



**Virginia Free Press.**  
BY H. N. GALLAHER & CO.  
THURSDAY MORNING.  
DECEMBER 20, 1855.

**CONGRESS STILL PARALYZED.**

Since our last publication, the House of Representatives has spent several days in indecisive votes for Speaker. The last vote on Monday stood: For Banks 106, Richardson 73, Fuller 33, and others 5.

Several propositions were made to bring about an election, but did not meet with favor. What is to be the result of all this, no one can conjecture. One of the Democratic members thought he was easily liberal in proposing that Mr. —— be Speaker until the appropriations bills were passed, and that then all the members should resign and go home to their constituents. It would have been much more patriotic to propose to go without waiting for the appropriation bill, as there is enough at hand to carry on the government until the first of July. Surely, the members who are devoted to principle could afford to work two weeks for their constituents without pay.

It strikes us, therefore, that the plan of Mr. McMillen was stripped of the fair quality which entitled it to even a respectful consideration.

Persons who had opportunities of observation have formed a rather favorable opinion of the composition of the new House of Representatives, both as to its apparent lead talents. Some of the new members give promise of high capacity, and thus far the utmost good temper has prevailed.

The proceedings of the last few days have been long enough on record to speak for themselves.

The scenes of tumult in the House of Representatives were diversified by several sensible and some very glib speeches, and various gentlemen defined their views.

All the signs of all seem to be that the House is now with less appearance of an organization than it had been at the beginning.

The Democrats are praised by their partisans for the fidelity with which they adhere to their nomination. The "Republicans" who vote for Hawksawards will hold on to their old and their new.

And then the wheels of Government are locked. The parties stand: For Banks 106, Richardson 74, Fuller 41, and four or five others.

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The proposition to elect by a plurality vote is pending, and the friends of Banks expect to succeed in this way. From present impression, there will be no Speaker until after the holidays.

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Our friend and former temporary, Jas. W. BELLER, has taken the temporary management of the *Spirit of Jefferson*. It will be under his control until the 1st of January, the time of the sale. We welcome him heartily, and trust, that in the disposition of the establishment, (should it pass from our worthy young friends, DONOVAN & DOUGLASS) that it may fall into the hands of one or of equal liberality and generously.

If the "Old Family Journal" is to have a competitor, the conductors only ask one who can differ with the courtesy belonging to gentlemen.

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A manuscript of thirty pages has been discovered, containing a full account of the assembling of the first House of Delegates of the State of Virginia, the names of all the members, their manner of proceeding, their resolutions and acts or ordinances. The forms observed are described with minuteness. A Bill has been introduced in the Legislature to enable the Hessian society of Virginia to publish this manuscript.

**INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.** — In the House of Delegates of Virginia on Saturday week, an interesting proposition was introduced by a party from the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad Company for permission to extend their road to Charlestown. The same day there was introduced a proposition for the construction of a railroad from Georgetown, D. C., to some point on the Ohio river, the road to be called the "George Washington Railroad."

It was received in the Virginia House of Delegates on Friday, motion of T. H. Towne, that the committee of Courts of Justice inquire into the expediency of amending 15th section, 178 chapter of the Code of Virginia, as to admit the testimony of negroes against white persons charged with the commission, when such persons are charged with the commission of such States, as alibi negro testimony is in which white persons may be parties.

**WOOD PAPER.** — Mrs. Biddle's excise paper mills at Little Falls, N. Y., will be ready to go into operation on the 1st of January, when he expects to be able to turn out, daily, tons of elegant white paper, made of wood. In quality this paper, it is said will resemble that of English manufacture.

**THE NEW ENEMY OF WIKER.** — The wheat of some of the farmers in Virginia has been attacked by myriads of small bugs. The Richmond Whig says that the bush is very small, resembling plant lice.

**LEGISLATIVE BANQUET.** — A bill to authorize the Petersburg (Va.) Railroad to issue and sell coupon bonds to the extent of \$100,000 has passed one branch of the Virginia Legislature.

**NOTICE.** — Nothing has occurred in the Legislature, of importance to our readers during the last week.

# VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

**THE AMERICAN PARTY: ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.**

What a tissue for speculation is afforded here, and who will be found to the progress of the start young giants, generally called "Sam?" With a single bound giant, it is evident that he seemed to come forth in a single night, not here the smile ends; for the impotent rays that have been darted at him from the luminous brains of ten thousand Democratic editors and orators, have not turned him aside from his fiery pathway; nor the storm of denunciation that is constantly breaking over his head, checked his onward stride. But to drop metaphors, its inception, growth, and development of American principles, and the second in rank, who have attained in party organization, and have a part in the history of the country.

When the Whigs of the Federal party was broken at the advent of Mr. Jefferson to the Presidency; and principles that had been inaugurated with the Constitution, when the Father of his Country was placed at the helm, were repudiated with the depositing of his successor; it required long years of what was dreary despatch, opposition merely, to rally, and to construct an efficient and formative party organization.

The grasping and aggressive policy of Gen. Jackson was necessary to arrest that latent opposition to executive domination, and that is well known.

Whence the Whigs, and various gentlemen defied their views.

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**Correspondence of Virginia Free Press.**

I, CHARLES, Mo., December 30, 1855.

In addressing you at the present time, my object is two-fold: First, to inform you that "I still live"; and, secondly, to give you an idea of my past, and my present, social and political character. Having secured my first object, by extorting the ten, but comprehensive language of the "I still live," I will proceed to the second, in my own simple language, and in such manner as will, in my opinion, best convey my impressions. You, however, will not for a moment imagine that I am writing to consider myself, or to call your attention to a subject like this. However pleasant the said might be, I shall leave it to other pens, and things, as they are.

As respects the country, I presume there can be but one opinion, and that is that it is a great misfortune. As regards its material and spiritual condition, and its agricultural resources, in a commercial point of view, and at present, in a political sense, it is, however, in a state of transition, and upon the borders of this political, and upon the borders of that social, rights, and Constitutional privilege, again.

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