BRISTOL NEWS,

PUBLISHED IN GOODSON,

The Virginia portion of the town, by

I. C. FOWLER.

Is issued every Tuesday at $1.50 per annum, or, if paid in advance, $1.00.

The Editor of the News is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

JOB WORK

Executed with neatness and dispatch at New York prices.

Bristol News.

VOLUME XVI. BRISTOL, VIRGINIA & TENNESSEE, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1. 1881. Whole No. 791. No. 20

ADVERTISING RATES

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1881.

EVENT and COMMENT.

Fauquier county has eased herself of paying the Sacred Public Debt by reducing the assessment on her blue grass lands nearly half a million, or accurately $462,311,58. This will save her annually in State taxes $2,311,55.

Montgomery county contains 247,149 acres of land assessed for taxation, nearly a quarter of a million of acres. Her decrease of assessment on these is 27½ per cent.

The insolvent capitation tax seems to be on the increase. The *Whig* says the number of persons who failed to pay poll tax from 1871 to 1877—seven years was as follows: 1871, 57,000—'72, 62,500—'73, 61,500—'74, 64,500—'75, 62,200— 76, 65,400—'77, 72,000. We use round figures. The poll tax disfranchisement did not apply until 1877 in which there was a loss of 6,00.

At last we have the official figures of the census of 1880. The population of the U. S. is 50,152,866, nearly seventeen times as great as a hundred years ago.

The "Democrats" of Amherst county have held a meeting and resolved on a policy for the future. It is to draw the color line—preserve the poll tax qualification, and adopt the principles of the Barbour Bill, intensified. The men who ran that meeting have better hind sight than foresight.

The House Committee on appropriations at Washington has agreed on $10,000 as the amount for the improvement of New River between mouth of Wilson and mouth of Greenbrier.

Ford Rorer, of Roanoke, lost last Wednesday night $3,000 by an incendiary fire. Insurance $500.

We announce with surprise and regret that the office at Benham's, in this county, has been discontinued for want of a Post master. The mails go to Hamilton Institute.

U. S. Senator Frank Hereford, of W. Va. was defeated last week by I. N. Camden, who obtained the caucus nomination of the Democrats. W. Va. will never have a more efficient Senator than Hereford.

Dr. Miller, the faith Dr., has bought a home at Big Lick, and has been so successful as king cure all, that he had the cash to pay down for it.

"Cleopatra's Needle"

The celebrated Egyptian obelisk, improperly called Cleopatra's Needle, was swung into position and lowered to its pedastal in Central Park, New York, last Saturday week the 22nd day of January. This celebrated stone was erected more than 3,500 years ago at the entrance of the Temple of the Sun in Heliopolis, by Thotmes III. Two hundred years later Ramses II had his greatness carved on it in the curious hieroglyphics that now attract the gaze of Americans. Augustus Cæsar 23 years before Christ, moved it to Alexandria and set it up in the Cæsarium. The Cæsarium has gone to ruins but the hoary monolith remains and has left the mournful desolation that broods over the oldest and proudest civilization of the Orient to decorate the great metropolis of the new world. No intelligent eye can look upon it without bringing together visions of the far distant glory that has moved its throne from the land of the Pharos to our opposite quarter of the globe. Vast as is the long roll of years since Thotmes first pointed it to the cloudless skies of Egypt and great as is the distance it has travelled in the harness of modern art these are but dim and shadowy types by which to represent the giant strides that mark the glory and elevation of the new Nation to which the Kedive and Wm. H. Vanderbilt have presented it.

New Tobacco Factory at Abingdon.

We were shown last week by Col. Jno. Oyler and sons, through the new Tobacco Factory of the Holston Manufactory at Abingdon. The building is of brick 100x40—three stories high and is being fitted up in very fine style, with large boiler and a system of steam pipes and tramways that give entire control of the temperature and weather. There are seven new hydraulic presses and fine office accommodations. Quite a large supply of tobacco is on hand, and, like all of Col. Oyler's work, it is in faultless order. We were shown samples of some of the finest tobacco we have ever seen in the leaf, being grown in Grayson Co. by Mr. Cecil. Our thanks are due Col. Oyler for a sample. Messrs. Greenway, Honaker, P. Trigg, Creger and others own the stock, some $10,000, in shares of $500 each.

Size of the Mendota Hogs.

One of our Mendota subscribers sends us the following list of hogs recently butchered in that vicinity, and we ask the other sections of the county if they can top these figures:

W. J. Fleenor, 1 Berkshire	486
Joel Kaylor 1 "	484
Washington Hobs, 1 Poland China	480
Col. Joel H. Fleenor 2 " "	480
and 498.	
Total weight of five hogs	2425.
Average weight—485—net.	

Senator Johnston Answered.

From the Washington Republican, 22nd.

The Richmond Whig comes to hand with a five-column reply to the statements and arguments of Senator Johnston on Virginia affairs. We regret that we cannot publish it entire. It completely demolishes the false arithmetic and the feeble reasoning based upon it which cost the Virginia Bourbon Senator so much time, paper, and ink. As the discussion progresses, we shall draw from the Whig's magazine of facts, and, made up as they are from the record, they will be found unanswerable.

Senator Riddleberger's interview and statement, which we publish this morning, enters largely and carefully into these matters, and we commend it to the careful perusal of all who desire correct information. He makes it clear that the assessments are honest and nearer by thirty-five per cent. to the value estimated by the United States for census purposes than are the assessments of any other State in the Union.

The value of Senator Johnston's statement will be apparent when we see, as is stated by Mr. Riddleberger, that in estimating the Revenues of Virginia he forgot or did not understand the necessity for stating the cost of their collection, or the delinquencies in the payment of taxes. This exactly accounts for the sum he thought Senator Mahone had understated.

Again: Senator Johnston thinks fifty cents on the hundred dollars ought now to realize as much as forty cents did before the war. But he failed to recognize the destruction of over $150,000,000 of property in slaves, or the depreciation of real property. He also neglected to notice the abolition of the mill tax on railroads, that formerly yielded great revenues; also the loss of the State's share of bank dividends. The Funder Senator cited the receipts of 1879-'80 as proof that the revenues would exceed General Mahone's estimate. Ordinary fairness would have prompted him to say that of these receipts about $400,000 was from old arrears, forming no part of the current and usual revenues.

The Funder Bourbons have madly appealed to the Republicans to keep their honor unstained by running a straight ticket in Virginia this year, instead of leaving the main body of Republican voters free to vote as they would prefer to do—for the 'Readjuster Liberals.—This they urge in behalf of the good name of the Republican party. The old shell-back, moss-covered Bourbons are so afraid that our Radical party will be tainted with repudiation that they cannot sleep at nights. But the few tools they use for this business will be unable to stop the mighty rush of the political waters toward a union of liberal voters. The shame of the bogus "Debt-Payers" has been exploded by General Mahone. The official reply of Senator Johnston has been riddled by Riddleberger, and cut into mince-meat by the Whig. The Readjusters have proven their case before the world as honest men, with a clear and honest purpose, both in State and National affairs. The Republicans of the North cannot but admire their pluck, and trust their patriotism. They can be trusted as neighbors and friends, and with a fair field against the Bourbons, they will establish law and order in Virginia, satisfy public creditors, and be the entering-wedge in "the solid South." Let us aid them to this result, and trust to the future to put all true men into one National cause.

For the Bristol News.

Letter from Rev. B. F. White.

A TOUCHING REMINISCENCE—THE SCHOOL ON VA. HILL—THE BRISTOL NEWS, AND A TOUCH AT SPIRITUALISM.

Nothing is more thrillingly touching, than occasional episodes which bedeck life's reminiscences. They are like so many light houses, standing along the coast of life to guide the mariner, and seen like stars, fraught with remedial splendor through the darkness to cheer us on to a higher destiny in the beautiful beyond.

Near thirty-five years ago at the old homestead on South Bend farm, Sullivan county, Tenn., at the closing exercises of a school taught by James P. White, a brilliant wedding was dramatized, which made an impression on the minds of many, that remains vivid till this day. Who could forget the *dulce et decarum martha, dauceur*, after the bloody tragedy, for her sake, as she appeared richly attired, attended by the fortunate rival, her eyes speaking forth, *esse petit placidum sub libertate quietim.* From this stage these dramatis persons separated—one to higher school. Then to the itenerant ministry, travelling over East Tenn., Southwestyrn Va., Western North Carolina, South-western Missouri and the North-Western States, becoming familiar with the people, their manners and customs, receiving about four thousand of them into the church, and witnessing more than that number converted. After about thirty-five years, on last Sunday he calls in for dinner, five miles of Bristol, and the two again meet! The other the lord of a princely family, and a member of the Lutheran church. Around that family altar they bow in solemn worship, to express their profound thankfulness for the merciful Providence which had been constantly over their precarious journey through all the vicissitudes of thirty-five long years.

The school on Virginia Hill has not entirely survived the draw back, caused by sickness. I am sure if parents would visit the school some Friday evening, and learn for themselves, the difference between regular and irregular scholars, their children would not be getting in at 10 o'clock in the morning, and 2 in the evening. Send your children regular, and they shall learn rapidly, even to your surprise.

This scribe has been a quiet, but close observer of things in Bristol for nine months past; he is now prepared to advise his many friends throughout South-western Va., Western N. C., Eastern Tenn., South Western Missouri, and the Northwestern States, if they wish to take a paper from this centre, conducted by a man on whom they can in every way rely, by all means subscribe for the Bristol *News*.

Some were at a loss to locate the "abomination" to which I had reference in my last article. If they will learn from God's word what sin "dissolves the marriage bonds," (only one thing can do it) they will have it. This we are told from the pulpit is carried on under the name of "Spiritualism," that is what I denounced. B. F. White.

The world is filling up with educated fools—mankind read too much and learn too little.

Every man has his follies and oftentimes they are the most interesting things he has got.

Out in the world men show us two sides to their characters; by the fireside only one.

A Talk With Gen Mahone.

HE DECLINES TO SAY WHAT HIS COURSE WILL BE IN THE SENATE—WHAT HE THINKS OF THE RESOURCES OF HIS STATE.

From the New York Tribune.

A man came to me while in the cars, just as I was starting, and asked where I was going. I told him that really I could not tell, because I did not know where I should stop until I had been there. He replied, 'Well, you are a funny man,' and left me. Now, it is the same way with my voting. I shall be very glad to tell your paper anything," said Gen. Mahone, of Virginia, to a *Tribune* reporter on Friday at the Fifth Avenue Hotel; "but, really, when you ask me with whom I am going to vote, and for what, I cannot tell you, because I never vote until I get to the polls."

"Have you not promised?" inquired the reporter.

"Promised? If you can find a man on the face of the earth, I don't care what his relations to me may be, that will say that I have intimated to him for what or with whom I am going to vote, I will quit the country. No, sir; I am going to Washington to vote just as I please, with a clear conscience, and for what I think to be right, no matter what the consequences may be. I shall always have the good of my State at heart, and shall try to do what I can for her benefit. I intend, however, to be a listener, and I hope my course will not surprise the country, if any people are watching me. It is but just to say that no Republican has approached me with even so much as a suggestion as to which way I might vote. I wish I could say as much for the Democrats."

"To change the subject, General, what are the present resources of Virginia?"

"There are enough resources in Virginia to establish an empire. The interview published some time ago in the *Tribune* told very plainly what I thought about our resources. Why, we have mines of everything except gold that will pay to work. Why are the mines not worked? you ask. Because capitalists won't invest their money in a State which is liable at any moment to increase the debt, and of course the taxes. There is literally a general mortgage all over the State. This being the case, now who, I ask, will come to us? It would be just like a man buying a house before he ascertained how much it was encumbered."

"Have you seen Senator Johnston's statement in answer to you?"

"No, I have not, and if I had I should not want to criticise it. He is an amiable man, and—a Senator. My statement stands on the records, and it is not necessary to violate them to make out a strong case. What I said about the debt is true, and no man can produce a record that will controvert what I stated. I did not think it necessary at the time I made it to give my authorities, because I did not think that any one would suppose that I would say anything of the kind without having a record to back it up. Now I am having a pamphlet prepared, republishing the *Tribune* interview, and showing how the records will prove my statements to be facts. Take the McCulloch Bill, and compare it with the records and the misstated facts in that bill will astonish anyone. It is now a dead letter—because they have run away from it. They could not float the debt. The people saw the folly of such a scheme, because it did not reach the bottom of the thing, and were opposed to it. Three or four times have they tried, and have failed every time. Of course every failure hurts us so much more."

"What is your idea of the way to improve the financial condition of Virginia?"

"My hope is that the time is not far distant when we shall have such a state of things in Virginia politics and business that capitalists from every part of the world will come to us and invest their money. They cannot find a more attractive field for judicious investments."

The reporter took a paper and read the abstract published from the statement made by Senator Johnston. General Mahone again expressed a desire not to critizise the Senator. He said, however:

"The statement is easily upset, because the record will show that we actually pay may more interest than we did before. There were five millions of debt which bore six per cent. interest. Well, then we capitalized two millions of interest, and then issued one million dollars worth of bonds called 'peelers' on which we promise to pay any interest, and never pretended to pay any."

"What about the half million dollars which Senator Johnston says that you underestimate the revenue?"

"I have not seen his figures, but I'll be bound to say that if you will look at them you will see that he reckons in this way: He takes the gross revenue at $2,500,000. I take it at $2,427,000, because the records prove the difference to be the cost of collecting and the non-payments. In other words, he takes the gross and I take the net. Then the revaluation made by law this year shows us that our Virginia property has decreased in value to the extent of reducing the receipts $350,000 more. This would bring it down to $2,077,000. In my statement you will see that I reckon it at $2,100,000, which is what it will amount to. Another thing that helps the Senator, I have no doubt, although I have not seen his figures, is an average. He takes a series of years and averages them. This I do not think is the correct way. Because it is assuming far too much. My statement has been made on my personal knowledge of Virginia, backed up by the records."

After being politely refused a second time any information as to which party Gen. Mahone is likely to vote and work with in Washington, the reporter retired as the General was carried off by his friends, he having come to New York merely on a social visit. Of his personal appearance a word may not be uninteresting. He is small and spare, in figure, and the first impression one receives is not at all in his favor. His face is thin and his features are very sharp. On his chin and upper lip he has a shaggy iron-gray beard and moustache. In dress and general appearance he has a dilapidated look. His voice and manner are thoroughly Southern. He is very guarded in what he has to say.

JOB WORK of all kinds neatly executed at the News Office

"Good deeds are lasting—All Others pass Away.

The truth of our proposition is plain to every thoughtful reader of history. Going back to the point where man first stepped forth, and tracing his history on down to the present, we find a number of men who have mon'ded for themselves characters, and done works that will ever shine forth upon the records of the past, enduring for ever. But here and there and not far between do we find others with like chances who have constructed a work which has long since been consigned to the land of forgetfulness. We find that where man has turned his attention to that which is noble and true that his work still survives. On the opposite, where he has gone against his own interests and the welfare of his country that his deeds are excluded from memory, or the day of such a fate is rapidly approaching. Man has at his disposal power to do something which will add true and never fading lustre to the land which gave him birth. He is, also, possed of a power to build upon a foundation that will not stand. We find all along the past, and on down to the present, examples of each description. Some have exerted every possible power to add to man's comfort and renown. Others who have and are trying at every point on the way to blast our brightest hopes and to disorganize every union for the purpose of affecting that which is noble and praiseworthy. I am sorry that I cannot say to-day that our legislative halls are filled with an assembly of true patriots. 'Tis true that we have firm men—men who would die rather than shrink from their duty. But all are not such. We have men who, pretending to work in our defence, and and to seek after our interests, who are selling our greatest hopes and brightest prospects for future happiness. The time is fast coming when men can weigh actions in the philosopher's scale—the scale of justice. The old Bible maxim "he that ruleth himself is greater than he that taketh a city," is beginning to take hold upon the minds of the people. Napoleon placed his affections upon European wealth, and towards that goal he ran like a strong man. He, like Alexander, placed himself up as his own idol and resolved that all humanity should bow in humble adoration before him. We need not wonder at the world burying the deeds of such men. Their object has been to do nothing that will add to man's comfort either here or in the great hereafter. Their deeds only make shine with a brighter hue the actions of true men. Such men have lost sight of the great object of life. Had Alexander wished for himself a never fading wreath he should have wept for other worlds to have been brought under the light of science and Christianity. Cæsar should have used the weapon of Paul. Voltaire should have proven to the world a Luther. We see that they have failed to pursue the true course. On the other hand we are gratified to know there are deeds of which man can boast—deeds which will stand a test though critics may do their worst. Among these we find Columbus who aroused the people with a new world and all its natural wealth. His achievement is one among the many that shall survive the decay of empires. Fulton is another who revolutionized the world by the application of steam to machinery by which the huge ship is driven through the mighty ocean, and the iron car from station to station. A Franklin who stole the angry lightning from its cerulean home. A Morse made it the fleet-footed postboy to bear messages around the world in the twinkling of an eye. Again when we peruse the history of a Clay and a Webster, and see what measures they took to make a people great. It was the hand of Thomas Jefferson that penned the Declaration of Independence. It was the thrilling words of Patrick Henry that placed in the bosoms of the American people a burning desire for freedom. He it was who kindled a fire which nothing short of the blood of heartless oppressors could quench. Washington mustering his little band of mountain boys, and, under circumstances which were heart-rending, led them to the field of contest and gained the glorious liberties which we to-day enjoy. Again, scientists, by a long reach of thought and much experiment have gone deep down into old earth; have scanned the aerial regions; have unfolded the hidden mysteries of nature and revealed to man the light of the world. They have brought light out of darkness; have caused the influences of education to spread far and wide over a darkened land. The glittering church spires and elegant colleges now stand where was once the home of the savage. The clashing note of machinery mingling in sweet melody with the sounds of ceaseless industry, are now heard where was once a land of desolation. The darkness which long overshadowed our land is giving way before the tireless footsteps of approaching light. The rising sun of a better day is beginning to kiss away from the bosom of our fair land the cruel marks of a bloody war. To what class of actions are we indebted for the circumstances by which we are surrounded? The answer is not hard to make. "Good deeds alone remain. All others pass away." Napoleon for a time made kingdoms his playthings, and human slaughter his trade. But in an evil hour his glory left him and he died a lonely exile. Cæsar waved the Roman eagle over fields of a conquered world, but his great empire has passed away leaving not a wreck behind. So it is for those who live for anything else than the good of mankind; but the actions of those who have in view the improvement of the race cannot die. Hence it is that towering monuments are reared over the many graves of our buried great. Hence it is the inscriptions of their tombstones epitaph their immortality. Sleep on ye heroes, quietly repose in your narrow tombs! Your deeds are still living and are growing brighter day by day. Young man, young lady, shall you fold your hands and muse upon the hopes which fancy offer? Or shall you follow the examples of those whose deeds never die? Should you wish the approbation of generations yet to come; should you wish a towering monument mark the spot where you first repose when life with you is done; if you desire an eternal monument in the hearts of your countrymen, ever strive to do something good and noble. And after you have passed away your deeds will still live and bless your memory.

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