Alexandria Gazette AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS

PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 11, 1859.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.—As each steamer arrives from EUROPE, we have tidings more and more confirmatory of the rapid approach of WAR. According to the last reports, the Austrians have crossed the Ticino, in which event the war must have actually begun.—The alliance of Russia with France, if true, is an important event. The next news will, probably, bring us intelligence decisive of what is to be the condition of Europe, and who are to be the combatants, for some time to come.

In reference to the statement in the London Herald, concerning Sir Gore Ouseley's treaty in Nicaragua, (published in yesterday's Gazette,) the Washington Constitution says:—

"We have reason to believe that the objections of Great Britain to the Ouseley treaty, are both in reference to what it contains and to what it omits. It is understood to contain an offensive provision for controlling the legislation of Great Britain on the subject of foreign enlistments, and it fails to accomplish the desired surrender of the Mosquito Protectorate. It may now be fairly expected that the Central-American questions will be happily adjusted upon terms honorable to all parties concerned; that the Mosquito Protectorate will be surrendered; that the Bay Island will be returned to the sovereignty of Honduras; and that the American policy in in reference to the transit routes will be the common policy of both the United States and Great Britain. This will be a result which must prove gratifying to the entire country."

The Washington Constitution, concludes an article on what it calls the "Dead Issues" of party, referring particularly to slavery in the Territories and kindred topics, with the following reminiscence and illustration:—"After the great earthquake of Lisbon, the King of Portugal asked his minister Pombal what was to be done? and the latter won the intimate and enduring confidence of his sovereign by his wise, practical reply: "Bury the dead, and find food for the living." We have buried the dead, and it now behooves us "*to find food for the living!*""

The Post Office Department, with the view of obtaining accurate and reliable information, as to the *number of letters* transmitted in the mails, has so changed the blank form of the "account of mails sent" as to secure official entries therein, of the *number* of letters *sent* from each post office; thus to enable the department in future, to report the aggregate number of letters mailed throughout the United States in each fiscal year, or during any specified period of shorter duration.

The May anniversaries have commenced in New York, and on Sunday preliminary religious services were held by the Protestant Episcopal Society for Seamen; the Home for the Friendless; the American Home Missionary Society; the New York Bible society; the American Home and Foreign Christian Union, and the Sabbath School of the Berean Church. The regular reports were presented in some cases; in others there were religious services only.

The District Attorney of the United States in Washington, has been requested to institute proceedings for a violation of the 28th section of the act of Congress approved 3d March, 1825. From the evidence before the postmaster of Washington it appears that the name of a member of Congress has been counterfeited and attempted to be used as a frank on a large number of business letters, that they might be transmitted through the mail, free of postage.

We stated yesterday that six of the Oberlin slave-rescuers had plead guilty before the United States Court, at Cleveland, and were fined $25 each, and imprisoned twenty-four hours. The cases of these prisoners have drawn forth a letter from Joshua R. Giddings, of Ohio, in which he indulges in most inflammatory language.

We are informed of the death by drowning of Mr. William H. Elfing, seaman, which took place in the harbor of Demarara, on the 9th ult. Mr. Elfing was, we believe, originally from New York, but has been sailing out of Baltimore for a number of years.

The death of M. de Tocqueville, already more than one prematurely announced, is now unhappily a fact, only too well established. The author of La Democraticque en Amerique died at Cannes, on the 16th ult., at the age of 54 years.

The "Southern Convention" was to have met in Vicksburg, on the 9th inst. We have seen published but few appointments from the Southern States to this "Southern Convention."

A southern paper suggests the propriety of sending those persons who are caught while engaged in the slave trade, to the north, to be tried, and sending south for trial those who disobey the fugitive slave law.

Wykoff replies in the New York Herald to the comments of several leading papers, upon his appointment to what he calls "his mission to China."

The Young Men's Christian Association of Philadelphia, have again commenced holding their tent services, which were so popular last summer.

Phelan has declined the challenge of Seerieter to repeat the game of billiards recently played at Detroit.

John Heart, esq., formerly editor of the Charleston Mercury, has been appointed Superintendent of Public Printing.

The Secretary of the Treasury has returned to Washington.

Nimrod Strickland, esq., has become editor of the Pennsylvanian, at Philadelphia.

The fishermen on the Hudson, says the Albany Evening Journal, are not having a very abundant season. The shad are scarce, and very few have yet been taken above Hyde Park. And even below that point they are scarce. Some suppose that the tide freshets and prevailing winds about the time the fish should have passed into the North river, diverted them from their course, and sent more of them than usual into the East river, where they are more plenty than in previous seasons.

A valuable auxiliary to the system of collegiate education at Harvard, is soon to be inaugurated. The one thing needful to a full and proper development of the *physique* of the students has been obtained mainly through the instrumentality of the Rev. Prof Huntington, whose interest in the subject of the physical training of the students doubtless infected a large-hearted but modest individual, whose name has not transpired, who gave the sum of $20,000 for the purpose of erecting a *gymnasium!*

It is reported from Rome, that an exquisite statue of Venus has been discovered in a vineyard, half a mile beyond the Porta Portesse. It is said to rival in some respects the famed Venus de Medici, but is of a less ideal type. The head was found at a short distance from the torso, and is minus the nose and a portion of the lip. The arms and hands also are imperfect. The marble is Parian and the character of the sculpture Grecian.

The New Orleans Bulletin brags of having already green corn, full grown, and remarkably delicious.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCHES.

BOSTON, May, 9.—The question of accepting the amendment to the State constitution, requiring two years' residence after naturalization, was voted on throughout this State to-day, and has probably been carried by a large majority. Boston gives 3,516 yeas to 2,895 nays. Returns from fifty towns give 5,047 yeas, to 2,706 nays.

NEW YORK, May 9.—The U. S. frigate Sabine, with U. S. Commissioner Bowlin, has arrived from Montevideo.

NORFOLK, May 9.—Miss Brinkley, the author of "The Escaped Nun," has publicly recanted.

AUGUSTA, May 9.—The case against Wm. Swan and others, charged with the illegal vending of lottery tickets, commenced here to-day. The defendants' counsel moved to dismiss the indictment; first, because of the offence charged being not technically a crime subject to indictment; and second, that there was no prosecution. Messrs. Toombs, Stephens and Jackson appeared for the defendants, and the court will determine on the points to-morrow.

PHILADELPHIA, May 9.-The new city councils organized this morning, when the officers nominated by a caucus of the people's party, were elected.

FREDERICK, May 9.—An attack was made on L. B. Lent's circus company about half-past eight o'clock to-night, while they were performing, by a large crowd of rowdies.—Two of the circus men were badly hurt while protecting their property. Two or three of the outsiders were hurt, but not seriously. The crowd set fire to the side canvas, which was burnt up. They also broke one or two wagons belonging to the circus. All the persons got out safe. The cause of this is said to be the price of tickets, which was 50 cents. The company refused to put the price to 25 cents, which had been done by others before them. It is feared another attack will be made.

The Mormons.

The news respecting Utah is favorable to an adjustment of the differences between Gov. Cumming and Col. Johnston, by a decision of the United States government in favor of the civil power, and the dismissal of Judge Cradlebaugh. The Mormons have ascertained that the deserts of Utah are unfit for habitation, and they desire to make a merit of the necessity that forces them to leave that region for other parts.

Brigham Young, as is stated by Cov. Cumming, in a letter to the President, has advised his people to remove. Lately he has made more definite overtures to the United States government on the subject. He values the Mormon property in Utah at thirty millions of dollars. It must be an exaggerated estimate. He is willing to sell all their fixed interests—every thing not moveable—to the United States, and retire from our limits. When the Mormons leave this wilderness, the Indians and buffalo may possibly be again visible there, but there is little probability that it will ever become the abode of a community of white men.—*Washington Correspondent of the Balt. Sun.*

Mail to California.

We learn that the Postmaster General has accepted the proposals of Daniel H. Johnson, of New York, amounting in the aggregate to 162,000, for semi-monthly service for nine months from 1st October next, (being at the rate of $216,000 per annum) between New York and San Francisco, and New Orleans and San Francisco, via Nicaragua, connecting at Key West. The schedule time between New York and San Francisco is not to exceed twenty-three days, and between New Orleans and San Francisco twenty days, the ocean service to be performed in good and sufficient steamships, and the isthmus service in good sufficient steamboats and land carriages.

The service for the same period at the rate now paid, would cost $741, 187 50, showing a saving of 579,187 50, excluding from the estimate the unimportant coastwise service between San Francisco and San Diego, and the service between San Francisco and Astoria, which latter is provided for in another contract, without additional expense to the department.—*Wash. Constitution.*

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—There is such information in Washington as to warrant the belief that the time of the settlement of our affairs with Costa Rica, is not far distant.

So far the Water Witch and the Fulton are the only vessels to be sent to the Gulf of Mexico, and these cannot be immediately dispatched, as they are previously to be overhauled and repaired at Norfolk.

The State and War Department to-day made up their instructions for Utah. Gen. Johnston will hereafter await the orders of the Governor before calling out the troops to act as a *posse comitatus*, to assist the civil authorities in the enforcement of the laws.

The Postmaster General had made his decision on the bids for the California mail service.

Hair-Breadth Escape.

A workman in the employ of Mr. B. B. Lawton, of Hudson, on Saturday had as wonderful a hair-breadth escape as was ever known. He took it into his head to lie down upon the track using the rail for a pillow. The spot selected was very near the place where Rafferty was killed a day or two previous.

When the night express passed up, the rattling of the cars, and the roar of the locomotive failed to disturb the sleeper, and as the train whizzed past the wheels cut off his hair close to the scalp. Astonishing as it may appear, the man escaped uninjured, but, his personal appearance is slightly altered. This is no doubt the most "hair-breath" escape on record.—*N. Y. Com.*

STILL LATER FROM EUROPE.

MORE WAR NEWS.

Austrians Reported to have crossed the Ticino.

ST. JOHN'S, (N.F.) May 9.—The steamship Adelaide, of the Galway and Newfoundland line, arrived here this afternoon with European dates of the 30th ultimo.

The London Times of the 27th, speaking of the Russo-French alliance, says, it is most startling, changing in a moment the whole aspect of affairs!

The King of Sardinia has gone to join the army at Alexandria.

The Tuscan army called on the Grand Duke to join France and Piedmont and declare war against Austria, but he declined and fled, and Tuscany declared a military dictatorship.

Warlike preparations are going on in England. There is great activity at Woolwich. The government has chartered the Cunard steamer Etna and other vessels to convey troops and ammunition to the Mediterranean. Rumors were circulating of a proclamation calling out ten thousand men for the navy.

War premiums are being generally demanded at Lloyd's.

The Parliamentary elections have commenced quietly.

The latest accounts from France report active military movements throughout that empire. Eighty thousand French troops were expected to be in Italy by the day the steamer sailed.

Denmark is reported to have concluded a treaty offensive and defensive with France.

The Paris Bourse has been greatly excited but less so than the London Stock Exchange. The funds declined 1 per cent. on the 27th, but recovered ½ on the 28th, three per cents. closing at 62f 70c.

The panic at London was very great.

There has been a great panic on the London Stock Exchange. Consols fluctuated excessively.

The ship Pomena, from Liverpool for New York, was wrecked off Wexford on the 17th. The crew and three passengers, names unknown, were saved. She had over 400 souls on board. The loss of life unknown.

LATEST.—LONDON, April 30.—The report that the Austrians crossed the Ticino on the 20th proved incorrect. They had received orders to do so, but the order was countermanded and they remained on the east bank.

It was asserted that the advanced posts had crossed, and that the main army would do so on the 29th.

The Austrian official journals contain an imperial manifesto explaining the necessity of a war with Sardinia, and authoritatively denying the existence of a secret treaty between Russia and France.

LONDON, Saturday Noon.—Consols 89.—Austria has issued a manifesto tantamount to a declaration of war.

PARIS, Saturday.—The Austrian troops have crossed the Ticino, and commenced hostilities. This is official.

THE LATEST.—Liverpool, Saturday, noon.—Sales of cotton to-day estimated at four thousand bales. There is but little inquiry and prices weak. Wheat and corn closed bouyant, at extreme rates, and all qualities have considerably advanced, say 1s. 6d. Provisions close with an advancing tendency.

LONDON.—Baring's circular quotes wheat advancing. Prices have advanced 5 to 8s. ℔ quarter. Flour is also advancing, and all qualities are higher.

Latest from California and Mexico

NEW ORLEANS, May 7.—The Tehuantepec steamer Coatzacoalcas, from Minatitlan, arrived to-day. She brings dates from San Francisco to the 20th of April, being nine days later than the news by the overland mail.

In consequence of warm weather, which has improved the condition of the roads, and large receipts of treasure from the California and Frazer river mines, and the liberal orders for goods from the interior, an improvement had taken place in the San Francisco markets.

The transactions in first hands are limited, and an extraordinary consumption of goods will be required to reduce the present very heavy stock in, time for the large expected receipts.

The steamer for New York, via the Isthmus of Panama, has on board $1,700,000 in gold.

The receipts from the mines have been large, amounting to $735,000 in specie.

The amount of treasure exported since the 1st of January, is $12,325,000.

There had been no arrivals at San Francisco, from the Atlantic ports since the departure of the last mail, nor had there been any clearances.

The papers furnish dates from Oregon to the 6th ult. S. J. McCormick, democrat, had been elected mayor of Portland, by a large majority.

The California Legislature adjourned without taking any action on the outstanding State indebtedness.

CALIFORNIA MARKETS.—San Francisco, April 20.—Large sales of boots and shoes have been made at auction at home rates. Candles the same and sales lower. Coffee is active and commands better rates. Crockery is in good demand. In dry goods large retail sales have been made without loss. Fish are dull. Malt liquors very dull.—Eastern refined molasses steady. Naval stores are much depressed.

Provisions are steady. Domestic spirits are more active, with improving rates. Foreign spirits are quiet. Refined sugars have an improved tendency. Eastern ground salt declined. Teas active. Tobacco dull. Flour is better; business in Richmond with jobbing rates at ten. Freights very dull.

NEW ORLEANS, May 8.—We have our full budget of Mexican news by the Coatzacoalcos. Minister McLane arrived at Minatitlan on the 1st inst. After paying an official visit to the consul, he would return to Vera Cruz on the 4th.

No military operations of importance have occurred since the sailing of the Tennessee. Gen. Degollado attributes his defeat to the explosion of a magazine, which destroyed a large number of the artillerymen. He had retreated with his army, in good order, forty miles, and encamped at Tubucca, where he would recommence immediate operations against the city of Mexico.

Robles, with a party of the reactionists, had taken Jalapa, and prohibited communication with Vera Cruz, under pain of death. Gen. Ampudia, with a force of liberals, was near him, and a battle was expected.

Juarez had issued a general exequater to all American consuls and vice consuls, restoring those withdrawn by Miramon.

Minister McLane issued a circular in defence of the Americans, maintaining that they would act in good faith, and with consistency towards Mexico.

The Liberals had taken the ports of Colona and San Blas, on the Pacific.

From the Brazos we learn that a formidable conspiracy has been discovered at Monterey.

Mr. Garay, the new consul general of Juarez for New York, leaves on Friday for New York, and will immediately enter upon his duty.

The Coatzacoalcos left Minatitlan on the 4th inst.

The United States sloop-of-war Brooklyn was then there, with Hon. Mr. McLane, who was paying on official visit to U. S. Consul Allen. Mr. McLane had addressed Ocampa an important letter, defending the United States against the charges of Miramon's government.

Pronouncing.—"La! ma, here's a heagle." Ma, (reproachfully)—"A heagle! Oh! you hignorant gal. Vy, it's a howl." Keeper of the menagerie—"Axes parding, mum, 'tis an awk!"

The Blue Ridge Country, Virginia.

Corres. of the New York Spirit of the Times.

FAUQUIER COUNTY, VA., May 1, 1859.—According to my promise, I send you a "screed" intended to be descriptive of the Blue Ridge country, and embracing portions of Loudoun, Fauquier, Clarke, and Warren counties. Salem, Upperville, and Paris, are the principal points of attraction in Upper Fauquier. I shall often refer to Salem hereafter. Paris is situated in Ashby's Gap, at the Eastern base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the Northern and upper portion of Fauquier County. At a distance of about half a mile above Paris, upon the summit of Ashby's Gap, stands a commanding and lofty poplar, distinguished as the commencing point of Loudoun, Fauquier, and Clarke counties. A narrow strip of Warren County runs also to within half a mile of this noted tree. This gap takes its name from one of the earliest and most resolute settlers of this region of country, by the name of Ashby. He was the first with a loaded wagon to pioneer this then rugged and dangerous gorge in the mountain. When about to descend the Eastern slope of the mountain with his team, a friend in company insisted upon his "locking" his wheels. His reply was quite characteristic: "It's a d—n poor horse that can't outrun a wagon:" cracked his whip, and on he moved. For his temerity he had the satisfaction of seeing two of his finest horses killed before he reached the base of the mountain. During the revolutionary war this same old gentleman was the bearer of important despatches to our army, and actually rode from what is now known as Clarke County to Richmond, one hundred and fifty miles, in a day and night. By-the-bye, Tom Ashby (old he red,) rendered illustrious by the graceful pen of "Old Dominion," is a lineal descendant of this old gentleman.

Paris contains a population of about two hundred, and is surrounded on both sides by high and rugged mountains. Viewed from the surrounding hills, it presents to the eye quite a picturesque and ornate appearance. It was named Paris in honor of the French nation, who were at that time rendering us such signal service in our revolutionary struggles, by its founder, Mr. Peter Glasscock, a patriotic old gentleman. This old gentleman had a fine brick house erected upon a commanding position above the town; and when General Lafayette revisited this county and Warrenton, the old gentleman mounted his horse, rode down to Warrenton, sought an introduction to the General, tendering to him this house and lot, provided he would make it his future residence.—This patriotic offer Monsieur le Marquis gracefully declined.

Perhaps there is no mountainous region of equal elevation and unevenness anywhere to be found, more valuable for the character of its timber and the productiveness of its soil than the Blue Ridge, and especially that portion of it lying along the line dividing the counties of Fauquier and Loudoun from Warren and Clarke. The Western slopes of the mountain, which extend to the Shenandoah River, abound mostly in yellow and white pine, with, in many places, a thick undergrowth of laurel. These pines grow to a fine size, tall and erect, and when

"Fretted with the gusts of heaven,
Wag their high tops,"

seemingly in defiance of the blast. The saw, however, has made considerable havoc amongst the choice specimens, and with the help of the axe, in many places, has exchanged the forest for the field. The howl of the wolf has long since given way to the bleating of the lamb. The music of the old fox-dog has infused some shyness in the movements of Reynard. The wild turkey, duck, pheasant, quail, woodcock, and snipe, are among the luxuries of the table. With the hardy and industrious people who have cast their lot among these hills, a Christmas dinner is deemed incomplete without a roasted turkey, or a broiled pheasant. Here, too, is the abode of the American Eagle; and the stately Condor does not leap from the summit of Chimborazo among the clouds, with more dignity and pride than does our noble Eagle here from the top of his native Blue Gall. The soil, although of fair quality in this piney region, improves as we ascend to the top of the ridge. The excellence of its character is truthfully indicated, I believe, by the timber—the oak land, as it is called, being the best. The oak, in all its variety, is found upon the higher lands and the Southern grades of the mountain.—There is a choice variety, however, of paw-paw, hickory, locust, chesnut, elm, maple, walnut, gum, and occasionally a noble specimen of mulberry. Besides these, as though nature intended to exhibit the versatility of her productive talent, and associate the beautiful with the useful, the red bud and sassafras unfold their bloom in early May, while the dog-wood and wild honeysuckle seem only to await the run of another half-moon to succeed them. The wild grape is abundant here, and is much used by the inhabitants. The wine made from it is of a very superior quality. The strawberry, raspberry, and blackberry, are natives of these hills, and are found in their season in no limited quantities. The higher lands are mostly adapted best to the production of oats, corn, and buckwheat; yet many farmers on the very summit of the ridge make fair yields of wheat. I have known as many as fifteen and twenty bushels of very superior wheat, (weight 60 to 64 lbs. to the bushel) grown to the acre on the highest lands, and of Northern exposure. Within a few years past there has been some improvement in the care and skill with which these lands are managed. Gypsum is used freely, and with decidedly beneficial results. In many, indeed, I may say most places, the surface is thickly covered with stone, and to one who is a stranger to the cultivation of such a soil, it appears astonishing that any one should ever think of attempting its cultivation. To a staid old German farmer from the smooth mellow soil of Pennsylvania it would look like labor lost to attempt its cultivation. Not so, however: comfort and thrift as universally follow the industrious and skilful use of the plough and the hoe here, as upon the smoother lands of the valleys. During dry seasons from which we often suffer in the South, these stony hills are more productive than the lands even of a better quality that have no stone upon them. The corn crop, particularly, is better in such a season. The great quantity of stone lying upon the top of the soil, covering it in a good degree, has the effect of retaining the moisture, which without them would sooner be lost by evaporation and the direct action of the rays of the sun. And so with respect to grass. Clover, timothy, orchard, and blue grass, constitute the chief elements of pasturage. These mountain lands are profitably employed for grazing purposes. Many of our wealthy farmers, owning valuable estates near the ridge, have of late years found it judicious to invest considerable sums in the purchase of these lands for the purpose of grazing. I believe it is an admitted fact that these high and rough lands, acre for acre, and treated in a similar manner, compete successfully in the fattening of stock with the best lands of Loudoun and Fauquier. The soil of the Southern grades of the ridge is mostly a tenacious clay, with a moderate portion of gravel or sand. It is not uniform, however, in this mixture, and the frequent changes in its shades or color, which are presented to the eye, indicate measurably the absence of one or the other. The slopes of the mountain, from its base to its top, are from half a mile to two miles in length, and are very productive, partaking largely of the elements essential to the growth of wheat. Twenty, twenty-five and thirty bushels per acre, are no uncommon "turn-out" from fallow. And rye, although its cultivation for a few years past has been almost discarded, yields abundantly. The use of plaster has, doubtless, done much towards the improvement of this region. Some experiments have been made with guano, but I think with less profitable results than have attended its use in more Eastern Virginia. Its effect, although marked, I think, are not sufficiently so to justify its use, at least upon the better portions of these lands. This region abounds in mineral springs of almost every variety of medicinal water, and, without doubt, inhabited by the most prolific race extant. It is nothing uncommon to see from fourteen to twenty healthy children in a family, and parents scarcely having passed the meridian of life. Such a thing as barrenness is almost unknown in this section of country.

In taking leave of this part of my subject, I am happy to be able to add, that one group of those valuable medicinal springs, located in the generous soil of Warren, in full view of the beautiful Blue Ridge, and near enough to be fanned by its delightful and invigorating breezes, and in close proximity to the neat and flourishing town of Front-Royal, has already been handsomely fitted up for the reception of visitors, and is rapidly becoming a favorite resort, alike for the invalid and the pleasure seeker; and there is no doubt each of them my be benefitted by a sojourn at these delightful springs. The northern slopes of the ridge are most plentifully supplied with springs, alternating with freestone, limestone, and sulphur. But these hills abound in springs, pure, clear, and untailing. Indeed, I doubt whether, within the broad limits of our glorious Union, there is a region to be found so well supplied with springs whose healthful waters are as congenial to the taste of man. Many of them have their fountains upon the very top of the mountain, but they soon find a channel through its gorges to the valleys below, where uniting with kindred current, they become entitled to the more dignified appellation of creek and river, and are soon mingled with the waters of the Shenandoah and Potomac.

One of these springs, on the very summit of the ridge, some four miles west of Ashby's gap, deserves a special notice. It is, by way of distinction, called "Rock Spring," a very appropriate cognomen, for its full silvery current (an inch and a half in diameter) forcing its way through a ponderous mass of granite rock, and when the mercury has run up to 90 degrees is cool and grateful to the stomach as though it had bounded fresh from a region of ice. I never look upon this full current gushing from its granite bed but I am reminded of that wonderful exhibition of the divine power to the Israelites, as under the guidance of Moses they sojourned through the wilderness.

"He smote the rock, and the waters gushed forth."

From many points on this part of the Blue Ridge we have most interesting views of a large portion of the valley of Virginia on the one side and of that fertile, beautiful, and picturesque country lying in the counties of Loudoun and Fauquier, on the other. The view continues until the eye is lost amid the hazes surrounding the distant hills of Maryland. And at this gay and hope inspiring season—if one may be allowed to indulge his imagination—he might readily conclude that the fabled Ceres had visited these proud old hills; and under her auspices, charge, and influence, life and beauty and fruitfulness were spreading sweet charms all around him.

'Tis June—sweet June—and sun more bright
Ne'er threw a ray of purer light
On glen or fountain;
Nor classic Helicon, I ween,
E'er stood amid a fairer scene
Than th' old Blue Mountain!

Yours, in haste. NICHOLAS SPICER.

The Ashland Races—Spring Meeting 1859.

On Tuesday, 17th inst., the races occur over the Ashland Course, and may be expected to continue with unabated interest throughout the week. The inauguration of this favorite race-course took place in October last, when for the first time, in many years, the presence of ladies gave animation to the scene, and inspired the hope that the palmy days of Old Virginia were about to return. On the occasion referred to, a more brilliant array of fashion and beauty than graced the pavilion appropriated to the exclusive use of the fair daughters of Virginia, could not well be imagined. We have reason to know that the preparations for the accommodation of all, and particularly ladies, have been greatly improved and extended, in view of the approaching meeting; and the entries of fine stock on the occasion, furnish every guaranty that all who are in attendance will be highly gratified by the exciting contests of the week. We cannot forbear, however, drawing attention to the great four mile race which is to come off on the first day of the meeting, for a purse of $1,800—in all probability, and certainly for not less than $1,400. The competitors most prominent for this stake are, the celebrated horses Planet and Tar River, both in tip-top order, and both impatient to do or die. On the following day, Wednesday, 18th, two interesting races will occur, one of them, the colt race, in which Exchequer and Crinoline are entered, will excite an interest, and attract a crowd, but little less than that which illustrated the celebrated contest between Eclipse and Henry. The ladies resident in the adjacent counties are busy we learn in preparation for the great event, and the Knights Templar of Providence and Boston having been invited, will be on the ground in all their bright array, while their fine bands of music, aided by the Armory Band of Richmond, will enliven the scene to an extent never witnessed even here in the heart of Old Virginia.—*Rich. Whig.*

Fish Culture.

A remarkable account has been lately given by Dr. Cloquet, to the Paris Societe d'Acclimation, of the results of an attempt to keep salmon in fresh water ponds having no communication with the sea. The experiment was made at St. Cucufa, near St. Cloud, where M. Coste has successfully carried on piscicultural operations on a very extensive scale. The pond chosen for the experiment in question is of small extent, and is supplied by a small stream of fresh water, sufficient to form a cascade. Three years ago the pond was entirely emptied and cleaned out. In April and May, 1855, several thousand salmon, only two months old, were placed in the pond with trout, and, notwithstanding the voracious nature of the latter fish, the salmon have prospered so well that a few weeks ago, in the presence of the Emperor, who takes great interest in the artificial production of fish, no less than 200 kilogrammes weight of salmon was caught by one haul of a net. This result is very surprising, but M. Coste states that he was far more astonished to find that the female salmon were full of eggs. He adds that he saw several eggs so highly developed that they were on the point of being emitted. These results, which bear the stamp of high authenticity, prove that salmon may be produced and reared in fresh water ponds, under similar circumstances.

BLEACHING AND PRESSING

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Persecution.

The cry of *persecution*, the usual cry of desperation, is again being raised by the Smith party of this Congressional District. How many votes will be effected by it, is yet undetermined, but if I am not much mistaken it will, this time, go unheeded.—It was the cry in 1857—and this is but the echo, coming back after a two years' absence. It is strange that gentlemen "who live in glass houses will continue to throw stones." It were an easy matter to take up some of the editorials and communications in the Smith papers of this district, that teem with the most severe threatening against those, who refusing to be "whipped in" to the support of Gov. Smith, have the effrontry to maintain and express their own opinions. Were it deemed necessary or important to show conclusively who are the persecutors, it would not be a difficult task to convict those who are most boisterous with the cry of *Persecution*, as being the parties who are really guilty.

Let me ask, when the Democratic opponents of Gov. Smith ever attempted to remove men from office, because they had sustained him? Let me further ask, what man who ever voted against Gov. Smith, or did not yield him a cordial support, has ever been appointed to any place of honor or profit, by the recommendation of Governor Smith, or his zealous supporters? Let me ask still further, what threatenings have ever been sent forth by Mr. Shackelford or his friends against those who prefer to support Gov. Smith? None that I have seen—none that I have read of. True, Governor Smith's political course has been criticized, but there have been no threatenings breathed forth against him or his supporters.

Compare the spirit and temper of the articles written by the friends of Mr. Shackelford, with those on the other side, and see if you can find in the former, expressions similar to thoses which abound in the Smith publications. We cull a few examples from a single editorial—"If they may indulge their chronic *personal dislikes* against the notorious preferences of a majority of their party, may not *others* do the same? If they may carry out their *personal prejudices* to the extent of *breaking up the party, &c.*, may not *others* give equal scope to their *resentments?*" Here we have two gratuitous charges, of the indulgence of "*personal dislikes*," and the carrying out of "*personal prejudices*" and two distinct threats. "Can they sow the wind, and not reap the whirlwind?" Threat No. 3—upon the devoted head of "the most *envenomed* opponent" who repudiates the "*duty of submission*" to Governor Smith! These constitute but a tithe of the gentle hints that abound in the published articles in favor of Gov. Smith, which are thrown out to frighten and alarm the supporters of Henry Shackelford. Nay, more. It has been said on the streets of Alexandria, that the Democrats who may vote for Mr. Shackelford would be marked men in the party—and that dire and dreadful calamities would befall others, who might choose to express their honest preference at the polls. Men who have been Democrats from their youth up are being constantly read out of the party by gentlemen who were high priests in the order of "*Sam*" and the leaders in Whig glee clubs in '40 and '44, delighting to exercise their vocal powers in making music from the contents of the "*yellow kiver.*" Why is it, that gentlemen cannot, in this contest, be allowed to have and express their opinions in a respectful manner, without having attributed to them personal and vindictive motives? Do these ardent supporters of Gov. Smith, claim any credit for their zeal? If so, why not exercise a little charity for the opinions of others, and accord to them at least the shadow of honesty even if you claim the substance.

It is, however, pretty generally understood, gentlemen, that no threats of retribution, no cry of vengeance, no bulls of excommunication, which you may put forth, from this to the fourth Thursday in the month, can deter Democrats from their determination to think for themselves and to vote as they think proper.

A DEMOCRAT.

[COMMUNICATED.

The usual quotation is now applicable—"Truth crushed to earth," &c. The "Basis Principles" *do* contain sound Democratic doctrines, and first rate political principles! Could the Know Nothings then have been *very wrong* in striving to establish them, and "organizing" for that purpose. Their ritual, obligations, &c., were abolished, and done away with, as everybody knows, but their "Basis Principles" were what they really fought for, and what the Democratic party fought against, because they were intended to form the platform on which the Know Nothing party was to stand in *opposition* to the Democratic party. It is, therefore, positively *refreshing* to see the "Basis Principles," defended, praised, and advocated, by a portion, at least, of those who call themselves, and profess to be ,Democrats. All the Know Nothings ever wanted was the adoption of their Basis Principles, and hence in 1855, their leaders acted in favor of those who advocated them then.

MATHEMATICAL LINE.

[COMMUNICATED.

As Mr. Thomas has two "Democratic" competitors, each of whom assail his positions and his principles, and strive to rebut his arguments, I respectfully suggest that "fair play" requires that in the discussion to come off, he should have as much time as *both* his competitors. It has been said that Mr. Thomas should not run as a candidate, because there are two Democrats in the field. If that doctrine be correct, the Whigs could be prevented from ever having a candidate. But since he *will run*, is that any reason why one of his competitors should be allowed to double teams upon him? QUERO.

[COMMUNICATED.

Great injustice is done to the State Rights pamphlet, "which issued at the Alexandria Gazette office," in not stating that it was folded, pasted, stitched and covered at Mr. Siggers' Book Bindery. The last fact is *important* as well as the former. Besides, I do not know that it would be meddling *very particularly* with the business concerns of other people. It may be remarked too, that as the "yellow and green" paper for the covers did not hold out, a few were covered with pink!! HARRISON.

[COMMUNICATED.

As an evidence of the confidence felt by the friends of Mr. Thomas as to that gentleman's success, we will state that a gentleman from Fauquier county, well posted in regard to the political complexion of that county, made a bet with a gentleman of this city, on Monday night, of $50 to $20—2½ to $1—that Fauquier would go for Thomas!

A CARD.

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[COMMUNICATED

Flowers in the Sweet Spring Time

BY CEDAR, OF THE SOUTH.

"The howling Winter's gone and past,
The smiling season's come at last,
Behold the rosy Spring!"

We always admire the many and multifarious beauties of the ever-returning seasons, because, like Mohammed's feigned angel, every one speaks out with seventy thousand tongues—"He maketh everything beautiful in his season."

"But never yet, by night or day,
In dew of Spring or Summer's ray,
Did the sweet fields shine so gay
As now they shine."

"The Winter is past, the rain is over and gone, the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land. The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell." Now we go out with joy, and are led forth in peace; the mountains bursting in song, and the valleys ripe with music, break forth before us into singing, and the trees of the field, draped in changeful blush, clap their glad hands, and all,

"With a song of praise, go up
To the eternal banquet!"

The brooks and rivers are scintillating with sunbeams; the meadows are roseate and woven in nature's looms; the matin choirs don their fairest feathers, and warble their richest notes, while along the broad ways of the world, the green isles of nature, and the narrow paths of life, the glad grasses come creeping, creeping! Everthing felicitates the advent of the sweet Spring!

What an obvious want of beauty, and how apparently imperfect would have been our world, had there been no flowers! These are among the "good and perfect gifts" of the Creator, and nothing could have taken their place. The mountains are ornate with wild blossoms, the valleys are smiling with violets and variegated beauties, and the little vines and honeysuckles are leaning along the fences, embroidering the side-walks, and stretching their anxious and precious tendrils on every bush and tree. That we might have a miniature picture of the "better land," God hath robed the globe with glory, set it in a golden frame, and hitched it on the crook of time, so the pilgrims journeying thitherward may know the land when they reach it.

Flowers—sweet flowers! Who does not love to see, to talk, and even to write about flowers? Flowers are the jewelry gracing the garments of Spring, as she comes forth beautifully arrayed in her full welcome dress, greeted by admiring millions. Everywhere, and at all times, the heart of man blesses flowers. He looks upon them with an admiring eye, gathers them with a soft hand, and presses them as creatures that he loves. He delights to walk forth in the soft gush of a beautiful May morning, and see the primrose and sweet-williams, the tulips and almond trees, the willows and wall-flowers, peach trees and pear trees, the daisy and dandelions, the japonicas and geraniums, all bursting forth into bloom and beauty. Let us remember,

"There is a lesson in each flower,
A story in each stream and bower;
On every herb on which we tread
Are written words, which, rightly read,
Will lead us from earth's fragrant sod,
To hope, and holiness, and God."

To foreshadow the beauties of the Christian religion, flowers were inwrought on the seven branches of the golden candlestick, the cedar beams of the temple, and the brim of the brazen sea.

Flowers are sacred and sanctified for every occasion. They are wreathed around the cradle of childhood, as symbols of innocence and beauty; they hang in rich garlands around the hymenial altar, as types of a future life of innocence and joy; and they grow on the graves of the departed, as apt emblems of the resurrection bodies—"*raised in power.*"

The Persian in his scarlet robes of royalty, the Brahmin of the distant East, and the rude Arab in his desert home, delight in their beauty and fragrance; and, like Esau, lay their garments up, and embalm their festive robes in "the smell of a field." And even the Aborigines of the far West will clasp their hands in glee as they gather the abundant blossoms from the pictorial pages of the book of nature.

The Cupid of the ancient Hindoos tipped his arrows with flowers; and even in our day, bouquets, orange buds, and bridal crowns, are tokens of the fondest affection. Flowers garlanded the shrine of the Egyptian Priest, and the proudest Greek, and hung in votive wreaths around the Christian's "throne of grace." With Horace Smith, I may truly say—

"Were I, O! God, in churchless lands remaining,
Far from the voice of teachers or divines,
My soul would find, in flowers of thy ordaining,
Priests, sermons, shrines!"

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