

STAUNTON SPECTATOR AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

Staunton Spectator.

STAUNTON, VA.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7, 1862.

Wood.

Those who desire to pay their subscription in advance, do so by sending us good funds and good wood.

The New Constitution.

We beg leave to remind our readers that the vote on the adoption or rejection of the new constitution will be taken on the 2d of March next. The poll will be kept open three days. We earnestly hope that every voter in the county will be present to cast his vote for the intended constitution, and thus complete our redemption from the dominion of Yankees. It will avail but little to cast off the yoke of Yankee men if we consent to remain under the rule of Yankee ideas and Yankee practices. In 1860 we departed from the good old Virginia, conservative doctrines, and adopted those perilous dogmas of Yankee land which have brought us much misfortune on the country.

The Virginia convention, rightly comprehending the genius of our people and the true character of the Lincoln dynasty, also decided to repudiate the principles which had brought Lincoln into power. They wisely resolved to make the revolution complete by re-enacting the State Constitution so as to make it conform to the new order of things. In this patriotic movement we believe the people will sustain them by an overwhelming majority. Men of all parties are tired of demagoguism. They see and feel that they have been cheated and deceived by designing and evil politicians. What the people want is a stable conservative constitution which will give security to life, liberty, and property. Our observation satisfies us that the people have awakened to a just perception of their interests. Mismanagement of public affairs has induced them to disregard the ties of party, and to institute a serious scrutiny into the conduct of the Federal Government.

The new constitution is not all that we could have desired it to be, but still, it is a vast improvement on the old one. In the main it is a sound conservative instrument. It rids us of the eternally recurring popular elections of Sheriffs, Constables, Clerks, &c. It establishes a judiciary which will discharge its duties promptly, fairly, and impartially. It gives greater stability and dignity to the magistracy, and it will we trust secure the faithful execution of the laws, and the economical administration of the public monies.

The people will also be required to decide on the second Thursday in March, whether everybody is to vote, or whether that important franchise is to be exercised only by those who pay their taxes and do their duty to their country. In times like these, when the enemy are upon us, we think the people will decide that everyone must do his part in the defense of the country. The man who is unwilling to contribute his part to pay and feed the gallant soldiers who are risking their lives in defense of our country, certainly ought not to have the right to control those soldiers. Money is as necessary for defense as men. The man who will not pay his share of the public taxes ought not to have a voice in the administration of public affairs. It is not proposed to put any arbitrary restriction on anybody, but to give every man the right to control his tax, and to receive the same on deposit for advance payment of such postage.

An act, making appropriations to comply in part with treaty stipulations with certain Indian tribes. Also the following:

An act to authorize the President to confer temporary rank on officers of the Navy doing duty with troops.

An act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization for persons enlisted in the armies of the Confederate States of America.

An act to provide for certain officers of the Revenue service. This act empowers the President to appoint or displace officers of the U. S. Revenue service, at the rate of pay to which they were entitled in that service.

An act to authorize the appointment of additional officers in the navy. It allows the appointment of five additional Commanders, Six Lieutenant, ten Assistant Paymasters, and thirty Assistant Surgeons—the appointment to terminate at the close of the war.

An act making appropriations for the expenses of government in the legislative, judicial, and executive departments, for the year ending 18th February, 1862.

An act supplementary to an act to authorize the issue of Treasury notes, and to provide a war tax for their funding, etc.

Gen. Stuart's Report.

The report of Brigadier General J. E. B. Stuart, of the battle of Dranesville, was read in secret session of Congress on Monday, and ordered to be published. The following is a summary of the casualties, as exhibited in the report:

Killed. Wounded. Missing.

11th Virginia 6 15 6

6th South Carolina 8 45 0

10th Alabama 13 45 0

1st Kentucky 1 28 0

Gat's Battery 8 15 0

Total. 88 140 6

The list of killed has been materially increased by deaths which have occurred since the battle, as the number found dead on the field was only 27.

Commitments.

Mr. Wm. Marshall, jailor of Augusta county, has handed up the following report of the number of prisoners, with the offence which each stand charged committed to the jail of said county from the 1st day of January 1861 to the 1st day of January 1862:

Misdemeanors. 179

Drunkenness. 173

Felony and Larceny. 30

Murder. 3

Diseased (Union men from Western Va.) 69

Prisoners of War. 18

Total. 477

The city of Charleston has received from various sources the sum of \$117,795 89 for the relief of the sufferers by the late awful conflagration in that city, besides \$100,000 each from the States of Georgia, Virginia and Tennessee, and \$20,000 recently paid to South Carolinians by the Confederate Government.

Public Address.

The Rev. J. C. Hulon, Chaplain of the Virginia Legion, will address the people of Staunton, in the Baptist Church, on Thursday evening, January 9th, at 7 o'clock, on the Condition and Destiny of the Army in Western Virginia.

The St. Louis Republican states that, in '63, Hon. John Slidell and Eddie Biggs, a banker, bought, on joint account, with land warrants and cash, ten thousand acres of land in Minnehaha, Minnesota. Of course the Lincoln Government will confiscate the interest of Mr. Slidell.

We learn that the government has soon red about three hundred thousand head of hogs, which will furnish ample provisions, with the meat packed, for the army the ensuing year.

In consequence of the press upon our columns we are compelled to lay over several notices.

The Confederate Court for the Western District commenced its sittings in this place yesterday.

News from the Northwest.

We are permitted to make the following extract from a private letter addressed to a gentleman who left Louisville on the 26th ult., who informs us that all his baggage for the gun boats is to go down the Mississippi, in consequence of the submarine telegraph at Columbus.

Saturday, Jan. 4th, 1862.

Dear Sir.—We have had quite an exciting time here, and I had just fallen asleep last night before last, (Thursday night,) when I was aroused by the report that the Yankees were about to attack us. They had just arrived from Allegany with the news that the enemy, advancing in very large force, had crossed the Ohio at Marietta, so Green River, and had come down to Camp Allegany, and encamped there, after marching and encamping there, and an attack at daylight was expected.

At length both the Regiments which had come so far from Forts of Western Virginia, were ordered immediately to Hendershot, and started at half past one A. M. to Hedges' Camp, also, situated at Hedges' Hill, (3000 feet above sea level,) where they were called and went, each reaching there about noon, to the surprise of all, attack was made, and at 12 o'clock, the 2d and 3d Regiments for the 1st, and the 1st and 2d for the 2d.

A Washington reporter to the "Advertiser" says that the 1st Division, the 1st and 2d Regiments for the 1st, and the 1st and 2d for the 2d, were sent to reinforce, who found that the foe had retreated, leaving no sign of a superior force having occupied the ground, there having been a great number of Yankees sighted, which might have been due to twenty-five men, evidently to cover some other affair definitely known to the commanding general.

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