



# STAUNTON SPECTATOR AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

**Staunton Spectator.**

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1862.

ELECTION DAY.

Remember that the 4th Thursday, the 28th inst., is the day of election, when every voter should be at the polls, whatever may be the condition of the weather. This is a very important election, and every voter should perform his duty by going to the polls and voting for the best men.

It remains to be seen whether Col. Harman will succeed by the strong hand in preventing all inquiry into a transaction which is stated by his own friend and relative places him in the attitude of having first violated all the usages of civilized warfare by the plunder of private property, and then having in violation of his duty to his own Government appropriated the plunder to his private use.

ATTORNEY FOR THE COMMON WEALTH.

We learn, that, on yesterday, Colonel Wm. H. Harman resigned the office of Attorney for the Commonwealth, and thereupon, the County Court, appointed John N. Hendren to fill the vacancy. The fine talents, legal learning and distinguished habits of Mr. Hendren eminently qualify him for the position.

## VICKSBURG.

The accounts from the vicinity of Vicksburg, says the Richmond Whig, yesterday, give us a more hopeful feel as to affairs in that quarter. They represent that the enemy have been three times repulsed; that Gen. Johnston has succeeded in passing in a considerable body of troops to reinforce the garrison; that even though starvation can compel a surrender, and that the city is provisioned for several months. If these statements are reliable, this important stronghold will be saved, and the enemy may postpone for many a day the vital hope of the free navigation of the Mississippi. Without this, nothing that they have done avail anything.

## MOBILE DESPATCHES.

The telegram received here on Friday last from Vicksburg, says the Richmond Dispatch, was gloomy enough. During the day no news was received at the War Department and none by anybody confirming it, it was doubted generally, and on Saturday, as there was still no confirmation, people began to suspect that speculators were shaping the telegraphic messages. Sugar went up rapidly and the market was quite excited, people looked at sugar and they looked at the telegraph. Although bad news from Vicksburg would very naturally affect sugar, they were illiberal enough to reverse the usual course of cause and effect and assume that the rise in sugar had caused the bad news? Whether the logic be good or not, it is clear that the news was *gloomy beyond warrant* and that sugar did rise?

On the 21st of May, soon after break fast, I was upon the street, near the Virginia Hotel, when I was approached by Col. Asher W. Harman, who stated that he wished to have some conversation with me, and we stepped aside for the purpose. He stated to me that I had made an allusion to him in my paper which he thought I had no right to make. I asked to what he referred, and he mentioned the article about the silverservice. I told him I was not aware that I had said anything to which just exception could be taken; that I did not know by whom the present had been made, or upon what authority, and that my inquiry gave fair opportunity for explanation if the transaction was in fact a proper one. I also stated that if he had cause of complaint against any one it was *to have no shade of consequence*. I told him that such had always been my understanding of my position as an Editor; and that I always regarded myself as responsible for the conduct of my paper. I then went on to say that it was always my rule and purpose to avoid giving just ground of offence to any one, but that I could not consent to be injured in my course as an Editor by threats or intimidation; that I desired no controversy with any one, but while endeavoring to do right I would always hold myself responsible for my conduct. To this he replied that he wanted no personal difficulty and that he did not desire to intimidate or to threaten me, but that he wished to warn me that if I ever made the least allusion to him in my paper he was determined to kill me. I told him I understood him perfectly, and that I wished him to understand me, that my course in the conduct of my paper would not be in the slightest degree influenced by anything he had said or might do.

I do not pretend to give the conversation in detail, but this is the substance of it. Supposing the interview to be at an end I turned and walked away. I had gone perhaps eight or ten steps when he again confronted me and stated that he wished to impress it upon me distinctly that if I ever again alluded to him in my paper, I must abide the consequences. I told him he had already told me that several times and that I thought we had fully understood each other on the subject; and I was again in the act of turning to leave him, when he suddenly seized me by the beard with one hand and struck me with the other. The joint effect of the jerk and the blow brought me to the ground—he falling with me. He was greatly my superior in strength and I could only endeavor by holding him close to me to avoid his doing me serious damage. In this attempt I seized him around the neck with my left arm, when by a sudden and violent effort he broke the arm above the elbow and strained the shoulder joint. I was at once helpless and in his power, and he continued to beat me until a hand of mine by persons passing by.

The injuries I have received are such as to disable me from all business for some time and to confine me to my room. I do not know that any commentary upon such a transaction is necessary in a community like this, but I wish to have some points connected with it distinctly understood.

I claim the right as the Editor of a newspaper and as a free citizen to make fair criticism and commentary upon the conduct of all public officers, civil or military and I will never consent to give up this right or to hold it in any respect of the will or by the forbearance of any man.

## OUR PUBLIC DEBT.

The debt of the Confederate States, say an exchange, bears no proportion to that of other States in like extremities. Suppose it to amount at the end of the fiscal year to 1,000 millions.—France, when exhausted by long wars, by the loss of all her colonies, and a population about two and a half our number, and prospective resources certainly not greater, had about as high to the amount of eight thousand million dollars. Her revenue was one hundred and eighty-seven million dollars; perhaps a little more than our tax will yield in our present blockade and isolated state.

England, with twice our population, in 1881, had a debt of four thousand millions, while her revenue was two hundred and forty-seven millions.

Yet her credit has been maintained, and why not that of the Confederacy?

## Major Clarence Prentiss, son of Geo. D. Prentiss, of the Louisville Journal,

who was made prisoner by the Yankees some time ago in the West, came on by a recent flag of truce boat to City Point, and has arrived in Richmond. Major Prentiss has done long and good service in the "Rebel" cause.

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It is the attempt to hush this matter up, by beating an Editor will do him any service in the investigation, he shall have the benefit of it.

RICHARD MAUZY

## THE PATH OF DUTY.

The right to vote is one of great value, and the duty to vote is one of the most important which a free citizen owes to his country. It is unfortunately true that in times past our people have not sufficiently felt the value of this right or the importance of this duty; and that they have too often yielded up to the control of party and of party leaders the entire direction of public affairs. The advancement of the Whig party or of the Democratic party, has been more thought of and more attended to by us than the welfare of the country and the perpetuation of free institutions; the lamentable result is before us. It can hardly be doubted by any one who is familiar with the political history of the United States, that the sectional hate which resulted in the overthrow of the Government, and which now urges on the fierce war waged against us, is due in a great measure to the fact that party politicians thought to make party capital out of sectional jealousies, and, to that end, excited and inflamed passions which resulted in the overthrow of the Whig party and of party leaders.

To this inquiry thus suggested, no reply has been made and no further notice has been taken of the subject in either the Vindicator or Spectator.

We acknowledge that the above announcement contained in the Vindicator of last week surprised us. We had supposed that everything captured by soldiers in the Confederate service became the property of the Confederate States. Have we been mistaken in this supposition?—Spectator.

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I also stated that if he had cause of complaint against any one it was *to have no shade of consequence*.

I told him he had already told me that several times and that I thought we had fully understood each other on the subject.

He then went on to say that the conduct of military officers was not subject to criticism and comment in the news papers, and that he would not consent to have his conduct discussed by them. I stated that I thought he took pretty high ground, and he replied that he meant to maintain it, and that he wished me to understand that if I took any notice whatever of him in my paper I would

tell him that such had always been my understanding of my position as an Editor; and that I always regarded myself as responsible for the conduct of my paper.

I then went on to say that it was always my rule and purpose to avoid giving just ground of offence to any one, but that I could not consent to be injured in my course as an Editor by threats or intimidation; that I desired no personal difficulty and that he did not desire to intimidate or to threaten me, but that he wished to warn me that if I ever made the least allusion to him in my paper he was determined to kill me.

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I held myself at all times responsible as an Editor or as a man.

But I do not intend to be beaten up, what I regard as the

right of property. Violence

is not the case, but I really

want the ultimate suc-

cess and the correct con-

duct of the war.

It is well to learn even of our enemy.

IT IS THE CASE OF VALLANDIGHAM.

This is what the lawyers call a leading case. If the principles of free government asserted in the Constitution of the United States have any vitality—it personal liberty and private right are to be treated with even the outward observances of respect in Vallandigham—the case of Vallandigham presents every point upon which free men could possibly make a free fight.

It appears that Grant had the boldness,

the hardihood, to stretch out his lines from the

crossing of the Big Black, and establish

his headquarters in the North. It is now known that the enemy's possession of Jack-  
son's

ton's

country, the case of Vallandigham

is the case of Vallandigham.

It is the case of Vallandigham.