

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

Virginia Free Press.
BY GALLAHER & CO.
CHARLESTOWN,
THURSDAY MORNING,
FEBRUARY 16, 1860.

PUTTING DOWN THE PRESS.

The amendment of the Senate bill appropriating money for the Post Office service proposes to repeal "all laws and parts of laws authorizing the receiving or sending matter through the mail free of postage."

This proposal to destroy the free exchange list which newspaper publishers have had for more than fifty years, and the cheapness of newspapers has been based upon this privilege. If destroyed, a country editor will not be able to exchange with his neighbors at all. He will be confined to one paper from each city, and will have hard work to pay for them. The city paper will not take him in again. The news now sent free to subscribers in the county of publication will be taxed, whilst the city daily papers receive no small sum as freight for a very trifling compensation.

At present such towns as Charlestown are but suburbs of Baltimore, and mechanical labor as well as printers, will be driven to seek their bread elsewhere. We may open our vigilant representatives to throttle this movement.

THE MOST STUPID BILL IN THE COUNTRY.

A sparkling little gem has just been placed before the gaze of an adoring public by the celebrated publishers, Mr. E. D. Long & Co., 26 Ann street New York City, in the shape of a snug little "pocket" book, entitled "Fanny." It is a translation from the French, and is full of French vivacity, *jeu d'esprit*, and philosophy, all of which go to make up one of the most fascinating volumes of its size we ever read.

THANKS.

To Joseph Hayes, a worthy colored man living near Harper's Ferry, who serves his customers with choice meat and marketing, we are under obligations for beef-steak, sausages, and pudding. He is a worthy son of the late Anne Hayes, who was much esteemed by all who knew her as an honest and pious woman.

HOW THE MONEY GOES.

A bill passed the House of Delegates of Virginia, on Saturday last, for the payment of \$933.35 to John P. & Thomas E. Ballard, for the entertainment of Col. M. L. King, the Guest of the State, from South Carolina, at the Ballard House in Richmond.

THE LEHIGH CADETS.

This corps under the command of Lieut. Campbell, are in daily exertion of their Arms and equipments—Gov. Letcher having awarded them such for their soldierly bearing and proficiency in drill. The corps numbers about seventy—rank and file.

It is with pleasure, (says the Piedmont Independent) that we have perused the speech of the Hon. A. R. Butler, made in the House of Representatives in reference to the election of Speaker. Of the sentiments so plainly and pointedly maintained by him, every Southerner can feel proud, and this Congressional District can well feel proud of so able, eloquent and conservative a representative. For the especial benefit of our readers in this community, we shall publish it next week.

THE WHIG CONVENTION.

We were never more gratified than we are now in announcing it is probable that the Hon. Jno. J. Crittenden, the distinguished and eloquent orator and statesman of Kentucky, will be with us at our Convention on the 22d of February. To have an address from such a man at such a time, and upon such themes as now interest the public mind, is worth travelling hundreds of miles. We do hope that every Whig in the Commonwealth, who possibly can do so, will attend the Opposition Convention on the 22d, and enjoy the rich and glorious treat that is in store for him.

Come, come, all!

Among the interesting incidents of the forthcoming Convention on the 22d of February, will be the presentation of a service of silver plate, on the part of the Whigs of Virginia, to the Hon. Wm. L. Goggin, as a testimonial of their estimation and regard in the coming Spring. The value of the service is understood to be some twelve or fifteen hundred dollars, and the service itself is extremely beautiful and elegant. The Whigs of Virginia are not themselves in this honoring a distinguished, noble and indefatigable champion of that cause.

We shall have a rousing Convocation—a glorious convention—and I trust to the Whigs of the State attend it, as well as the

Ruam Whig.

DEATH OF MAJ. E. H. FITZGERALD.—This officer of the United States army, who died in California on the 9th ult., was a native of Pennsylvania, served in the Seminole war and under General Scott, Wool and Worth in the Mexican war. He was one of the first officers of the invading army who stepped on shore at Vera Cruz. Whilst the ends of Justice are attained, Mercy and Humanity is observed—so that the master, i.e., who may be incensed from any misapprehension, is not subject to the pollution of the guilty.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—It will be seen by our Richmond correspondence, that the Court of Appeals of this State have decided the long pending suit of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potowmack Company, favorable to the former; instituting an injunction against travel over the combined roads forming the Central route from Washington to Richmond, and demanding a sum to be paid by the General road of all money received thereon from through tickets to the present time, deducting what was received on such during the disability of the Fredericksburg route by loss in the Potowmack. Also, a decree against each of the combined Companies for its share of the proceeds, and each of the combined roads bound for the other if the decree against either proves ineffectual. It is reported that the General road will lose half a million of dollars by this decree.

THE BOY'S CHAPEL.

We saw to-day the caps for this company. The uniform is expected by Saturday. We hope soon to see the company in parade in full uniform.

BIRTH NIGHT BALL.

It will be seen that a Grand Military and Civil Ball will be given at the Wager House, Harrison Ferry, on Wednesday next.

A letter from England says—It is a very curious fact, that to this season—1860, 1860—we have had the hottest winter, the coldest weather, the wettest weather, the windiest weather, and now the foggiest weather that is recorded for about a quarter of a century."

IN LIMBO.

Just think of it, the man of the "Old Family Journal" in limbo! but such is the fact, nevertheless!

Whilst in Baltimore on Monday of last week, in our deliberations we found ourselves enclosed within the strong walls of the Baltimore jail.

At the entrance of the establishment we were ushered in by a very pleasant gentleman, Mr. Wm. E. Paterson, who handed us over to Ward, Capt. Thomas C. James, a whole-souled gentleman, who had been introduced to the various apartments of the institution, after however, first exhibiting to us the "Eldorado." Before adapting our apartment, we first made an examination of the entire building, and finding everything in perfect order, we became somewhat satisfied with our condition. We were much grieved, however, in finding so many inmates of the younger portion of our race, as well as noticing those of more mature age.

As our incarceration was of but short duration, we are unable to give a full description of this magnificent monument of Baltimore's liberality and humanity. It is a building worthy of that great city. Whilst it is designed to punish the guilty, a proper degree of economy and a salutary discipline for the healthfulness, comfort, and convenience of prisoners is observed; for while a prison is a place of confinement for criminals or persons charged with crime, and as such should be made so secure as to shut out all reasonable hope of escape, that the proper ends of justice may be met, yet humanity and indeed justice herself demands that the life and health of the prisoners shall be carefully protected and every suitable means afforded them for repentence and moral improvement."

After Haskett was concluded on Friday last, he was ably defended by Messrs. Green and Borry, who availed themselves of every point to the advantage of the prisoner. Messrs. Hunter and Harding for Commonwealth. On Saturday morning the trial brought verdicts of guilty. On Monday, Judge Kenney passed sentence. When asked by the Clerks they had anything to say why sentenced should not be passed upon them, Stevens said—

"The testimony given in against me, was very unsatisfactory of some of it. I will only point out that which might have reasonably been, that is the evidence of the negroes, which I consider to be a damned Town." It is needless for me to deny to those who know me, but to those who do not know me I will say this is positively and absolutely true. My colored men did all a man could do for me, for which I am very thankful. I have been treated very kindly by the officers who have charge of me, and the physicians who attend me. My colored men, which I consider to be a damned Town."

"I am a man of honor, and I have no desire to be a traitor to my country."

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