

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

Virginia Free Press.

J. S. & H. N. GALLAHER & CO.

THURSDAY MORNING.

JANUARY 6, 1857.

CABINET APPOINTMENTS.

There has been no small amount of ink used on the subject of Cabinet appointments, and Mr. Buchanan may find himself more puzzled as to whom he shall reject than as to whom he shall appoint. The Richmond Enquirer was much disturbed because the Virginia Electors undertook to recommend Ex-Governor Floyd for a department. According to the Enquirer, or, an act of great indecency was performed by the bare suggestion, "as had never before stained the chivalry of Virginia." The secret was, that the Enquirer's voice had not been consulted. Floyd, notwithstanding his admitted ability and energy, did not suit the Enquirer's taste.

But a correspondent of the same paper brings up some reminiscences to show that the course of the Electors was not unadvised. In 1844, the Pennsylvania Electors recommended James Buchanan for the office of Secretary of State, and he was appointed.

In 1845, the Democratic members of the Virginia Legislature and other prominent politicians recommended John Y. Mason for a Cabinet appointment, and he received it.

In 1848, the Whig members of Congress from Virginia recommended William B. Preston for a seat in Gen. Taylor's Cabinet, and he was appointed.

In 1850, a majority of the Democratic members of the Legislature recommended John S. Barber to Mr. Pierce, but he was not appointed.

The House passed fifteen private bills—both bodies adjourned over to Monday.

On Monday, in the Senate, Mr. Swann made an elaborate and forcible speech in favor of the bill to pay the heirs of Revolutionary officers the half-pay promised by the Constitutional Congress. Mr. Brown of Ohio opposed the bill. No vote was taken.

In the House the day was spent in efforts to suspend the rules to allow committees to report bills and to transact other business.

In short, it was a blank day. Mr. Read, of Tennessee, made an ineffectual effort to have considered a bill carrying the widow's pension under the act of 1853 back to 1849.

The House also refused to consider bills relating to the Army and Navy.

On Tuesday, a discussion of considerable interest was had in the Senate in regard to the election of Mr. Harlan a Senator from Iowa. The constitutional question involved whether the Senate of the State could after acting in joint convention with the House, defeat election by an adjournment.

Mr. Burton and Mr. Green maintained the illegality of the election, and Mr. Toombs contended that it was a perfectly valid one, and should be so declared by the Senate, in order to rebuke a factious effort to nullify the Constitution of the United States. No vote was taken on the question.

The Revolutionary bill was not considered at all.

Another instance is cited, that of a recommendation of William L. Yancey for a Cabinet-appointed by the Electors of Alabama. Nobdy's delicacy seems to have been shocked by that act.

Notwithstanding the gravity of the disfected, it is quite probable that Gov. Floyd will be chosen to represent Virginia in the Cabinet, in preference to now converts or old trimmers; and we have no doubt his appointment will be acceptable to the people. Either the Navy or the War Department would be well managed by the Ex-Governor, who, like his honored father, has a mind and a will to do whatever duty requires.

REVOLUTIONARY OFFICERS' BILL.

This subject was before the Senate of the United States on Monday last, when Mr. Savard of New York made a speech of great power and eloquence in its favor.

The first part of the speech was a complete compendium of Revolutionary history, gathered from the letters of Gen. Washington written in the 26 months periods of the greatest and most arduous of the sufferings and privations of the officers and men, and the efforts of the noble chief to keep them together, without increased admiration for the wisdom, the patriotism, and the heroic virtue of that great man.

Nothing but the unbounded confidence reposed in his wisdom and virtue could have enabled him to overcome the disaffection which the want of the means of living was so well calculated to produce.

Verily, the hand of Providence must have been on him, when the calamities never would have borne up under the manifold difficulties and dangers by which the patriots of the day were surrounded.

Often, very often, was the army on the verge of dissolution, when the patient and indefatigable spirit of the commander in chief rallied his members to renewed efforts.

It is interesting but little to say that no man less fitted than Washington in all the qualities which constitute greatness could have played the part he did in the great Revolutionary drama. The well-known fact in his history, that he was above all the mercenary apollons who operate upon men in general, inspired a confidence almost without a parallel in the annals of humanity. He could ask from Congress for others that which he did not need for himself, and it was only by the irreproachable energy of his character that he brought that body to the promise which saved the army and the country.

Poorly as we think of the gratitude of the men now in authority, and heartless as some of them seem to be, we shall not give credence to the opinion that the measure of justice now pending in the Senate can be disposed of without a struggle.

THE INAUGURATION.

The pallidness about Washington, who desideres to stand well in the eyes of the new President, have already made arrangements for a grand display at the inauguration. It is not something over two months before the pageant in its "come off," yet we may venture the opinion that it will be the engrossing topic amongst both sexes the greater part of the intervening time. With the greatly increased facilities for travel, it may well be expected to be the largest gathering of the nation within the National Metropolis. The hotels and boarding houses, and the saloons generally, are devolving ways and means to take in friends and strangers for a brief sojourn.

There will be so many "axes to grind," that thousands will be deemed to go away with the edges dulled. Superabundant patriotism will be at a discount are the "ides of March" are over, and there will be many a sick heart at home deferred.

CONGRESS SINCE OUR LAST.

On Thursday week, the Senate, after the reception of several petitions and the adoption of a resolution in regard to printing the report on the Coast Survey, adjourned over to Friday.

The House listened to speeches for an hour by members from Illinois in regard to the late political canvass in that State, and then considered and passed the bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service. There being but a thin attendance of members, the House adjourned over to Friday.

Thus, it will be soon that Congressmen like the "rest of mankind" are but children of a larger growth. They must live their lives.

On Friday, the Senate was principally engaged in the reception of memorials and resolutions of inquiry, to whom he shall appoint. The Richmond Enquirer was much disturbed because the Virginia Electors undertook to recommend Ex-Governor Floyd for a department.

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THE CASH SYSTEM.

Sad experience has induced many of the newspapers of the cities to adopt the cash system for subscriptions and all transient advertisements, thereby saving the expense of collections and the loss of interest. Why cannot the same system be adopted by the country printers? The sums are so small to each individual that there would seem to be no good excuse for asking entries to be made.

If a housekeeper resolves to go to the circus or managerio with his family, he thinks it is hardship to "plank down the cash" at the entrance. If he goes to a restaurant to partake of the "creature comforts" of the season, he readily produces the coin, and never thinks of grumbling. But the same individual can resolve to himself to read a newspaper for years without a qualm of conscience as to his delinquency. We do not mean to be personal in this narrative of facts of every day's occurrence. We are inclined to the opinion that the future readers of the Free Enquirer will resolve to do the same on the obvious list.

DIMINISHING ACCIDENT.

On Thursday evening, three of Mr. T. Finley's children, of Norfolk, Va., were buried in such a shocking manner as probably cause their death. It appears that Mr. Finley had been hunting during the day, and returning late in the afternoon, left his powder flask upon a table. The eldest of the three children, a little boy, got possession of the flask, and with the other two gathered around the fire-place to have some aqua-fortis. The boy opened the flask and commenced pouring the powder into the fire when the contents exploded, burning the children in a shocking and probably fatal manner.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGES.

Of the different States, (says the National Intelligencer,) with the exception of Wisconsin, met pursuant to law on the 3d ult., and cast their votes in accordance with the express will of the people of their respective States. The electoral votes will therefore stand thus: For President and Vice-President, 174; for Vice-President, 174; for Senator, 174; for Representatives, 174; and for Delegates, 3. These votes will be canvassed by the two houses of Congress on the second Wednesday of February next.

A DEPLORABLE ACCIDENT.

We are grieved to learn that Capt. M. Manning, U. S. Navy, (retired list) residing about two miles from town, was on the evening of the 5th most horribly burnt by falling in the fire. It appears that Capt. M. was subject to occasional fits, and during one of these attacks, was so unfortunate as to fall in the fire. Death ensued from the injuries he had sustained, on Tuesday evening last. Capt. M. was fifty-seven years of age—and leaves a wife and three sons.

OUR BUSINESS AT A DISTANCE.—We desire to notify that from and after this week's issue, we shall forward these bills. It is to be hoped that there will be a commensurate degree of promptness, in meeting. We have obligations to meet every day, and are compelled to "dash" those indebted to us. It would afford us great pleasure to recollect the "Old Family Journal" to our friends, gratis, if we were able, but as we are not, it is incumbent on us to ask them to remit.

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PROGRESS—REFORM.

It is said, is the age of progress. This is also, that this worm of a world is now in its thrally state, fast tending to the period, when it will emerge, a brilliant, beautiful, perfect butterfly. Is it not? 'Tis surely a consummation to be devoutly wished,—and, we hope such it will prove, and that all the attendant advantages of a perfection so grand in its results may be enjoyed by coming generations. In reflecting upon such events, and in viewing over the past, and the present, we naturally surmise what are the probable results of the future, taken in connection with the past history of our own country. Upon whose shoulders, however, will the burthen rest? Upon the shoulders of the young men of this, and the succeeding generations. And upon them only, hence the importance of infusing by every wholesome and healthy means, the principles of integrity, energy, active, heroic fortitude in the prosecution of honorable legitimate relations. And while these principles are being instilled by precepts of the Fathers and mothers of our future law-makers and law-givers, it should be born in mind, that example and practice exert a far, more powerful influence, and without the latter, the former falls dead to the earth.

We can conceive of no nobler and more honorable aim and ambition, than that every man, in his respective sphere of life should strive to elevate themselves and reflect credit and honor on their vocation. In this country, where all are as free as the winds, there is no room for envy, or jealousy, or pride, or vainglory, or any other modes which are pernicious and the bane of every community. Those pleasures which are the simplest in their character, and tend to promote good and kindly feelings are those most to be followed. The society of the prairie world is quite a novelty to a new-comer, large flocks of the prairie chickens can be seen every few hundred yards, as well as deer and turkeys. In my opinion, if we had the institution of slaves, we could not have been so successful in our efforts to make the world a better place to live in.

It is the law of nature that every animal should prefer the agreeable sensations to the disagreeable. Why, then, in wholesale denunciation hurl anathemas against the enjoyments of life? Mankind are not perfect, that they can exist always without some relaxation from the cares of business, or take an occasional round of pleasure in order to render delightful even those sternest duties of life.

The **moralist** deems it, however, incumbent on himself to explode those pleasures of life, although they are innocent in their source, merely because, to his strict notions of life, they appear transitory. There is no denying the fact, and that, too, established by the wise Creator himself, that if man be not sometimes innocent, and sometimes avaricious, and delighted, it is apt to seek other modes which are pernicious and the bane of every community.

It is indeed painful to look around us and behold the grand tendency on the part of the young men of the present day, to depend on the exertions and efforts of their elders to provide them a competency, instead of putting them on their own shoulders to the wheel.

It is unfortunate, however, that we are all too prone to self-aggrandizement, and often at the expense of the misery of others. So long, then, as such is the case, there can never be decided improvements and a whole-some system of reform and progress must necessarily be slow, and of no, or at least, very little utility.

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VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

JOHN R. CHALMERS'
MEDICAL HOUSE,

Wine, Spirits & Retsch.

HARPER'S FERRY.
DRUGS, STROKES,
DISEASES, ETC.

DRUGS, MEDICINE AND APOTHECARY.

AYER'S PILLS.

FOR HARPERS-FAIRY.

FOR CHASSEPEAKE & OHIO CANAL.

FOR THE COTTON & SUGAR TRADE.

POETICAL.

Carter's Address,

To the Friends of our Country,

AT VIRGINIA FREE PRESS,

Opposite the Jugg-Jug-Sun,

Auditorium—

Opposite the Jugg-Jug-Sun,

And the pie and sticks and gallops,

Tread softly—bow the head;

In reverent silence bow—

No solemn bell, debt, sorrow,

No passing woe,

Another woe in Time's—answering tide

Has broken on Earth's shore and scattered

Its soft upon each brow, its shadow

In each heart.

My song is done—my Farrow words

Are dying on an echo

And give each heart its color,

The world is brighter than before;

By the devil,

Farewell, a son who is strong,

With hair light as a feather;

For pated hops are sighing,

Night and day

What's more would see you—only

His whitest point.

How kind how

His whitest point.

How glad I am,

That's a Jugg-Jug-Sun,

With their efforts to be stony,

I have answer, I should tell you