

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FAMILY JOURNAL.

Virginia Free Press.
BY GALLINGER & CO.,
CHARLESTOWN,
Thursday Morning, Nov. 22, 1860.

Virginia Legislature.

The Richmond papers contain the proclamation of Governor Luray, convening the Legislature of Virginia on the 1st of January. By proclamation some time ago the Governor had called an extra session of the Legislature for the 14th of January. This was in consequence of a contract having been made for the sale to a company of French capitalists of the James River and Kanawha Canal, which contract could not be carried into effect without the previous approval of the Legislature. The political excitement at the South is the cause of this second proclamation and of the hastening by a week the assembling of the Legislature. So much of the proclamation as relates to the subject is in the following words:

"Whereas, in consequence of the appointment of Eleazar a. M. Harper, as a sectional candidate for President of the United States, whose principles and views are repugnant to those of the people to whom he is directly hostile to their constitutional rights and interests, and in consequence of the great number of the representatives of the people of this Commonwealth should take into consideration the crisis, what action is necessary in this emergency; therefore, I, John Luray, Governor, by virtue of the power given me by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, do hereby call the Senate and Delegates of the two Houses of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth, to meet at the Capitol, on the 12th of December, 1860, at 12 o'clock, to legislate upon such subjects as they may deem necessary and proper."

The Richmond Dispatch thinks it probable that Governor Letcher will repeat his proposition to the last Legislature, for a Convention of the States, under the fifth article of the Constitution, to consider the state of the country and if some measure cannot be taken which will restore harmony to the Union and protect the rights and welfare of the States from fanaticism and radicalism.—*National Intelligencer.*

We cannot agree with Gov. Luray that this is the time for a Convention of all the States. There is too much of passion in the conduct of those who are undertaking to lead the people. What can we gain by such a consultation—Nothing—absolutely nothing. The Convention would separate in a wretched state of feeling that exists at present. The only way is to stand by the existing bulwarks of the Constitution. Lincoln is a minority President—elected by the insane conduct of the Disunionists—but there is a majority of both Houses of Congress against him, not only for the present but the next two sessions. He can do nothing of importance without the sanction of Congress. He cannot make an appointment within his own gift without the concurrence of the Senate, and then the demagogues among them, and basely deserting their posts in the hour of danger.

It is evident they are carrying out "a foreign conclusion" they think they can now infuse into the Southern mind, and therefore they press their mad scheme of Secession.

Let the people of Virginia ponder well the issue which the madcaps are trying to force upon them. *Disunion* would be equivalent to an act of *assassination*. It talks about the "secured Union" in the same style of phrasery and treason which induced Garrison to pronounce "the Constitution a covenant with Hell, and a league with the Devil." Fortunately, Virginia has not yet given herself up to the lead of madmen or fools. Her true statesmen have led to speak.

A Contradiction.

Our devotion to the South, and to Southern interests, will not be called in question—but we are unwilling that this sentiment should lead us into the commission of injustice. Several of our exchanges have recently contained the statement that JAMES HARPER, Ex-Mayor of New York, and a member of the publishing House of Harper & Brothers, had appeared among the Vice Presidents of a Black Republican meeting. In response to this report we have the following announcement which we take from a late number of that strong Southern paper the N. Y. Journal of Commerce:

"Among the names published as Vice Presidents of the Republican meeting last Friday evening was that of the Hon. JAMES HARPER. Now we happen to know that while his name was being mentioned, Mr. BELL, the Vice President of ours, was at the same time occupying a place on the platform of the Democratic Union Meeting at Cooper's Institute. We have it from one of his intimate friends, that not only is he not a Republican, but that he is a decided Union man."

This certainly sets the report completely at nought, and establishes just the contrary of the assertions made, to the prejudice of Mr. HARPER. We regret that they have been so widely scattered in the South—for, if the conservative friends of the Constitution at the North are to receive only odium and abuse in return for their devotion to the cause of good government, the fact will surely discourage toilous them in the future. The gallant contest which the city of New York recently sustained with the Black Republicans, in opposition to their crasy and fanatical attempt to overwhelm the South, should assuredly entitle the friends of order and law, to the thanks instead of the denunciation of the Southern people.

Crawfishing.

Our neighbor of the *Independent* is now taking the back track. Whilst he publishes the names of those who voted for Breckinridge as the noble and true men of Jefferson county, in part of his issue of last week, he has also, at the last minute, got into the *Independent*, that he is an evident son of the Douglass and Breckinridge wing, "bury the past—act for the future"; but for the sake of the Breckinridges! How can you withstand the patriotic appeal of the disorganizing *Independent*? Now do help the sinking cause of the Douglassites.

"We did not know, however, until the issue of the last *Free Press*, that was very derogatory to the character of its political editor, to arm himself against apprehended danger."—*Independent.*

What said it was?

If the *Independent* was as all given to truth-telling it would not be "derogatory to the character of its editor" if he did not become an egotist.

Mr. Jacob D. Price has been appointed Post Master at Van Cleaveland, Berkeley County, Va.

A Question of Veracity.

Hinds County, Miss., November 6, 1860.
GASTONIAN.—Although the battle bay has been considered as lost and won, and among the dead included that tried statesman and patriot John Bell, included, I am not willing to give up our claim of him as the Government's best friend and Statesman. The die-hard, Mr. H. H. H. Bell, of South Carolina, was met with Mr. Bell in the negative to the unfair report of John Bell disseminated by the Breckinridge committee. I brought you in as sustaining my position in what you have said in your paper of the 19th of October, that the die-hard, Mr. H. H. H. Bell, of South Carolina, was met with Mr. Bell in the negative to the unfair report of John Bell disseminated by the Breckinridge committee. I brought you in as sustaining my position in what you have said in your paper of the 19th of October, that the die-hard, Mr. H. H. H. Bell, of South Carolina, was met with Mr. Bell in the negative to the unfair report of John Bell disseminated by the Breckinridge committee. 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