ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1858.

We are pleased to see it stated, that in the course of Senator Jeff. Davis's speech, on Independence Day, on board the steamer from Baltimore to Boston, he declared that this "great country will continue united." "Trifling politicians in the South, or in the North, or in the West, may continue to talk otherwise, but it will be of no avail. They are like the mosquitoes around the ox—they annoy, but they cannot wound, and never kill. There was a common interest which runs through all the diversified occupations and various products of these sovereign States; there was a common sentiment of nationality which beat in every American bosom; there were common memories sweet to us all, and though clouds had occasionally darkened our political sky, the good sense and the good feeling of the people had thus far averted any catastrophe destructive of our Constitution and the Union. It was in fraternity, and an elevation of principle which rose superior to sectional or individual aggrandizement, that the foundations of our Union were laid; and if we, the present generation, be worthy of our ancestry, we shall not only protect those foundations from destruction, but build higher and wider this temple of liberty, and inscribe perpetuity upon its tables." In the course of his beautiful speech, Senator Davis passed a noble eulogium on our mother country, and dwelt on the many reasons why the most cordial friendship should be maintained with her.

A correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch speaking of the Address delivered by Hon. Willoughby Newton, of Westmoreland, before the Literary Societies of the Virginia Military Institute, says:—"He chose as his theme, "Virginia as it was, as it is, and as it will be." The address is spoken of as a superior intellectual production, but the sentiments contained in it, being avowedly and distinctly in favor of Disunion, found but a weak response in the large and intelligent audience. The public, however, will have an opportunity to read and criticise it for themselves, and it will be a matter of great surprise and regret if there are more than a corporal's guard, in this good old commonwealth of ours, who are ready, at this late day, to adopt the views and opinions of the distinguished orator."

The National Intelligencer enumerates the various mail facilities from the Atlantic to Pacific, recently established, which must soon develop the riches of the intermediate country, and contribute largely and immediately to the wealth, population, and general prosperity of California, Oregon, and Washington. The establishment of these six or eight great overland routes will be well calculated to throw a flood of light on the great question over what particular route a railroad shall hereafter be constructed, when the country shall have recovered from its present pecuniary embarrassments.

Lord Malmesbury read to the British House of Lords on the 24th ult., official papers received from the French Government relative to the shipment of negroes, and subsequent mutiny and murders, on board the emigrant ship Regina Cœli. A sensation was produced by a statement that the negroes had passports from the President of Liberia, who requested the French captain to trade there, and took the head money for the passports to the blacks. Earl Grey and Lord Brougham expressed their conviction of the evils attending the system of "free emigration" adopted by the French Government. Lord Malmesbury's speech caused annoyance in high quarters in France. According to a Paris letter, instructions had been sent to the Duke of Malakoff to demand explanations. The leading London papers assert that Doctor Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, Lord Brougham, and the Exeter Hall people generally, injure the cause of the negro as well as the prosperity of the British colonies, by their fanatical advocacy of an impracticable rule for the abolition of slavery.

Notice is taken of the fact, that in all that has been said about the administration of James Monroe, during the late ceremonies, not a single allusion was made to a distinguished New Yorker, who twice served with him as Vice-President. It is the more singular because the close of both their lives was marked by the pressure of adverse pecuniary circumstances, a marked loss of personal consequence with the people, and yet great though tardily expressed regrets. Daniel D. Tompkins at one time was the idol of the democratic party in New York, and popular with it throughout the Union."

The New York custom-house reports for the year ending on the 30th June, show a great falling off in the imports, and consequently a serious diminution of the revenue. In 1856 the total of the imports at New York amounted to $17,961,657; in 1857, to $15,339,126; and in 1858 to only $10,116,442.—This exhibits a falling off to the extent of forty per cent. in the chief source of revenue, and shows that the necessity for loans to meet even the ordinary wants of Government, is likely to exist for a year to come.

It seems that Judge Eckles, Chief Justice of Utah, has had great difficulty in his attempt to organize Courts and administer justice in that territory. He is "solitary and alone," as far as the Judiciary are concerned. The army is moving into Salt Lake Valley. Judge Eckles will accompany it; but what can he do there? He cannot hold Supreme Court, for neither of his associates are there; he cannot hold District Court there, because it is not his district. Where are Judges Potter and Sinclair?

China advices are dated at Hong Kong on the 5th of May. The inhabitants of Canton were leaving the city, and a general outbreak prevailed. Hong Kong city was much injured by the bursting of a water spout over it. Trade was dull at Shanghae, and silks had fallen in price.

The Boston Transcript states that letters had been received in that city from Sebastopol, dated May 24, which report the work of raising the sunken Russian fleet progressing rapidly, and with remarkable success.

The Fairfax News contains a graphic and interesting acount of the celebration of Independence day, at Fairfax Court House.—It says of Rev. Mr. Manning's address that throughout it was replete with noble truths, wise maxims, and beautiful thoughts, and was delivered with an ease and grace and fervor which captivated every listener. The oration delivered by Mr. Brooks is also highly complimented, as an able and eloquent production. Mr. Blincoe's prefatory remarks to the Declaration of Independence were most appropropriate and in excellent tase. Everything passed off in an admirable manner. At no village in the State is there more patriotism, public spirit, and good feeling, than at Fairfax Court House.

Governor Wise's bearing and sentiments have made a great impression upon the New York Volunteers. Indeed, many of the visiters, whilst eschewing politics on such an occasion, find difficulty in repressing their partisanship for the "man of the eagle eye," as the next Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy.

The St. Louis Republican, of Wednesday, in mentioning the departure of Governor Denver from that city, takes the opportunity to contrradict a recent report that he intends to resign the office of Governor of Kansas.—The Republican says that Mr. Denver will be absent from the Territory only for a short time.

A guard of honor from each of the Richmond Volunteer Companies, accompanied the remains of Mr. Hamilton (one of the New York Volunteers, who was accidentally drowned) to New York, in the steamship from Richmond.

A man has been arrested for murdering his wife, in Chicago—and the principal witness, or the one who has given the most intelligible statement of the circumstance is his own son, a child four years old, who narrates quite clearly the incidents of the affair!

We learn by a communication in the last Clarke County Journal, that the County Court of Clarke has ordered the issue of the Bonds of the County for its subscription of one hundred thousand dollars to the Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad.

The New York National Guard know how to give "cheers," with a will. When Gov. Wise arose to speak, at the dinner, on Monday, they gave him thirty-two hearty rounds, counting by the number of States in the Union.

Two steam boilers in the Manchester Mill, at Providence, R. I., exploded on the 8th inst., killing two men and fatally injuring a third. The damage to the building was about five thousand dollars.

A fire occurred at Fond du Lac, on the 8th inst., which destroyed sixteen buildings. The loss is estimated at $30,000, and the insurance $15,000. The fire was the work of an incendiary, who was arrested.

Legal Decision.

The Evening Post publishes an important decision in the case of John M. Martin vs. the Somerville Water-Power Company, which relates to the security and remedy of bondholders.

Ninety-four bonds of $500 each, payable to bearer, were issued by the Somerville Water-Power Company, of New Jersey, to certain of its creditors, which were secured by a mortgage of its property and franchises to three trustees. The company failed to pay the principal or interest due on four of these bonds owned by the complainant, and certain parties connected with the company procured a sale of its property, free from all incumbrances, by authority of certain acts of the Legislature of New Jersey. In this stage of the affairs of the company, the complainant applied to the trustees to foreclose the mortgage to pay the money due on his bonds, which they refuse to do, and he thereupon filed his bill in equity in the United States Circuit Court to have the acts of the Legislature declared unconstitutional and the sale under them set aside, and for a regular foreclosure of the mortgage and sale of the property to pay all the bonds secured by the mortgage, by whomsoever held.

Judge Grier, of the third circuit, held that the acts of the New Jersey Legislature were an unconstitutional violation of the obligation of the mortgage contract, and that the sale under them was void. Subsequently, upon the case being heard on its merits, the following important questions were raised, and were decided in the opinion of Justice Dickerson:

1st. The negotiability of this class of securities and the rights of the holders of them for value; the question whether this class of securities was in every respect like bills of exchange being a comparatively new one to the Federal courts.

2d. The rights of a pledge of this sort of bonds to sell and dispose of them, and the title acquired by the purchaser at such sale.

3d. The remedy of the holders of such bonds in case of a failure to pay the money due on them, and the refusal of the mortgagee to foreclose for the benefit of the holders.

The plaintiff, by the decision, gained his case.—*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

News Items.

The report of the cholera being in St. Louis, is entirely without foundation.

There are said to be one hundred and fifty visitors at the Montgomery (Va.) White Sulphur springs.

Hon. John M. S. Causin and Richard T. Merrick, esq., two Marylanders are on the committee of reception at Chicago to welcome home Judge Douglas.

The United States consul at Matanzas writes that the yellow fever is prevailing there with an uncommon degree of malignity, and that many American sailors have fallen victims.

The Cadets who recently graduated at West Point have been assigned to their positions in the army as brevet second lieutenants.

Jenny Lind Goldschmidt, with her husband and two children, (son and daughter,) arrived in London during the week ending the 19th ult., with the intention of residing in England for some time.

On Wednesday the trial of James M'Kee, charged with the murder of Prof. Louis Baehr, of Baltimore, was commenced at Pittsburg. The prisoner, on being arraigned, plead "not guilty," and burst into tears.

A Good Idea.

The Examiner informs us that "prayer meetings are now held—many of them daily—in seventeen of the engine houses of the Philadelphia firemen. In cases where there was not a single attendant upon church in an entire company, there have been numerous conversions. No less than seven members of a single company were lately added to the church." When the Southwark and Moyamensing sinners are all converted, suppose the work be commenced with Baltimore, Plug Uglies and New York Dead Rabbits.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Virginia News.

At the late Commencement of the Virginia Military Institute, the exercises of the graduating class were introduced with the salutatory address of Cadet J. F. Neff, of Shenandoah, and closed with the valedictory address by Cadet J. B. Terrill, of Bath. The acting Superintendent, Major Preston, proceeded to deliver Diplomas to the following members of the 1st class: M. B. Hardin, of Alexandria; L. W. Reid, of Alexandria; L. L. Marks, of Petersburg; J. F. Neff, of Shenandoah; N. C. Wilson, of Rockbridge; M. McDonald, of Hampshire; W. E. Catshaw, of Jefferson; J. M. Kincheloe, of Fauquier; H. B. Meade, of Amelia; T. S. Taylor, of Franklin; F. C. Edmonds, of Alexandria; G. E. Tayloe, of Roanoke; T. L. Pitts, of Richmond; J. T. Hairston, of Henry; Samuel Wilson, of Surry; J. B. Terrill, of Bath; J. Armistead, of Elizabeth City; H. L. Norfleet, of Nansemond, and D. W. Flowerree, of Fauquier.

It is said that Gov. Wise favors a change in the faculty, as well as in the course of studies, at William and Mary College. A committee, composed of Bishop Johns and two or three others, (who are thought to favor Gov. Wise's views,) has been conferring with the faculty about the proposed change in the course of studies. He wants to get it back on the old college plan of four years, in order to graduate. Mr. Lucien Minor, present Professor of Law in this college, has just returned from New York in a very low state of health.

The Clarke County Journal says:—"Of all the sudden calamitous losses ever sustained by the county, in respect to the wheat crop, that of the present exceeds. A few weeks ago we were joyful in our exurberance of wheat, now we are cut down to the lowest over the most blasted prospect ever witnessed. Many fields, from which thirty bushels to the acre were expected to be gathered, are deserted by the reaper as not worthy his attention. The crop is *most seriously* injured as to quantity and quality."

To-day, Johnson, charged with killing his wife, by giving her strychnine, is to have his examination before the Rappahannock Court. Messrs. S. Chilton, Wm. Smith, and R. E. Scott, are employed in his defence. The stomach of Mrs. Johnson was sent to Philadelphia to be analyzed. Professor Rogers has just made his report, in which he states that he found in the stomach evidences of strychnine.

The Leesburg Washingtonian says:—"The farmers in Loudoun are now about finishing their harvest. The crop, as was anticipated a few weeks ago, has been seriously injured by the scab and rust. The straw is generally heavy, and many of the heads injured and destroyed. The corn crop, though it is short in some parts of the county from late planting, bids fair to make an abundant yield."

The names of B. Rush Floyd, of Wythe; Gen Clay, of Campbell; J. B. Stovall, of Halifax; Tim Rives, of Petersburg, and Wm. C. Flournoy, of Prince Edward, are mentioned in connection with filling the vacancy in the Board of Public Works of Virginia, in case Thomas J. Boyd declines re-election. Also, Wm. Wallace, of Petersburg.

A Norfolk gentleman (Mr. Behan) made a subscription originally of $500, for the purchase of the lot for the Catholic Church, in Fredericksburg, and subsequently added thereto $2,500—making a $3,000 subscription in all. About $1,000 have been subscribed in Fredericksburg.

The Farmers' Bank of Virginia, at Richmond, has declared a dividend of 3½ per cent. out of the profits of the institution for the last six months, subject to a deduction of ½ per cent. bonus payable to the State, leaving 3½ per cent. nett, payable to the stockholders.

At Burner's Springs, the Messrs. Danner are already reaping the reward of their energetic preparations, in constant arrivals from all quarters. They had about thirty guests several days ago, with applications for rooms reaching them by mail every day.

Capon Springs, the justly celebrated mountain retreat, is under the present management of Mr. E. D. Willard, of Washington city. Numbers arrive in town every day, en route for its invigorating waters and refreshing airs.

A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, writing from the Northern Neck of Virginia, is of opinion that the wheat crop in Richmond, Northumberland, and Lancaster, cannot be safely estimated at more than half a crop, in consequence of the rust and blight.

An old negro man, belonging to Major S. Crutchfield, was tried before the County Court of Spottsylvania, on Monday last, charged with an attempt to kill the overseer, found guilty, and sentenced to be hung on Friday, the 13th of August.

The friends of the late Dr. George Lee, of Loudoun, will be gratified to learn that his son, George Lee, has become a partner, on highly advantageous and complimentary terms, of the firm of Cooke, Baily & Co., of Nashville, Tennessee.

Accounts from many of the surrounding counties speak of the injury done to the Wheat by the *Rust*. The Oats, too, have suffered from the same cause. This is stated to be the case in Albemarle, Frederick, Clarke, Amelia, Shenandoah, &c., &c.

The Bank of the Valley has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4½ per cent.; 4 per cent. payable to stockholders. The Bank of Winchester declares a semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent. for its stockholders.

At the last meeting of the James River and Kanawha Canal, the tolls on flour, wheat, tobacco, and cotton, were reduced fifty per cent.

Leonidas P. Alexander has been appointed Postmaster at Accokeek, Stafford county, Va., vice John M. Brooke, resigned.

The Cloven Foot Shown.

We have no doubt but that many of our Northern Neck Farmers, inspired by the success and high price paid Col. Chewning, of Lancaster county, Va., for the first 100 bushels of Virginia wheat put into the Baltimore market,—($1.60)—have rushed forward their crops under the hope that they too would receive the same amount. Vain hope! The Baltimore merchant might well afford to bait the trap with the glittering bauble, when he knew that the operation would pay, and that too handsomely. We find that the quotations on Thursday—only a week afterwards had fallen 35@40 cents on that paid Col. Chewning, viz:—"120@126 cents for *good* parcels of new wheat." Every farmer knows what *good* means when his wheat is in the Baltimore market, at the mercy of the purchaser. What news, pray, induced a decline of 35@40 cents in the wheat market of Baltimore within a period of one week! The offerings were still small of new wheat, and no foreign advices gave a "black eve" to the price paid a week previously.—*Virginia Herald.*

Agricultural Fairs.

The Sixth Annual Exhibition of the United States Agricultural Society will be held at Richmond, Va., by invitation from and in connection with the Virginia Central Agricultural Society, on the 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th of October.

The Sixth Annual Exhibition of the Virginia State Agricultural Society will be held at Petersburg, on the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th, of November, 1858.

The next Fair and Cattle Show of the Rappahannock River Agricultural and Mechanical Society will be held in Fredericksburg, on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of November.

Oration of Hon. Rufus Choate.

We present the opening and closing passages.

"It is well that in one year, so busy, so secular, so discordant, there comes one day when the word is, and when the emotion is, 'our country, our whole country and nothing but our country.' It is well that law—our only sovereign on earth—duty, not less the daughter of God, not less within its sphere supreme, custom not old alone, but honored and useful, memories, our heart, have set a time in which—scythe, loom and anvil stilled, wharves silent, the flag—our flag unrent—the flag of our glory and commemoration waving on mast-head, steeple and highland, we may come together, and walk hand in hand, thoughtful, admiring, through these galleries of civil greatness; when we may own together the spell of one hour of our history upon us all; when faults may be forgotten, kindness revived, virtues remembered and sketched unblamed; when the arrogance of reform, the excesses of reform, the strife of parties, the rivalries of regions, shall give place to a wider, warmer and juster sentiment; when, turning from the corners and dark places of offensiveness, if such the candle lighted by malignity, or envy, or censoriousness, or truth has revealed anywhere; when, turning from these, we may go up together to the serene and secret monument top, and there pause, and there unite in the reverent exclamation and in the exultant prayer:—How beautiful at last are Thy tabernacles! What people at last is like unto Thee! Peace be within thy palaces and joy within thy gates! The high places are Thine and there shalt Thou stand proudly, and innocently, and securely.

"Happy if such a day shall not be desecrated by our service! Happy if for us that descending sun shall look out on a more loving, more elevated, more united America!—These, no less, no narrower, be the aims of our celebration. These always were the true aims of this celebration. In its origin, a recital or defence of the grounds and the principles of the Revolution, now demanding and permitting no defence—all taken for granted, and all had by heart; then sometimes wasted in a parade of vain-glory, cheap and vulgar; sometimes profaned by the attack and repulse of partisan and local rhetoricians; its great work, its distinctive character and its chief lessons remain and vindicate themselves, and will do so while the eye of the fighting or the dying shall yet read on the stainless ample folds the superscription blazing still in light: 'Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable.'

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"I had something to say more directly still on the ethics of nationality, on the duty of instructing the conscience, on the crimes of treason, and slander, and fraud that are committed around us in its name, on the shallowness and stupidity of the doctrine that the mere moral sentiments, trained by a mere moral discipline, may safely guide the complex civil life of the teachers and studies which they need to fit them for so precious, difficult and delicate a dominion; of the high place in the scale of duties, which, thus fitted, they assign to nationality; of the judgment which, thus fitted, they would apply to one or two of the common places and practices of the time.

"But I pass it all to say only that these ethics teach the true subordination, and the true reconciliation of apparently incomprehensible duties. These only are the casuists, or the safest casuists for us. Learn from them how to adjust this conflict between patriotism and philanthropy. Thus indeed there seems to be no conflict, for we are philanthropists in proportion as we are unionists. Our philanthropy, we venture to say, is a true philanthropy. That is all. It loves all men, it respects all rights, keeps all compacts, recognizes all dangers, pities all sufferings, ignores no fact, master and slave it enfolds alike.

"It happens thus, that it contracts the sphere of our duty somewhat, and changes not the nature but the times, the places, the mode of performing them; it does not make our love cold, but it makes it safe; it naturalizes it, it baptises it into our life, it circumscribes it within our capacities and necessities, it sets on it the great national public seal. If you say that thus our patriotism limits our philanthropy, I answer ours is American philanthropy. Be this the virtue we boast, and this the name by which we know it.

"In this name, in this quality, find the standard and the utterance of the virtue itself. By this, not by broad phylacteries and chief seats; the keener hate, the gloomier fanaticism, the louder cry, judge, compare, subordinate. Do they think that nobody is a philanthropist but themselves? We, too, look up the long vista, and gaze, wrapt at the dazzling ascent; we, too, see towers rising, crowned, imperial, and the tribes coming to bend in the opening of a latter day.—But we see peace, order, reconciliation of right along that brightening future.

"We trace all along that succession of reform, the presiding instrumentalities of national life. We see our morality working itself clearer and clearer; one historical or conventional right or wrong after another, falling peacefully and still; we hear the chain breaking, but there is no blood on it, none of his whom it bound, none of his who put it on him; we hear the swelling chorus of the free, but master and slave unite in that chorus, and there is no discordant shriek above the harmony; we see and we hail the blending of our own glory with the eternal light of God, but we see, too, shapes of love and beauty ascending and descending there as in the old vision!

"Hold fast this hope; distrust the philanthropy, distrust the ethics which would, which must, turn it into shame. Do no evil that good may come. Perform your share, for you have a share, in the abolition of slavery; perform your share, for you have a share in the noble and generous strife of the sections; but perform it by keeping, by transmitting, a united, loving and Christian America.

"But why, at last, do I exhort, and why do I seem to fear, on such a day as this? Is it not the nation's birthday? Is it not this country of our love and hopes, which celebrates it? This music of the glad march, these banners of pride and beauty, these memories so fragrant, these resolutions of patriotism so thoughtful, these hands pressed, these congratulations and huzzainga and tears, this great heart throbbing audibly—are they not here, and do they not assure us?

"These forests of masts, these singing workshops of labor, these fields and plantations whitening for the harvest, this peace and plenty, this sleeping thunder, these bolts in the closed, strong talon, do they not all tell us of her health, her strength, and future? This shadow that flits across our grasses and is gone, this shallow ripple that darkens the surface of our broad and widening stream, and passes away; this little perturbation which our telescope cannot find, and which our science can hardly find, but which we know cannot change the course or hasten the doom of one star; have these any terrors for us? And He who slumbers not, nor sleeps, who keeps watchfully the city of his love, on whose will the life of nations is suspended, and to whom all the shields of the earth belong, our father's God, is he not our God, and of whom then, and of what, shall we be afraid?"

Trial of Slave Stealers.

NORFOLK, July 9.—The captain and crew of the schooner Francis French are being tried in the Hustings Court at Smithfield for stealing slaves. Thompson, the steward, plead guilty, and has been sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years.

The Stamp Act.

Our attention was directed to the famous Stamp Act by two pieces of paper called stamps, once so odious, that were presented to our Museum by our esteemed townsman, Henry Gourdin esq. He kindly informed us how he obtained them.

While in England, in 1851, he paid a visit to Mr. John Shuttleworth, then at the head of the Stamp office, in Manchester. Mr. Shuttleworth pointed out to him a stamp nearly framed and suspended in his chamber. And he stated that in clearing out the Stamp office in London, a short time before, several bundles of stamps were found among piles of rubbish, which, on examination, proved to be the identical stamps that had been sent to South Carolina, and which constituted one of the chief causes of rupture between the mother country and her Colonies. Considering that these stamps would be regarded as of great interest at home, he kindly offered to procure several for Mr. Gourdin, and they were subsequently sent to him by Mr. John B. Smith, M. P., of London. One of these was presented by Mr. Gourdin to Mr. Joseph Leland, formerly of this city, with a request that he would present it to some Museum or other institution in Massachusetts. The other two were presented to the Museum of the College of Charleston, through Prof. F. S. Holmes.

We copy that portion of Mr. Smith's letter in which he speaks of these stamps:

LONDON, Oct. 15, 1851.

Dear Gourdin—* * * Happening to dine the other day in company with the Chairman of the Board of Stamps, he mentioned a curious circumstance, that in clearing out some old papers, at the Stamp office, a bundle of papers were discovered which proved, upon inspection, to be a portion of the celebrated stamps issued for our then North American Colonies, and the issuing of which caused a revolution destined, in all probability, to effect greater changes in human affairs, than any other event which ever happened. I was enabled to secure a few of the curiosities, and have the pleasure to enclose you three for your Charleston Museum, if you deem that a fitting place for them.

Truly yours,

(Signed) J. B. SMITH.

As our readers may gratify their curiosity by beholding these bits of brown paper, decorated with the insignia of royalty, we forbear a description of them. Each of these two stamps was worth two shillings and six pence. As it will exhance the interest all must feel in these rare contributions, we will transcribe the two clauses of the stamp act, in which this amount of impost is specified.

"For every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which shall be engrossed, written or printed, any such original grant, or any such deed, mesne conveyance, or other instrument whatsoever, by which any quantity of land, above two hundred, and not exceeding three hundred and twenty acres, shall be granted, conveyed or assigned, and in proportion for every such deed, mesne conveyance, or other instrument granting, conveying or assigning every three hundred and twenty acres within such colonies, plantations and islands, a stamp duty of two shillings and six pence."

"For every skin or piece of vellum or parchment, or sheet or piece of paper, on which shall be engrossed, written or printed, any indenture, lease, conveyance, contract, stipulation, bill of sale, charter party, protest, articles of apprenticeship, or covenant, (except for the hire of servants not apprentices and also except such other matters as hereinbefore charged,) within the British colonies and plantations in America, a stamp duty of two shillings and six pence."

The Stamp act having passed the House of Commons by a large majority, and the House of Lords unanimously, received the royal assent March 22, 1765. But, though the signature of George the Third, had clothed it with the majesty of law, there was not weight enough in his royal arm, to compel a proud and patriotic people into compliance with its exactions. The whole nation cried out boldly and contemptuously against the tyranny of Taxation, without the right of representation. Although the distributors of the intolerable tax-stamps were selected from among the citizens of America, so deep, universal, and utter was the hostility to the bill, that not daring to inflict it, they were forced to resign. The effigies of stamp officers, and of those suspected of being favorable to parliamentary taxation, were dragged through the streets, banged and burned. All the stamps the infuriated populace could lay their hands upon, were committed to the flames. On the arrival of the vessels containing the hated things, the colors of the shipping were half-masted, the act was printed and paraded through the thoroughfares with mock pageantry; and bonfires blazed on the public squares. The first of November, the day on which the act was to go into effect, muffled bells tolled most dolefully from dawn to dark.

Let us turn to those bundles which have become trash, in which were found the stamps now in our Museum. The office of stamp agent for the Crown was never filled in South Carolina; no citizen could be induced to perform this dishonorable service. When the vessel that brought the printed duties arrived here they were deposited for safe keeping in Fort Johnson. At night the garrison were surprised by an armed party from the city, and when the Captain awoke in the morning he was astonished to behold a flag waving from the fortress, and its heavy guns looking grimly at his ship. The brave band avowed their determination to destroy the offensive papers, if he did not promise to carry them back whence they came. They were delivered to him; and after the lapse of eighty-six years they are swept out of the Stamp office as lumber, and three of the useless heap are brought back to revive the memory of a long, bloody and triumphant struggle for freedom. They are also eloquent remembrancers of the incorruptible patriotism, and the gallant bravery of our forefathers. British gold in vain allured them to the post of stamp distributor and when the abhorred stamps were brought, without excess of any kind, and scorning concealment and disguise, they dictated their terms from the walls of the fort they were prepared to defend, and compelled the vessel of war to return to the monarch who had sent her.—*Charleston Courier.*

"The Misery of the Thing."

A Petersburger, writing from the Hygeia, Old Point Comfort, to the Intelligencer, says: "The bathing here is peculiar. A stockade is built out in the water, into which you enter and enjoy yourself as well as you can, considering the warmth and shallowness of the water. Hard by is another stockade erected for the ladies. This is the misery of the thing. A few paces off you hear the most delightful shrieks and screams and the most musical laughter; you know that fun is going on. But where you are, there is naught save a melancholy "sloshing around" of bilious and hideous males. The contrast between the two stockades—the fun, the frolic, and the females in the one, and the dull masculine splashing in the other—is horrid, horrid."

Night into Day.

The intense heat of the weather has had the effect of inducing many Parisians to convert night into day, in order to enjoy the more moderate temperature of that portion of the twenty-four hours. The Bois de Boulogne is crowded with carriages of all descriptions, from nine in the evening till two in the morning. The boatmen on the lake are actively employed during the same period. The thermometer marked 94 degrees Fahrenheit in a very shady position at three, on Wednesday afternoon, the 16th ult.

Letter from Prince William.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

OCCOQUAN, July 8th, 1858.—The nation's birthday was observed as a holiday, in this place. No public demonstration. The crop of wheat in the county has been harvested, and the yield is said to be much better than was anticipated.

The members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, have nearly finished their Church building, about four miles from this place. It is expected to be dedicated some time in August, of which due notice will be given.

A protracted meeting has been in progress for some time past, conducted by the Revs. Messrs. Crown and Lewis, and many have been induced, under their ministrations, to embrace religion.

At the July term of our County Court, a majority of the Justices refused to allow one of their number, Mr. John Underwood, of this place, to act with them, on account, it is alleged, of entertaining abolition sentiments. This whole affair is unpleasant, and the lovers of peace and quiet regret the circumstances connected with it.

The mills here are now undergoing repairs, preparatory to the next grinding season, and are expected to be in full operation by the last of the month. *

A Miser's Prayer.

The following singular prayer was made by John Ward, of Hackney, England. The document, which was found in Ward's own handwriting, might be called the miser's prayer. It is one of the examples on record of men combining in themselves the utmost fanaticism with the total absence of anything like feeling:

"Oh, Lord, thou knowest that I have nine estates in the city of London, and likewise that I have lately purchased an estate in fee-simple in the county of Essex; I beseech thee to preserve the two counties of Middlesex and Essex from fire and earthquakes; and as I have a mortgage in Hertfordshire, I beg of thee to have an eye of compassion on that county, and for the rest of the counties thou mayest deal with them as thou art pleased. Oh, Lord, enable the banks to answer all their bills and make my debts on good men. Give a prosperous voyage and return to the Mermaid sloop, because I have insured it; and as thou hast said the days of the wicked are but short, I trust in thee that thou will not forget thy promise, as I have purchased an estate in reversion, which will be mine upon the death of that profligate young man, Sir I. L. Keep my friends from sinking, and preserve me from thieves and house-breakers; and make all my servants so honest and faithful that they may attend to my interests, and never cheat me out of my property, night or day."

National Armories.

An impression exists in many parts of the country that Congress at its late session made provision for the construction of additional armories, under the direction of the War Department. Mr. Secretary Floyd is fairly deluged with letters recommending proper sites, of which there are doubtless many very desirable ones; but it appears that no action by the late Congress was taken on the subject, and the Secretary is therefore without any additional authority. It will be time to consider the fitness of places when the department shall be authorized to make selections from them.—*Union.*

Curious Desire.

"Not long since, at one of the morning prayer meetings, in a popular church, a middle aged gentleman requested the prayers of the congregation "as he was about choosing a companion."

This, says the Savannah Republican, reminds us of a benediction we once heard an up-country Georgia Justice pronounce on a run-away couple, whom he had united in wedlock. After declaring them "man and wife," he ejaculated, with great solemnity: "and may the Lord have mercy on your souls."—*Petersburg Express.*

GORDONSVILLE FEMALE ACADEMY.—The second session of this School will begin the 7th of September, 1858, and close the 1st of July, 1859.

All the ordinary English branches will be taught, including higher Mathematics, together with ancient and modern languages, Music, Painting, Drawing, &c.

The department of ancient languages and Mathematics will be under the charge of the Principal.

The departments of Music, Drawing, &c., under the charge of Mr. PROSINGER, a highly accomplished gentleman from Germany.

—TERMS—

Board, including lights and every personal accommodation, for 10 months	$140 00
Tuition in lower English branches	20 00
Tuition in higher do., (including Algebra and Geometry)	30 00
Music on Piano or Guitar	35 00
Use of instrument	5 00
Latin	20 00
French or German	20 00

This is a School for study. The strictest compliance with all its rules will be required.

The discipline though kind, will be strict.

The boarding department will still be under the care of Mrs. MARY E. BARBOUR.

Payments—Half in advance, and half at the close of the term.

No pupil admitted for less than five months, and no deduction made except in case of protracted illness. Address

REV. DANIEL B. EWING, Principal.

Gordonsville, Orange county, jy 12—law6w

HORSE POWERS, THRESHING MACHINES, GRAIN DRILLS, FAN MILLS, &c.—We are now prepared to furnish to order, Pitt's celebrated Horse Powers and Threshing Machines, Pelton's do; Bickford & Huffman's Wheat Drill, the most approved now in use; Montgomery Rockaway Wheat Fan; Climax do. Persons wishing to purchase any of the above articles will please order early.

ADDISON, WALLACE & CO.,

jy 12 No. 13, Union-street.

[Culpeper Observer, Fairfax News, and Port Tobacco Times.]

SUMAC! SUMAC!!—100 tons SUMAC wanted, for which we will pay the highest market price. BAGS will be furnished gratis.

ADDISON, WALLACE & CO.,

jy 12 No. 13, Union-street, Alex'a.

[Culpeper Observer, Fairfax News, and Warrenton Wing.]

$200 REWARD—Runaway from the subscriber, living near Middleburg, Loudoun county, Va., on Thursday, 17th inst., negro man "LEN," aged about 23 years, about 5½ feet high, well built, dark copper color, round broad face, and when spoken to has a downcast look. He had on a suit of light clothes when he left, but I suppose he took other and dark clothes with him. I will give $200 for his recovery, if taken out of the State, or $150 if taken in the State, and secured so that I get him again. SPENCER RECTOR.

Middleburg, Loudoun Co., Va., je 19—eotf

$100 REWARD.—Runaway from the farm of the subscriber, near Centreville, Fairfax County, Va., on the night of 5th instant, negro woman HARRIET, about 35 years of age, black, 5 feet 3 or 4 inches high, and tolerably likely. She was purchased by me of Messrs. Dickinson & Hill, in Richmond, and formerly came from King George County. I will give the above reward if returned to me, or secured so that I can get her.

A. S. GRIGSBY.

Fairfax County, Va., ap 5—eotf

ANY ONE wishing to purchase one of the most beautiful and desirable FARMS on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, about 38 miles from Alexandria, will do well make to immediate application to

R. B. WILLIAMSON.

Warrenton, sep 10—eotf

[COMMUNICATED.

Rotation in Office.

If Senator Hunter's political acumen can devise no better scheme to "promote the general welfare," than that which, it is stated, he desires to initiate as to Clerks, then, I apprehend, neither *pro bono publico*, nor the commendable principle of "the greatest good to the greatest number," will be greatly benefitted by his statesmanship.

If in lieu of projecting a plan by which "the once in grace always in grace" rule, as to Clerks, shall obtain, he would inaugurate a plan by which the expenses of our government could be reduced, then might he be regarded as a public benefactor.

While his political principles, however, "have this extent, no more," merely the avoidance of annoyance to the dispensing power—induced, if you please, by "hungry small place office hunters"—and an apprehension that rotation will "derange the business of the offices,"—then has he occasion to say truly, in reference to his national measures, "my leanness, my leanness!"

We, at least, deprecate any such exclusiveness, as an indefinite holding of office would induce, tending, as it must, to originate a class irresponsible to the people, and inducing a Pharisaical socialism that would inevitably express in action, if not in word, to less fortunate—though probably to better, more needy, and much more capable men—"stand thou there, I am holier (socially, superior) than thou."

A supercilious bearing is a taint that already too extensively prevails among state and national officials; a taint by no means likely to be mollified by holding office in *permanence*.

As every citizen is subject to serve his country when it is menaced by foreign or domestic foes, and ever contributes in some form to its treasury, so should he, also, be entitled to share in its benefits, so far as the alternate possession of office is concerned, and his capacity, worth, and necessity may fairly entitle him to discharge the duties of the particular office.

The rotation principle, judiciously exercised, would be extensively beneficial to the community; for should the holding of office be limited to a definite term, the incumbent would be provident of his pay in order to its forming the basis for a livelihood when he should again be "as you were." If he failed to be so careful, while so holding, he would have ceased to say—

——"I ask no sympathy, nor need,
The thorns I reap are of the tree I planted."

Though the rotation principle might be objected to as tending to "derange the business of the offices," yet, by arranging it somewhat upon the Senatorial plan, all difficulty, on this score, could be obviated. Moreover, the business of every public office should be so simplified and systematized that any man of fair capacity might readily discharge its duties. Indeed, as regards this or that man being alone suited to the duties of this or that office, there has been and still is a vast deal too much assumption; there being, doubtless, no lack of his equals in every community.

No man should seek or be appointed to any public position whose habits, manners, or qualifications unfit him for the proper discharge of its duties; nor should the government be any "respecter of persons," so far as to appoint or retain any man to the exclusion of his mental, moral, and manual superior.

We do not understand the principle which governs the appointment of public employees as being identical with that which controls private persons: what is the latter's is his own to do with as seemeth him best, and no man may of right demand of him employ or a reason for his action. Not so the government, as all the people are therein interested and may fairly claim its benefits, and an equality of service in the discharge of offices of profit, and no man can *de jure* demand to hold office, to the prejudice of another: though I imagine, that nepotism if not political simony has had much to do in the matter.

Those who complain of the annoyance to which they are subjected, because of the importunity of "place hunters," should be think themselves as to how it happened that they became exposed to such applications.—Had they not been "place hunters," doubtless, they had not been the incumbents of the positions they occupy, nor been subject to such trouble. "A fellow feeling" does not, it would seem, make them "wondrous kind" to those whose needs often constrain them, with unaffected diffidence and extreme humiliation, to solicit, and how oft in vain, the kind offices of churlish officials.

Let Senator Hunter, therefore, apply himself, if need be, to a reduction of offices and salaries; reform and retrenchment, and, if he would be President, let him maintain the ROTATION principle, once so highly lauded by General Jackson; but let no exclusive privileges be conceded to any, or he may find it to be "an imposture too monstrous for popular credulity," every citizen having a right to demand an equality of rights and privileges.

ROTATION.

WANTED.—A situation as a TEACHER in a private family, by a Young Man qualified to teach the Ancient and Modern Languages, Mathematics, and the usual English branches