wants, but no more.

The quantity of salt mentioned in your ticket will be a very good guide by which to divide the water among applicants. Our price for the water for the above purposes, will be five cents per gallon.

Very respectfully,
STUART, BUCHANAN & Co.

Chance for Salt.

Dr. R. C. Craig, who was appointed by a meeting of citizens here on Tuesday of last week, as one of the committee of three who were to wait upon the proprietors of the Works to see what arrangement could be made for a supply of salt under the county contract, and who was subsequently requested to act as a committee of one for the purpose of making any eligible arrangement with the proprietors or any other persons, for an adequate supply, upon possible terms, has partially succeeded. We learn from him that he entered into contract with Mr. M. H. Buchanan, who has just finished preparations for manufacturing, for a full supply for this county for the next year, at \$5 per bushel, subject to the ratification of the next County Court. This arrangement will allow to each citizen the full amount needed, but none to dispose of.

We give it, that the people may reflect upon it till next week, and instruct the Court accordingly.

Fight on Sandy.

We learn from several persons who participated in it, that about 150 of Gen. Floyd's men, encountered about three hundred of the 39th Kentucky Federal regiment, under Col. Dills, at Warren's Ford, some seven miles below Prestonsburg, on Thursday, the 4th inst. The enemy were driven pell-mell into the mountain with considerable loss. Our forces captured four boats laden with stores, estimated at from 250 to \$300,000, and altogether, in the march and fight, about 150 prisoners.

Capt. Frank Findlay, of this place, in temporary command of two companies of mounted men, was ordered to charge, but the order being immediately countermanded, the front not hearing it, Cap. Findlay and some 9 or 10 of his men made the charge, in face of the fire of the whole Federal force. The boldness of the charge alone saved them, as the enemy took to their heels as soon as they delivered their fire. Capt. Findlay received two minnie balls through his thigh, and had his horse killed under him. Floyd Bailey, son of Col. Robert Bailey, dec'd, also had his horse shot under him, and afterwards fought on foot.—Findlay Harris, also of this place, received two balls through his hat, grazing the skin. Our entire loss was three killed and two or three wounded. The loss of the enemy was heavy for the number engaged, not less than 30, and some say more than 100.

Capt. Findlay is now at his father's residence in this place, doing better than could be expected, after riding 130 miles on horseback and 50 or 60 in a wagon, after being wounded.

Among the booty in the boats were 5 boxes of Austrian rifles, which were secured. The men were supplied with as much clothing, sugar and coffee as they could carry with them, and all the balance of the stores were destroyed.

The Fredericksburg Fight.

We give, in another column, all the particulars we have from the great fight at Fredericksburg, on Saturday last. Although we have to lament the fall of the gallant Gregg, of South Carolina, and T. R. Cobb, of Ga., it was a fight that brightens our hopes, and reinvigorates the hearts of our people with renewed energy and effort. Lee, Jackson, Longstreet, the two Hills, Stuart, and other great chieftains are left us, and while they are in command, the soil of Virginia will be fertilized by Yankee blood as long as Yankee feet pollute it.

Small Pox in Russell.

We learn from a friend at Willow Spring, that there have been four or five cases, and perhaps one or two deaths, from Small Pox, in the Dorton neighborhood, on Copper Creek, in the lower end of Russell.

Yankees in the Valley.

The Lynchburg Republican of Wednesday has been informed by a gentleman from Staunton, that Milroy's forces are advancing up the Valley from Winchester, reported to be 20,000 strong. If so, the Republican fears that Gen. Jones, in command at Strasburg, will be compelled to fall back.

We have a rumor (without confirmation) of a victory over the enemy near Murfreesboro', Tenn. Some of our cotemporaries believe it, but we doubt it.

Mrs. Secretary Smith is addressing notes to persons of means and position, asking donations for the purpose of giving a Christmas dinner to the sick and wounded soldiers now in Washington and its vicinity. She states that the number is rising 20,000, and that all the loyal States are represented.

From the Richmond Enquirer, of the 13th.

Milroy's Operations.

The following orders of Gen. Milroy, who is "restoring the Union" in North West Virginia, are another illustration of the enormous villany of the United States commanders:

St. GEORGE, TUCKER CO., WEST VA.,
Nov. 27, 1862.

Mr. Job Parsons, (son of Abraham):
You are hereby ordered to report in person or by your representative at my headquarters, in St. George Court House, on the 26th of November, 1862, to attend to business of vital importance to yourself. And in case of your failure to comply with the above order you must suffer the penalty.

By order of Brig. Gen. R. H. Milroy,
HORACE KELLOGG,
Captain, Post Commandant.

On repairing to the headquarters of this insolent Ohio Abolitionist, the following document was handed to Mr. Parsons, by Kellogg, with the remark, "you see the old man (Milroy) is in earnest!"

St. GEORGE, TUCKER CO., VA.,
Nov. 28, 1862.

Mr. Job Parsons (son of Abraham):

Sir—In consequence of certain robberies which have been perpetrated upon Union citizens of Tucker county, Va., by bands of guerrillas, you are hereby assessed to the amount of fourteen dollars & twenty-five cents (\$14.25) to make good their losses; and upon your failure to comply with the above assessment by paying the money over to me by the first day of December, 1862, the following order will be executed, viz:—"If they fail to pay at the end of the time you have named, their houses will be burned and themselves shot, and their property all seized. And be sure that you carry out this threat rigidly, and show them that you are not trifling or to be trifled with."

"You will inform the inhabitants for ten or fifteen miles around your camp, on all the roads approaching the town, upon which the enemy may approach, that they must dash in and give you notice, and that upon failure of any one to do so, their houses will be burned and the men shot."

"By order of
"Brig. Gen. R. H. MILROY,
"Capt. HORACE KELLOGG,
"Commanding Post."

If General Milroy executes his several threats as above made, he will prove himself simply a foul and cowardly robber and murderer, instead of a soldier. It would be simply absurd in case he should fall into our power, or refrain from shooting him down, or hanging him on the next tree.

The enemy have disgraced themselves often enough heretofore, in the attempt to obtain military advantages by inhuman and cowardly expedients. It will be remembered to their shame how, at Romney, they forced Confederate prisoners to march before them to prevent the fire of our forces. It will be remembered how the women and children of Memphis have been held and punished as hostages for Confederate soldiers outside. We see it gravely proposed in the march on Wilmington to force Confederate prisoners to march at the head of their column.

It is reserved for Milroy to eclipse his competitors in the exhibition of this detestable cowardice and infamous barbarity. Instead of relying upon his own pickets and scouts, as he is bound to do, he requires citizens, *on pain of death*, to do the work of his soldiers. He exacts of them a duty which they have no right to require; and he declares death to them, and a heap of ashes to their families, as the penalty of failure. Instead of pressing his military operations against our soldiers, after the manner of a coward, indulges a brutal revenge on unoffending and unarmed citizens—tarns families from their homes, robs, burns and murders. A new method, to be sure, in the art of war! A noble hero arisen to win the admiration of Christendom.

We trust that the above orders of this poor craven, whom Jackson so badly whipped at McDowell, and who now wins victories over the unarmed, will reach Europe, that the world may fully understand the enormity which marks the conduct of our foe. The lash of public and universal scorn, will make its abiding mark upon them.

For the Virginian.

ABINGDON, Dec 15, 1862.

Messrs. Coale & Barr:—At a meeting of citizens at the Court House, on Saturday last, including several of the Magistrates of the county, it was the sense of those assembled, that the undersigned, who had been appointed by the County Court of Washington, at its last term, County Agent, to receive and distribute the 2,250 bushels of Salt now ready for distribution at the Works, should proceed to do so. The Salt is to be distributed at the rate of 6 1/2 pounds to the head, and that the firm at Saltville, who have undertaken to distribute this Salt, may know how much each head of a family is entitled to receive, I have requested, and do hereby renew the request, that the agents appointed by the County Court at the July term, to give certificates to the citizens of their respective civil districts, proceed at once to give certificates to the heads of families, each as to the number of persons in each family, and then they will draw at the Saltworks 6 1/2 lbs. to the head—the whole amount to be ascertained by multiplying the 6 1/2 lbs. by the number of persons in each family. In enumerating the persons in each family, old and young, black and white, should all be counted, but no sojourners merely or transient persons, or mere boarders. It is intended for the actual citizens only and their families. The members of the families in the army are not to be enumerated, only the members of the family

at home can be properly enumerated for the purpose of this distribution.

Where there is a wife and two or three or more small children at home, I think the husband absent in the army might be included in the count for the purpose of this distribution, but I hope the agents in the several districts will be particular not to permit themselves to be imposed on by any exaggerated enumeration of the persons composing the respective families of their several districts.

This salt will cost the consumers three dollars per bushel, or six cents per pound, at the Works.

The agents in the several civil districts should keep a record of the certificates issued by them.

Very respectfully,
JNO. N. HUMES.

HORNER'S LETTER--No. 2.

BEAR CREEK, WISE CO., VA.,
Dec. 16th, 1862.

Mr. Coale & Barr—I felt a little mad and a little sorry both, about as much one as tother and more too, when I got two of your papers after I sent you my first letter, and didn't find it in either on 'em. I wish you had a printed it as soon as you got it, for I've a great work to do, and not much time to do it in, and it won't do me no good to stand up at the last day and say it wasn't my fault, for I ought to a begun long ago, and then my letters would a bin printed before now. But you did print the letter at last, and I'm surprised to hear that some people got riled at it, and wanted to bet fifty dollars that one of you rit it. I don't know whether that was a compliment to you or me, but I think I can rite my own letters without axin you or anybody else to help me. I don't know what right anybody had to git mad and bite himself, for I didn't name nobody, but one or two fellers thought the cap would fit 'em, and put it on without being axed to. One feller sed he didn't take it to hisself at all, but it ment somebody, and was a scandal. I'm glad he felt it, if he does think it didn't mean him, and it reminds me of what old Dr. Blunderbuss used to say about salts—it won't do no good unless it makes a rummus in the inards, and gives a feller the whanglappers. I don't exactly understand the meaning of that word, for its Latin or Irish, I don't know which, but it expresses my meanin whether I understand or not. So if the letter didn't mean that feller, it gin him the whanglappers, and that's all I wanted.

Well, after my adventure in the cellar and the Government office, I knocked round a good deal, to see how things was workin on your side generally. I went into a store, where a man had a claw of tobacco in his mouth about as big as a hen egg, and ses I to him, ses I, what have you got to sell? Not much of nothin, ses he, walupin the tobacco round in his mouth like a dumplin bilin in a pot, but I've got a little sich as it is. What do you ax for that calico with a red stripe in it, ses I? A dollar and a half a yard, ses he. Why, ses I, it looks old and rusty, as if you mout a had it before the war, when sich goods sold for a nincepence. What if I did, ses he, is that any reason why I shouldn't have the rise of the market? In course it is, ses I, unless you're prepared to argy that extortion is right. I don't call that extortion, ses he, but a fair and honest way of dealin. The article is worth what I ax because it is scarce, and can't be replaced for three or four times what it cost me before the war. That reason won't do at all, ses I, unless it's right for a man to ax all he can git under any circumstances. You're axin me more than a thousand per cent. for what you'd a bin glad to sell at fifty per cent. a year or two ago, and if that aint extortion, I don't understand the Bible and old Lincoln aint a Yankee, that's all. He wulped the tobacco round on t'other side of his countenance, put his hands in his britches pockets and walked off whistlin Hall Columby, and I started out believein that it was as true as preachin what the man with the dirty face and speckles told me, that I hadn't seen the worst extortioners by a jugful.

I next went up some steps where they had books, and paper, and bluin, and combs, and pins, and so forth, to sell. There was a mity sharp-set lookin little feller there, that didn't have much to say, but like the Dutchman's owl, he seemed to be bissy thinkin, and walkin about and lookin at his feet, as if he didn't know whether they was feet or two twin toads that had happened into the house. See here, ses I, what do you ax for bluin? A dollar a ounce, ses he. And what do ax for them louse-traps, ses I? A dollar and a half a piece, ses he, lookin sorter sour to be questioned. See here, my little man, ses I, have you got any heart in you, or is it all gizzard? He staitened up, and looked sorter sideways at me like a turkey lookin at a snake, and ses he if you don't like the price you needn't buy the indigo nor the comb nuther. If you don't keep 'em to sell, ses I, why in the devil don't you take your sign down, and then nobody won't be fooled? Jist then in come a man with black clothes on like a preacher, with speckles on the end of his nose and a crooked cane in his hand, and flew round like a kitten after his tail. I soon seed that he was boss of that shop, and I thought I'd see what he was made of. See here, Mister, ses I, can't you sell a feller a louse-trap for less than a dollar and a half? No, ses he, it's mity high, I know, but they cost me high, and I'm obliged to sell 'em high, to make both ends meet. You mout do that, and ax a heap less than a dollar and a half, ses I. But I can't ses he, and if gentlemn don't like the price, they aint obliged to buy. But they are, ses I, for I've bin here till I'm gittin lousy, and nobody else aint got no traps. That aint my fault, ses he, and if you can't stand my price, you'll have to take your crawlin cattle home with you and cross the breed. I wasn't goin to be insulted that way, and so ses I to him, ses I, if everybody was like you and that feller down the street with five or six chaws of tobacco in his mouth, the Yankees would a whipped us long ago, and we'd now be a subjugged people. He walked off singin,

That mercy I to others show
Is plenty good for me,
and I scooted out with my hand on my pocket-book.

Well, after these troubles, I got out General Jackson, and thought I'd take a turn among the country people, to see if I couldn't find some linsy. I heard that Mrs. Skinfint had a heap. So I went to her house, and after sayin howdy and talkin a little, ses I Mrs. Skinfint, what do you think of the times—awful, isn't they? Mity hard, ses she, people is axin sich enormous prices for things. I don't know what you think, Mr. Horner, but it's my notion the bad place aint half big anuff for the people that'll have to go there, and sometimes I think the bad man will have to git up a revival before a heap of people will be fit to go there, for they're wuss than he wants

'em to be. Them's my sentiments, ses I, for they axed me twenty dollars for boots, twelve dollars for shoes, a dollar and a half for calico, and a dollar and a half for a louse-trap in town. 'Taint possible, ses she—why where do they expect to die when they go to! I tell you, Mister Horner, sich people ought to be hung, for they're ruinin the country and helpin the Yankees to whip us as fast as they can. They all ought to be in—, you know where I mean, Mr. Horner. And sayin, them's my sentiments, Mrs. Skinfint, and you're the woman I loves to deal with. Have you any jeans to sell, ses I, for I want to git Bednige a pair of britches, bein as how he's in the wars fightin for independence, and is nearly naked. Why yes, ses she, but as you say the times is mity hard, cotton hard to git, and bluin hard to git, and you know I can't afford to sell jeans like I used to. Yes, ses I, that's true, and you ought to have double for it. Double, indeed, ses she—if I don't git six times what I used to, I'll keep it, that's all. Keep cool, Mrs. Skinfint, ses I, and let's reason together. Reason, indeed; ses she, nobody never made a livin by reasonin yit. Well, then, ses I, let's figger a little. How much jeans have you got, ses I? Fifty yards, ses she. How much wool did it take, and how much was it worth, ses I? It took 25 lbs. ses she, and it was worth a dollar a pound. All right, ses I, that's \$25. What did the cardin cost? It cost 15 cents a pound, ses she, and that's \$3.75. What did the dye-stuffs cost? They cost \$3.50, ses she. What was the spinnin worth, ses I? About \$12.50 ses she. What was the weavin worth? That was worth \$12.50 too, ses she. And what was the colorin worth? About \$5, ses she. Very well, ses I, now let's add all this up:

Twenty-five lbs. Wool.....	\$25 00
Cardin.....	3 75
Dye-stuffs.....	3 50
Spinnin.....	12 50
Weavin.....	12 50
Colorin.....	5 00

Makin in all, \$62 25
for fifty yards of jeans, which, accordin to my way of calculatin, and I larnt it in Pike, is jist \$1.25 a yard, and you want to ax me six dollars a yard, makin a clear gain of four dollars and 3 quarters on each yard of jeans, or nearly three hundred and fifty per cent. Now let me tell you, Mrs. Skinfint, don't you never talk about extortioners no more, for you're the worst one I've come across yit. Take keer you aint a subject of that revival you was talkin about awhile ago, and it wout be well for you to consider where you expect to die when you go to yourself, without troublin yourself about other people.

This sot me to reflectin. There is our poor soldiers, away off where blood is runnin like water, fightin for these very people that's axin sich prices, and their families at home sufferin for the necessities of life. And the soldiers themselves is sufferin too, and often have to lay down at night on the cold ground without anything to eat, after fightin all day. I have heard that they had to do like the old revolutionary soldiers away down on the Waxlaws, to keep from starvin—that is to tighten their belts every once in a while, and shrink their guts up till they aint bigger than pipe-stems, and then they don't want much vittils. But I must stop.

So no more at present, but yours till death,
MESIACH HORNER.

Convention of North Carolina Manufacturers.

The manufacturers of the State of North Carolina held a convention at Greensboro', on Wednesday, December 3, which was presided over by C. P. Mendenhall of the Union Manufacturing Company. The Convention was attended by representatives of all the manufacturing establishments in the State, and was addressed by Gov. Vance.

The committee appointed to draft resolutions submitted, through their chairman, the following, which were agreed to:

Resolved, That we will sell all the products of our several mills at a profit not exceeding 75 per cent.; and further, that we give the orders of the State the preference.

Resolved, That we will use our best endeavors to discourage speculation in factory fabrics, and to secure this end we will sell in quantities to such agents only as will prevent them reaching the hands of the speculators.

Resolved, That we believe the following prices are in conformity at present with the Exemption Act, to wit: 44 sheetings, 35 cents per yard; cotton yarn, No. 5's to 6's, at \$3 52 per bunch of 5 lbs.; No. 8's to 10's at \$3 50; No. 11's to 12's at \$3 75.

The Bogus "State" Government in Western Virginia—Message from "Governor" Pierpont—Cartile Called upon to Resign.

The scheme hatched up by "Governor" Pierpont of a Yankee Government in Western Virginia is in full blast, as will be seen by the following dispatch:

WHEELING, VA., Saturday, Dec. 6.

The State Senate to-day passed a preamble and resolution setting forth that Mr. Cartile had violated the instructions of the body that elected him, in failing to sustain the legitimate efforts of the Government to suppress the insurrection, in opposing by his votes and speeches in and out of the Senate measures absolutely necessary to the preservation of the Union, and enforcement of the laws, and in opposing the admission of the new State of Western Virginia into the Union, and requesting him to resign his seat in the U. S. Senate.

The resolution will come up in the House on Monday, and probably pass by a large majority.

In the House to-day, a resolution was offered requesting the United States House of Representatives to pass the new State bill now pending before it without alteration or amendment. It will come up on Monday, and pass by nearly a unanimous vote.

Governor Pierpont's message endorses the emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln.

Resignation of Frank P. Blair.
The Hon. Frank P. Blair, Jr., has resigned his seat in the present Congress in order to take command of a brigade at Helena, Arkansas.

The steam frigate Vanderbilt returned to New York November 30th, after an unsuccessful cruise of 4,000 miles in search of the Alabama.

Col. J. F. Farnsworth, of the Illinois cavalry, has been nominated a Brigadier General.