

**"Meshach Horner."**  
This writer—his communication appears on our first page—has a long, sharp coultter and he ploughs a long furrow.  
The writer, however, is a patron of our paper, and as such, has a claim upon our columns. Any patron of ours who may object to the communication, or any thing else we may publish, shall have the benefit of a hearing through the same medium, provided he is pertinent, respectful and not too tedious, of all of which we are to be the judge.

We are in receipt of a well-written communication from Russell county, calling upon Col. A. C. Cummings to announce himself a candidate for Congress. There are circumstances of which the writer perhaps had not thought when he wrote his article, that would prevent the Colonel from being a candidate, if he should have no other reasons for declining. Under these circumstances, it would be useless to insert the communication.

Winter still lingers in the lap of Spring. On Wednesday morning, the first day of April, we had quite a respectable snow, and upon the neighboring mountains it was quite deep. It makes one exceedingly chilly to see the flowers peeping up from under their snowy covering. We hope this will be the last of an almost continuous fall of snow from the 20th of October to the 1st of April.

Capt. Williams, one of the Conductors on the Va. & Tenn. road, met with a very serious injury on Tuesday last, near Martin's Station. An accident occurred to an axle of one of the cars, in repairing which, Captain Williams was violently struck with an iron lever with which the hands were prizing up the car, thoughtlessly letting it go, which broke his arm and otherwise injured him.

The Chattanooga Rebel learns that Mrs. Gen. Bragg, whose life had been despaired of, and whom the Yankee journals report as deceased, is convalescent.

In our article upon the Salt question last week, we were mistaken as to the passage of the joint resolutions introduced by Mr. Armstrong.

We regret to hear of the death of Corporal Jeremiah B. Gubble, of his brother's Company, 48th Regiment. He died of Typhoid Pneumonia, in camp, in Carolina county, Va., on the 22d of March, after an illness of five days.

We have been requested to state that the Rev. Mr. Wharton, of the Baptist Church at Bristol, will preach at the Methodist Episcopal Church in this place, on Sunday next, at 11 o'clock, and in the Presbyterian Church at night.

We have been requested to state that Mr. Meshach's school will be resumed in the Lebanon Academy on Monday, the 13th inst.

**The Salt Question.**  
The Legislature of Virginia, during its last session of deliberation, had before it the salt question. The following contract was made, ratified by the Senate, and we presume also by the House. We hope this may prove advantageous to the people, but we think the proposition of Stuart, Buchanan & Co., would have been better, or even that of Col. Clarkson. Our own opinion is, that this arrangement will make salt higher than it ever has been, and in addition, we will be deprived of the benefit of county contracts, and every man will have to look out for himself.

**General Assembly of Virginia.**  
FRIDAY EVENING, March 27, 1863.

SENATE.—The Senate assembled at 8 o'clock, having paid due observance of the day. The ratification of the salt contract being the business in order, the whole matter was brought before the body in the following contract and articles of agreement, entered into between Stuart, Buchanan & Co. and the joint committee appointed from the two Houses of the General Assembly:

The said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. agree to lease to the Commonwealth, for the term of one year fully to be completed, commencing on the 1st day of April, 1863, and ending one year thereafter, or after the day on which possession is actually given, the following property, viz:

1. A portion, from 100 to 200 acres, convenient to the "river works" of a certain tract of land known as the "Preston estate," for agricultural purposes, which is to be laid off by the arbitrators hereinafter provided for.

2. The ten furnaces, counting the double furnace as two, four of which are now leased and operated by Friend, Clarkson, Kelley & Gardner, and four known as the river works, including the conduits, fixtures, tools used in connection with said furnaces, the dwelling houses and stables at the "river works," and all the stables and out houses at the upper works under the control of Stuart, Buchanan & Co.; and the said Commonwealth shall have the privilege of cutting, quarrying and carrying away from any of the lands owned by Palmer and Stuart, outside of the Preston and King estates, or either of them, stone, wood and timber, and an equal right with the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co., under their lease, to cut, quarry and remove stone wood and timber from the King estate and the Preston estate; but the lease of the four furnaces now held by Friend, Clarkson, Kelley & Gardner is subject to the contract of lease between them and Stuart, Buchanan & Co. and the State assumes the position of said lessors as to said lease. Said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. also bind themselves to pump to the surface and furnish to the Commonwealth, salt water sufficient to supply and keep in continued operation, the said ten furnaces, to their full boiling capacity; and this stipulation means

and intends, that said supply of brine to the said ten furnaces is to be prior to any other supply to be furnished to any other contracting party, and prior to any right of use of brine by said Stuart, Buchanan & Co.; but it is expressly agreed by the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. that the Commonwealth may lease or transfer to any other person the property and privileges hereby intended to be leased or conveyed, and that the sub lessees or transferees shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges hereby conveyed to the Commonwealth. Said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. agree to sell and deliver to the Commonwealth one-half of all the wagons, harnesses, horses, mules, sacks, provisions, forage, and other personal property owned by them and needful for the manufacture and distribution of salt; also one-half of all the wood now cut and in their possession, or contracted for and out and intended to be used by them for the manufacture of salt; also, to deliver to the Commonwealth all the slaves of Col. J. H. Clarkson hired by them, and one-half of all other slaves hired by them, at the same rate of hire for the residue of the year at which they the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. have hired them; and the Commonwealth agrees to assume all their liabilities as to said slaves. It is further agreed that said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. shall allow to said Commonwealth good and convenient ways to and from said furnaces together with wood-yards and appurtenances, affording ample space for conveniently operating said ten furnaces.

And the said parties of the first and of the second parts being, unable to agree upon the price to be paid by the Commonwealth for the foregoing lease and purchase and other privileges, do hereby mutually agree that the same shall be submitted to the arbitrators and award of three disinterested citizens of the Commonwealth, or a majority of them; one of whom shall be chosen by the Commonwealth or her authorized agent, and one by the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co.; and the two so chosen to select a third; and if any of the said arbitrators should die, fail or decline to act, his place shall be supplied in the manner in which he was originally selected; and the parties of the first part agree that the sum thus ascertained by the said board, each one of whom shall be sworn before proceeding to act, shall be paid in Confederate currency to the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. whenever the value is so ascertained and possession delivered; and they, the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co., do agree to receive the same in full discharge of this contract to the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. by the Commonwealth; but the Commonwealth reserves the right to impress the whole of the property hereby intended to be conveyed, if the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. shall not in good faith execute this contract in all its parts.

Witness the following signatures:  
R. A. COCHILL,  
Ch'n of Senate Committee.  
H. B. TOMLIN,  
Ch'n of House Committee.  
STUART, BUCHANAN & CO.

**Editors of Virginia:**  
If Capt. George Graham, of the unyielding old 37th, will consent to become a candidate for a seat in the next Legislature of Virginia, he will receive the votes of many of his friends at home, of both the old political parties, who respect him for his native merit, who esteem him as one of Washington county's brightest examples of self-sacrificing patriotism, and who will rally to him with the same hearty good will, that he rallied to our flag and sustained our cause in thirteen of the bloody battles under his veteran Stone Wall chief.  
MANY VOTERS.

**Editors of Virginia:**  
If Dr. R. E. Grant, of Wytheville, Va., will declare himself a candidate for a seat in the Senate of Virginia, he will receive the support of  
MANY VOTERS OF WASHINGTON CO.

**To Gen. John B. Floyd.**  
Will you, in these times, which call for our wisest counsellors, serve us again in the Va. Legislature? Washington county—your home—needs your services there.  
VOX POPULI VOX DEI.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, March 23d, 1863.

Messrs. Editors:—The time is approaching when we will be called upon to select our representatives to our State Legislature, and we respectfully urge that Lt. Col. D. C. DUNN—who has served us in the field and in the Legislative Hall, for the past two years—announce himself a candidate to represent old Washington, in the next General Assembly of Virginia.

We hope, Messrs. Editors, that patriots in the field, will receive the support of all true men, as we feel it our duty to do, in the case of Col. DUNN.

S. E. G. Carmack, J. Lewis,  
S. R. Bridges, E. M. Kesner,  
T. B. Goodman, Isaac Lewis,  
E. B. Vance, J. Rust,  
W. Friend, T. Houser,  
C. Smith, A. E. Lewis,  
I. M. Gore, E. Vaughn,  
C. M. Dye, W. Meridith,  
J. S. A. Fleming, And 18 others.

The following bill has been presented in the Virginia Legislature. It is clear and to the point, and rings like a dinner bell! The mover has struck the right idea—we hope it will prevail.—*Lynchburg Republican.*

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, That if any person buy any article of food (including salt) for man or beast, and withhold the same from market, or ask and receive more than five per centum commission or profit on cost and transportation, such person shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and shall forfeit the article so bought, one-half to the informer, and the other to the Commonwealth; provided, that this act shall not apply to market men collecting supplies for daily consumption, or to any person bringing such food from beyond the Confederate army lines, or purchasers for family consumption. This act shall be in force from its passage and continue during the war.

**Auction Sale of Confederate Bonds, &c.**  
RICHMOND, March 28.—At auction to-day Confederate bonds, fifteen million loan, sold at 135. Large advance on the hundred million loan; long date hundred, at from two to two and a half.  
Brokers selling gold at four hundred premium. Bank note seventy.

**Latest from the North.**  
Burnside sent to Ohio—Skirmishing in Kentucky—Reported Recapture of the Indianola—Fight at Bentwood Station, Tenn.—Reported Death of Mrs. Gen. Bragg, Schooner Captured—The New State of Virginia Constitution Ratified—Years of Rebel Invasion in Kentucky—Burnside to Command in Kentucky—Another Rebel Steamer Out.

PETERSBURG, March 29.—New York dates of the 27th received. Burnside has been assigned the command of the Department of Ohio.

There was skirmishing on the 24th and the day before between Federal cavalry and a Rebel advance south of Kentucky River. Rebel advance variously estimated from thirty-five hundred to ten thousand. Confidence is felt in the ability of the Federals to repel the invasion.

The non-arrival of the Frankfort train at Louisville on the twenty-sixth had caused much anxiety.

A despatch from Memphis dated 26th says, Farragut's vessels recaptured "Indianola" at Hard Times Bend without resistance.

The fight at Bentwood Station, Tenn., resulted in a Yankee loss of fifteen killed, wounded and missing. The Rebels lost same number, but left 42 prisoners.

Van Dorn conducted the fight with fifteen thousand men.

Another despatch received at Philadelphia, represents Rebel loss as much greater than above stated, and the Federal loss less.

A Rebel deserter at Murfreesboro says, the wife of Gen'l Bragg died at Tallahoma on the 23d.

The Rebel schooner Lightning was captured by the Bienville, two hours out from Port Royal.

The Willey amendment and Constitution of the new State of Virginia, was ratified on the 26th by an almost unanimous vote.

Lincoln and his friends at Washington, were never more encouraged since the beginning of the Rebellion than now.

Guthrie has made earnest protestations to Lincoln concerning the removal of all Kentucky troops from that State, and exposing the people to more rebel raids. Burnside's corps will fill the vacancy in Kentucky.

The Herald says the idea of French intervention may now be considered at an end.

The fine steamer "Banshee" lying at Queenstown was lately preparing either to run the blockade, or for direct service under the Rebel Government. She is steel plated and said to be very fast.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

**Death of Maj. Gen. Sumner!**

130,000 Deserters from the Federal Army—Two more Rebel Steamers launched in England.

RICHMOND, March 29th, 10 P. M.—The Examiner has Northern dates to the 25th:

The Herald announces the death of Maj. Gen. Sumner; his body was removed to City Hall on the 24th, and visited by thousands.

The General Committee of Mozart Hall Democrats, unanimously voted resolutions extremely opposed to the war policy of the government.

The Tribune says there are one hundred and thirty thousand deserters from the Federal army. Burnside has gone to the West to succeed Gen. Wright; he will have his headquarters at St. Louis.

The Paris correspondent of the London News of the 6th of March, says, the issue of Letters of Marque by Lincoln has caused great impression there, also notices as significant that the Moniteur copied from an English paper, an article advocating prompt recognition of the South.

Two Anglo Chinese steamers, so called, have been launched by Messrs. Laird at Birmingham for the service of the Rebels.

**Attempt to Pass the Batteries at Vicksburg.**

The Yankees Again Fail.

The Enemy Again Before Fort Pemberton.

MOBILE, March 27.—A special dispatch to the Appeal dated Vicksburg, March 25th, says:

"At five o'clock this morning, four boats were seen advancing towards our upper batteries. A vigorous fire was opened upon them, driving back two of them. The other two passed under a racking fire, almost every shot taking effect. One of them received a shot in her steam-chest compelling her to desert, and in fifteen minutes she filled and sunk. Part of her crew escaped to the opposite shore. The boat that escaped is supposed to have been the Benton. She was badly disabled, one shot having penetrated her steam drum, disabling her so badly that the Albattross had to come up and tow her out of danger of our guns."

The Appeal says that the intelligence that the enemy appeared again in front of Fort Pemberton on Monday is confirmed, but the result is unknown.

**NORTHERN NEWS BY WATSON MEMPHIS.**

PANOLA, Miss. March 24.—The Memphis Bulletin of the 21st says, that Louisville is to be fortified, and citizens sympathizing with the Confederates are to be paroled. The Betty Gilmer and crew were captured on Green River. The Confederates had occupied Trenton, Kentucky.

A dispatch states that Fort Pemberton can not be attacked by infantry. The Confederate force there is estimated at six thousand. It is also stated that Fort Bruce was passed. No danger is apprehended between here and Yazoo City.

The next news, it was supposed, would be flattering.

The sale of fire-arms had been prohibited in Indianapolis.

Five small boats had arrived at Cold Water with re-inforcements. The position of the enemy was unknown.

The Mississippi was falling at Memphis.

**From Jacksonville, Fla.**

SAVANNAH, March 26.—The Yankees came out of Jacksonville to the distance of three miles yesterday. They burnt a number of houses and tore up several miles of railroad. We opened fire and they hurried off. They are coming out again to-day, and a considerable fight is expected.

**From Fort Pemberton.**  
MOBILE, March 25.—The Jackson Appeal of the 24th has a letter, dated Fort Pemberton, March 21st, which says that occasional booming of cannon up the river tells us the batteries are after the Yankees.

The Chilloothie is left almost a wreck.—Her quarter-gunner's body has been found. He was killed by a shot from one of our heavy guns, after passing through both of the iron milled sides.

Gen. Loring called the engagement the Tallahatchie.

The Appeal says the repulse of the enemy in their attempts to enter the surf of the lower river has been definitely ascertained. The fleet was driven back and a number of their barges captured.

The enemy, it is reported, have made another advance against Fort Pemberton, with increased strength. Every effort will be made to defeat them, as the importance of holding the position appears to be appreciated by our authorities.

**From Middle Tennessee.**

CHATTANOOGA, March 25.—All quiet. There has been no fighting since Morgan's engagement at Liberty.

The Federals still occupy Murfreesboro.

Our scouts are in Lebanon, and operating along the south bank of the Cumberland river, from Lebanon to Stone's river.

Accounts from the north of the Cumberland, report the Federals destroying all the farming implements, and foraging the whole country. The inhabitants are compelled to hide their provisions.

Five thousand Federal infantry occupy Gallatin, and the Louisville road is strongly guarded.

It is reported that the Federals have destroyed Stone's river railroad, and the turnpike bridges between Murfreesboro and Nashville.

**Capture of 800 Yankee Prisoners.**

ARMS, &c., BY GEN. FORREST.

CHATTANOOGA, March 27.

The Rebel has received the following dispatch, dated Columbia, 26th:

General Forrest captured yesterday, at Brentwood, 9 miles in the rear of Franklin, 800 prisoners, arms, ammunition, &c. He also destroyed a large house of commissary stores, burned the railroad bridge, tore up the track, and captured seventeen loaded wagons.

**Further from General Morgan's Late Fight.**

CHATTANOOGA, March 27.

Nothing additional from the front to-day.

An official report from Gen. Morgan of his late fight states that it lasted six hours, and that he drove the enemy two miles, where they were heavily reinforced and held their position.

Morgan says his loss in officers was heavy.

2d DISPATCH.

AUGUSTA, March 28.

A special dispatch to the Augusta Constitutional and Sentinel, dated McMinnville, Tenn., March 27th, says:

General Morgan had a severe fight with the Federals near Milton, March 20th, which lasted five hours. The Federals were driven back eight miles. Our loss was fifteen killed and seventy-five wounded. The Federal loss was about twice that number; they advanced to draw our forces from Liberty, but they were compelled to fall back to Murfreesboro.

**Exploit of Gen. Forrest.**

RICHMOND, March 28.—The following dispatch was received this morning, dated Tallahoma, March 27th:

To Gen. S. Cooper—

Gen. Van Dorn reports that Forrest made a successful visit to Brentwood with his division, burnt the bridge, destroyed all the property and arms, and captured 800 prisoners including thirty-five officers. Our loss three killed and five wounded.

(Signed) BRAXTON BRAGG.

**From Tennessee.**

Destruction of Property, &c., by the Enemy.

KNOXVILLE, March 28.

The report of the capture of the Federal General Carter's Brigade, by Humphrey Marshall, is not confirmed.

The Knoxville Register has received the following special dispatch, dated War Trace, March 27th:

There is daily skirmishing on the Shelbyville pike. The enemy's videttes are 43 miles from Murfreesboro, picketed at Stone's river. It is believed that the enemy are moving a heavy force on our left flank, in the direction of Columbia. Their object is, doubtless, to form a junction with Grant, and cause the Confederates to fall back to Bridgeport.

The enemy are devastating the country, burning fences, killing stock, forcing off the negroes, and stealing generally.

The train ran off the track between this point and Shelbyville; also, between here and Bridgeport. No lives lost.

**From Charleston.**

CHARLESTON, March 29.—All quiet. The weather is dark and raining.

Rumors of the enemy's approach prevail, but there is nothing authentic. It is also reported that the incoming steamer Aries was captured last night.

**Congressional.**

RICHMOND, March 31.

SENATE.

The Senate to-day passed the Senate Bill increasing the pay of chaplains in the army; increasing the compensation of route agents and Special agents of the P. O. Dept. to provide and organize a General Staff for the army in the field; to prevent the absence of officers and soldiers without leave, and to authorize newspapers to be mailed to Soldiers free of charge.

The House agreed to substitute its own exemption Bill for that of the Senate, but adjourned without coming to a vote on its passage.

Hon. John Blair died at his residence in Jonesborough, Tenn., on the evening of the 23d. He was the representative of that district for many years in both branches of the State Legislature, and for sixteen years in the Congress of the United States.

**Sales of Negroes in South Carolina.**—Mr. John S. Riggs sold in South Carolina, last week, thirty negroes, among whom were nine small children, two old men and two old women, for the sum of \$33,365, being an average of \$1,112. One man sold as high as \$2,350.—*Rebel.*

Hon. THOS. S. FLOURNOY has announced himself a candidate for Governor, in response to a letter addressed to him by a number of gentlemen requesting him to do so.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

We are authorized to announce Ex-Gov. McMULLIN a candidate to represent this District in the next Confederate Congress.

**To the Voters of the 13th Congressional District of Virginia.**—I announce myself a candidate for the second Congress of the Confederate States. You were pleased to elect me your representative in the first. I have endeavored to discharge my duty. My action has been directed to the promotion of the efficiency of the army; the increase of comfort to the soldier; the protection of the rights of the citizen; the sustaining of the currency of the government; the adoption of all measures calculated to secure an honest administration of the finances by government officers. In the judgment which you will shortly be called upon to pronounce upon my official conduct, I only ask that it may be based upon what I HAVE DONE, and not upon what others may say I have done. WALTER PRESTON.

We are authorized to announce S. D. NEWBERRY, a candidate to represent Russell, and parts of Wise and Buchanan counties, in the next Legislature of Virginia.

We are requested to announce Col. A. W. SMITH a candidate to represent the counties of Russell and parts of Wise and Buchanan, in the Legislature of Virginia.

We are authorized to announce W. K. KINDEATK a candidate to represent Russell and parts of Wise and Buchanan, in the next Legislature of Virginia.

We are requested to announce Capt. A. R. RUSSELL, as a candidate to represent Lee county in the House of Delegates in the next Legislature of Virginia.

We are requested to announce ANDREW P. COLE a candidate to represent the counties of Washington, Smyth and Wythe in the next Senate of Virginia.

**MARRIAGES.**

Married, in this county, on Thursday evening, the 20th of March, by Rev. Mr. Reese, Capt. JAMES E. BRANT, 37th Regt. Va. Vols., and Miss NEWBY C. MOCK, daughter of Mr. Henry Mock, all of this county.

Married, in this county, on Tuesday evening, the 21st of March, by Rev. Mr. Reese, Capt. GEORGE GRAMER, 8th Regt. Va. Vols., and Miss REBECCA B. PRESTON, daughter of Col. Thomas M. Preston, all of this county.

**\$50 REWARD.**

STOLEN from my Stable on the South Fork, Washington county, Va., on Tuesday night, the 17th of March, a Boane Horse 8 years old. He has one white hind foot, and a small wart under the right eye, and is in thin order. I will give \$25 for the delivery of the horse to me, and \$25 for the thief. JOHN M. WRIGHT.

April 3, 1863—4

**STOLEN**

FROM my stable, 7 miles Southeast of Abingdon, on Saturday, the 21st day of March, a Bay Mare, heavy with foal, 8 or 9 years old, 15 or 16 hands high, blind in the left eye, left leg swollen round the haw-joint, one foot white around the hoof. She had the distemper and was just getting over it, but was still running under the throat. I will pay \$25 for the delivery of the mare at my house. ADAM ROSENBAUM.

April 3, 1863—8

**WOOL CARDING.**

THE undersigned has rented the Carding Machine from Mrs. Hendricks, at Cedar Mill, two miles from Lebanon, Russell county, Va., where he will card wool into good rolls. As his machine is in first-rate order, and will be kept so, he will do the work with the greatest dispatch. He will card clean white wool at—state, and mixed wool at—cts. Wool will be telled if required. I will also, in a short time, be ready for

**Weaving, Dyeing and Finishing.**

I will weave Satines, Jeans, Linsey, and Blankets. The blankets will be woven three yards wide in one breadth, fulled and finished.

Finishing and dyeing will also be done for customers in the best workman-like manner. As the subscriber is an experienced manufacturer, he hopes to receive a part of the public patronage. JOSEPH SCHWARTZ.

April 3, 1863—3m

**JAMES L. F. CAMPBELL,**

Auctioneer.

HAVING taken license to attend to the sale of all kinds of property, may at all times be found at his home 11 miles west of Abingdon, when not engaged in selling property. Persons desiring his services need only address him at Abingdon, and he will give their business prompt attention. March 27—3t

JONESVILLE, Lee Co., Va., }  
March 13th, 1863. }

NOTICE is hereby given to Thomas Witten, that if he does not come forward immediately and receive the money which I am owing him for the land I purchased of him, I will not pay the same, as I have made a tender of the whole amount to him, and I hereby forewarn the public from purchasing the notes, as I have the right by contract to pay the same at any time, which I have offered to do, and which he refused to receive. ANDREW MILBURN.

March 27, 1863—3w

**BALDWIN'S SQUADRON.**

**COME GET YOUR PAY.**

ALL absentees of my command will report without delay, at my Headquarters, near FALL BRANCH, Tenn., as the Quartermaster is now supplied with means to pay all dues either for service or supplies. Soldiers are required to report with all the accoutrements for service. WM. M. BALDWIN, Capt. Com'd Squadron, &c.

March, 27th 1863—2w