

Virginia Free Press

CHARLESTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, VA.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

BY GALLAHER & CO.

VOL. 54.

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CHARLESTOWN.

Thursday Morning, June 13, 1861.

McLAIN & HAAS, General Advertising Agency, Office No. 122 Baltimore Street, second door West of North, Baltimore, Md., are authorized to act as Agents for the Virginia Free Press.

NOTES.

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THURSDAY MORNING, JUNE 13, 1861.

BY GALLAHER & CO.

NO. 24.

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Thursday Morning, June 13, 1861.

McClure & Haun, Druggists, Advertising Agency, Office No. 123 Baltimore Street, second story, West of North, Baltimore, Md., are authorized to act as Agents for the Virginia Free Press.

RUMORS.

That our home readers may be enabled to judge of the reliability of the rumors of the day, we make a few extracts from the Baltimore Sun of Friday. The first the following:

Last night from Harper's Ferry, Washington, etc.—The Star of last evening claims to have information from Harper's Ferry up to Tuesday morning, that out of 700 Confederate troops lately stationed opposite Williamsport, 300 had deserted. It also gives the following from Harper's Ferry:

"General Johnson's forces have cleared out every hog within five miles of Harper's Ferry, and are alarmingly short of provisions. Through out all the counties of Virginia, within 40 or 50 miles of Harper's Ferry, a levy of militia is being now made by draft. All the men between 18 and 50 years of age and physically incapable of doing military duty are to be levied, and the whole of the whole are to be mustered into the field. The names are placed in one box, and as many numbers—from one to ten (repeated)—are placed in another box. When a name is drawn forth, a number is also drawn; and if it be either No. 1, 2, or 3, the person is elected a soldier into the division army. Otherwise, he escapes immediate service."

Had the Star's informant visited the camp he would have had an opportunity of knowing that the above statement was far from the truth. Hundreds of hogs are surrounding the camp, fattening on the serpents thrown away—any kind, and although droves of hogs have been here, none have been used for the soldiers.

A dispatch of June 9th from Chambersburg, Pa. says:

Through a scout sent to the Maryland Heights overlooking Harper's Ferry, there has never been a scarcity of provisions of any kind; and although droves of hogs have been here, none have been used for the soldiers.

A dispatch of June 5th from Chambersburg, Pa. says:

Through a scout sent to the Maryland Heights overlooking Harper's Ferry, who returned to-day, we have a report that there is fewer troops than the heights than a week ago. He says upon the heights there was only two guns in battery, and that it can be stormed with but little loss of life, and the guns turned upon the Ferry. He explored three routes by which the troops can approach within 300 yards of the battery, and then by a rush carry the guns at the point of the bayonet.

A forward movement is evidently contemplated for to-morrow. The advance will consist of Col. [unclear] cavalry, which will march over the roads. The other corps and regiments will be sent forward rapidly.

Sudden Death of A. M. Ball, Esq.

ARMSTRONG M. BALL, Esq., late Master Armorer of the Harper's Ferry U. S. Armory, died suddenly on Saturday morning last. He had been engaged in connection with manufacture for the confederacy, and although complaining a little was in his usual health. He was discovered dead in his bed. But a few moments before the discovery of his death a gentleman who roomed with him had conversed with him.

Mr. Ball's family had left Harper's Ferry for Richmond on Thursday, and consequently were not present to witness the sudden dispensation of Providence. Mr. Ball was an ingenious mechanician, and had just received an important position in the Southern Confederacy. He was for several years one of the Justices of the Peace for this County.

Laid Up for a Season.

A man named Bryan W. Bernard, alias Camp, was brought before the Mayor on Friday and ordered to remain six months. He was arrested here a few weeks since as a suspicious character, and a person of evil name and family, before giving shew him to possess arms and undivided title. He appears to be as fox as any old reprobate that runs the forest.

[Richardson-Dispatch.]

[This is the same scamp we noticed last week as the telegraph operator here during the Brown raid. Since he left here we have seen him on two occasions, and he was then endeavoring to play the borrowing game on us, but we were too old to be caught by such (jail) birds.]

Not Alone.

The "Old Family Journal" is not the only paper in Virginia which is compelled by circumstances to circumscribe its fair proportions by printing a half-sheets. With but few exceptions outside of the Metropolitan press, this necessity exists. It has been an adage that "misery loves company." This is not our feeling, however, for, if we do not prosper ourselves, it always gives us pleasure to see others do so. We are by no means selfish, though this is a common fault.

Depression. As an evidence of the depressed state of affairs in all the transactions of life, we state that but three decs of any kind were entered upon record in our county clerk's office during the last month.

Fasting and Prayer. This day (Thursday) is recommended by JESSE DAVIS, President of the Southern Confederacy, to be observed as "a day of fasting and prayer, by such religious services as may be suitable for the occasion."

Muskets.

Col. J. A. EARLY, in speaking of Muskets, says: "It is a great mistake to suppose that the musket is not an efficient weapon; it is after all, the weapon that must be most relied on, and that does most execution, especially in close conflict."

Hon. G. W. Summers.

We have it in the most direct way (says the Charlottesville Daily) that this gentleman has written a letter to Governor Letcher, stating that he is prepared to defend Virginia, and for resistance to the Northern invaders. His resignation as a member of the Convention was, on account of

Rates of Postage in the Confederate States of America.

We publish the following simplified statement of the rates of postage under the Act of Congress of the Confederate States of America, adopted on the 21st February, 1861. The Act went into effect June 1st, according to the Proclamation of the Postmaster General.

RATES OF POSTAGE

Between places within the Confederate States of America.

ON LETTERS.

Single Letters not exceeding a half ounce in weight—For any distance under 100 miles, 4 cents. For any distance over 100 miles, 10 cents. An additional single rate for each additional half ounce or less.

In the foregoing case, the postage to be prepaid by stamp or stamped envelope.

Advertised letters, 1 cent.

ON PACKAGES.

Containing other than printed or written matter; money packages are included in this class:

To be rated by weight as letters are rated, and to be charged double the rate of 1 cent on letters, to wit:

For any distance under 100 miles, 10 cents for each half ounce.

For any distance over 100 miles, 20 cents for each half ounce or less.

In all cases to be prepaid by stamp or stamped envelope.

ON NEWSPAPERS.

Seal to regular and bona fide subscribers from the office of publication, and not exceeding 3 ounces in weight:

Within the State where published, Weekly paper, 6 cents per quarter.

Half-weekly paper, 12 cents per quarter.

Daily paper, 24 cents per quarter.

In all cases, postage to be paid quarterly in advance.

Within the State where published.

Weekly paper, 12 cents per quarter.

Half-weekly paper, 24 cents per quarter.

Tri-weekly paper, 36 cents per quarter.

In all cases postage to be paid quarterly in advance.

ON PERIODICALS.

Sent to regular and bona fide subscribers from the office of publication, and not exceeding 12 ounces in weight:

Within the State where published,

Weekly paper, 6 cents per quarter.

Half-monthly paper, 12 cents per quarter.

Daily paper, 24 cents per quarter.

In all cases postage to be paid quarterly in advance.

Without the State where published.

Weekly paper, 12 cents per quarter.

Half-monthly paper, 12 cents per quarter.

Daily paper, 24 cents per quarter.

In all cases postage to be paid quarterly in advance.

ON TRANSMITTED MATERIAL.

Sent to regular and bona fide subscribers from the office of publication and not exceeding 12 ounces in weight:

Within the State where published,

Monthly, 3 cents per quarter or 1 cent for each number.

Additional, 1 cent each number for every additional month beyond the first 12 quarters.

Annual, 12 cents per quarter.

In all cases postage to be paid quarterly in advance.

FRANKING PRIVILEGES.

The following persons are only entitled to franking privilege, and in all cases strictly confined to official business:

Postmaster-General.

His Chief Clerk.

Auditor of the Treasury for the Post-Office Department.

Deputy Postmasters.

We recommend our readers to cut this out and preserve it for reference until familiar with all its provisions.

Tim Rives.

The Richmond Enquirer, when it published, last week, the strong Union speech delivered by Tim Rives, of Petersburg, in the State Convention, remarked that it was a speech which should never have been delivered, and expressed the opinion that the author was now, no doubt, of the same opinion. This notice of his speech elicited a letter from the "Old War Horse," in which the following is an extract:

"Permit me to inform you that I concur in your opinion, but on the contrary, consider it very sensible to day of my death, even if it cost me my life, to let them utter what I do, that the present war is now, no doubt, of the same opinion. This notice of his speech elicited a letter from the "Old War Horse," in which the following is an extract:

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