ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1858.

In a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, relative to Ocean Currents, &c., LIEUT. MAURY, U. S. N., says that all the experiments, observations, and results concerning the laying of the Atlantic Telegraph, satisfy him "that no sea is so deep or so stormy but that an electric cord may be safely planted in the still waters of the bottom; that the currents and storms which agitate the surface do not reach far down into the depths below; that under the pressure of the deep sea there is no decay: even those mites of little animals that inhabited when alive those microscopic shells which Brooke's reel brought up from the bottom for us, are, there is ground to conjecture, preserved for ages down there: hence submarine cables will last lifetimes at the bottom of the deep sea; that henceforward wrappings of iron wire about submarine cables for the deep sea may be dispensed with; that, except for shoal water, no future cable need be larger than the gutta-percha cord which encases and isolates the conducting wire of the Atlantic Telegraph; and that submarine lines of telegraph, though the prime cost may be a little but not much more than that over other lines, will henceforth prove the cheaper in the end; for, being once down, they will require no repairs in the deep sea. Only as they come from the depths of the ocean to the land will they be liable to injury." Lieut. M., in the letter from which this is an extract, gives an interesting history of the services rendered by the U. S. Observatory at Washington, in aid of the great work, which has just been completed, of connecting Europe and America, by a submarine telegraphic cable.

During the last commercial crisis Messrs. West, Caldwell & Co. of New York, failed under circumstances that induced their creditors to compromise with them for fifty cents on the dollar. Not long after that compromise, they paid the balance of their indebtedness, and their creditors, to show their appreciation of this honorable conduct, on Tuesday night presented the members of the firm with a handsome set of silver plate and cutlery, valued in all at over $2,000. The presentation took place in the establishment, in the presence of a large company of merchants and others. Rev. Dr. Thompson spoke for the creditors, Mr. West replied for the firm, and addresses were made by several other gentlemen.

A meeting was held at Ontonagon, on the 25th ultimo, composed of delegates from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and from those portions of Wisconsin and Minnesota bordering on Lake Superior, for the purpose of considering the propriety of the formation of a Territory out of the Lake Superior region, belonging to the three States, to be effected by the recession of lands to the General Government. It is thought this project will not succeed.

The speeches of Mr. Boteler, Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Andrew Hunter, Mr. Daniel B. Lucas, and Mr. E. G. Lee, at the recent Military Festival in Shepherdstown, are said to have been appropriate and eloquent. The whole affair was a very creditable one. Shepherdstown has not seen such a gay day for a long time.

The New Orleans Delta says that in addition to the death of Lieut. McGregor of the United States Revenue cutter McCleland, by yellow fever, five new cases have appeared among the crew, two of which proved fatal. The Lewis Cass had lost four seamen by yellow fever during the month of August.

In the honors done to Mr. Everett, the engineer who invented the paying-out machinery for the Atlantic cable, an excellent parody on a celebrated phrase was adopted. An inscription appeared over a billiard saloon in these words: "Don't forget Everett, who shuffled off the immortal coil."

Despatches from Washington state that Sir Wm. Gore Ousley has been ordered to Central America by the British Government. He has already left Washington, and will proceed to Central America as soon as the season is sufficiently advanced to permit of his so doing with safety.

A letter from Accomac, in the Richmond Enquirer, strongly recommends to the Democracy of Virginia, the following State Ticket: For Governor—Gen. Harmony! For Lieutenant Governor—Col. Unity!! For Attorney General—United Front, esq!!!

The election in VERMONT, has resulted in the success of the "Republican" candidates for all the State offices and for Congress by an increased majority. Vermont is a thoroughly Abolition State.

A meeting of the citizens of New Orleans, now in New York, is to be held, to commence subscriptions for the relief of the distressed in New Orleans, under the epidemic that now prevails there.

The Medical College of Winchester will open its next session on the 15th of October, under more favorable auspices than ever.—The indications are, that there will be quite a large number of students in attendance.

A child was poisoned a few days ago in Champion, Ohio, from eating a small piece of cobalt or fly stone, which had been placed on a table for the purpose of destroying flies. Great caution should be used in the use of such poisonous drugs.

Mayor Swann, of Baltimore, announces, that if the Convention of the American party in that city, nominate him, he will be a candidate for re-election.

The Petersburg, Va., Intelligencer thinks the tobacco crop of the State will exceed, this year, 70,000 hogsheads.

The death of George Newbold, esq., President of the Bank of America, in New York, is announced.

The Bostonians are to give a dinner to the officers of the "Propeller," the new Irish steamship.

The discussion of the question, "Ought American Slavery to be perpetuated," was commenced in Philadelphia on the evening of the 7th inst. between Parson Brownlow, of Tennessee, and the Rev. A. Pryne, of New York, at the National Guards Hall, Race street. One hundred persons, principally males, were present. In consequence of Parson Brownlow suffering from an affection of the throat, he was unable to participate in person, and his opening was read by Mr. Wm. F. Small. In the opening, the position was assumed that slavery has existed in all ages and in all countries—that it was recognized of God in the commandment, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant nor his maid-servant," &c., the word servant in the Hebrew, signifying slave. After numerous references to bible history, in support of the position that slavery is of divine origin, the subject of abolitionism was touched upon; also the slave trade, about which much was said, not however, approvingly. The opening assumed, and attempted to show, by history, that the slave trade was mainly carried on by northern men, the vessels being fitted out in eastern ports. The reading of the opening occupied more than an hour. Mr. Pryne followed in answer, and spoke up to the adjournment. He, of course, took a free soil view of the subject. Both speakers were applauded by their respective friends. The question to be discussed was not touched upon by Mr. Brownlow, it being reserved for a future evening.

In reference to the return of the captured Africans, and their probable landing in Liberia, a writer in the Baltimore American says, that the captured Africans from two other slavers, who were formerly sent by the United States government to the same place, were located on "Stockton Creek," and their town, called New Georgia, now boasts two Christian churches, in which Sabbath Schools are regularly held, in addition to two day schools. They long since took the oath of allegiance to the Republic of Liberia, and most of them possess the requisite property qualification entitling them to a vote. One of their number has been a member of the State Legislature. A few have married colonist females. They are not traders, but simple cultivators of the soil and market gardeners for the town of Monrovia, four miles distant. They are an honest and industrious people, and highly respected as such by the American Liberians, with whom they associate on terms of equality. The adults still speak in broken English, and cannot be considered wholly civilized men; but their children have had the benefit of a common school education and would not be recognized as differing in any respect from blacks whose parents were born in this country.

On the 7th inst., a collision occurred on the Hudson River Railroad, at the Fishkill station, between two cattle trains, by which George Hayward, an engineer, and J. Boswell, a cattle drover from Indiana, were killed, and several persons injured. One of the trains having stopped for some purpose, the other one, not having received warning in time, came up behind and ran into the first one, making a complete wreck of several cars. Two engines were coupled to the rear train, which, being thrown from the track, ran into a large machine shop and were broken to pieces, after throwing down, in their progress, the large brick chimney of the establishment. The cars of the second train were dashed forward, and some lay piled one on top of the other, as high as the second story windows of the shop. Quite a large number of cattle and hogs were killed, and many others so badly injured that it was an act of humanity to kill them and put an end to their sufferings. Several large bullocks lay on top of the debris, and one ox, of mammoth proportions, was thrown half way into a second-story window of the shop.—The damage by the accident is estimated at $10,000.

It is proposed to get up a Race between some celebrated horses in Virginia and some in Louisiana. The challenge for the race comes from Louisiana. Louisiana to name on the first of February, 1859, eight horses now owned and in the State, to run heats of two and three miles, on the Tuesday and Wednesday, and heats of one and four miles on the Friday and Saturday of the week previous to the regular race week over the Metairie Course, near New Orleans, in April, 1859, for $1 000 a mile each race, or as much more as Virginia may prefer—one fourth forfeit. Virginia to name an equal number (8) of horses on the first of February, 1859.

In New York, on Tuesday night, the floors of the five story building, No. 31, Front street, gave way with a tremendous crash, carrying an immense amount of flour (which was stored in five lofts) to the ground floor. Fortunately no one was bodily injured, but had the accident happened a few minutes before, several persons who were working at the hatches, would doubtless have been sent suddenly into eternity. The store presented a curious appearance the next morning, flour, staves, hoops, and heads of barrels, being one mass of confusion. Messrs. Jesse Hoyt & Co., are the owners of the flour.

The Recorder of Chicago, (Ill.) in charging the grand jury, recently said:—"During the past five years that I have held this court it has been my unpleasant duty to try and sentence to the State prison, several hundred persons; and I am sorry to say that, while it is an easy matter to find jurors who are ready and willing to punish poor offenders without position or friends, it is with great difficulty that jurors can be found who appreciate the fact that one bad man of position and wealth, can do more harm than one hundred poor men can who are in the humble walks of life.

Bishop Janes, of the M. E. church, had a narrow escape from death in Indianapolis, Indiana, on the 2d instant. He was passing along the street from the residence of Bishop Ames, when he was struck in the face by a shot from a gun carelessly fired by some boy, and painfully wounded. The shot entered the left cheek, and penetrated the side of the nose. A surgeon soon extracted the shot.

As Gov. Breese withdraws from the Senatorial contest in Illinois, are there any other candidates, or persons spoken of, but Douglas and Lincoln?

The Naval Retiring Board.

The president has referred to the Secretary of the Navy, to the Attorney General, and to the Commissioner of Patents, the records and documents in those cases which were reported upon severally by the navy courts of inquiry held in 1857. It was found impossible for the Executive to give these cases proper attention, and at the same attend to his official duties. One-third of the cases were, therefore, placed in the hands of each of the above mentioned officers. We understand that the Secretary of the Navy has already finished the portion of the duty assigned him. The rules enforced by the court, the testimony given, and the decisions rendered, will all be rigidly examined, and reported upon before the meeting of Congress.

Telegraphic Despatches.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Commodore Shubrick, this afternoon, visited the Navy Yard to survey the steamers Water Witch and Fulton, preparing for the Paraguay expedition. He was received with a salute of cannon. An unusual excitement existed in front of the garrison gate for an hour this afternoon, in consequence of a disorderly fellow drawing a pistol on one of the marines, who refused to call out another marine. The marine thus assaulted knew how to take care of himself, and the prompt presence of the new police prevented further trouble. The fellow was fined twenty dollars for carrying fire-arms, and lost the weapon.

DETROIT, Sept. 7—The forty-ninth annual meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, opened to-day at the First Presbyterian Church, in this city. The Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., President, was in the chair, who called the Rev. S. C. Aiken, D. D., to lead the devotional exercises. The treasurer reported the receipts from all sources as $334 080, and the expenditures $372 041, leaving, with the debt of the previous year, a deficiency of $40,870. Two corporate members and five missionaries died during the year. Nineteen new missionaries had gone out.

NEW YORK, Sept. 8.—Mr. Field says that a dispatch from Trinity Bay informs him that although the insulation of the cable remains perfect, no message has been received over it for several days. He does not know the cause, but conjectures it is the change of the shore end at Valentia. When the Africa sailed it was known that the connection of Mr. Whitehouse with the Atlantic Company would cease about the 1st inst., and it would appear more probable that the working ceased from some action of his or his partizans. Mr. Thompson was to succeed Mr. Whitehouse, and it is quite possible that the delay is caused by his experiments, which are regarded as perfectly childish by practical telegraphers. It was also rumored that the company had arranged with Mr. Hughes to place his instruments at Valentia and Trinity Bay, about the 20th or 25th inst.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Sept. 8.—The election yesterday for city officers and members of council passed off quietly, though the contest was warm and spirited. Thos. Young, Democrat, was elected Mayor by 11 majority. The People's party elected Aldermen, Treasurer, and Assessor, by small majorities. Each party elect three members of the City Council, securing an anti-administration majority of three in that body. The Democrats carried the 1st and 2d wards by 70 majority each, and the "People's" ticket the other three wards. The latter ticket has an average majority of 30, except for Mayor. Last year the Democrats were defeated for Mayor by 350, and over 200 upon the other officers.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—The Government to-day concluded a treaty with the American Colonization Society, by which the latter agrees to subsist and instruct the captured Africans for one year after their arrival out, having due regard for their health and comfort. For this service somewhat less than $50 000, which was the sum originally proposed by the society, are to be paid. Capt. Rich, of the marines, has been detached from the frigate Sabine, and ordered to the Niagara. Capt. Tansill has been ordered to the Sabine, and is to be senior marine officer to the Paraguay expedition.

HARRISBURG, PA., Sept. 7.—The Democratic Conferees of the Sixteenth Congressional District, composing the counties of Cumberland, York, and Perry, again failed to nominate a candidate to-day. The York delegates have gone home, after joining with those of Perry in adopting a resolution declaring that in no event should John A. Ahl, the present Lecompton member of Congress, be re-nominated.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Sept. 8.—The Republican State Convention assembled here to-day.—Hon. Ezra Graves was chosen temporary chairman. The American State Convention also met here to-day. Daniel Ullman was chosen permanent President. The attendance at both Conventions is large, and there is great enthusiasm. Efforts will be made to nominate the same state officers by both Conventions.

Maryland Laws.

The Committee appointed by the last Legislature to examine the Code of Laws in preparation by Messrs. Scott and McCullough, met in the Senate Chamber, in Annapolis, at 12 o'clock on Thursday last. James J. McCullough, esq., chairman, and the following members present: Messrs. Belt, Magruder, Alexander, Goldsborough, Thurston, Daniel, Brooke, Stirling and Hobbs.

Otho Scott, esq., one of the codifiers, appeared before the committee, and reported the following articles as ready for examination:

Aliens; Mandamus; Penitentiary; Co-Partners; Negroes; Agricultural Chemists; Feme Converts; House of Refuge; Apprentices; Comptroller; Limited Partnership; Landlord and Tenant; The State Librarian; Supervisors of Roads; County Commissioners; Attorneys at Law; Pilots and Licenses.

The committee continued in session until one o'clock, p. m. on Friday. The articles entitled abatement, appeals, and attachment were read, considered and approved. The next meeting of the committee will be held in the city of Baltimore, on Tuesday morning, October 26, at 10 o'clock.—*Planters' Advocate.*

An Old Slander Exploded.

The entrance of Mr. Corwin again upon the political stage, has been greeted by the revival of the old slander that on the breaking out of the Mexican war, he expressed the hope that the Mexicans would welcome our troops with bloody hands, to hospitable graves. Never was there a grosser perversion of a man's language. Mr. Corwin, like Mr. Calhoun and many others, denounced the manner in which that war was begun, but he never refused to vote men or means to carry it on. In a speech designed to impress upon Congress the fact that the war would be a long and costly one, he spoke of the incentives to resistance that existed with the Mexican people, and in that connection said, that *if he were a Mexican*, instead of an American, he would welcome the invaders of his country, with bloody hands, to hospitable graves. Had he been a Mexican and entertained any other feeling towards the invaders of Mexico, he would have been a traitor to his country.—*Petersburg Inteligencer.*

A Modern Slander Refuted.

A clergyman was charged with having violently dragged his wife from a revival meeting, and compelled her to go home with him. The clergyman let the story travel along until he had a fair opportunity to give it a broadside. Upon being charged with the offence he replied as follows:

"In the first place I never have attempted to influence my wife in her views, nor a choice of a meeting. Secondly—my wife has not attended any of the revival meetings in Lowell. In the third place—I have not even attended any of the meetings for any purpose whatever. To conclude—neither my wife nor myself have any inclination to these meetings. Finally—I never had a wife."

Baltimore and Potomac Railroad.

Mr. Bowie, the gentleman recently appointed to receive subscriptions to the stock of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, has entered upon his duties with great earnestness—and we learn from him that the prospect for a Road is thus far very flattering.—Some 25 or $30,000 have already been subscribed, and the "work goes bravely on."—*Marlboro' Gazette.*

Line of French Steamers to Norfolk.

If we doubt the feasibility of this enterprise, and think it hazardous to the interests of Virginia to give it encouragement, we protest we must not be understood as discrediting the claims of its projectors to public gratitude. Those gentlemen who have pressed this subject so earnestly upon public attention, have been moved, no doubt, by a patriotism in every way to be commended.—Yet we cannot but think that patriotism has misled judgment, and they have been beguiled by a delusive hope which they cannot realize. While taken in connection with the system of the Railroads west of Lynchburg, a system which we are pained to hear defended as a necessity of their existence, and consequently hopeless of remedy, the scheme is broadly preposterous, we cannot think that it is capable of success *now*, even were that system modified to the demands of the most liberal policy.

MONS. LACOUTURE, who seems to be so much surprised at the silence of Mr. BALLARD PRESTON, states that French manufacturers are ready and anxious to send cargoes of goods to Norfolk. Suppose they should do so at this time—what arrangements for their distribution to the back country of Norfolk, or for their consumption at Norfolk, on any terms than those of utter ruin, are ready? And what cargoes beginning to be adequate to an exchange for such cargoes, could possibly be furnished the ships? We apprehend there can be one, and one only, answer to these questions. In every particular the adventure would fail so desperately, that henceforth, Norfolk, the "map of the Chesapeake," and the roads to Memphis, would make the stomach of St. Nazaire heave with disgust.

It is not in this way that great cities are built, or great enterprises cherished. *Festina lente* is the valuable key to the growth of commerce.

Norfolk is now open to the produce of a vast country; the produce which everybody needs, and all the world will come for. She stands, such is the theory at least, in the path of its distribution to the world, whether to our principal marts, which are the present depots of commerce, or to the foreign demand, when it shall accumulate sufficiently to attract that demand. Yet, it must take that produce in quantity. It may be rapidly, or it may be slowly, but the progress of an infant city must be by development in her home relations first. Nothing but some violent act of nature, destroying existing centres, or the avenues to them, or some violent act of government unsettling the relations of comity between sections, or some surprising cause of excitement trooping together new populations in masses, such as our own age has seen in California and Australia, can ever give birth to foreign commerce in a day. When produce shall accumulate at Norfolk to make it a mart for produce, then the whole world may come for it, to buy it with their commodities, as France, for instance, with her wines and silks.

Mr. PRESTON has done his duty, hopefully, and earnestly, and patriotically—but he is not to be blamed that the people of Virginia do not take hold, practically, of a thing in which they are unwilling to invest their money. We believe that their caution is wise. To precipitate direct trade on the scale proposed, might furnish material for a little jubilee, but it would soon die out, to be remembered as the Bristol Convention is remembered—only for its fruitlessness!—*South Side Democrat.*

Profession and Practice.

The Democratic State Convention in Michigan has nominated Charles E. Stuart as the Democratic candidate for Governor. Stuart is now one of the Senators from Michigan, his term expiring on the 4th of March next.

This nomination is another forcible commentary upon the difference between Democratic professions and Democratic practices. Stuart, during the whole of the last session, was the sub lieutenant of Douglas—seconding him in all of his efforts to keep Kansas out of the Union, and going directly in the teeth of the policy of the Democratic party. Yet he is now the candidate of that party for Governor! The Convention which nominated him re-affirmed the Cincinnati Platform—yet there is scarcely an article of that Platform that Stuart did not violate every day he was in the Senate. He was notorious for his advocacy of river and harbor improvements, although that policy is openly condemned in the Platform. He was one of the greatest land-grabbers in Congress, notwithstanding the Cincinnati Platform expressly declares that the public lands must be reserved for the use of the General Government alone. He was an open-mouthed advocate of squatter sovereignty, a doctrine directly denied by the Cincinnati Platform. Yet the same Convention which nominated Stuart, re-adopted the Platform! How are we to take such a party?—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

Look out for Plunder.

The Washington States gives warning of another plunder scheme impending over the treasury, in the Oregon war debt. That distant field affords every facility for speculators and swindlers to ply their felonious art. The fact that the War Department—a lame branch of the government—is concerned, should make the public and their agents the more vigilant. The States says:—*Petersburg Intelligencer.*

"Certain facts have come into our possession which will enable us, before the meeting of Congress to show up, in its true light, this *monstrous* claim on the Treasury of the United States, amounting to over $5,000,000. A combination of men, in high and low positions, composed of bankers, and, it is said, Senators, and their abetters are getting, or have already got, the control of this immense claim, and will attempt to force it through Congress at the next session. These speculators, we understand, have had their agents at work in Oregon, buying up the different claims against the Government, based on the most *extravagant rates*, for a few cents on the dollar. The facts before us, we think, will enable us to show up this whole matter in its true colors, and expose one of the greatest attempts to deplete Uncle Sam's Treasury which has ever before been made."

THE SEA GULL AND THE TELEGRAPH CABLE. A very curious incident occurred when the paying out commenced in mid-ocean. The splice had been made, and the cable was being lowered over the sterns of the vessels, when a little before it touched the water, a sea-gull, fatigued, no doubt, after a long flight, perched on it, and his claws getting fast in the tar with which the cable was coated, he was unable to extricate them, so that he was dragged down under the water and drowned. He made desperate efforts to save himself, but to no purpose, as he stuck fast, and when he found himself going down his despairing screams sounded far across the waters. The strangeness of the occurrence and the terrible agony of the poor bird caused some sensation on board the vessels.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE LEVIATHAN.—Many ingenious contrivances have been suggested, but we like our own recommendation the best. We propose that she be maintained as a kind of sewer vessel for the purification of the metropolis. Let the whole of the sewerage of this dirty London be emptied into her many holds; and, when all of them are full, let her sail with her cargo right out to sea, and discharge it in the middle of the ocean, where no human nostrils are likely to be offended with it.—*Punch.*

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of directors of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company was held yesterday, when the revenue of the road for the past month of August was announced as follows:—*Baltimore Sun.*

	Main Stem.	N. W. Va.	Wash Branch	Total.
Passengers	$63,654.08	$3,016.85	$31,413.57	$93,084.50
Freight	225,323.26	11,539.53	9,341.31	278,204.10
	$315,977.34	$14,556.38	$40,754.88	$371,288.60

The above, compared with August of last year, shows a falling off on the main stem of $50,994 05, and on the Northwestern Virginia railroad of $18,869 13, while on the Washington branch there is an increase of $2,261 66, so that the aggregate decrease on the three roads is $78 601 52.

J. I. Atkinson, treasurer, gives the following statement of the floating debt and available means on the 7th instant:

DEBT.

Amount of bills payable	$254,680 27
Balance of interest uncalled for, due April 1	4,000 00
State taxes due on bonds	10,073 65
State's one fifth of the receipts from passengers over the Washington Branch, for the half year ending 30th June last	34,019 00
Interest due 1st July on bonds of the N. W. Virginia Railroad Comp'y. uncalled for	1,260 00
	$304,032 92

AVAILABLE MEANS.

Uncollected revenue, which is judged to be the same as on the 1st instant, when it was	$260,711 34
Cash on hand	25,913 56
City Stock on hand, $1,068 46, say at 99	1,057 78
City Stock to be received, and for which application is made, $22,887 04 at 99	23,658 17
Bills receivable, due within 60 days	4,170 88
Total	$314,511 73
The bills payable on the 10th Aug, the date of the last statement, amounted to	$392,602 21
Same at the present date	254,680 27
Showing a decrease of	$137,921 94

Yellow Fever at New Orleans.

On the 31 inst. the weather was excessively hot at New Orleans, and the yellow fever on the increase. The Crescent, of the 4th says:—

"The fever this year is characterized by a new development—that of attacking creoles and old acclimated people whose birth and continued residence in New Orleans has always exempted them from its attacks. In this respect, the fever is far worse than it was in 1853. A number of creole citizens having died, there is much alarm existing in that part of the population, many of whom hold to the opinion that the fever is not the ordinary yellow fever.

The fever this year is conspicous for its fatality among young men and children.—Within the last fortnight there have been more deaths of young men, aged from 15 to 25, than we can recollect in any previous visitation of the fever. The different benevolent and charitable societies continue nobly at work. The Howards, who are doing the most are operating with a balance of $37,000 left over from the last epidemic, and are consequently not necessitated to appeal to the public at present for assistance. The Young Men's Christian Association are not behind the Howards in their noble endeavors. In the fourth district where the fever is now very bad they have a hospital."

Wild Turkeys, &c.

The Farmville Journal is sound on the "Turkey Question," and says: "These noble game birds are said to be quite numerous in the woods in the vicinity of Farmville, and are affording fine sport for some of our Nimrods, of whom we have at least a *trio* who might, in all the various arts of wood-craft, have been worthy compeers of the renowned Leatherstockings. Thin of flank, broad of chest, lithe and muscular legs, with eyes quick to discern, and ears ready to hear every thing around them, powers of endurance hardly excelled by those of the shaggy settlers over whom they shoot, and a *penchant* for the sport equalled only by that of a duck for water, they rarely ever take the woods without finding game, and when found bagging it. Squirrels, hares and partridges by the thousand, and not a few score of turkeys, can be counted as trophies of their skill and indubitable proofs of their claim to be considered sportsmen. [A number of wild turkeys and partridges are said to have been seen in this neighborhood, already.]

The Paraguay Expedition.

The New York Express says that the revenue cutter Harriet Lane will be ready for sea on Friday. The officers of the Fulton, now at Washington, are ordered to report by the 20th of this month. The San Jacinto is spoken of as going to Paraguay, but she draws too much water to pass Montevideo or Buenos Ayres. The Memphis and Caledonia, of Cromwell's line, are to go. The fleet will consist of thirteen sail exclusive of the Brazil squadron. Should the expedition be delayed until all the vessels are ready, it cannot be got off in less than a month.

It appears to be a settled point as we are informed at the Department to-day, that the vessels of the fleet will leave for their destination as they are respectively got ready; and not be detained in order that the whole fleet may sail at one time. Operations, however, will not be commenced until they arrive at a place of rendezvous yet to be designated; and which will probably be in or near the mouth of the Paraguay river.—*Wash. Star.*

Corn and Flour at Norfolk.

The Seaboard Towing and Transportation Company commenced operations yesterday. Two barges, the *Faith* and *Hope*, (significant names,) in tow of the tug *Kahukee*, left our port for Lynchburg.

One of the first fruits of this important enterprise will be the making of Norfolk a flour market. Ours is one of the first corn marts in the world. We have an abundant supply of that commodity, and prices almost always equal those of New York. Our shippers desire flour to go with the corn in their shipments—and they are seriously inconvenienced for the want of it. One of our merchants had but a short time ago to send to Baltimore for 1,500 bbls. of flour to put in his ship for Europe, not being able to obtain it here.—*Norfolk Argus.*

Noble Dog.

Capt. Barrow, of the steamer Telegraph, on Lake Michigan, had his boat run down by a schooner, during a stormy night, about the first of the month. He safely embarked all his passengers in the life-boat; soon after which his steamer sunk under him. While he was struggling with the raging billows his Newfoundland dog kept swimming close by his side, frequently placing his nose under the chin of his master to keep his head above water, and continued to do so until picked up by the schooner's boat. Not a life was lost by the fearful accident.

Kansas.

The following is an extract from a letter, dated August 26th, 1858, from a gentleman of high character residing in the Territory:

* * * "There is but little of interest in the Territory. Everything is quiet, and there is not the slightest probability of any further disturbance. Now and then some one proposes a new constitution, but it meets with no favor."—*Union.*

COTTON YARN.—5,000 lbs. superior North Carolina Yarn, for sale by
sep 2 WHEAT & BRO.

Endorsement of Mr. Letcher, by the Democratic Party of Virginia.

The Democratic party of the State in regular Convention assembled, nominated Mr. Letcher for Elector for this district in 1848, and after an active canvass, in which he took a distinguished part, he was supported by the Democracy of Virginia and elected. Mr. Letcher attended the State Democratic Convention that was held in Lynchburg, in the fall of that year, and made a speech which we well recollect, was strongly commended by the Democratic press of that city. That Convention was attended and addressed by such men as Caskie, Thomas S. Bocock, Robert G. Scott, and others that could be enumerated, and was presided over by the Old Wheel Horse of Democracy—the venerable Chas. Yancy, of Buckingham. In our own part of the State, Mr. Letcher was often before the people in discussion, with the strongest men of the opposition, and never failed to defend the rights of the South on the slavery question. This was within less than a year after the debate in the Franklin Society, and we imagine that the Convention which nominated him for Elector must have been satisfied that he was right on the slavery question.

When Mr. Letcher was a candidate for the Convention, he was, after an active and able canvass elected by a large majority in a contest with such distinguished gentlemen, as the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart and Thomas J. Michie, esq. The various questions of Reform were fully discussed in the several counties, and the verdict of the people was pronounced in Mr. Letcher's favor.

After the adjournment of the Convention, Mr. Letcher was nominated by a Democratic Convention, as a candidate for Congress, and was elected to represent this district. On three subsequent occasions, he has been reelected, and no representative has perhaps ever represented a Congressional district, more to the satisfaction of his political friends, and with less complaint and censure, on the part of his political opponents. His constituency in the Tenth Legion district, of all parties, are as greatly distinguished for personal and political independence, for public and private virtue, and devotion to the interests of Virginia and the South, as any people can be, and it is by such people that he has been four times endorsed, at the polls, without a regular opponent, at either election.

The man thus endorsed by the people is now charged with being an unfit candidate of the Democracy of Virginia for Governor, and his political associates are appealed to, to put him down and drive him from public life, into retirement. And this is done with the record of his Convention and Congressional action before them.—*Valley Dem.*

Comets of 1858

This remarkable comet (says the Albany Argus) is now visible to the naked eye, as predicted by Dr. Gould some weeks ago. It is now only one hundred and forty millions of miles distant, and is very rapidly approaching the earth, and already shows through a common opera glass a well defined tail. We are told that during the first week in October the comet will be of the most striking brightness, possibly the largest of the century, and at that time will be seen near Arcturus, perhaps even surpassing that brilliant star in splendor. It is now visible for about an hour after sunset and an hour before sunrise, in a line with the two stars called the Pointers, and forming nearly a right angle between these and Arcturus. It is now best seen at four o'clock in the morning.

Dr. Gould also suggested in the last number of his Journal that from the similarity of the elements it was possible that this comet was identical with the first comet of 1827, and also that of 1764. This fact seems now, from the recent observations, almost certain, affording a reasonable presumption that it is a periodic comet, whose period is about thirty-one years.

HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, Sept. 6, 1858.—Two faint telescopic comets were discovered at this Observatory during last night by Mr. H. P. Tuttle—one a degree south of the star Capella and another twenty degrees to the east of it.

The first is conjectured to be the return of Faye's periodical comets; if so, its computed place differs very considerably from its actual position. Accurate observations of it were obtained. The light of early dawn, however, prevented similar observations being made upon the other.

It is a fact of unusual occurrence that there are now visible in the heavens *three* comets, the brightest of which, Donati's, can be distinctly seen with the naked eye about ten degrees above the horizon in the northwest about 7½ P. M. It shows a tail of two degrees in length, and is rapidly increasing in brightness and rising higher above the horizon at that hour. W. C. BOND.

Loudoun County, Va.

THE BUSH MEETING, held in the grove near Ault's School House, on Sunday last, drew together an immense crowd. All manner of vehicles that could be used for the transportation of the eager mass, were brought into requisition. Rev. E. D. Owen delivered a very impressive sermon in the morning, and services, we learn, were continued throughout the day, and also on Monday. If the amount of good accomplished bore any proportion to the crowds that usually flock to gatherings of this kind, we would soon be a very happy people

AN ELECTION for Field Officers for the 56th Regiment, Virginia Militia, took place in Hillsborough, on Saturday last, and resulted as follows:

Colonel, Robt. L Wright; Lieut. Colonel, Wm. Giddings; 1st Major, Thos. W. White; 2d Major, Reed Thompson.

THE SEPTEMBER TERM of the County Court convenes on Tuesday next. The following Justices compose the Court for that occasion:

Asa Rogers, Presiding Justice; W. Hummer, Fenton Furr, and John P. Grubb, Associates.

FIRE.—Mr. Samuel Ramsey, of this county, had his barn, wheat, hay, and farming implements, destroyed by fire, a few days since—the work of an incendiary. Loss about $2000.—*Loudoun Mirror.*

St. Mary's County Md.

RAIN.—Since our last issue, a couple of refreshing rains have visited us, and, though they were of little benefit to the forward corn, the tobacco crop and the latter corn in this neighborhood have been greatly benefitted by them. In upper sections of the county, however, the case is sadly different, the corn crop being generally too far gone, we learn, to be materially benefitted by the rain.

BEST SALE OF THE SEASON.—Messrs. Neale, Harris & Co., sold a few days ago, five hogsheads of Tobacco for Mr. J. M. Ching, of Chaptico District, in this county, at the following prices:—2 hhds. for $10—1 for $9 50—1 for $8 50 and 1 for $8. The hogsheads netted $443.

COMMITTED TO JAIL.—Robert L. Watts, a free negro, aged about 45 years, was lodged in jail on Sunday last, on the commitment of Justice Springer, of the Factory District, charged with the commission of a rape upon the person of his daughter, Charlotte Ann Watts.—*Leonard Town Beacon*

W. & A. MURRAY, MERCHANT TAILORS, No 103, King-street, have just received a full and complete assortment of FALL and WINTER GOODS, consisting of FRENCH CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, and Gentlemen's Furnishing GOODS generally. They are prepared to receive orders, and furnish GOODS, made in the best manner, and of the most approved styles. They invite the attention of their customers, and the public generally.
sep 9

[COMMUNICATED.

On Oysters.

I have lately read in the Alexandria Gazette, an article on Oysters, wherein mention is made of the popular notion, that these shell fish are unfit to be eaten during the months whose names do not contain the letter "*r;*" viz: May, June, July, and August. This is, perhaps, a matter of more importance than is commonly supposed by those who have but a limited acquaintance with the subject.

Living on salt water, near the Chesapeake Bay, I have been familiar with Oysters, their uses, and abuses, all my life.

Oysters should not be eaten, (or sold) by persons living even a few miles from the place where they are taken from the water during the months above named; first, because they are generally unfit for food during that period, for that is their spawning season, when they become poor, while their liquor is of a milky appearance—Moreover, if they were ever so good, they will not bear transportation for even a short time or distance, during hot, or warm weather. The Oyster when exposed to a heated atmosphere soon undergoes the process of decomposition, and so insidious is this process, that it may be decayed to an extent, dangerous, yet not perceptible to those who have but a slight acquaintance with the fish. Every body in the Oyster country knows that Oysters spoilt in any degree, are poisonous, and to the ignorant eating of such, may, doubtless, be attributed many sudden cases of violent disease, and even death, to discover the causes of which the learned puzzle their brains in vain.

Oysters are seldom fit for transportation in September, as that is generally a warm month; in fact, they are not fit to be eaten until the frosts of autumn have chilled the water and the air—they are not suitable food for warm weather, for they are the most stimulating diet I am acquainted with, and should only be eaten by a large majority of people, during cold weather.

It was late in October, a few years ago, that sporadic cases of Asiatic Cholera appeared in a neighboring city, causing several deaths—at the same time sundry cases occurred in my vicinity, very nearly approximating to that dreadful scourge—all the cases I knew of were caused by Oysters. The weather was warm, and the Oysters unfit for food. I was, also, informed that in the city alluded to, Oysters were eaten at the dinner, in a perceptible state of decay. I hope they were cooked, as they were eaten in ignorance of their condition.

The Asiatic Cholera which prevailed so fatally on James and York Rivers in the summer of 1849, was caused by cargoes of spoilt Oysters, distributed at certain places on those rivers.

In short, not a summer passes on the margin of the Oyster beds, but cases of violent disease occur, from the improper use of Oysters, by persons who ought to know when *not* to eat them. How dangerous then must they be in a hot city, at a distance from their native depths. I could easily extend the article, but wish to be brief; and I could write columns in praise of Oysters, which when properly used, are one of the most valuable gifts of a beneficent Creator. To sum up all in a few words, Oysters are not fit to be eaten in warm weather, and those who will not believe this, will most likely be convinced of it sooner or later, at their own heavy cost. I would like to write on Crabs but will refrain for the present, although the public need a warning about them, as much as they do about Oysters. C.

Lancaster County, Va., Sept. 2, 1858.

[COMMUNICATED.

Paving King Street.

The subject of repaving King street being again under discussion, I would venture a suggestion as to the mode of doing it. The main street in Leesburg, which is most travelled by heavy vehicles, is the most comfortable, as well as durable, street I have yet seen. It is gravelled in the middle, of a width sufficient for two carriages to pass each other, and paved on either side, to the sidewalks, with stones, such as are used upon our streets. This middle track, being so very smooth and pleasant, is almost exclusively used, carriages never turning out towards the sidewalks except when actually necessary. This would be a great convenience here, where every body drives in the gutters, particularly when of brick, to avoid the rough pavement in the middle, breaking up the gutters and making them very foul by reason of the inequalities caused by the wheels. As to the durability of this kind of track, I refer not only to the street in Leesburg, but to the upper end of Washington street, in our own city, which was gravelled about twenty years ago in the middle, and still remains a most excellent road, requiring little or no repair, although the travel upon it is very great. The ferruginous earth used upon Washington street is abundant, I believe, around our town? J. CHANCE.

[COMMUNICATED.

I am sorry that you have held up the late Annual Meeting of the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad Company, as a "model one," and, therefore, worthy of imitation, in transacting its business in a short time, without "speechification," as I learn