

## Consolidation of the Hillsborough and the Marietta Railroads.

This measure, so long urged on the one side, and so strenuously opposed on the other, has at last been consummated, so far as a vote of the board of directors of the Hillsborough road can consummate such union. The board of directors and several committees were in session at the Burnet House, in Cincinnati, several days last week, and on Thursday morning by a vote of five to two, a contract of union between the two companies was decided upon. Thus the "straight line" connection between Baltimore and Cincinnati, which was to be accomplished by the Hillsborough road down to Belfre on the Ohio river, to connect there with the Parkersburg road branching off at Three Forks from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, is not likely to be consummated at any very early day. The Cincinnati Commercial, of Friday, says:

"The contract must now be referred to the stockholders for final ratification; but, as a committee representing more than two thirds of all the stock subscribed to the Hillsborough road requested the board of directors to make a contract of union or consolidation, it is presumed that the action of the directors in this instance will be confirmed. We hear, however, that a protest from the friends of an independent Hillsborough road will appear to-day, and that applications for injunctions, etc., may be expected soon. *Nous verrons.*"

"The precise terms of the union have not yet transpired, but they are believed to be the best that could be made for the security of the stockholders and the permanent interest of both lines."

The Gazette says the contract for consolidating the two companies has been signed and sealed, and that it will secure to both all the advantages of a complete consolidation, without disturbing their individual charters. Messrs. Trimble, (the President of the Hillsborough road,) and Byrd, voted against the union, and five other directors for it.

The question now is whether the connection from the Parkersburg road with Cincinnati, shall ultimately be made by the Hocking Valley or the Marietta road. One or the other it is expected, will be speedily determined upon. That by the Hocking Valley road will be somewhat circuitous, but as it is designed that the Hocking should cross the Marietta road a considerable distance beyond the Ohio, it is possible an arrangement may be made for securing this double connection. The Marietta Company, however, it is understood, desire the connection to be made some eight miles this side of Parkersburg, by which that much of the present line would have to be abandoned. It would, however, we believe, be the shorter route of the two. In either case we believe, the Parkersburg company will be under the expense itself of bridging the Ohio.—*Balt. Sun.*

## Prince Albert and the English.

The English press has contained hints and insinuations with regard to the interference of Prince Albert in politics, but the most direct and definite charges are contained in a letter which is published in the London Morning Herald. This letter says the Prince is always present when the Queen receives her ministers, and on such occasions takes an active and leading part in the deliberations, a practice first permitted by Sir Robert Peel, but which Melbourne would not suffer, and therefore incurred the Prince's displeasure. Albert also, it is charged, corresponds largely with British Ministers employed at Foreign Courts—his letters being of course private, and their contents unknown to the Foreign Secretary for the time being. Several diplomatists have received such letters, being, in fact, private instructions not conveyed through the foreign office. Where the Court and the Ministers notoriously differ in opinion, as in the case of Lord Palmerston, it is not difficult to see what must be the result of this practice, which is declared to be unconstitutional. There is also a good deal of direct, and necessarily secret communication between English and certain and Continental Courts. Louis Napoleon's suspicions of England, and it is said his "menace of hostility" arose from this cause, certain important missions not reaching the hands for which they were destined. Lord Palmerston was not permitted to send on a single dispatch of any moment, which had not previously received the sanction of the Court, that is the Prince Consort.

These statements seem to come from authorized and well-informed sources, and with people as jealous of constitutional rights as those of England, it is not surprising that they should exhibit feeling at any assumption of authority, adverse to the popular feeling of the nation. The history of England affords some striking examples of the impolicy and danger of acting as the Prince is accused of doing. James the second, who lost his crown first roused the suspicions of the nation against him by holding a secret correspondence with Louis XIV. In former days, the betrayal of the secrets of cabinet councils was called by the name of high treason and was punished as such. [*Phila. Ledger.*]

**THE FINAL PASSAGE OF THE ENDORSEMENT BILL.**—The long pending bill confirming the ordinance of the City Council of Baltimore for endorsing a \$5,000,000 loan to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, for the ostensible purpose of laying a double track to Piedmont, and relieving generally the embarrassments of that company, has finally passed the General Assembly of Maryland. The measure was carried through the House of delegates on Saturday last, and having previously passed the Senate, is now a law. It will be seen by our legislative report that the debate on the bill was protracted till 10 o'clock on Friday night. All amendments were voted down, the yeas and nays being called on each by way of occasioning delay.—*Balt. Sun.*

**SINGULAR MORTALITY.**—No less than four Clerks, all of the Circuit Court, have departed this life, within the past 18 months, and in counties adjoining Upshur, Barbour, Braxton and Gilmer. [*Weston Herald.*]

Jefferson T. Martin, Marshal of the Western District of Virginia, has appointed as his Deputy, at this place, Capt. J. B. Watts. Capt. W. will make a most excellent officer.—*Staunton Vindicator.*

## The Steamship San Francisco and Col. Gates.

Capt. Judd testified before the Court of Enquiry in New York on Saturday that while on the barque Kilby all the army officers on board took their turn as officers of the day except Col. Gates, and that better order might have been maintained by him had he issued the necessary directions. Lt. Van Vleet testified that he heard of no orders being given by Col. Gates to aid the officers of the San Francisco in working the ship or for the care of the soldiers on the Kilby when he (Col. G.) left to go on board the Lucy Thompson. Col. Gardiner testified that he was on the steamer all the time from the 24th to the 28th of December, and that he did not see him do any thing or give any orders, except to the servants to bring water and food. It was necessary at the time that he should have issued orders to the troops, as there was an utter want of system; a number of soldiers were in the cabin, who were turned out by the negro steward of the ship to work the pumps; all that was done by the officers of the ship was done on their own responsibility; Col. Gates was standing near the steward when he ordered the soldiers out of the cabin, but took no notice of it. Previous to leaving the steamer, however, Col. Gates said: "I shall be the last man to leave the ship," but subsequently left for the Kilby, before his command, but when he left, no one thought that the transfer of the men would be interrupted by the weather. In reply to a question, "If there was, so far as Col. Gates was concerned, a fair and impartial quantity of food and water received by all on board the Kilby?" Col. Gardiner thus testified:

Col. Gates had an extra quantity of water each time that I was officer of the day; he either ordered me personally, or sent the bottles by his orders to be filled; on the first occasion I remonstrated with him; it was on the 29th or 30th, the second or third day that we were on the Kilby, and before any issues of water had been made to the soldiers; I told him it would have a bad effect on the men as some of them were suffering from want of it, if the officers got an extra quantity before the men got any.

Q. What was the reply? A. His reply was—"I don't care a d—n for the men—I would rather that twenty of them should die than that my children should suffer." I then issued the water to him and some time after to the men.

Q. What orders, while on board of the Kilby did you receive from Col. Gates? A. No orders, except to furnish him with food and water.

Col. Gardiner also testified that Maj. Gates gave no orders or personal attention to the transfer of the men to the Kilby that he knew of, and he saw him leave the steamer in the first boat. He considered it an instance of neglect on the part of the Commanding officer Col. Gates, in not procuring more provisions from the San Francisco; more provisions might have been brought without interfering with the transfer of the passengers.

Lt. Murry informed the witness that he had spoken to the captain of the steamer about procuring more provisions and water, which might have been done by passing a line from the Kilby to the San Francisco, and hauling them on board.

Maj. Wise testified that he received no orders from Col. Gates to aid the officers of the steamer, but he applied to him to allow him, the witness, to order officers to superintend the hauling. Col. Gates replied—"Very well, do it."

It mingles our cheek with shame to learn that such a craven-hearted scoundrel holds a commission in the American army. We hope he will be promptly cashiered, unless something can be shown, palliating his conduct.

**THE INDEPENDENT BANKS OF VIRGINIA.**—There are in Virginia ten banks styled "Independent Banks," whose aggregate circulation, or notes countersigned and delivered up to the 31st of December last, (according to report just made to the legislature of the State,) amounts in the aggregate to \$1,800,235, against \$1,909,344.86, worth of securities deposited with the State Treasurer. The securities consist of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company's guaranteed bonds, Virginia registered stock and coupon bonds, Wheeling guaranteed bonds, and various Virginia railroad guaranteed bonds. The following are the names of the banks: Manufacturers and Farmer's Bank at Wheeling; Bank of the Old Dominion at Alexandria; Central Bank, at Staunton; Merchants Bank of Virginia, at Lynchburg; Bank of Winchester, at Winchester; Bank of Falmouth, at Charlestown; Bank of Fairmont, at Berkeley; at Martinsburg; Trans-Allegheny Bank, at Jeffersonville; and Bank of Wheeling, at Wheeling. Two others, one at Fredericksburg and one at Harrisonburg, are about to go into operation.

**IMMENSE FLOCKS OF PIGEONS.**—The Wheeling Intelligencer states that on Sunday morning the sky was almost black at intervals for several hours with flocks of pigeons going North. It is said that one flock from the time it took to pass, must have been over a mile long. They flew so near the earth that they could easily have been shot on the wing, and in their rapid flight, made a noise like the "voice of many waters." They doubtless came from the immense roosts in Kentucky and Tennessee, where for some time past the woods have been breaking beneath them.

**PROPOSED NEW TARIFF.**—It is said the committee of ways and means of the House of Representatives, will soon report a new tariff bill, which proposes to subject all imports to a duty of twenty-five per cent., ad valorem, except spirits, liquors, of different kinds, which are to pay one hundred per cent., and except also certain specified articles (a pretty long list withal) which are to be exempt from duty. In the latter class are included most raw materials for manufacturing, and also dyestuffs of all descriptions solely used in composing dye. It abolishes all bounties or drawbacks on salted or pickled fish. None of its provisions are designed to go into operation until the first of January next, and goods in warehouse will be entitled to the benefits of the new rates of duty.

Quietly learn to bear a cross.

## Cooper's Clarksburg Register



CLARKSBURG, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 1854

### Extra Session of the Legislature.

It is a general impression, we believe, both through the country and in Richmond, that an extra session of the Legislature will be required. Its regular sessions are restricted by the Constitution to ninety days, with the privilege of extending them thirty days longer, upon a vote of three-fifths of both Houses; but the Governor has power to call an extra session whenever he may deem it necessary, and is required to convene the General Assembly on the application of a majority of the members of both Houses.

The Legislature has now been in session more than half of the time allowed by the Constitution for its regular sessions, and as yet but a very small amount of business has been done. Still, we believe, if a proper spirit was manifested, all that is necessary to be done, could be accomplished within the prescribed time.

The business of the session has been retarded by a disposition on the part of friends of the "leading lines" of our internal improvements, to monopolize all the resources of the State, to the detriment of the minor, but not less important ones, at least so far as the interests of the Commonwealth are concerned.

This "leading lines" hobby is one of the great humbugs of the day, and we are glad to see that our western members, with few exceptions, are not disposed to yield them that omnipotent importance they so arbitrarily claim. It is very doubtful whether any of them will ever pay, and it is very certain they all will not. Then why all this anxiety to push half a dozen rival lines through the State. We have no objection to seeing one of them rapidly completed; indeed, we believe this to be the true policy, but we cannot see the propriety of appropriating one million to one work, and another million to build up a competitor that will render the first investment worthless.—Yet strange as it may seem, this appears to have been the policy of our Legislatures.

The sectional squabbles over the "leading lines," are likely to cost the State much in time as in their construction, and will probably lead to the calling of an extra session next winter. It is true that biennial sessions of the General Assembly, in a State of the size of Virginia, is of doubtful efficacy, at best, and we apprehend that the fears of its opponents will be fully realized in the effect of spending weeks in maturing bills only to be negated upon the final vote.

**INFORMATION WANTED.**—It is the impression of some of our citizens, whose memories run back into the dim vista of the past, that there was once upon a time, a charter granted by the Virginia Legislature, for an institution to be located in the town of Clarksburg, which would be of great convenience and benefit to our citizens and those of the surrounding country, and materially add to the business and general prosperity of our country—something that would "put money in the purse," but it has been so long since, that it seems to have entirely escaped the recollection of our people. Those knowing anything about this matter, will confer a great favor on the public by leaving at this office such information as will enable our citizens to "call from the vasty deep" this long lost project.

**POST-OFFICE AT WESTON.**—We learn that our contemporary, F. J. Alfred, of the Weston Herald, has been appointed postmaster at that place. We cannot refrain from expressing our gratification at this appointment, whereby that town is secured a good post-master, and a necessary incidental aid is given an useful paper, in a location needing, but hardly able to support one. Were this system of aiding the press more generally pursued throughout the country, great good would result from it, not only to the party to whose service they are devoted, but to the country generally. Many useful journals would thus be kept alive, which now die for want of support. We congratulate the people of Weston, friend Alfred, and the Postmaster General, upon the appointment.

**FOREIGN NEWS.**—Four days later news has been received from Europe. Another terrible battle is reported to have taken place near Kalafat, in which the Turks were again victorious. The particulars have not been received. A collision is also reported to have occurred between the Russian and allied fleets, in the Black Sea, during which one of the Russian vessels was disabled. We hope to be able to give the particulars of both these engagements, in our next.

We return our thanks to Hon. J. F. Snodgrass for part I. of the Annual Message and Accompanying Documents, and also to A. S. Holden, Esq., for a number of favors from Richmond.

**VILLANY.**—A fendish attack was made, one day last week, by some villanous or villians, upon the person of Mr. Alex. R. Armstrong, a most worthy and excellent citizen of the county of Gilmer, by which that gentleman came near losing his life. Late in the evening, by some scoundrels, unseen by him, who laid in wait for him, about a half mile from the Store of Mr. Perry Hays, on the West Fork of the Little Kanawha, he was felled from his horse by a stroke across the head, and while lying in an insensible condition his pockets were rifled of about \$575, in bank bills. Recovering from the stunning effects of the blow, Mr. A. walked to the nearest house, where he was kindly taken care of, his wounds dressed, and he is now doing well. Two white persons, we understand, have been committed to the jail of Gilmer on the charge of being concerned in this outrageous and villanous assault. [*Weston Herald.*]

**TRA GEDY AT OAKLAND.**—We learn that a horrible tragedy was enacted at Oakland, Md., on the 10th inst. It appears that a difficulty had for some time existed between Dr. Conn, formerly of West Union, Duddridge county, we believe, and a man named Johnson, a merchant, and formerly agent of the railroad company, on account of an alleged improper intimacy of Dr. Conn with Johnson's wife. On the morning of the 10th, as Conn was standing near his office door, he was shot through the head and lived only about five hours afterwards. Smoke was seen to issue from the window of Johnson's house, immediately after the shot was fired, which, together with his threats to kill Conn if he did not leave Oakland, is the only evidence against him. It is supposed Johnson shot through a hole in the window. He was arrested and confined in the Cumberland jail.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**—We are informed that Mr. D. Orrison, who was engaged in Dr. Carr's store for a short time, about a year ago, was killed on the railroad last week. The cars ran over him, cutting his head completely off. He was a good soul, "a fellow of infinite jest," and his untimely end is deeply regretted by his numerous friends here.

We are sorry to learn that Hon. J. Y. Mason, who was appointed Minister to France, has "adhered to the usual diplomatic costume," that is, covered himself with gold lace and tinsel, upon the principle that "fine feathers make fine birds." When will our representatives abroad cease to forget that they are citizens of a republic that depends for success, rather upon the intelligence of the people, than glittering show?

The Edinburgh Review for January has been received, and contains the following table of contents: "Lord John Russell's Memorials of Mr. Fox, and the Buckinghams Papers," "The Blind, their Works and Ways," "Ecclesiastical Economy," "Public Works in the Presidency of Meads," "The Government Education Measures for Rich and Poor," "Thackeray's Works," "The Machinery of Parliamentary Legislation," "The Ottoman Empire," and "Notes to Article I." See advertisement on fourth page.

We publish in our paper to-day, a reply to the communication of "A True Virginian," which appeared in the Register last week. It seems as if our paper is destined to be the medium of a sectarian controversy foreign to our feelings, and we shall no longer contend against fate, but insert all on both sides, that don't "travel too far out of the record." So let us have the article of "Justice" alluded to by "A True Virginian," so as to commence at the beginning. The gentlemen correspondents can go ahead, if disposed, and we will stand by and see fair play.

**NARROW ESCAPE.**—Mr. Enoch Tinsman, while engaged about a new house he is building, fell from a ladder last week, a distance of some thirty feet, upon the solid rock foundation of the building. In his descent he passed through the rafters of the porch, narrowly escaping being killed. He was stunned by the fall, but sustained no material injury.

**ACCIDENT.**—Mr. John S. Hershberger, in passing out of Deck's barber shop, on Saturday evening last, broke his leg.—The step at the door turned, throwing him down and breaking both bones of his leg. He was taken home, the wound dressed by Dr. Edminston, and is now doing very well.

We have received a pamphlet copy of the letter of Hon. S. A. Douglass, to Gov. Matteson, of Illinois, on the subject of river and harbor improvements, for which we return our thanks.

The position taken by the honorable Senator is undoubtedly the correct one, and we hope ere long to see it adopted as one of the settled principles of the Democratic party.

**Gody's Lady's Book for March** is received, and is a gem number. It is no wonder Gody is such a favorite with the ladies.

Hon. James A. Pearce, (Whig,) has been elected U. S. Senator from the 4th of March next, by the Legislature of Maryland.

**VILLANY.**—A fendish attack was made, one day last week, by some villanous or villians, upon the person of Mr. Alex. R. Armstrong, a most worthy and excellent citizen of the county of Gilmer, by which that gentleman came near losing his life. Late in the evening, by some scoundrels, unseen by him, who laid in wait for him, about a half mile from the Store of Mr. Perry Hays, on the West Fork of the Little Kanawha, he was felled from his horse by a stroke across the head, and while lying in an insensible condition his pockets were rifled of about \$575, in bank bills. Recovering from the stunning effects of the blow, Mr. A. walked to the nearest house, where he was kindly taken care of, his wounds dressed, and he is now doing well. Two white persons, we understand, have been committed to the jail of Gilmer on the charge of being concerned in this outrageous and villanous assault. [*Weston Herald.*]

**For the Register.**  
Mr. Cooper, I see in your paper of the 15th instant, the communication of a writer who perverts the name of "A True Virginian," and who deserves some notice from an American Virginian.—This man tries to comment on a communication published in the Richmond Christian Advocate of the 29th of last December.

That the main facts stated in "Justice's" communication is substantially true, will not be denied here by any unbiased mind; for abundant proof can be added to prove the position. As many glaring misrepresentations as well as quotations can be seen in the communication signed "A True Virginian," I will notice them under their different heads as they appear in his garbled extracts, and his nice distinctions.

"Justice" does not call the preacher an "ultra abolitionist," he says this preacher holds "Ultra Abolition sentiments."

"Justice" shows the ground of this preacher's opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law, and I will add a little more to what Justice has said about his opposition. He says that if he was commanded by the legal authorities under the Fugitive Slave Law to assist in arresting a fugitive "he would not assist—that he would suffer the fine and imprisonment rather than assist, and that he would rather give the fugitive a piece of bread." Does this look like "he advocated the object of the law," as stated by a True Virginian. Does a True Virginian know where this preacher has consigned Clay and Webster for aiding in the passage of this fugitive slave law? This same preacher perseveringly states that our senators in Congress opposed this law, and has made many here believe that Messrs. Mason and Hunter opposed it on the same ground that he does now.

As to the Conference held, I happened to know a little about that caucus, and will briefly state the facts as they occurred. When it was known here that the preacher in charge of this station, held abolition sentiments, a number of the influential members of the church were completely out done, and they said that if he held the sentiments imputed to him, "he must leave." One stated rather than suffer him to remain under the circumstances he "would suffer his right arm severed." A consultation was held and after much counselling, the heads met at one of the "saddleries" of this place, and there another talk was had. The preacher took a firm stand and after all the lesser minds were spent on the subject, the preacher rose and said, "Brethren, the Methodist Episcopal Church can, and must be sustained here." Assuming that the doctrines advanced by him was the doctrine of the M. E. Church on that subject, what did these "wise men, these pillars," yes, these "class leaders," do when the dictum went forth from this preacher. They had to "succumb," and the next news was, that "our views do not differ much from that of our preacher." I could refer to many who were well known to this consultation, and will do so if this is denied.

As to "dreams, empty dreams," and sophistical evasions, I don't deal in such. I deal in simple, ungarlished facts that need no sophistry to bolster them up. Justice does not say that "four-fifths of all the ministry of the M. E. Church of Western Virginia, are like the ope in Buckhannon, ultra abolitionists." He says no such thing, and if your correspondent were a true Virginian, he would not falsely misrepresent facts; neither does Justice say "they are paid by the British crown," but I suppose he has been told to say so, and if he did "all would be right." Now, Mr. *Balderdash*, try the next time you scribble for a newspaper, to confine yourself to the truth, and to proper quotations, and don't write anything your pastor says. This true Virginian, I suppose, is like the 237 traveling preachers belonging to the Western Virginia conference, when he says they are Virginians. I suppose that at least one-third of them are like a man who lectured here a short time ago, who said he was "a Virginia Irishman," yes, "a Virginia Irishman." This is a new race sprung up in North-Western Virginia, "O, where did they come from?" Some say from the mines of Arabia.

As to "A True Virginian's" notions about the Czar of Russia and the Clarksburg and Buckhannon Turnpike company, I have but little to do. He has learned that Russia is at war with something, and as your correspondent has, I suppose, had a part in this or some turnpike company, he supposes that the Czar of Russia will be on him too. No wonder such dreams follow such a scribbler. I suppose he "succumbed" when his communication was written. I wonder which would appear brightest before an intelligent community "Justice," or the man who signs his name "A True Virginian." As to this preacher's raising it of but little consequence to me now, as that subject is undergoing a legal investigation in the Circuit Court of Wood county. It may appear that his ancestors were connected with slavery. But this preacher has told different persons here that he was born in Allegheny co., Md., that his parents moved when he was very young to Summerset county, Pa., and that before he arrived at the age of manhood, his parents went to Ohio. I would say, in view of the false position this True Virginian has placed himself in, that he too, is one of the "yelpers" known in these diggings, who think the preacher is a perfect Priest, sent down especially.

In reference to the information of the people, I would say no wonder they are misinformed, when such false statements are made, as is done by this man who signs himself "A True Virginian." I deny that the question of the division of the church has been agitated here for nearly five years. This question was never lectured on here until February, 1853, and then all who heard the lecture said if the position was true, "we were all Southern Methodists in sentiment," and indeed, the presiding elder of the Northern church said here that he was a "southern Methodist in sentiment." "A True Virginian" speaks of a faction at the North who hold abolition sentiments. Who is that faction? Where is that faction to be found? If he calls the Northern Conference "a faction," I wonder what he would call the Baltimore, Western Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri Conferences. They would be about one sixth of "a faction."

As to the implements used by the Ohio slave to ghost off British aggression, I would say that Virginians will not use ghosts until forbearance shall cease to be a virtue, but they will use force to repel aggression made by the abolitionists, who are trying to pull down their laws, then it will be a woe to the traitor who comes in false colors.

In view of the communication of "A True Virginian," and in view of what I have written, I would say, that if we, as true Virginians, invite, foster, and fraternize abolitionists among us, what is the use of any law on our statute books against abolitionism or Northern aggression.

But, Mr. Editor, to look at this subject, gravely and as patriots, lovers of our country, and the perpetuity of the Christian religion, is there nothing to arouse every good man, every Virginian, when it seems to be the settled policy of abolitionism to have the fugitive slave law repealed, and with it all the horrors consequent thereto. Yes, Mr. Editor, the object of the abolitionist is the extinction of slavery by all the "powers the God of nature" gives them. Some by inflammatory speeches and publications, some by itinerant lectures, while there are many who infuse their unalloyed creed, by assuming to be followers of Christ, with all the sanctity of a Roman Priest, will induce many unawares to believe these sanctimonious hypocrites are the very embodiment of christianity.

It may be, for all we know, that this preacher here, is under the regular pay of the abolition societies of Great Britain and New York. And why? It is the settled policy of these societies to bring about a repeal of the fugitive slave law.—Then if the ultimate object of these Northern fanatics is the repeal of this law, then their aim is at a dissolution of the union.

Repeal the fugitive slave law, and this union is dissolved, with all its horrors, and all its blessing curses. Where did the first blast breeze from for a dissolution of our glorious union? It came from northern abolitionism. Where did abolitionism have its birth-place? Among the crowned heads of despotic Europe. It originated with the enemies of Freedom and republican liberty, the fawning sycophants of tyranny, the willing tools of aggression; yea, Mr. Cooper, the principles of modern abolitionism were first promulgated in the Northern free States by British demagogues and emissaries, supported by British gold, as have been their successors to the present day. A dissolution of our union was undoubtedly the ultimate and real design of those foreign founders of abolitionism; this gained, and the pride of the British lion would be avenged for the disgraceful defeats sustained during the Revolutionary and late wars. These disunion abolitionists have effectually sowed the seed of discord and disaffection in our midst, of which disunion is the legitimate offspring, unless checked by the great conservative principles of reason, truth and justice. Should the fugitive slave law be repealed with all its consequences, where, I ask, would be our Religious Liberty? Civil, yea, such a war as the world has never yet witnessed—a war of uncompromising extermination—this would lay waste this vast and beautiful land of ours, and leave our wives and daughters a prey to the lusts of the licentious, and leave the despotic powers of Europe exulting over the downfall of our Republic, which would be the last star of Liberty.

Such seems to be the aim of abolitionism; a withering, blasting curse, a pestiferous exorcism upon the body politic, a hideous deformity, begotten by the father of lies, born of the mother of harlots, and nursed by the bloody hand of vile misanthropy, its breath is pestilence and death, its practical operations the destruction of all tranquility and social order, of all peace, friendship and good will amongst men. How can a true Virginian extend the hand of christian love to such men; No, no; a true Virginian would scorn, yea, spurn from him such company. As ever I hope to be just, I am a law loving and a law abiding man, and therefore, I feel free in repelling any assaults, let them come from whence they may.

**BUCKHANNON, Feb. 17, 1854.**  
P. S.—Is there 237 preachers belonging to the Western Va. Conference? Are they Virginians?

For the Clarksburg Register.  
BUCKHANNON, Upshur co., Va., Feb. 14, 1854.

MR. COOPER.—As the impression is (and has been) made here by one or two influential persons, that our Senator, the Hon. James M. Mason, was and is opposed to the Fugitive Slave Law, and knowing great injustice was done that statesman on that subject, and wishing to dispell the slander, I addressed Mr. Mason a letter, stating the fact, and requested him to write to me the position he took when this law was before the Senate, to which inquiry I received the following reply, which you will please publish in your paper:

"WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1853.  
A. M. BASTABLE, Esq.—Dear Sir,—I have yours of the 20th of November.—It is entirely a strange position which you say is held by some, that I oppose the fugitive slave law—the facts are briefly these: I reported the bill at an early day in the session, and moved its reference to the committee on the Judiciary—after it was reported by that committee back to the Senate, the select committee of 13 was raised, called the Compromise Committee, to whom was referred by order of the Senate every bill or resolution that had been introduced connected with the subject of slavery, and with them my fugitive slave bill.

That committee reported what was afterwards called the "Compromise Bill," and they also reported back the fugitive slave bill in its original form, but with an amendment, providing for a trial by jury at the place from which the slave escaped, if he should ask for it after he was taken back. As the slave has this right secured to him by the laws of every slave State in the Union, (it being nothing but the ordinary suit where the slave claimed to be free.) I opposed the amendment and it was rejected by vote of the Senate. The bill was then left pretty much in the form I had originally given it, and it of course, received my full support.

The foregoing is, I believe, a correct history of the whole subject.  
Respectfully, yours,  
J. M. MASON.

Now, Mr. Cooper, after those who profess to quote Mr. Mason shall see what he says on the subject, what subterfuge will they hatch up next. We have often here heard in the streets, around the fire sides, and in the pulpit, that Messrs. Mason and Hunter, our Senators in Congress were opposed to the fugitive slave law, because that law refused to the fugitive the right to a trial by jury. Mr. Hunter's position as to that law is well known here, he having occupied the same position as that of Mr. Mason.

I send you this for the purpose of correcting errors, and to place our Senators in their true character. The original letter of Mr. Mason, I have for the inspection of all who wish to see it.

## VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Richmond, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1854.  
House.—On Mr. Holden's motion the vote rejecting the bill appropriating \$2,000,000 to the Covington and Ohio Railroad was reconsidered, and the bill replaced on the calendar.

On Mr. Haymond's motion the Rules were suspended, and a bill changing the times of holding Courts in the 21st Circuit taken up for consideration.

On Mr. H.'s motion, the bill was amended and then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Thursday, Feb. 9.  
House.—A bill was reported for the relief of Thomas A. Hurns, Sheriff of Harrison county.

A petition was presented by Mr. Summers, of sundry citizens of Upshur county, praying the passage of a law refunding certain taxes imposed upon and paid by citizens of the Commonwealth, for affixing the county seals of the several counties thereof to county land warrants.

A number of officers were elected by joint ballot, the result of which we published last week. Upon a resolution to postpone the election of Superintendent of the Penitentiary, the following debate occurred:

Mr. Garnett stated that he had very good authority for the charge that Col. Morgan had sought to procure from the Governor the pardon of S. A. Smith, better known as "Red Boot Smith," who was convicted of abducting slaves, and sending them to the North; and if the charge were true he could not vote for Col. M.—He thought that so serious a charge should be disproved before the Legislature was called upon to re-elect Col. M.—It was due to the Legislature, it was due to the State and to the Democratic party.

Mr. Mayo made a statement of what took place at meetings of the committee on the Penitentiary, at which the physical condition of several convicts, whose health and the probable short time they had to live rendered it questionable whether they ought to keep longer in confinement. Among them was "Red Boot," as he was called. Col. Morgan, in reply to questions concerning him, represented that his health was bad, and that his conduct had been good; but did not say a word about his being pardoned.

Mr. Martin declared he could not vote for the re-election of Col. M. he was guilty of the charge preferred, but he did not believe it. He knew Col. Morgan to be a decided pro-slavery man.

Mr. Garnett contended that Mr. Mayo's statement did not shed any light on the subject, as the charge related to efforts made with the Governor. It was further charged that he exhibited marked clemency towards "Red Boot,"—putting him over other convicts, and dressing him in citizen's dress and not the uniform prescribed by law for convicts.

Mr. Wallace borne testimony to the decided pro-slavery opinions of Col. M. and expressed the opinion that even if the charges brought against him were true, there were circumstances involved in the case that would protect Col. M. from the charge of abolitionism.—The convict known as "Red Boot," had been instrumental in saving Col. Morgan's life, and displayed such fidelity to him and some of the officers of the institution, as to command their gratitude. He had been nearly killed by one of the convicts, being severely stabbed, and was in very bad health. He, for one, would not consider Col. Morgan an abolitionist, for desiring his pardon under the circumstances—notwithstanding the crimes for which he was confined.

Mr. Garnett could conceive of no excuse whatever for the pardon of Smith—would not consider any reason, however strong, as justifying the interference of Col. M. to procure it.

Mr. Garnett moved a resolution postponing the election, and appointing a committee to ascertain if Col. Morgan had used his influence with the Governor to procure the pardon of Smith; to report on Monday to the House; and

On motion of Mr. Haymond, the resolution was so amended as to instruct the committee to ascertain the reasons which were urged in behalf of the pardon.

Mr. Haymond took occasion, in moving this amendment, to bear testimony to the soundness of Col. Morgan on the peculiar institutions of the South, and his loyalty to his native State, Virginia.

The resolution was adopted.  
Friday, Feb. 10.  
House.—A petition was offered by Mr. Moore of 210 citizens of Harrison county, asking the incorporation of a lint stock company, on the two and three-fifths principle, for the construction of a Bridge across the West Fork River at Staunton.

James C. Spotts was unanimously elected Penitentiary Storekeeper.

Saturday, Feb. 11.  
House.—On motion of Mr. Jackson it was

Resolved, That a Special Committee be appointed, to enquire into the expediency of reporting a bill repealing the act passed February 25th, 1853, amending the charter of the Northwestern Virginia Railroad Company.