

Staunton Spectator.

RICHARD BASKET, Editor and Proprietor.

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PUBLIC SALES.

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Staunton Spectator. STAUNTON, VA. THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1865.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

When a change is desired in the direction of capital, it is necessary that the President to whom it has been sent, should be notified.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We respectfully inform our friends and the public that all communications for the Spectator should be addressed to the Editor, and not to the printer.

Congress Proceedings in Richmond.

On Thursday last, the city of Richmond was visited by strange and outrageous proceedings which occurred in the streets of that city. A band of robbers, composed of both sexes, supposed to number 100 or 150, attempted, in broad day-light, to rob the stores of that city.

They were armed with pistols, revolvers, and bludgeons, and were breaking open the stores and robbing them of their contents. We have been informed by gentlemen who were present, that before the civil or military authorities had gotten ready to do anything, Hon. John H. Baldwin, of this place, backed by a number of gentlemen who promised to support him, went into the midst of them and had a number of the leaders arrested.

He afterwards found a large crowd of the same class proceeding in the same way on Franklin Street. With equal promptness and boldness he went into their midst whilst they were threatening and endeavoring to strike him down. Here, he was called upon by the citizens to address the rioters, which he did with such a happy blending of firmness with moral suasion, that they became quiet and were persuaded that they had better disperse and retire to their homes.

After the sea of tumult had been calmed, and when "suddenly a breath disturbed the sleeping billow," the military and civil authorities appeared, and, in a tone of command, cried: "Peace, be still." After this, vast crowds, composed chiefly of orderly citizens, were addressed by Col. Munford, Mayor Mayo, Gov. Letcher, and President Davis. Those robbers were not in need of food, as they pretended, for they stole everything they could lay their hands upon.

And the investigations in the police court established the fact that some of them possessed considerable property—the husband of one woman, owning near a thousand dollars worth of real estate near the city. It was not a "bread-riot"—it did not proceed from want, but crime. The charitable institutions in that city have money in hand which has never been called for by the needy, for whom it is designed. It is quite probable that it was instigated by the enemies of the South, with the view of encouraging the North to prosecute the war by making the impression that the South is approaching a starving condition.

The Currency Act. The "Spectator" gives the following analysis of the currency act which has been very carefully prepared and will give general information as to its provisions, in a plain and simple form, ready understood and easily applied. We suggest to our readers to preserve it.

The Currency Act has divided all treasury notes into three classes. I. Those issued before 1st December, 1862.

II. Those issued between 1st December, 1862 and 4th April, 1863. III. Those issued after April 4, 1863.

1. The first are fundable in 8 per cent. Bonds or stock until 22d April, 1863; after that day in 7 per cents. until August, 1863, after which they cannot be funded at all.

2. The second class are fundable in 7 per cent. Bonds or stock until 1st August, 1863; after which they are fundable in 4 per cents.

3. The third class are fundable in six per cents. at any time within one year from the 1st day of the month of their issue. After one year they are fundable in four per cents. To distinguish the notes and fix the period of one year, the month in which they are issued is stamped across the face of the notes.

It will be seen, therefore, that no 8 per cent. bonds will be issued after the 22d April, and no 7 per cent. until August, so that all holders, who desire to secure these rates, must present their notes for funding within the period aforesaid.

Six per cent. Call Certificates are no longer to be issued; but instead thereof, five per cent. Call Certificates may be had for any of the notes of the third class, which will entitle the holder to convert the same at any time within six months from the date of the oldest of the notes which the Call Certificate represents, and to receive interest until converted. If not converted, the Call Certificate may, at any time, be funded in six per cent. bonds.

The four per cent. Bonds issued for the notes of the 2d and 3d class may be exchanged at any time for Call Certificates, which will entitle the holder to convert the same into notes of the same character, and to interest at four per cent. until converted.

The six per cent. Call Certificates now in the hands of holders may be redeemed in the notes which they represent at any time before 1st July, 1863; after that date they become 6 per cent. bonds, payable at any time, not exceeding thirty days.

"The Women of the South." "The Women of the South," is the subject of the Lecture recently delivered by Hugh W. Sheffey, Esq., of this place, before the Christian Association of Richmond, and also before the Library Association of Petersburg. It is a good subject, and we have no doubt that it will be presented in a style worthy of the subject.

The Press. The following is a brief extract from a letter of a correspondent for the Richmond Enquirer, dated Tallahassee, Tenn., March 30th:

The farmers of the country are earnestly invoked by the most impressive classes of popular influence to plant and produce nothing but food. One grain of corn in the earth is as a bullet in the heart of a Yankee soldier; and a ridge of potatoes is worth any mile of bread work from Vicksburg to the Rappahannock.

A few days since, we witnessed a triumph over the Yankees, without going out of the town of Staunton. We went down to the Peg manufactory of Messrs. H. J. & W. L. Lushbaugh, and saw them making shoe pegs at a rate which would astonish the Yankees themselves. They make excellent pegs of all the required sizes at the rate of many bushels per day.

A long letter from Lord Lyons to Lord Russell under date of the 17th of November last, concludes as follows: "The immediate and obvious interest of Great Britain, as well as the rest of Europe, is that peace and prosperity should be restored to this country as soon as possible. The point chiefly worthy of consideration appears to be whether separation or re-union be the more likely to effect this object."

In this age of locomotion, all who desire to travel should have a Guide Book. Hill & Co's. Confederate States Rail Road and Steamboat Guide can be obtained at the Book store of Robt. Goetz.

The election for members of Congress from the State of Virginia has been held in a quiet and orderly manner, and the result is as follows: The Senate and House have not yet agreed upon a tax bill. The probability is that those who desire a heavy tax will be gratified.

Congress has passed a law exempting from military service mail contractors and their employees, clerks and carriers.

BY TELEGRAM. Vicksburg, April 2.—The enemy made a reconnaissance up the Yazoo river yesterday, and there a few shells at Snider's Bluff. Snider is in sight below.

Charleston, April 2.—No signs, thus far, of the expected attack. There has been no landing of the enemy in any of the islands belonging to the Confederates. The only landing that has been made is a few independent agents and a scouting party from a Yankee gunboat.

Charleston, April 2.—P. M.—Dr. Mack Brock, of the Charleston Medical College, has been killed at the battle of Snider's Bluff. He was one of the bravest of our soldiers, and his death is a great loss to the Confederacy.

Charleston, April 2.—The following official dispatch was received here this morning, dated Richmond, Va., March 29th, via Natchez, April 1st.

I have the honor to report the capture of the Federal gunboat Diana, at this point today. She mounts two heavy guns. The boat is not seriously injured, and will be immediately put to sea. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded and prisoners is 150.

In the course of a few weeks the people of Virginia will be called upon to elect a new Legislature, as well as a Governor. They cannot be too careful in the exercise of this high trust. An assembly of men, to whom the people of Virginia must be committed in such times as these, should be very carefully constituted. Men of ability, wisdom, and good common sense, should be selected.

What we need, in an eminent degree now, is constructive talent; men of enlarged, practical views of things, to shape the destinies of the State and set the old ship upon a new career of glory. We beseech the people of Virginia to elect men of this kind, men who are true to their country, and who are not in any way connected with the Federal Government.

The Salt Supply. The General Assembly devoted its evening hours to the consideration of a bill for the regulation and distribution of salt. It has been found that the supply of salt is becoming scarce, and it is necessary to take measures to secure a sufficient supply for the people.

The Impending Struggle. As far as we can learn, says the Abingdon Virginian, a serious and quiet, peaceful, and unobtrusive struggle is going on in the mind of the people of this State. It is a struggle for the preservation of the Union, and for the maintenance of the principles of liberty and justice for all.

Returned Prisoners.—On Sunday evening last, ninety-five exchanged prisoners, belonging to the commands of Gens. J. D. Imboden and Wm. E. Jones, arrived here from Camp Chase on their way to join their respective commands.

A communication in the last Vindicator expresses the hope that Col. Michael G. Harman, of this place, will "at once announce himself a candidate" for Congress. A communication in the Rockingham Register calls upon Dr. Sam'l A. Coffman, of Rockingham, to "announce himself a Candidate" for Congress.

In future we will get more reliable despatches from the army in Tennessee as the Associated Press of the South have sent an experienced telegraphist to the front of our army in Middle Tennessee.

Capt. Mosby on the 1st of April, with only 50 men, had a fight with the Yankees at Drainesville, and captured 75 prisoners. He made an April fool of the Yankee in command, as it was "All Fools' Day."

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