

The Old Commonwealth.

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NELLIE LAWRENCE.

By Jove! Charlie, that's the sweetest looking girl I've ever seen! And such a splendid figure! Who in the name of all that is lovely is she?"

This outburst of admiration came from one of a group of young men standing in front of a large stationery store in the town of N—. They had been idly criticizing all passers-by for the last hour, but none had elicited such a genuine compliment as John Barris had pronounced.

"Why, do you not know Miss Nellie Lawrence?" replied Charlie Wallace. "Certainly you're far behind the times, as she is the most fascinating little creature, besides being the greatest flirt, one need ever meet. All the fellows rave over her, and talk continually of sweet Nellie's eyes, hair, dancing, and coquetish ways; for, a coquette she is, and really it is amusing to see the way she manages half a dozen fellows so adroitly that each one imagines himself to be the favored one. By the way, as I'm her escort to Mrs. Dootie's reception this evening, and as you are to be there, John, I'll give you an introduction. But put your heart away, old fellow, for Miss Nellie is a desperate flirt."

That evening, when Nellie Lawrence entered the large and elegant parlors of the fashionable Mrs. D—, there was a general murmur of admiration, but instantly she was surrounded by a crowd of admirers. Soon Mr. Barris had the longest for introduction, and he expressed his regret at being three days in the town and not knowing her. Although Nellie was a flirt, do not imagine she was cold-hearted or cruel; but never having lost her own heart, the pet of her parents, admiration and homage seemed to have been hers from the cradle, and flirtations were mere amusements for the hour. Nellie imagined her lovers forgot as soon as herself, and as soon ready for another love affair.

But, alas for Nellie! the dangerously ardent glances of Mr. Barris' handsome eyes, tender and graceful manner, together with his intelligent conversation were beginning to commit sad havoc with her heart; and, although nothing would have induced her to confess the fact, her dreams were that night of a handsome familiar face—whose can be easily imagined.

After this followed a series of drives, walks, &c., during which Nellie completely lost her heart for the first time; but now came the punishment for all her other coquetish actions, for John Barris placed no confidence in her, and, although desperately in love, determined to give no opportunity for Nellie to trifle with him, so resolved to end it all and go away. Thus, one day, he called on her and quietly said:

"Miss Nellie, I came to say good bye, as I'm off for Europe in a couple of weeks, and in the meanwhile shall be in the city to make some necessary preparations."

"What, going away?" exclaimed Nellie. "And for how long?"

"Oh, it may be for years, it may be forever," lightly replied John; for he deemed her apparent regret merely a coquetish art, and though longing to confess his love, he sternly resolved not to do so. "Well, good bye, Miss Nellie. I'm really sorry our delightful little flirtation must come to an end, although, no doubt, ere I'm half way across the ocean you will be consoled by another victim."

With this and a graceful bow he went away, leaving Nellie almost stunned. But pride came to her rescue when she realized how she had been trifled with, and no one would have thought her broken-hearted who heard the gay, assumed laugh, and saw the apparent light-heartedness.

Long years went by bringing Nellie many admirers, with whom she flirted worse than ever, until, to the astonishment of all, she engaged herself to a grave, dignified professor. She reasoned that although not in love with Mr. Irvin, marriage with him would help her forget. But after Nellie had been engaged several months, the conviction came upon her that it would not be right to marry unless her future husband understood all her feelings, and she therefore determined to tell him. Thus, one evening, she came down to greet her lover, beautiful as a queen, resolved to disclose all her former history, which she did, telling of the loved and lost; but adding that if he were willing—

But here she was startled by hearing a rich familiar voice say:

"O, my darling! did you really love me all the time?" And looking lastly around, she saw John Barris standing with outstretched arms, in which she fell, leaving Mr. Irvin completely bewildered for the time.

Soon recovering, and now comprehending the situation, he being a true, noble man, loving Nellie too dearly to interfere with her happiness, he advanced toward the pair and said:

"Be happy, my friends. The good God ever bless you both!"

Then he quietly went away, leaving the two lovers to mutual explanations. John had returned home, and hearing that Nellie was still single, though engaged, he determined to make a friendly call, and was arrested at the parlor door by hearing his own name; he stopped short and heard all Nellie's confession. Thinking only of this and what he endured for the last four years, he entered as he have seen, and at last was able to find that even "flirts" can be in earnest.

"Can you change this William for me?" said a young man who presented a \$50 bill at the counter of a National Bank lately. "Yes, sir," said the Cashier, "but why do you call it William?" "Oh, I'm not familiar enough with that kind of a thing to call it Bill," was the quick reply.

Views of "An Old Virginia Whig."

Under the title, "Old Party distinctions," the Richmond Whig of the 3rd inst., publishes a long communication signed "An Old Virginia Whig" by one who has been a prominent member, and, as he declares, "a conscientious, consistent and unflinching adherent of the Whig party in adversity and prosperity, and stood by it as long as a fragment was left to stand by," which concludes as follows:

"It has likewise been suggested that the old Whigs should join the Radicals in order to beat their old adversaries, the Democrats, who, it is charged, brought on us all the evils of secession, and the consequent war; and I believe something like this has been urged by one of those Dagwood Dalgettys of the press who has gone over to the enemy, because the latter has more provender at present to bestow. It is bad enough to think that any native born Virginian can ally himself with such a mongrel crew as the Radical party of Virginia, but just imagine what would be the emotions of Henry Clay, if he could arise and behold his followers striking hands with the party of pilferers and plunderers at present dominant in the country. No; the Democratic party, in former days, was the open and honorable adversary of the Whig party, whilst the worst enemies of the latter were those traitors in its midst who sought to demoralize, abolish, and secessionize it, and no true Virginia Whig can ever affiliate with a party led by such men.

So far as secession is concerned, the original secessionists in the Virginia Convention of 1861 were equally distributed between the old parties, and secession had its stronghold in Eastern Virginia, which in 1859 voted by a decided majority for the Whig candidate for Governor. In fact that candidate himself, Mr. Goggin, was a secessionist in the convention, while his successful opponent, John Letcher was a strong Union man. When the ordinance was adopted it was offered by an old Whig, and a majority of those voting for it were old line Whigs, as can be ascertained by an examination of the journal of the convention. After the ordinance was adopted, that noble and sturdy Virginian, John Letcher, made his appointments for the Virginia troops without reference to party affiliations, and it turned out that he appointed more Whigs than Democrats, for which some of the lesser lights in the party raised a clamor, but he pursued his course manfully and honestly, without regard to the complaint. It is absurd, therefore, to attempt to array the Virginia Whigs against the Democrats on any question connected with secession, and it is equally impolitic to raise questions about the old party affiliations of the men to be selected for the public honor and trust.

The issues involved in the pending canvass are too momentous to allow the indulgence of any heart burnings based on old party distinctions, and the old Whig who would permit himself to be swayed by such refinances to party affiliations, and it turned out that he appointed more Whigs than Democrats, for which some of the lesser lights in the party raised a clamor, but he pursued his course manfully and honestly, without regard to the complaint. It is absurd, therefore, to attempt to array the Virginia Whigs against the Democrats on any question connected with secession, and it is equally impolitic to raise questions about the old party affiliations of the men to be selected for the public honor and trust.

Don't.

Don't insult a poor man. His muscles may be well developed.

Don't fret. The world will move on as usual when you are gone.

Don't boast of your pedigree. Many a fool has had a wise ancestor.

Don't throw dust in your teacher's eyes. It will injure the pupil.

Don't color meerschauums for a living. It is simply dying by inches.

Don't worry about the ice crop. Keep cool and you will have enough.

Don't turn your nose up at slight things. Think of bread and taxation.

Don't buy a coach to please your wife. Better make her a little sulky.

Don't say, "I told you so!" Two to one you never said a word about it.

Don't write long obituaries. Save some of your kind words for those living.

Don't put on airs in your new clothes. Remember your tailor is suffering.

Don't imagine that everything is weakening. Butter is strong in the market.

Don't publish your acts of charity. The Lord will keep the account straight.

Don't be too sentimental. A dead heart properly cooked will make a savory meal.

Don't mourn over fancied grievances. Bide your time, and real sorrow will come.

Don't ask your pastor to pray without notes. How else can he pay his provision bill?

Don't ask the Lord to keep your garments unspotted. He isn't renovating old clothes.

Don't linger where "your love lies dreaming." Wake her up and tell her to get the breakfast and you get off to work.

"May heaven's angels whisper golden words as they kiss your darling cheeks," wrote a La Crosse man to his Betsy only last spring, and now he wishes heaven's angels would whisper to him how his breach of promise suit is coming out, as his lawyer is doubtful.

Some people are just like a buggy wheel—always tired.

The Centennial State.

ALL ABOUT COLORADO—ITS SOIL, CLIMATE, AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES AND WONDERFUL PARKS.

Colorado, the twenty-sixth State which has been admitted to the Union since Vermont became a State, in 1792, lies in the centre of the Rocky Mountain region, between the thirty-seventh and forty-first parallels of north latitude and the one-hundred-and-second and one-hundred-and-ninth meridians of west longitude, covering an area of 104,500 square miles, a territory nearly equal in extent to the four central States—New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. The snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains form a water-shed, running nearly north and south through the centre of the State, the highest elevation being 15,000 feet—nearly equal to that of the much-sought king of the Alps, Mount Blanc. To the east of this central range the mountains gradually fall in height until the country becomes simply hilly, then rolling, and finally, on the eastern border, it shades off into Kansas, an immense elevated plain, a portion of the formerly so-called "Great American Desert." Over all this district grows a tall, rich grass, upon which vast herds of buffalo and other graminivorous animals have lived for centuries, and upon which domesticated animals thrive as well as upon indigenous herbage. To the west the country is more mountainous and made less easy of access by several transverse ranges of mountains of no small dimensions.

Colorado can scarcely be called treeless, for although upon its vast Eastern prairies it is rare that a tree is to be seen, the river bottoms, which are often quite broad and considerably below the level of the surrounding plains are always well timbered, and upon the mountain sides, even up to the line of perpetual snows, are found almost every variety of the pine family. The soil is rich and especially adapted to cereals and vegetables, and fruits, except perhaps the peach, do exceedingly well. The native grass is remarkably nutritious and furnishes the best of pasture, winter as well as summer, for the rapidly increasing herds of cattle and sheep. The climate is remarkably healthful. The air is clear, dry and pure, the very best for those afflicted with diseases of the throat and lungs, and notwithstanding the altitude, the changes of temperature are neither sudden nor great, the thermometer rarely rising above 80 degrees or falling below 20 degrees, Fahrenheit. Owing to the dryness of the atmosphere the intermitting and remitting fevers and agues, which have been the unfailing companion of pioneers, on account of the miasms arising from tracts of newly-tilled earth, have not been known there.

The agricultural resources of the State are being so rapidly developed that it is difficult to ascertain at any time the value of the farms, their stock, implements or products. Of the latter the most important are wheat, corn, tobacco, wool, potatoes, butter, cheese and hay. Stock raising is at present Colorado's most important resource. The average fall of rain on the plains and in the valleys is twenty inches, but this falls almost entirely during the rainy season, which embraces the months of May, June and July, and in the snows of early winter. So for several months artificial irrigation is an absolute necessity for abundance in crops, and in many seasons it is all that can prevent complete failure, and the farmer in selecting lands must do so having in view the convenience with which water can be introduced by artificial means. The aqueducts or irrigating canals are constructed chiefly with the plow and scraper, an operation costing but little compared with their intrinsic value to the farmer. Aqueducts have been constructed thirty or forty miles in length, with a fall of four feet per mile, and watering from 20,000 to 25,000 acres, each adjoining proprietor paying his proportional share to its construction and maintenance. The South Fork of the Platte, the Arkansas, the Rio Grande and the Grand rivers rise near the centre of the State, and are the middle lines of its four great water-sheds.

The parks of Colorado are a distinct and remarkable feature of the mountainous region, being apparently the basins of former lakes, deprived of their waters by volcanic agency, retaining their original outlines, and their lowest depths are from 6,000 to 9,000 feet above the level of the sea. Many of these, of course, are small, but four of them possess an area varying from one to twenty thousand square miles—These four parks—the North, Middle, South and Luis Parks—possess the richest soil, the most perfect climate, plenty of game, wood in every variety, the most delicious water, and have been, since emigrants first began to start their slow caravans from St. Louis or St. Joe, the scenes in those vast prairies which they have sought most assiduously and when they found them settled and almost revealed in.

The gold and silver mines were supposed to be confined to the park and mountain region, commencing in Summit and Boulder counties and extending to the south, with a width of from thirty to sixty miles, to the northern boundary of New Mexico, but in 1873 another extensive gold district was discovered in Conejos county, in the southwest corner of the State, south of the Sierra de la Plata, which has proved itself particularly rich in gold and silver. The total yield of gold before 1873 was more than sixty millions, and the yearly product now is more than two millions. The silver productions is scarcely of less importance. The gold is generally found in copper and iron pyrites, and the silver is alloyed with

galena and zinc. The northeast portion of the State is rich in red hematite and magnetic iron ores, while farther south, among the foot-hills of the mountains, are the outcroppings of the immense lignite and albertite coal beds. In 1873 there were about 600 miles of railroad in the State, mostly belonging to the Denver Pacific, the Kansas Pacific and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroads. The population of the State in 1873 was over 80,000, although the country did not commence to attract emigrants particularly until 1858 and 1859.

In educational matters Colorado has always been forward and liberal, and libraries, academies, newspapers and churches are, in proportion to the population, both numerous and flourishing.

Poetical Foot-gear.

"Miss Grundy" writes from Washington to the Detroit Free Press:

Some weeks ago allusion was made to the notice given by a shoemaker in Brussels to a customer in Washington that he intended making four pairs of shoes on her lasts (No. 124) for the Centennial exhibition, and each pair should represent one of the four seasons. How he proposed to do this was a mystery until the shoes arrived, and now I must give the readers of the Free Press an idea of the poetry it is possible for an artist to put into shoes and stockings. Such stockings as those about to be described, one can imagine, might say to the striped hose of last season, a *bas*.

Spring is represented by shoes embroidered with tiny spring flowers, and the straps across these low shoes have knots of pleated Swiss muslin. The white silk stockings accompanying these are embroidered with wild and garden flowers.

Summer is denoted by shoes upon which are squares wrought in straw on a blue ground, bordered with ears of corn and field flowers skillfully embroidered. The stockings are silk, of the hue of the skies in summer, embroidered with flowers to match the shoes.

For autumn the shoes are of dark stuff, embroidered with dead leaves, and garnished with knots of a peculiar shade of green velvet—the shade of leaves in process of decay. The stockings of brown silk are embroidered with garlands of dead leaves.

Winter is suggested by shoes each of which is made of the whole skin of a little ermine, the fur of the animal outside, of course; the head is placed on the top of the slipper, near the toe, in such wise as to appear resting there naturally, thus giving a material significance to the oft quoted lines of the poet:

"Her feet beneath her petticoat,
Like little mice peeped in and out."

The stocking above this winter shoe is of dark-brown silk, artistically embroidered with a little tree destitute of leaves, the branches of which are covered with snow, and this tree is surrounded with other trees with leafless branches.

The artist who conceived these luminous ideas for the adornment of the dainty extremities of women writes of his work thus: "I do not need to express the difficulty which was presented by the execution of this group of shoes. It was necessary to be original without discarding the rules of taste; to characterize each season sufficiently without falling into eccentricity, without overcharging the feet with an accumulation of symbols." One would imagine the genius that made a study of this embarrassing subject scarcely less of an artist, in his own estimation, having conquered the difficulties, than is a painter or sculptor.

Colonel Spencer's "Spoons"

It is told of Colonel Charles Spencer, counsellor at law, that some years ago he had to defend one Marshall, charged with larceny, and against whom there was very strong evidence. Before the trial, Spencer went to his client and told him that his only chance of escape was in a plea of insanity, and he advised him to play the lunatic, and to answer all questions put to him with the word "spoons." The day of the trial came on, and Marshall took his place in the dock, pale, haggard and wild-looking.

"Guilty or not guilty?" asked the clerk.

"Spoons!" drawled the prisoner, with a blank stare.

"Come, plead guilty or not guilty," repeated the clerk.

"Spoons" was the only reply.

"Prisoner, will you answer the questions put to you, or do you want to be punished for contempt?" asked the judge.

"Spoons," bawled the prisoner, still unmoved.

At this point the counsel for the prisoner interfered and told the Court that his client was not in a condition to be put on trial, as he was evidently not responsible for his actions, and it was an outrage on free citizens, &c.

"Do you understand what is said?" asked the judge, addressing the prisoner.

"Spoons," was his reply, in accents wild.

It was evident the man was crazy, and the judge ordered him discharged. He was taken charge of by his friends, who were present, and left the court with him. Counsellor Spencer followed them, and congratulating him on his escape, suggested that it might be a good idea to pay him his fee. His client stared at him in blank amazement, and moved away with the simple remark, "spoons."

A young man having preached for his bishop was anxious to get a word of applause for his labor of love. The bishop, however, did not introduce the subject, and his younger brother was obliged to bait the hook for him. "I hope, sir, I did not weary your people by the length of my sermon to-day?" "No, sir, not at all, nor by the depth either."

"Second class in grammar, stand up," said the schoolmaster. "John is a bad boy. Who does John correspond with?" "I know," said a little boy at the foot, holding up his hand. "If you mean John Smith's, he corresponds with sister Susan; here's a letter he just gimme to carry home to her."

Governor Hayes voted against censuring Oakes Ames for Credit Mobilier bribery.

Fortune-Hunting.

One good effect grows out of the poverty of the times. Fortune-hunting is less a trade in gay society. Both sexes in fashionable life are beginning to scan the worth of one another more than their wealth. The sensible young lady has begun to find that her security now depends upon allying herself with a man of capacity, steadiness and worth, many to look out for them. The fortune-hunter's case is desperate.

A good satire upon the habits of fortune-hunting came off last year at Saratoga. A milliner and a barber—so on as they are in dress and personal adornment—appeared contemporaneously at the great Mecca of fashion, and undertook, under assumed names, to pass themselves off for very different persons from what they were. They were introduced, and neither being gifted with the talent or provided with education that would lead to the detection of the other's pretensions, each was easily caught in the trap that each had set.

Finally, the milliner, thinking the barber a rich and fine gentleman, and the barber, thinking the milliner an heiress and a lady, readily entered into marriage with one another, in which proceeding they were kindly assisted by persons in the secret. The ceremony was happily concluded, each found a little truth unavoidable, and the milliner had to make the best of her barber husband, and the barber in like manner had to make the best of his milliner wife. They are no doubt very happy. For each would have encountered new troubles had the ambition of each been gratified. How many marriages of fortune-hunters have only brought wealth without happiness! The barber and milliner may console themselves by continuing their vocations, and reflecting that many persons who have entered the canvass of matrimony with objects as mercenary as theirs have been only plunged in unhappiness by succeeding. Certainly the morals of society cannot fail to undergo an improvement by the diminution of the rage for marrying fortunes and increasing the disposition to make merit, and manhood, and womanhood, and good sense, and energy the basis of marriage rather than wealth. The virtues I enumerate are never-failing sources of peace and social independence, while wealth is fleeting and evanescent, and when that is gone those who fix their hope of happiness upon it are hapless and miserable indeed.

"By and large," as the boy considered the turnip, things are not so bad after all, and I hope for the best. If I should get somewhat despondent, however, I shall return to Webster and take another lesson in society by finding that peace and content may dwell lovingly with poverty, and wealth and show are oftener sources of distraction than they are of serenity and affection.

THE NAME OF THE DEITY WRITTEN BY LIGHTNING.—The Lynbush News stoutly maintains that John Brown, a negro recently killed in Campbell county, had the letters God imprinted upon his body. Dr. Thomas E. Mooreman, of Campbell county, in a letter to the Richmond Christian Advocate, corroborates the statement. He says: "The lightning had set fire to his clothing, and he was burned on his chest and left side and arm before the fire was extinguished. In his manual efforts to free himself from those who were restraining him the skin was rubbed from the burned flesh, and presented the following characters—G-O-D, very close representations, to say the least of them, of the capital letters used in printing the name of the deity, while around and between them the skin was unremoved, and apparently not burned. The above characters occupied the angles of an equilateral triangle, which, as you are doubtless aware, was in ancient days the symbol of Deity. This man then appears to have been branded with the name of the Creator in the symbolic language, it may be, of his forefathers three thousand years ago, and in the printed language of the nation to which he belongs."

A correspondent of the Baltimore American tells how the island of Martha's Vineyard got its name: I said to an old gentleman whom I met this morning, "Why do they call this place Martha's Vineyard? I have not seen either Martha or grapes since I have been on this island."

"I will tell you," he replied. "You see, a long time ago a rich old fellow owned all the country about here. He had three daughters—Martha, Nancy, and Elizabeth. This island he gave to Martha, and as there was a large vineyard on it, he added that name. Your daughter she gave to Elizabeth. Nancy said she must have one, and claimed 'other one, now called Nantucket—Nan, took it!"

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Truth Stranger than Fiction.

A remarkable occurrence, recalling in some of its features the stories recounted in the "Arabian nights," took place last week on Wood street. An humble cottage on that street is tenanted by a young couple who last year made their bridal tour to California, Oregon and Washington Territory. While engaged in salmon fishing on one of the rivers, the bridegroom was so unfortunate as to drop into its current a valuable diamond ring belonging to his wife.

The loss of the gem was, of course, mourned, but after while the incident was forgotten, nor was it recalled until a few days ago, when the young husband, returning late at night from taking stock, discovered that his wife had prepared for supper a can of salmon. Taking it up he looked carelessly at the label, and said:

"Why, Marian, this salmon was put up at the very place where I lost your ring last summer. Wouldn't it be odd if a salmon had swallowed it, and been caught and canned at that very factory, and put into this very can, and we should find the ring in it?"

His wife answered him jestingly, but her husband replied:

"I don't know how to account for it, but I have a sort of presentiment that I shall find that ring in some romantic manner."

She had scarcely said, "Don't be a goose, Gus," when her eye caught the glitter of something metallic in the can, and she fairly screamed, "goodness, gracious me, what's that?"

Her husband, who was scarcely less excited than herself, removed the foreign substance with a fork, when, what was his surprise to discover that it was a big lump of solder, which, in soldering the can, had been permitted to fall into its contents.

A QUANT DOCUMENT.—In the better days of the Commonwealth the young ladies used to give the following form of permission for the procuring of a marriage license:

The bearer hereof, Mr. Randall, of Westmoreland county, and State of Virginia, has my permission to procure from authority the necessary credentials, which shall duly and honorably merit my attention in the support of my affections, to continue through the end of all things, which shall so respectfully an element or sentiment of my right mind, and which shall henceforth strictly be adhered to the proper form, at my instance and his opportunity, in the making valid all things pertaining to the stream of my desire to become his partner in the vigor of my youth, in the morning of affections, properly directed to the momentous obligation of conjugal embraces in endless felicity. This 6th June, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-one.

In witness to the above I have hereunto set my hand, day and year above written.

TESTE—James Weaver.

Age, &c., sworn to before John H. Smith by the witness.

The above is a true copy of a bona fide document.

Force of habit in Texas is aptly illustrated by the San Antonio Herald: "Look here, my friend," said the clerk of one of our hotels to a rough customer from the frontier, who was about to take his place at the dinner table with a revolver at his hip, "you will have to leave that in the office till you leave town."

The frontiersman objected because he was not in the habit of sitting down to his meals without his "weapins."

The clerk refused to pander to the whims of the guest, although he was willing he should wear the empty holster of the pistol, but the whole matter was finally arranged without prejudice to the honor of either party by the guest taking out of the weapon all but one of the metallic cartridges, which was retained in order to secure respectful attention from the waiter.

A SHARP DARTER.—"I ain't wotin' dis year, boss," said a venerable darkey to a gentleman from whom he had solicited ten cents, just to git the ole nigger a dram. "I ain't wotin' dis year, cause I see dey gwine take de comman from Ginerel Grant. I ain't foolin' wid politics no how. De no! I wot de me' I lose in dat Freedman Bank. Dey was jis milkin' me right along."

"Why didn't you make a fuss about it?" queried the gentleman.

"Lor, boss! what de reason de pullet don't cackle when de nigger come along an' lift him offen de roos?"

The gentleman couldn't face the conundrum.

"I've got another, my dear," said Mr. Dorkins as he hurried into the house. "If you were on the top of Trinity church spire on the back of a goose, how would you get down?" Mrs. Dorkins thought she'd jump down, slide down the lightning rod, fly down on the goose, fall down, and then gave it up. "Why, if you wanted to get down, you could pick it off the goose," said Mr. Dorkins, exultingly.

An old bachelor, upon reading that "two lovers will sit up half the night with only one chair in the room," remarked that loving must be inconvenient, for it could not be done unless one of them sat on the floor.

The useless waste of money on weddings and funerals call for reform. Extravagance makes young men dread marriage and death.

Subscribe for the COMMONWEALTH; only two dollars a year in advance.

For the Commonwealth.

Discipline of the American People.

One hundred years have passed since the United States became a nation. In a wild and unbroken forest the patriots and heroes of America, with hearts like damask steel, withstood the storm against "haughty Britton," and originated the first germs of freedom which has made one of the most potent powers of the globe, and the greatest republic in the world. Though laboring under disadvantages and overwhelmed by numbers, they found deliverance by shagging their precious blood. By encouraging industry, they promoted commerce, and in concord they increased. Under the administration of wise, just and honorable men, America has prospered, but during the last sixteen years of radical supremacy, our government halls have been pillaged by predatory statesmen (if they may be so termed) who have dilapidated and almost exterminated the foundation of America's happiness and prosperity, only to gratify the passions of a few insatiate men, promoted by avarice and not the love of country.

In utter disregard of the welfare and interests of either race, they have originated laws in their discord for oppression and soggery, depriving hundreds, nay, thousands, of men from the earnings justly due them, causing and whether the result of their debauched policy should bring the country to ruin and disgrace. With the stipend of others, they have become affluent at the sacrifice of character and reputation. They have given places in our government halls to the able sons of Africa, which is a disgrace to any civil government; they have plundered the people's money for sixteen years, and now cry, "Reform." Can we trust the deliverance of the United States to such men? No! They are our enemies, our country's enemies, and the common enemies of the world. It is not necesse. The majority of the people are not illiterate. O that every man could read the constitution of his country and the Bible of his God. Dishonesty is the mother of bankruptcy, and party organs see the base of the world. He that is continually arraying parties, is his country's enemy, and should receive ostracism from the land. But why is all this political logomachy? Let us drop politics and go for the man. The day is not far distant when republican puissance and edacity will receive a stern finale, and the lethe to them will not be ethanasy. Then will the times begin to ameliorate and the names of the great reformers, Tilden and Hendricks, will mark a refulgent era in the pages of American history.

E. S. SHREVE.
Inglewood, Va., Aug. '76.

Church Bells.

There's something beautiful in the bells. Beautiful and hopeful! They talk to high and low, rich and poor, in the same voices; there's a sound in them that should scare pride and envy, and meanness of all sorts from the heart of men, that should make the look upon the world with kind forgiving eyes; that should make the earth itself seem to him at least for a time, a holy place. Yes, there is a whole sermon in the very sound of the church bells, if we have only the ears rightly to understand it. There is a preacher in every belfry that cries poor, weary, struggling, fighting creatures—poor human things! Take rest, be quiet. Forget your vanities, your follies, your week-day craft, your heartburnings. And you, ye human vessels, gilt and painted, believe the iron-tongue that tells ye that for all your gilding, all your colors, ye are of the same Adam's earth with the beggar at the gate. "Come away, come!" cries the church bell, and learn to be humble; learn, that however daunted, and stained, and stuck about with jewelry, you are but grave clay! Come Dives, come; and be taught that all your glory, as you wear it, is not half so beautiful in the eyes of uncompromising Lazarus! And ye poor creatures, livid and fainting—stunned and crushed by the pride and hardness of the world—come and learn what is laid for ye; and learning, take heart, and walk among the wickedness and cruelty of the world calmly as Daniel walked among the lions.

"Mrs. Spinks," observed a boarder to his landlady, "the equal adjustment of this establishment could be more safely secured if there was less hair in the wash and more in the mattresses."

Even during the heated term two of our Western contemporaries got into a grammatical dispute. Its singular how men could be in such a mood, while the heat is in tense.

A Mr. Weagh, of Philadelphia, is contesting the will of a late uncle. Here is a curious corroboration of the proverb that where there's a will there's a Weagh.

Lord Brougham once defined a lawyer thus: "A learned gentleman who rescues your estate from your enemies, and keeps it himself."

An Arkansas negro is in favor of specie payment because "dat's de stuff de rat's can't chaw."

The

OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA. C. H. VANDERFORD, EDITOR.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 24, 1876.

National Democratic Ticket.

FOR PRESIDENT, SAMUEL J. TILDEN, OF New York.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, T.H.S. A. HENDRICKS, OF Indiana.

ELECTORAL TICKET. ELECTORS AT LARGE. JOHN W. DANIEL, of Lynchburg.

SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

A convention of the Conservative party of the Seventh Congressional District will meet in Staunton on Friday, the 1st day of September, at 12 o'clock M.

DISTRICT MEETINGS.

In pursuance to the above call for a Congressional Convention, the Conservative voters of Rockingham county are requested to meet at the following places in their respective Districts.

In Stonewall District at McGabneysville. In Ashby District at Mt. Crawford. In Central District at Harrisonburg. In Linville District at Edom.

In Plains District at Broadway. CHAS. A. YANCEY, Chairman County Ex. Com.

"Reform" doesn't mean the same thing in Hayes' dictionary that it does in Tilden's. Hayes, as Governor, signed the bill increasing the fees and emoluments of Ohio officials \$5,000,000 per annum in the aggregate.

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad," and the villainous appeals to the prejudices of the Republican party, and vituperative denunciation of the Democratic party by the Republican press and stump-speakers plainly forecasts the result of the November elections.

The Washington Chronicle says the Democratic opposition to the Republican party is not so much against its faults "as against its virtue." Nearly all the virtue of your party has departed.

The Radical orators and papers never touch the principles laid down in the Cincinnati platform. They never dwell upon the legitimate issues of the campaign, but content themselves with appeals to the passions and prejudices of the Northern people.

"If the Democratic party, through intimidation, murder and ballot-box stuffing, should get control of the Federal Government, the secession plot would be renewed on a deeper and broader basis, and a second effort to destroy the Union and re-establish and perpetuate slavery would be the result."

The fears of Gen. Garfield and Gen. Dix about the rebels obtaining control of the government do not pervade the breasts of Gen. Hancock, Gen. Hooker and Gen. Sigel. They fought through the war and accomplished their object. They see peace and order reigning everywhere in the South, except when disorders are incited by the miserable wretches of the North who have come South to fatten on the spoils of office.

Every one admits that stagnation in business and excessive taxation is due to the extravagance and corruption of Grant and his administration. All Republicans. Hayes and his platform would bring about no reform in affairs. Tilden has proven himself a reformer by his course in breaking up the Tammany and Canal rings and in the great reduction in the debt and rates of taxation in New York.

Whom will you trust? The latest order of Grant, through his Secretary of War, to General Sherman, is one which must naturally cause uneasiness in the mind of every patriotic American citizen.

THE ORDER OF THE ARMY.

The latest order of Grant, through his Secretary of War, to General Sherman, is one which must naturally cause uneasiness in the mind of every patriotic American citizen. Almost before the doors of Congress are closed, the General in command of the army is directed to hold in readiness for immediate service all his available forces, and to have such force "so distributed and stationed as to be able to render prompt assistance in the enforcement of the law."

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

Congress adjourned sine die on Tuesday evening of last week, at half past seven o'clock, after one of the longest sessions ever held. The New York Sun, of Wednesday, takes the following general view of its work:

"A great deal of important work has been done in the Senate. The demand of the House sustained by popular pressure, in the way of retrenchment, investigation, and the suppression of corruption, the House has relieved the country of thirty millions of taxation, has broken up several Tammany Rings, has suppressed a great deal of fraud, has driven Belknap from office, and has shown up a monstrous amount of peculation. For the good it has done, for the wrong it has prevented, for the crises it has publicly averted, and for the exposures it has made, we give it credit. It has had to struggle with the Republican power in the Senate, with the President in the White House, and with all the combined forces of Grantism. By the time the next session assembles, we trust that Samuel J. Tilden will be President elect."

"The Republican Senate has stood in the way of all substantial reforms throughout the eight months and a half that Congress has been in session. There is not a redeeming feature in the proceedings of the majority. Every measure of the session looking to retrenchment, economy and improvement in the civil service, has originated in the Democratic House. If measures of this class have been finally passed, it has happened only after a protracted struggle, in which the Democrats of the House stood manfully up to the work, while the Republican leaders in the Senate did their best to defeat them. In the entire history of the session there cannot be found a solitary exception to this sweeping remark. In this respect the record of the Senate is made the most infamous record in the annals of that body."

"The Republicans now have a majority of nine in the Senate. The terms of appointment of the Republican members expire in March next. There is every reason to believe that the Democrats will secure enough of these seats to give them a majority of two in the next session. Then, with a majority of reformers in each branch of Congress, and with Sam Tilden in the White House, the country will turn over a new leaf indeed."

The Radical orators and papers never touch the principles laid down in the Cincinnati platform. They never dwell upon the legitimate issues of the campaign, but content themselves with appeals to the passions and prejudices of the Northern people. Here are two editorials from Monday's Washington Chronicle:

"If the Democratic party, through intimidation, murder and ballot-box stuffing, should get control of the Federal Government, the secession plot would be renewed on a deeper and broader basis, and a second effort to destroy the Union and re-establish and perpetuate slavery would be the result. This fact is patent to every clear observer of the Southern Democratic sentiment."

"Shall the party that attempted to divide the Union by means of the sword and failed now be allowed to accomplish their purpose by legislative process? In the answer to this question at the polls is involved the problem of national life."

Whitely Hayes was Governor of Ohio the taxes in that State were increased five millions of dollars. That is Hayes and Reform. In New York with Samuel J. Tilden as Governor, taxation, in less than two years, was reduced, to speak in round numbers, from fifteen to eight millions. That is Tilden and Reform.

Every one admits that stagnation in business and excessive taxation is due to the extravagance and corruption of Grant and his administration. All Republicans. Hayes and his platform would bring about no reform in affairs. Tilden has proven himself a reformer by his course in breaking up the Tammany and Canal rings and in the great reduction in the debt and rates of taxation in New York.

SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

It is difficult to tell at this writing who will be the Conservative nominee for Congress in this district, or who at present has developed the greatest strength. In the counties which have so far appointed delegates, Harris and O'Ferrall seem to be the only aspirants considered in the race. Shenandoah, Greene and Goodland have appointed delegates, and the other six counties will hold meetings for that purpose this week. Shenandoah and Goodland counties are solid for Harris, and Greene is claimed for both. The probabilities are, however, that it will vote for O'Ferrall in Convention. They will divide the vote of Page, and there will also be a division in Rockingham. The result in this county hinges upon the vote of Central district as to who will get a majority of the delegates, but as to the chances of either in this district we will have nothing to say. There are many speculations as to the vote of Highland, Augusta and Bath, while Albemarle is generally conceded to Judge Harris. The contest is warmer than for some years, especially in this county. We hope, however, that the convention may act harmoniously, and that no serious dissensions between the supporters of the rival aspirants may arise. The party must be united in this contest, and the election of Tilden and Hendricks must be placed above mere personal choice for Congressmen. That the district will send a Conservative, there is no doubt, and we hope the whole people will bow to the decision of the Staunton Convention, and work unceasingly for its nominee, Tilden, Hendricks and Reform.

TROOPS IN THE SOUTH.

The demand of the President for more troops has stimulated a representative of the New York Herald to enquire into the records of the War Department, to find out the number of companies stationed in the Southern States. He finds that there are in Texas, 45 companies of infantry and 26 companies of cavalry; in Louisiana 12 companies of infantry; in Mississippi 10 companies of infantry; in South Carolina 8 companies of infantry and 2 companies of artillery; in Florida 8 companies of infantry and 1 company of artillery; in Alabama 5 companies of infantry; in Virginia 5 companies of artillery; in North Carolina 4 companies of artillery; in Tennessee 3 companies of infantry; and in Arkansas 2 companies of infantry, making a total of 138 companies.

"By a strict reading of the law there is no authority for the presence of troops in the Southern States at this time. The Supreme Court has decided that the Enforcement Act is unconstitutional. This was the only authority the President had for sending portions of the United States army to any State in the Union, without the application of its Governor or Legislature, and then only when the militia is unable to suppress the disturbance, that demands the interference of Federal authority."

A VIRGINIA AMBLER.

J. Ambler Smith, ex-Congressman from the Richmond District, is in Indiana stumping for Hayes, Wheeler and the whole Republican ticket. How he is succeeding is told in the following from the Cincinnati Enquirer, from which it seems he is doing good service for the Democracy:

J. Ambler Smith, who, according to his own story, hails from Richmond, Va., and is an ex-member of Congress, and is now Lawrenceburg and spoke a little piece to a handful of Republicans Thursday evening. The distinguished foreigner ambled around considerably, ran the bloody shirt up the main mast, divvied for Grant and Grantism, but utterly failed to make a speech. Numerous Republicans are so thoroughly disgusted with this eminent carpet bagger, that they contemplate voting for Tilden and reform. In view of this fact it might be a good investment for Democrats to purchase J. Ambler and send him around as a campaign document. Yesterday, in company with W. H. Matthews, he went ambulating out to Osgood, where both wrestled with their Republican friends, and scattered Hayes and Wheeler documents among the Levy gang. Lawrenceburg people don't care a cuss what becomes of J. Ambler, but they don't like to see Matthews throw himself away.

President Grant has been administering the duties of his office the past few months with a high hand. In signing several acts of Congress he has taken occasion to lecture the House of Representatives, each time exhibiting his total unfitness for the high position he occupies. Last week he vetoed a Senate bill, and after sending it back to that body, asked for its return that he might affix his signature. The proceeding was so novel and unstinted by law or precedent it excited both merriment and disgust—merriment for its originality, and disgust because of its author exhibited such gross ignorance. The Senate passed the bill over the President's veto.

A PRO WITH A CHILD'S FAZ.—Last week Maj. J. D. Richardson left at Dr. Page's drug store a pig having a head and face like that of a child. The forehead, chin and mouth are unmistakably human in appearance, but the nose is represented by a fleshy beak-like shape about a half inch in length. The eyes are wide apart, and set some-what up in the forehead. The ears, body, legs and feet are those of a pig. This singular deformity lived 24 hours after the pig gave birth to it. Dr. Page is preserving it in alcohol.—Clark Courier.

BY TELEGRAPH!

Special Dispatches to the Commonwealth. LATEST NEWS FROM ALL QUARTERS. Reduction in Pay of Dep. Collectors. PROHIBITION OF SALE OF ARMS. Remains of Speaker Kerr at Washington. A Vessel boarded and Passengers thrown Overboard. The Indian War. Russia Promises Aid to Servia.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue will to-morrow issue orders directing pay of Deputy Collectors to be reduced six per cent. below amount now paid. The same order provides that when in the judgment of Commissioner of Internal Revenue services of gauger and storekeeper are not required commission may be issued to gauger and storekeeper, but such officer shall receive pay as storekeeper.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The following order was sent to-day to nearly all the Indian agencies by Indian Commissioner: "Sir, you are advised that all sales of arms and ammunition to either whites or Indians, or to parties holding license as Indian traders, issued by this office must be stopped instantly. You will so notify your traders, and will be vigilant in seeing that no violation of this order is allowed. If any instance of such violation occurs you will revoke the license of the offending party and report the case to this office for further action."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—The remains of Speaker Kerr arrived this A. M. from Rockbridge Alum Springs at 6:35, by Midland R. R. Upon arrival of party at 8th Street Station, Sergeant-at-Arms Thompson took charge of the remains and had them removed to a Pullman car and placed upon a catafalque. Mrs. Kerr preferring not to have them taken to the Capitol, a detail of six police were placed on guard. The outer cover of the casket was removed and the body laid in state until 10:30 A. M. During the morning a large number of Mr. Kerr's friends and others visited the depot to view his remains. At 11:30 the casket was closed, and at 11:50 the funeral party, consisting of Mrs. Kerr and son, Vice-President Ferry, Representative Morrison, Sergeant-at-Arms Thompson, Mr. Adams, clerk, and several other officers of the House, left for New Albany, Ind., via Harrisburg and Indianapolis. Representatives Sawyer and Cox did not accompany the party.

NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—As schooner "Niagara," from Bristol, Rhode Island, for Poqueossee, was in Long Island Sound last night, the mate heard cries of a man swimming in the water. A boat was lowered, the man rescued and landed at Morrisiana police station. He told the authorities that his name was Charles Burke, cabinet-maker of New Haven; that he started from New York for New Haven on Steamer "Elm City" last night, and when at Hell Gate the vessel was attacked by two men. He was garrotted, robbed and thrown overboard, and had been swimming an hour when rescued.

OTTAWA, CANADA, Aug. 22.—Advices received this morning from Interior Department from Fort Ellis, August 17th, state that the Sioux, now at war with the United States, had sent presents of tobacco to the Blackfoot Indians in Canada requesting the latter to join them. The Blackfoot declined, whereupon the Sioux sent a message to them that when they had finished with the Americans they would cross over to Canada and take their country.

LONDON, Aug. 22.—Reuter's telegram from Semlin says it is stated in well informed circles that the Serbian Prime Minister, Blaskovic, recently interviewed Mr. Karzoff, Russian Representative at Belgrade, on the 11th inst., and appealed to the Russian Government to permit Russian officers and soldiers to enter the Servian army. He also asked pecuniary assistance, as Servia had determined to continue the war. The Russian government replied, granting "above requests under certain conditions."

LONDON, Aug. 22.—Belgrade telegrams from the "Times" confirm the report of the re-occupation of Gurguzvatz and Trejsibaba by the Servians. Kerim Pasha withdrew his forces to sustain operations. His force numbering 40,000 men, attacked Alexinatz but were unsuccessful. Gov. Tschernyeff having 79,000 men.

Col. John S. Mosby has written a letter in which he defines his position as Secretary of the League of the South. It has been extensively copied in the press of the country, and received much editorial comment. We think undue prominence has been given to this letter, for from false premises false conclusions must follow. The position of Mosby is simply of no consequence to any. During the war the North regarded him as a guerrilla chief, but since he has turned upon his comrades in arms and upon his native State, he has been transformed into a gallant confederate officer and a statesman far-sighted and patriotic. The Virginia Conservative press have indulged in criticism of his course, giving him a prominence to which he is not entitled. He speaks for Mosby and for no others, and his vote will count for none.

DEATH OF SPEAKER KERR, OF INDIANA.—Hon. M. C. Kerr, of New Albany, Indiana, who was elected Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives in December last, after a lingering illness from consumption of the bowels, died at the Rockbridge Alum Springs, at 20 minutes after 7 o'clock on last Saturday evening, aged 49 years. His devoted wife and son, the latter aged 21 years, Hon. S. S. Cox, of N. Y., his physician, Dr. Pope, his Secretary, Mr. White, and his clerk, Mr. Suddard, Mr. Blair, and other friends were at his bedside when he expired. He pressed the hand of Hon. S. S. Cox, exclaiming, "Good-bye, dear friend—God bless you."

It is stated that since the close of the war the Augusta (Ga.) Cotton Factory has paid to its stockholders 198 per cent. on the present capital, equal to 18 per cent. per annum; and during the same period have invested in real estate, new buildings and new machinery about \$400,000, without the sale of new stock or calling on the stockholders, and the amount to the credit of the profit and loss account is about \$110,000 more than on July 1, 1875.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM BRIDGEWATER. August 23rd, 1876. Mr. Editor:—The Valley Normal School of this place will close its session on Friday evening next with public exercises, which promise to be of a most interesting character. There has been between fifty and sixty teachers in attendance, all of whom speak in the very highest terms of commendation of the school. The examination of teachers for schools in the county of Rockingham will take place on Friday and Saturday of this week, under the direction of Mr. J. Haws, County Supt. of Schools. There will be a slight change made in the teachers of the Bridgewater Graded School for the ensuing year. Mr. Jesse D. Bucher, one of its founders, severing his connection with the school, having accepted an offer of principal of a flourishing school in the county of Highland. In the loss of Mr. Bucher the school loses one of its ablest officers, the town a good citizen and society a valued ornament. Mr. Bucher possesses a large share of the affections of our people. To know him is to admire his many noble virtues. As a Christian gentleman of the highest culture, he will carry with him to his new field of labor every assurance of regard, and the best wishes of our citizens that the silken sails of fortune may waft him a glorious reward. We know that Mr. Bucher leaves our town a heavy heart, for he has formed ties of the strongest friendship, and it is no easy matter to sever the chain that has linked true hearts together. It is known to but few why he resigned his position in our school. It is but just that justice be done to all ere "forbearance ceases to be a virtue."

But in the loss of one we valued so highly we have gained in his place one of Rockingham's most talented daughters—Miss Virginia Paul. She is so well known to us all that no eulogy we might write could add another laurel to the diadem she already wears so deservedly and becomingly. We predict the day when she will take her place in the literary world alongside of Virginia's great women, where she will carry out for herself unaided a name of which old Rockingham will be proud.

Democracy is wide awake in this section. While we are making no loud expression of feeling we are doing a deal of thinking, but when the forests part on their lively of purple and gold in November next we are going to roll up the biggest vote in this little town for Sam. and Tom, that's been polled since North Mountain stopped voting for Old Hickory.

We don't hear so much "harrising" about Congress in this place as we once did. They are waiting for the grab-bag and seed peddler to make their appearance again. We will have a Democratic rally in this place to-morrow (Thursday) night. Judge O'Ferrall and others will address the meeting. Col. Geo. E. Deneale will address the people, at Bridgewater, on first Saturday evening in September, at 7 o'clock.

The juveniles of this place have raised several Tilden and Hendricks poles. One of them bears the inscription: "Virginians to the front" with a Tilden and Hendricks steamer. Let us see that this call is obeyed in November next.

FROM MT. MERIDIAN.

The camping near the Caves closed this morning. The conversation was numerous. Everything passed off quietly. There was an efficient police on the ground, to whom all are indebted for the good order. Sacramental services begin to-morrow at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church, and lasts three days. "The Spirit and the Lamb say come."

Times are dull in this part of the world. Even the Caves, so attractive generally, are passed by unnoticed. The corn crop in this vicinity will not be as good as was expected. The entertainment at Hopkin's Springs on Saturday is eliciting some little interest. May "the gay, the wise, the gallant and the brave" join in the mirth and festivity. Why are all young ladies like most ladies? Because they are demasels (damns)!

Why are Grant and Butler like that point in the moon's orbit nearest the sun? Because they are a pair of hellions (perhellion).

To the Senate of the United States: For the reasons stated in the accompanying communication submitted to me by the Acting Secretary of the Interior, I have the honor to return herewith without my approval Senate bill No. 773, entitled "An act to provide for the sale of a portion of the reservation of the confederated Otoe and Missouri and the Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri tribes of Indians in the States of Kansas and Nebraska."

U. S. GRANT. Executive Mansion, Aug. 15, 1876. To the Senate of the United States: Upon further investigation I am convinced that my message of this date withholding my signature from Senate bill No. 773, entitled "An act to provide for the sale of a portion of the reservation of the confederated Otoe and Missouri and the Sacs and Foxes of the Missouri tribes of Indians in the States of Kansas and Nebraska," was premature; and I request, therefore, that the bill may be returned in order that I may affix my signature to it.

U. S. GRANT. Executive Man'n, Aug. 15, 1876. This bill was of course not returned to Grant, but both Houses of Congress passed it over his veto, and it is now a law.—Rich. Dispatch.

CAPTURE OF NELSON WATKINS, CHARGED WITH ATTEMPT TO RAPE.—Nelson Watkins (colored), who is charged with having attempted an outrage upon Miss Sarah Insney, about 4 miles from Staunton, on the 27th of July, was captured 4 miles from Lovingsburg Station on the Va. Midland R. R., in Nelson county, last Sunday night by Mr. Jno. S. Hare and others with whom a warrant for his arrest had been left a few weeks since by Capt. H. H. Beck, Chief of Police of Staunton. Captain Beck received a telegram yesterday morning apprising him of the arrest, whereupon he met the party at Charlottesville, and by the afternoon train of yesterday brought the prisoner to this city and lodged him in jail.—Spectator.

Gold closed in New York Monday at \$1.10.

SEVEN IS A PROPHETIC NUMBER.

Governor Hayes has seven letters in his signature (R. B. Hayes), the same as U. S. Grant.—New York Mail (rep.) That, unhappily is not the only sign that a first term of Hayes would be a third term of Grant.—Atlanta Constitution.

Seven does, indeed, seem to be a "prophetic number" in the Radical party. Shake up once more, and it gives you Belknap, Babcock, Robeson, Shepard, Packard, Cameron, and Spencer, just seven of them and seven letters in each name.—Knoxville Tribune.

You spell Sheppard wrong, but we give you a special swap.—Becher.—Charlottesville Chronicle.

MARRIED. In Andrew Chapel, in this place, on Tuesday morning last, August 22d, at 7 o'clock, by Rev. G. W. Stratton, Thomas H. Myers, of Baltimore, Md., and Miss Columbia C., daughter of John Andes formerly of this county.

DIED. In Jackson township, Hamilton county, Indiana, on June 11th, 1876, Mrs. Elizabeth Sowers, aged 70 years, 8 months and 10 days. Four days later her husband, John Sowerwine, about the same age, died. The result of an accident in falling from a chair. This venerable couple removed from Jackson hamlet in 1864.

COMMERCIAL. HARRISONBURG MARKET. Flour—Family, \$4.47 1/2 to \$5.00. Do Extra, \$3.95 to \$4.50. Do Super, \$3.50 to \$4.00. Do Corn (new), \$0.90 to \$1.00. Do Oats (new), \$0.80 to \$0.90. Do Beans (new), \$1.00 to \$1.10. Do Bacon, \$0.12 to \$0.13. Do Pork, \$0.10 to \$0.11. Do Lard, \$0.12 to \$0.13. Do Eggs, \$0.15 to \$0.16. Do Potatoes, \$0.40 to \$0.50. Do Wood, \$1.00 to \$1.10. Do Washed, \$0.80 to \$0.90.

CATTLE MARKETS. BALTIMORE, August 16, 1876. Beef Cattle—Prices to-day ranged as follows: Common, \$4.75 to \$5.00. Goodly rated first quality, \$5.00 to \$5.25. Medium or good fair, \$4.75 to \$5.00. Ordinary this breed, \$4.50 to \$4.75. General average of market, \$4.75 to \$5.00. Extremes range of prices, \$4.25 to \$5.25. Most of the sales were from \$4.25 to \$4.75. There was but little if any difference in prices this week. Receipts 1000 head, including 1000 head of sheep at \$4.45, and a few extra at \$6.00. 1000 head of sheep at \$4.45, and a few extra at \$6.00. 1000 head of sheep at \$4.45, and a few extra at \$6.00.

New Advertisements. WHEAT SEEDING. WHANN'S Raw-Bone Super-Phosphate, MANUFACTURED BY WALTON, WHANN & CO., Wilmington, Delaware.

THIS well-known Fertilizer, which for the past sixteen years has been used with gratifying success, is again offered to Farmers as one of the best and most profitable fertilizers. It is a thoroughly reliable manure. It is a thoroughly reliable manure. It is a thoroughly reliable manure.

COOK'S CREEK LAND FOR SALE. In pursuance of a decree of the Circuit Court of Rockingham, rendered at the May Term, 1876, in the chancery cause of Jonathan Slater vs. John C. Coffman, Executor, &c., we, as Commissioners, do hereby sell on Wednesday, September 20th, 1876, on the premises, at public auction, Two Tracts of Land, lying near Dayton, in Rockingham county, containing together about 350 ACRES.

Two Tracts of Land, lying near Dayton, in Rockingham county, containing together about 350 ACRES. These lands are among the very best in the county in soil; are highly improved, having two valuable tracts of land, with a fine building; fine orchard, plenty of water and timber.

By virtue of a decree rendered in the chancery cause of Lindwood vs. Lindwood, &c., I, J. W. Edinger, as Commissioner appointed for that purpose, offer for sale on the premises, On Saturday, 19th day of August, 1876, at 3 o'clock, P. M., the HOUSE AND LOT belonging to the estate of Samuel Lindwood, dec'd., situated in the town of Staunton, in the "Bridger lot."

Public Sale of a House and Lot, in McGOABYSVILLE. BY virtue of a decree rendered in the chancery cause of Lindwood vs. Lindwood, &c., I, J. W. Edinger, as Commissioner appointed for that purpose, offer for sale on the premises, On Saturday, 19th day of August, 1876, at 3 o'clock, P. M., the HOUSE AND LOT belonging to the estate of Samuel Lindwood, dec'd., situated in the town of Staunton, in the "Bridger lot."

WE ARE CONSTANTLY RECEIVING AND ADDING TO OUR LARGE STOCK OF HARDWARE every description of goods belonging to the trade, all of which will be sold AS CHEAP AS they can be purchased. In other words, WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD. Just received a large lot of Keystone Apple Parer, Aug 24th. ROHR, SPRINKEL & CO.

D. M. SWITZER & SON. Now in receipt of another lot of also G. L. COLLIER'S PATENT SHIRTS and FURNISHING GOODS. Give us a call, may 11. 100 SACKS FINE SALT, at LOWEST prices, may 11. HENRY SHACKLETT.

New Advertisements.

COMMISSIONER'S SALE OF LAND. ON SATURDAY, THE 19th DAY OF AUGUST, 1876, at 10 o'clock, A. M., by virtue of a decree rendered in the chancery cause of Wm. May, Ac., vs. N. Smith's administrators, &c., I, J. W. Edinger, as Commissioner appointed for that purpose, offer for sale, on the premises, TRACT OF LAND in the bill mentioned, containing about 12 ACRES, more or less, which there is a comfortable Dwelling-house, the land is well improved, and is situated in the town of Staunton, in the county of Rockingham, Va. The heirs and assigns of Col. Jos. Mann's heirs and others.

POSTPONEMENT. The above sale will take place at 10 o'clock, A. M., on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1876, at 10 o'clock, A. M., on the premises. ED. S. COHRAD, Commissioner.

FIRST-CLASS GROCER, and will conduct in connection therewith a Commission House!

Having purchased the stock of John S. Lewis, I desire to announce to the public that I will, as the stand formerly occupied by him continue the business of a

COMMISSION HOUSE. I have purchased a new stock of Coffee, Sugar, Tea, Sausage, Canned Hams, and Groceries of every description, which will be sold at the lowest prices. Corn, Wheat, Flour, Oats, Rye, Mill-feed, and all kinds of country produce, brought at the highest market prices, sold and taken on commission. Patronage of my friends and the public generally respectfully solicited. P. W. STRAYER, aug 24

PUBLIC SALE OF DESIRABLE TOWN PROPERTY. A Commissioner appointed under decree of Circuit Court of Rockingham county, in the chancery cause of Conrad vs. Byrnes, &c., do hereby sell, On Saturday, 26th of August, 1876, at 10 o'clock, A. M., proceed to sell the property, to-wit: one-half of the lot of the late Mrs. Wm. Miller, on Wolfe street, now occupied by the heirs of Wm. Strayer, &c., &c. If the same is not sold on such sale is not sufficient to pay the amount of the decree, then the western half of said lot, on which there is a dwelling-house, situated on the corner of High or West street and Wolfe street. If the two lots are not sold for sufficient to pay the amount of the decree, then the small lot of land, situated on the corner of High or West street and Wolfe street. The purchaser to execute bonds with good and satisfactory personal security, and a lien to be retained on the land as ultimate security. aug 24 ED. S. COHRAD, Comm'r.

Public Sale of Valuable Land. By virtue of the Will of Wm. H. S. Dasher, dec'd., I will offer at public sale, On Saturday, September 2nd, 1876, 114 1/2 Acres of Land, being a part of the "HOME FARM," and known as the "DANGERFIELD TRACT," lying and being in Rockingham county, on the left bank of the Staunton River, one mile north of Fort Rock, and being the estate of Geo. A. Scott, Noah Shifer and others. The survey of the above-mentioned tract, as shown through all the courts and the land, there are about 100 acres of cleared land in the tract, and the balance is well timbered. The land is well adapted to the growth of all kinds of small grain, and the soil is fertile. The tract is well situated in a delightful neighborhood—convenient to schools, churches, stores, factories, shops, &c.

APPLETON'S American Cyclopaedia. NEW REVISED EDITION. Entirely rewritten by the ablest writers on every subject. Printed from new types, and illustrated with several thousand Engravings and Maps.

The work originally published under the title of THE AMERICAN CYCLOPAEDIA was completed in 1868, since which time the wide circulation which it has attained in all parts of the United States, and the signal developments which have taken place in every branch of science, literature, and art, have induced the authors and publishers to undertake a new and thorough revision, and to issue a new edition entitled THE AMERICAN CYCLOPAEDIA.

Within the last few years the progress of discovery in every department of knowledge has made a new work of reference an imperative want. The movement of political affairs has kept pace with the progress of science, and the rapid changes of social life, and the consequent revolutions in human conduct, have demanded a new and complete Cyclopaedia. The work is now published in a new and complete form, and is the most valuable and comprehensive work of the kind ever published in this country.

Large accessions to our geographical knowledge have been made by the latest discoveries in the progress of discovery in every department of knowledge has made a new work of reference an imperative want. The movement of political affairs has kept pace with the progress of science, and the rapid changes of social life, and the consequent revolutions in human conduct, have demanded a new and complete Cyclopaedia. The work is now published in a new and complete form, and is the most valuable and comprehensive work of the kind ever published in this country.

The great political revolutions of the last decade, with the progress of discovery in every department of knowledge has made a new work of reference an imperative want. The movement of political affairs has kept pace with the progress of science, and the rapid changes of social life, and the consequent revolutions in human conduct, have demanded a new and complete Cyclopaedia. The work is now published in a new and complete form, and is the most valuable and comprehensive work of the kind ever published in this country.

Prepared for the press, it has accordingly been the aim of the editors to bring down the information to the latest possible date, and to furnish an accurate account of the most recent discoveries in addition to every branch of science, literature, and art, and of the newest inventions in literature, and of the progress of discovery in every department of knowledge has made a new work of reference an imperative want. The movement of political affairs has kept pace with the progress of science, and the rapid changes of social life, and the consequent revolutions in human conduct, have demanded a new and complete Cyclopaedia. The work is now published in a new and complete form, and is the most valuable and comprehensive work of the kind ever published in this country.

Prices and Style of Binding. In extra cloth, per vol. \$5.00. In half Turkey Morocco, per vol. \$3.00. In half Russia, extra gilt, per vol. \$3.00. In full Morocco, extra gilt, per vol. \$7.00. In full Russia, extra gilt, per vol. \$7.00. Eleven volumes now ready. Succeeding volumes, until completion, will be issued one in two months. Specimen pages of the AMERICAN CYCLOPAEDIA, showing type, illustrations, etc., will be sent gratis, on application.

Address the Publishers, D. APPLETON & CO., 549 & 551 Broadway, N. Y. May 6, 1875.

100 SACKS FINE SALT. Choice Extra Flour, Pure Ohio Vinegar, For sale by HENRY SHACKLETT. 10 10 76.

OLD COMMONWEALTH.

Harrisonburg, Va., August 24, 1876.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY C. H. VANDERFORD.

Office over the Store of Loke & Heller South of the Court-House.

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| BALTIMORE & OHIO R. R. VALLEY BRANCH. | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| GOING EAST. | |
| Leave Harrisonburg | 8:00 A. M. |
| Arrive Washington | 4:20 P. M. |
| Leave Washington | 6:15 A. M. |
| Arrive Baltimore | 6:25 P. M. |
| Leave Baltimore | 6:35 A. M. |
| Arrive Harrisonburg | 4:00 P. M. |
| GOING WEST. | |
| Leave Baltimore | 6:25 A. M. |
| Arrive Harrisonburg | 4:00 P. M. |
| Leave Harrisonburg | 8:00 A. M. |
| Arrive Washington | 4:20 P. M. |
| Leave Washington | 6:15 A. M. |
| Arrive Baltimore | 6:25 P. M. |
| Leave Baltimore | 6:35 A. M. |
| Arrive Harrisonburg | 4:00 P. M. |

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

WASHINGTON, CINCINNATI AND ST. LOUIS RAILROAD.

In these columns several weeks ago it was stated that the Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad Company proposed completing a portion of their road and putting it in operation. Since then plans have been matured and contracts signed for putting the road in running order from Harrisonburg west to North River Gap. Mr. J. W. F. Allemon, whose name in connection with any enterprise is a guarantee of success, has the contract for completing the grading, trestle work and bridges, and will commence at once to get out ties and bridge timber. While negotiations are not consummated, the company expect, also, that the road will be completed as soon as possible, after the first division is finished, to Monterey, in Highland county, a distance of fifty or sixty miles.

There are at present about one hundred hands at work grading—fifty in Highland and fifty in Augusta. The latter are grading from this side to the top of the Shenandoah mountains, and have the greater portion done.

Much interest is manifested in the success of the enterprise east of the Blue Ridge, and recently large meetings in the interest of the road have been held in Rappahannock, Fauquier, Fairfax and Loudoun counties. The sentiment of these meetings was strongly in favor of the building of the road, and promises of large subscriptions, public and private, were made. Major P. B. Boist, president of the road, informs us that these subscriptions will amount to fully \$450,000.

DEATH OF JOHN GATEWOOD, Esq.—We announce with sorrow the death of Capt. John Gatewood, so well and so favorably known throughout the Valley of Virginia. We had heard of his declining health, but was none the less surprised to hear of his death, which occurred at his home at Tazewell Court House, Virginia, on the evening of August 9th, 1876. The greater part of his life was spent at Woodstock, Shenandoah county, where he published, at successive periods, several newspapers, the last of which, in connection with James S. Trout, Esq., was the *Shenandoah Herald*. In 1869 he disposed of his interest in that paper, and purchased a one-half interest in the "Old Commonwealth" for several years. He then went to Tazewell Court House, Va., where he was engaged in publishing the *Tazewell Vindicator* at the time of his decease.

COURT DAY.—Monday last was August of "Watermelon" Court day. The crowd in town was immense, many persons from adjoining counties swelling the throng.

Notwithstanding the great Tilden and Hendricks ratification meeting, reported elsewhere, the usual Court Day scenes were enacted. A lively auction trade was done, whilst numerous refreshment dealers' voices were heard upon every hand calling those who were hungry and thirsty to "step right up." Patent machines were exhibited and their advantages explained. Horse trading was also a specialty, and commodities of various kinds were exchanged. Two arrests—one by Policeman Kelley and one by Policeman Braithwaite—made up the police business of the day.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE.—W. B. Lurty, as commissioner, sold on Tuesday last the one-third interest of I. C. Hill in the following pieces of property: House and lot in Harrisonburg, occupied by W. O. Hill, to the occupant for \$1160; 26 acres in Chestnut Ridge to J. P. Effinger for \$33; 37 acres, four miles from Harrisonburg, to Dr. W. O. Hill for \$130; 21 acres in Chestnut Ridge to J. P. Effinger for \$20; 10 acres in the "Gravels" to J. P. Effinger for \$40.

TILDEN, HENDRICKS & REFORM!

ROCKINGHAM RATIFIES!

EMPHATIC OUTCROWD OF THE PEOPLE!

Stirring Speeches—Great Enthusiasm!

Pursuant to a call by the Chairman of the County Executive Committee, the Conservatives of Rockingham met at the court-house on Monday last for the purpose of ratifying the nomination of Tilden and Hendricks, and for the inauguration of measures for a more complete organization of the party.

Chas. A. Yancey, Esq., called the meeting to order, and after stating its object, moved that Henry B. Harnsberger, Esq., be called to the chair, which motion prevailed.

Upon further motions of Chas. A. Yancey and Capt. John Paul, Chas. H. Vanderford and Giles Devier were chosen Secretaries.

The meeting being ready for business, upon motion of Capt. John Paul, the Chairman appointed the following committee to select two gentlemen from each district to constitute a County Executive Committee: Central District, John Paul; Stonewall, Jos. A. Hammen; Ashby, G. T. Barbee; Linville, Dr. Wm. T. Jennings; Plains, H. L. Shoup.

Just after the committee retired for consultation, Jacob N. Liggett, Esq., by request, offered the following resolutions as an expression of the Conservatives of Rockingham, which were unanimously adopted:

1. That they recognize the principles enumerated in the platform agreed upon by the late National Democratic Convention at St. Louis, as in accord with the fundamental ideas of a free government, and that reform of the corruptions, extravagances and outrages characterizing the administration of the Radical party is imperatively demanded.

2. That they cordially endorse the nominations of Samuel J. Tilden and Thomas A. Hendricks as candidates for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States, perceiving in their public and private records incontrovertible evidence of an unblemished honor, sagacious statesmanship and unalloyed patriotism.

3. That they regard any effort on the part of the Radical party, or the Federal Executive, in the interests of that party, to billet the army of the United States on any State of the Union under the frivolous pretense of securing a fair election for the Presidency at the time when the State governments are fully adequate to the maintenance of justice and an impartial suffrage as a deliberate, premeditated attempt to intimidate voters in the exercise of an untrammelled ballot, and thus deprive them of that most precious privilege pertaining to freemen.

4. That they accept the Constitution of the United States and all its amendments, as the supreme law of the land, and will oppose every encroachment upon its integrity by the Radical party, whether attempted through the instrumentality of armed troops, or by bloodshed, and will maintain the threshold of quiet homes, or by misappropriating public monies to the advancement of corrupt political purposes.

5. That they hail the action of the late Democratic House of Representatives, in curtailing Federal expenditures some thirty millions of dollars, as one step in return to the frugality and economy which marked the administration of public officers in the early and better days of the American Union, and which are vitally essential to the prosperity and perpetuity of republican institutions.

CAPT. RIDDLERBERGER'S SPEECH.

Capt. H. H. Riddleberger, of Shenandoah, Elector for the Seventh Congressional District, was the first speaker introduced.

It is truly impossible to do justice to the powerful and eloquent speech which he delivered within the limits of a newspaper article. His exposition of the extravagance and corruption of Grant's administration was absolutely conclusive. He described in vivid language the attempt now made by the Northern Republicans to revive the old war feelings and animosities of the people of the North against the South, as shown by the organization of the "Boys in Blue" and other means, to accomplish the same end to which they have resorted in this canvass. His glowing and fervid statement of the horrible atrocities practiced by the negro militia of South Carolina during the reign there of the infamous Scott, upon the gallant and unfortunate people of that State thrilled his vast audience with horror; and could the facts which he stated in regard to the action of the United States courts and of General Grant himself in the cruel and unjust punishment inflicted upon citizens of South Carolina, who only vindicated the majesty of human nature, by visiting summary vengeance upon wretches who had placed themselves beyond the protection of all laws, human and divine, by perpetrating the horrid crime of violating virgin innocence—were these facts generally known they would bring down upon the President of the United States and the judge of that court the abhorrence, contempt and execration of the civilized world.

Among the facts stated by Capt. R. to show the extravagance of the present administration were the following: The largest amount expended by any Democratic administration in four years was during Mr. Buchanan's term of office, and reached the sum of \$188,000,000. The expenses during General Grant's first term of four years, exclusive of interest on public debt, amounted to \$475,000,000. The expenses of Grant's administration for the year '71, when he was looking forward to re-nomination and re-election, were \$123,000,000; for the current year ending in '73 they reached the sum of \$206,000,000! The entire amount of naval expenses for 14 years prior to the war was 151,000,000, or less than \$11,000,000 per annum; for 10 years since the war the naval expenses amounted to \$388,000,000, or 38,800,000 per annum. And yet Admiral Porter testified very recently

that the navy had been reduced from 206 vessels, prior to the war, to 147 at the present time. The cost of the Indian Bureau under a Democratic administration was \$2,000,000 per annum; under Lincoln and Johnson, \$3,000,000; under Grant, \$7,000,000. But no synopsis of this speech can do it even approximate justice. Suffice it to say that it was worthy of the occasion and of the Democratic Elector for the banner of the Democratic district of this grand old State in the most important political contest that has ever occurred within its limits.

The committee for the selection of a County Executive Committee reported through its chairman, Capt. Paul, the following gentlemen to constitute COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Ashby District.—E. J. Armstrong, T. A. Jackson.

Central District.—J. R. Jones, James Curry.

Linville District.—John D. Pennybacker, Chas. J. Brook.

Plains District.—Samuel C. Williams, Jacob N. Cowan.

Stonewall District.—H. B. Harnsberger, Jesse L. Bowcock.

COL. JAMES H. SKINNER,

of Staunton, followed Capt. Riddleberger in a powerful, eloquent and brilliant speech, which fully sustained the high reputation he acquired in years of "auld lang syne," in the fierce struggle between Whigs and Democrats, as one of the most accomplished, and popular orators of the Old Dominion, and would have reflected distinguished honor upon any man who has ever addressed the people of Virginia, and spoken in the language of Mansfield and Erskine, of Webster and Marshall. Mr. Skinner's views were eminently statesman-like, and would have commanded the attention and respect of any deliberative body on earth. His speech was thickly interspersed with sallies of brilliant wit, which repeatedly brought down the house. He received throughout its delivery the undivided attention of his auditory, who testified their appreciation of his great effort by tumultuous applause at its conclusion. Mr. Skinner was succeeded by

HON. JOHN T. HARRIS

in a speech of great force upon the practical issues of the canvass. Mr. Harris' views were those of a statesman whose long experience in public affairs had rendered him thoroughly familiar with the practical efforts of the various measures of governmental policy and their influence upon all the interests of this country and all classes of the people in their various avocations and pursuits. His speech was received with much favor by his appreciative auditory, and he was warmly applauded at the commencement of his address, repeatedly during its delivery, and at the conclusion. He was followed by

COL. CHARLES T. O'FERRALL

in a speech which was entirely worthy of his high reputation, and was marked by the lucid statements, powerful logic, fervid eloquence, keen satire and classic beauty of style for which he is so remarkably. His exposition of the corruption, extravagance and usurpation of the Federal Government under Grant's administration was clear, scathing and masterly, and his warm appeals to his hearers to discharge their duty by hurling from the high places of the nation the men who had trampled upon the dearest rights of the people of the country and disgraced its annals, were such as we can imagine Patrick Henry would make, could he now re-visit the theatre of earthly action. During the delivery of his speech, Col. O'Ferrall was repeatedly and enthusiastically applauded. At the conclusion of his remarks

COL. GEORGE E. DENALE

was loudly called for, and addressed the people in remarks which were loudly applauded, but as he promised to address them more at length at the next court, and as this article has already attained great length, we do not deem it necessary to make any further reference to his remarks here.

OTHER INCIDENTS OF THE DAY.

Notwithstanding the Court House was filled to overflowing, the large crowd upon the streets, unable to gain admittance, seemed scarcely diminished. Groups of from ten to fifty, according to the spirit of the discussion, were to be seen in every direction discussing the issues of the day, the most interesting centering upon the Congressional canvass. O'Ferrall and Harris were the only aspirants discussed, and strangers would have supposed they were the only candidates for Congressional honors in the district. Their supporters seemed to be evenly divided, and at intervals cheers for each rent the air. The result of the meetings on Saturday, however, will tell the strength of both in the county, and we shall indulge in no comments thereon. It is hoped, however, that each meeting will be largely attended and the true sentiments of the people reflected in the selection of delegates to the Staunton Convention.

FURTHER SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE.

By direction of Attorney-General Taft the sentence in the case of R. S. Parks, ex-Commonwealth's Attorney of Page county, now in jail here, who was convicted of forgery at the May term of the U. S. Court, has been further suspended until October 10th, the first day of the next term of the U. S. Court at this place. At that time it is probable the case will be re-opened, with instructions from the Attorney-General as to rulings.

OUR ARTICLE ON THE CENTENNIAL BALL AT RAWLEY SPRINGS.

The resolutions and the management of the Springs this season, on account of its length has to be delayed until next issue.

COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS.—County Court, Hon. C. T. O'Ferrall presiding, commenced its August term on Monday.

The following estates committed to Sheriff for administration:

John C. Coakley, Mrs. Mary L. Lincoln, Mrs. Rebecca C. Brenner and L. W. Gambill.

B. A. Myers qualified as guardian of Anna C. Myers.

A. J. Myers qualified as guardian of Jacob M. Myers.

J. P. Zigler qualified as guardian of Charles S. Myers.

Sarah Diehl qualified as guardian of Jacob Diehl.

Wm. Hensley qualified as guardian of Andrew and Lucinda Hensley.

Benjamin Bowman qualified as administrator of Jacob Bowman, dec'd.

A. W. Diehl and J. H. Diehl qualified as administrators of Mathias Diehl, dec'd.

Samuel Garber qualified as administrator of Isaac M. Garber, dec'd.

Wm. Hensley qualified as administrator of Wm. C. Hensley, dec'd.

Powers of the Sheriff as administrator of B. M. Parrott revoked, and H. J. Showalter qualified as his administrator.

Grand Jury found the following indictments:

Against Henry Raines, for murder of John L. O'Donnell, alias John M. O'Donnell.

Against John Lawson, for forgery.

Against John S. Rineheart, for assault and battery.

TUESDAY.

Trial of Henry Raines continued until September term.

Susannah and Kate Taylor released from jail for non-payment of fines.

License of Spotswood Hotel transferred to Yancey & Loewenbach.

A FLUTTER AMONG REVENUE OFFICIALS.

The news of the consolidation of the 6th and 7th Internal Revenue Districts of Virginia, and the ousting of Collector B. B. Botts, was not at all welcome to those in the service here, and many expressions of dissatisfaction were heard from the Conservatives when it was known that Mr. Botts had been displaced and that E. E. White, of the 6th District, a carpet-bagger from Massachusetts, retained as collector of the consolidated districts.

When the change will take place, is not definitely known. Senator Lewis, Capt. Lury, Mr. Botts and Maj. Yost are now in Washington, or at Long Branch, endeavoring to prevail upon the President against Mr. Botts' removal.

Why Mr. Botts and his efficient corps should be displaced in the change in the districts, and Mr. White retained, has not transpired, though some think that the Guerilla Chief, Mosby, was the instrument which wrought the change.

In Mr. Botts' district as now constituted, the revenue is more than double that in Mr. White's district. The conduct of Mr. Botts' office is second to none in the United States, and the administration of the laws in the district are acceptable to the people.

LATER.—A telegram received yesterday from Maj. Yost, states that the committee has had an interview with President Grant and the Secretary of the Treasury, and that Mr. Botts will be retained as collector of the consolidated district.

STILL LATER.—A dispatch received from Mr. Botts states he will be removed to the Richmond District.

Our thanks are due to the new proprietors of the Spotswood Hotel for a bottle of Bumgardner's best very whiskey. We were about to "take a pull," so inviting did it look, but remembered that we were a Jonadab. However, it is good for medicinal purposes, and as we don't feel very well now, it is very probable we shall be taken suddenly ill in the next few hours.

Just here we will state for the benefit of the public that the Spotswood has greatly improved under its present management, and reminds us of the time when Maj. Luok first bought it, when it set the best table in the Valley.

SURVEY OF THE HARRISONBURG AND FREDERICKSBURG R. R.—Col. Carter Braxton, chief engineer of the Harrisonburg and Fredericksburg Railroad was in town several days this week. He reports the survey for the road progressing finely in this county. The corps of engineers are in the vicinity of McGaheysville and will reach Harrisonburg in six or eight days.

A number of contractors bidding for the work of grading, &c. are in town. They are said to be solid, substantial men.

FURTHER SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE.—By direction of Attorney-General Taft the sentence in the case of R. S. Parks, ex-Commonwealth's Attorney of Page county, now in jail here, who was convicted of forgery at the May term of the U. S. Court, has been further suspended until October 10th, the first day of the next term of the U. S. Court at this place. At that time it is probable the case will be re-opened, with instructions from the Attorney-General as to rulings.

OUR ARTICLE ON THE CENTENNIAL BALL AT RAWLEY SPRINGS.—The resolutions and the management of the Springs this season, on account of its length has to be delayed until next issue.

THEATRICAL.

The benefit given Miss Mollie Hewitt by the Staunton Beneficial Dramatic Association, of which she is a valuable member, at the Town Hall Tuesday night, was well attended though not so largely as she deserved. The comedy of "Skill Waters Run Deep" put on the stage by this association for the second time with the addition of some new and well executed scenery, went off excellently. Mr. Thos. J. Crowder as John Midway was a capital performance, which showed an excellent appreciation of the author's meaning. His scenes with Hawkesley and with Mrs. Sternhold were specially well done. Miss Stella Willis, of Washington, was a very handsome Mrs. Sternhold and played it well with but little of the timidity of an amateur. Her recrimination scene with Hawkesley was admirable. Mr. G. W. Hewitt's performance of Potter can not be too well spoken of, the character being carefully rendered with excellent judgment and a great deal of true art. "Tooby" as the same gentleman and Miss Willis were admirably and a comic actor of great merit was developed in the character of the lawyer by Mr. A. Blakemore, who made that insignificant part a prominent feature of the piece.—*Staunton Vindicator*.

The above-named Dramatic Association will perform in Masonic Hall on Friday evening next, for the benefit of Cold Water Lodge, I. O. G. T., of this place. Particulars in posters and programmes.

PERSONAL.—Mr. L. F. O'Ferrall, of Chaffield, Minnesota, has been on a visit with his family to his brother Judge Ghas. T. O'Ferrall, at this place, for several days. He is Mayor of Chaffield, and a very prominent business man of that place. He left on yesterday morning for the Centennial.

Wm. Green, Esq., a large peach grower of Middletown, Delaware, was in town a few days this week. He was much pleased with this section of Virginia, and gratified at the great enthusiasm of the people in their support of Tilden and Hendricks.

PROCEEDINGS OF TOWN COUNCIL.—At a meeting of the Common Council held on Tuesday evening Aug. 22d the following taxer were levied:

To pay the interest on R. R. bonds 50 cents on the \$100; (a reduction of 25 cents on \$100). For Public School purposes 25 cents on \$100; For general Corporation purposes 50 cents on \$100. Total \$1.25 on \$100. The Finance Committee will prepare and publish in a short time a statement showing the financial condition of the town.

BASE BALL.—The match game of Base ball between the Keezletown and Lacey Springs clubs, at Keezletown on Saturday, resulted in a victory for the Keezletown club by a score of 32 to 20. The game between the second nines of these clubs was discontinued after the third inning, the score standing—Keezletown 8; Lacey Spring 2.

Correspondence of the Commonwealth.
Grand Tournament at Orkney Springs.

A grand tournament came off at Orkney Springs on August 17. Eight Knights, as follows, entered the lists: L. M. Henkel, Knight of Centennial; T. J. Meem, Knight of Brood's Hill; T. Wheeler, Knight of Alleghany; H. Moore, Knight of Philadelphia; H. R. Riddleberger, Ivanhoe; Morgan Moore, Custer; Mr. Bowssett, Knight of Blue Ridge; P. Thompson, Anna Lostra.

The tilting resulted in T. J. Meem winning the honor of crowning the Queen of Love and Beauty, who selected Miss Julia Ducket; P. Thompson won second honor and crowned Miss Katie Loane First Maid of Honor; L. M. Henkel won third honor and crowned Miss Ida Crow Second Maid; T. Wheeler won fourth honor and crowned Miss Gertrude Holiday Third Maid.

The Knights were addressed by Hon. H. Kyd Douglas, who made a very able speech.

The coronation exercises were held in the ball-room, and after another address by Hon. H. Kyd Douglas the coronation ball commenced. Everything passed off pleasantly.

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH.

CROSS-KEYS, August 23, 1876. Will you allow and be pleased, through the columns of your valuable paper, to congratulate the people of Rockingham on the splendid and refreshing treat of last Monday. Never did I hear the same number of speeches more complimented. Every one seemed to be pleased, except a dodger here and there. It is supposed all who spoke are candidates for Congress. Well, we can't elect all. There will be better to take a new man or to retain the old, well-tried and faithful representative—John T. Harris' Experience of the country has shown it to be greatly to the interest of the people, where they have a good representative to retain him. It takes a man some time to learn and understand fully the parliamentary rules of a legislative body, and we can't afford just at this time to swap off a well broken horse for an unbroken one. Let us hold on to the one well used to the harness in this hour of our political struggle.

OLD VOTER.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Dr. JAMES B. BLANTON, Master of State Grange Patrons of Husbandry, will deliver an address to the public at the Court House in Harrisonburg, on Monday, Sept. 11, 1876.

M. M. SHERIDAN, Sec'y.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.—A public examination of teachers for Rockingham county will be held at Bridgewater, in the Valley Normal School-house, on Thursday, 24th inst., commencing at 8 o'clock.

Examinations will be held in other parts of the county about the 1st of October. Teachers, therefore, who contemplate opening their schools before that time, are especially requested to attend at Bridgewater, as are all other persons who can conveniently do so.

J. HAWES, Co. Sup't. Schools.

There will be a reunion of the Valley Rangers, (Co. H. 10th Va. Cavalry), at the Yellow Massanutten Springs, on Wednesday, the 30th inst. It is hoped that every member that can do so will be present on the occasion.

S. H. BOWMAN, 1st Lieutenant Commanding.

BREVITIES.

The town taxes for 1876 will be less than last year, by one-sixth.

A ten pin alley is being built in the second story of Magnolia Saloon.

The corn crop in the Valley of Virginia will be immense this year.

The Chain Gang of Harrisonburg presents a formidable appearance. Its corps is full.

B. F. Richards, of this town, plays on a violin made in Europe in 1691—1875 years ago.

The Hayes and Wheeler Club of this place did not have a meeting on Saturday night.

It is time to cut down the garden weeds and burn them, to prevent the scattering of the seed.

The "stumpet" now brush up his old clothes, and lies him forth to "save the country."

The re-union of the Old Tenth Regiment took place at Brock's Yell Massanutten Springs yesterday.

"The longer the saw of contention is drawn the hotter it grows." That's what is the matter with politics.

Quite a number of persons from this county took advantage of the low rates on the B. & O. R. R. and attended Robinson's circus at Strasburg yesterday.

Another Tilden and Hendricks pole was raised in Staunton last week. Harrisonburg has half a score of them.

The Tilden and Hendricks Reform Club will hereafter meet on Monday night instead of Friday as heretofore.

The trial of Henry Raines for the murder of O'Donnell has been continued until the September term of the County Court.

The "Harris Base Ball Club" of Edinburg publish a challenge in the Shenandoah Democrat to the Harrisonburg and Lacey Clubs.

The barn of David Hunter, near Mt. Sidney, was burned on Sunday evening, together with four hundred bushels of wheat, a lot of hay, &c.

Mr. Wm. B. Shryock, of the Plattsmouth (Nebraska) "Herald" paid us a visit Tuesday, on his return from the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia.

Tickets \$1.05, is what is said by the Red Men for their excursion to Staunton on Friday, Sept. 1st. "Secure tickets early to avoid the rush."

The mornings and evenings are becoming quite cool. Altogether this Centennial year has been one of remarkable weather. Who can tell how it will be next time?

The Misses Campbell will open their excellent school in this place on the 18th of September instead of the 4th, as heretofore advertised in this paper.

The Spotswood Hotel in this town has changed Proprietors. It is now under the management of Rufus McConey, clerk, and Samuel M. Bowman, manager.

Don't forget to attend the meeting of the Tilden and Hendricks Reform Club on Monday night next. Among other speeches will be one by Jacob N. Liggett, Esq.

An effort is to be made in Staunton on Monday next—"Court Day"—to have a re-union of the soldiers of Augusta county on the first day of the county fair in October.

The next session of the Court of Appeals at Staunton will commence on September 10th. The circuits will be called in the following order—3rd, 6th, 12th, 18th, 14th, 5th. At the Greene county ratification meeting Dr. J. F. Early, a former Republican, announced himself a supporter of Tilden and Hendricks and will take the stump for them.

The Radicals of Staunton raised a Hayes and Wheeler pole in Staunton on Saturday and then held a meeting in the Court House, Capt. Lury and Col. Shields did the speaking.

Conservatives do not forget the district meetings on Saturday next to select delegates to the Congressional Convention at Staunton on September 1st. See call elsewhere.

The rates of freight on the Valley Branch of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad have been reduced. The road also prates with the Valley Railroad. This will be good news to shippers.

The Fredericksburg "Star" states that the work of narrowing the gauge of the Harrisonburg and Fredericksburg Railroad from Parker's to Fredericksburg, eighteen miles, will be completed this week and trains will be running on it next week.

Gen. John Echols of Staunton addressed in an able speech the Harrisonburg Tilden and Hendricks Reform Club last Friday night. Several more colored voters joined the club. The club will meet again Monday night. Hon. John T. Harris and others will speak.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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CLOTHING!

