The American Union.

J. MARION EMERSON, EDITOR.

DENTON, MD.

THURSDAY MORNING.....Jan. 24, 1867

This is the only Steam Power Printing Press on this Shore. Those wishing large quantities of printing done, should bear this fact in mind, and give us a call. All kinds of printing done neatly, cheaply and expeditiously.

☞ Mr. J. B Rommon, 48 Barre street, Baltimore, is our authorized agent for this paper in that city.

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The Orphans Court of Caroline county will sit on Tuesday, Jan. 29, 1867.

A Constitutional Convention.

The democratic element of the Maryland legislature, since the assembling of that body, are still exhibiting that vindictive spirit with which they entered into the fall campaign. Instead of that moderation which they professed to all men, and which they promised should guide them in their deliberations whilst framing laws for the government of our people, we find them seeking, by all the means in their power, to regain the ascendancy in this State, and fasten upon our people the burden of all they have lost by the late war, which they were instrumental in bringing on. Since the palmy days of Jefferson, the unalterable motto of that party has ever been, that "to the victors belong the spoils," and office, which was intended for the service and benefit of the people, has become but the plunder of their leaders.

In accordance with this principle, we find their last effort to regain the power they forfeited by their traitorous acts and deeds to be that of calling a convention of the people and remodel the organic law of the State. One of their champions has introduced a bill into the House to this effect. Instead of giving the same representation that was allowed the several counties and the city of Baltimore in the convention of 1864, they propose to increase it in those districts most noted for sympathy with treason and the success of their party, thus rendering "assurance doubly sure"—a fact which speaks too plainly, and discloses their real intentions and designs. If the same number of representatives be sent to the convention which they propose to call, as was sent to the former, they fear loyalty to the government and the old flag will be the preponderating element, and all their subtle plans for plunder prove futile.

But are the people of the State of Maryland willing to be duped by these wiley leaders, and vote for the call of such a convention? It must be submitted to them ere it can be called. Are they willing to throw upon their own shoulders that by which the State debt will be increased five hundred thousand dollars?—Already are we groaning beneath a debt of ten millions, and all the industrial pursuits are, in a measure, embarrassed by it. They are the first to complain of a burdensome taxation, and yet are willing and endeavoring to increase the State debt, and call upon you, laboring men, to assist them in this nefarious design.—Will you do it when the present constitution has been in existence but so short a period, and when nothing but partizan ends are sought after? They attempt to conceal their purpose by saying that the present constitution was framed at a very exciting period, and that the necessity for such a constitution has passed away; that they are seeking to enfranchise their fellow men who are now denied the elective franchise—the dearest and noblest right conferred by a republican government upon its citizens. If these are the ends sought to be attained, why not submit it to the people in the form of amendments at the next election of members to the General Assembly, and save additional expense to the State? We are aware that the present constitution *is*, in some respects, defective, but can be remedied without calling a convention. But these are *not* the motives actuating them to this course. There is, underlying all this, a more desirable and more lucrative end to be obtained. There are quite a number of offices of both honor and profit in this State filled by honorable and loyal men. These, like mighty panoramas, loom up before their distorted visions, and to fill them, after so long an exclusion from public favor, they are willing to make any sacrifice.

We appeal to all men, no matter what may have been their past political record, to assist us in defeating this political scheme. Let not our debt be needlessly increased to any greater amount, but let every measure be taken for its speedy liquidation. If southern sympathizers are to be restored to former privileges, let it be by amendments agreed to by three-fifths of all the members elected to both Houses of the General Assembly, and adopted by a majority of the qualified voters voting at the next election of members to that body, and it will meet with our most hearty concurrence; but to be done by the calling of a convention will receive our most determinded opposition.

CONGRESS.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16.—After some debate, the House amendment to the bills to admit Nebraska and Colorado (requiring colored suffrage to be conceded in the two Territories) was concurred in, so that they were finally passed, and go to the President for his consideration. The bill to regulate the tenure of office was then taken up and discussed until the adjournment. A resolution was offered in the House directing the judiciary committee to report a bill declaring that constitutional amendments shall be ratified by the action of three-fourths of the States represented in Congress. The bill to provide for the manner in which the late rebellious States may form valid State governments was taken up, and led to a protracted debate without coming to a vote.

THURSDAY, Jan 17.—The Senate passed, with an amendment, the joint resolution appropriating $500 000 to secure a site in New York for a postoffice and custom-house, and the bill to increase the pay of postoffice route agents. The bill to regulate the tenure of office coming up, a long debate ensued, during which quite an exciting scene ensued between Messrs. Sumner, McDougall and others, causing frequent calls to order and motions to adjourn. No final action was taken on the bill. The House took up the legislative executive and judicial appropriation bill. Various amendments are adopted, including one to pay a pardon clerk to the President, which had been previously stricken out. The bill, as amended, was then passed. Several bills relating to the District of Columbia were passed. The committee on military affairs was directed to proceed to West Point and inquire into alleged abuses in furnishing articles to the cadets there. Mr. Steven's bill to enable the Southern States to form valid governments was again taken up and discussed.

FRIDAY, Jan. 18.—A communication was laid before the Senate from the Governor of Kentucky, announcing that the Legislature of that State had rejected the constitutional amendment. After the transaction of other business the Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to regulate the tenure of office, and was passed—yeas 30, nays 9. The bill authorizing the issue of treasury notes not bearing interest, and to provide for a sinking fund for the extinguishment of the national debt, was reported back from the banking and currency committee, and recommitted. The remainder of the day was consumed in discussing the bill to enable the Southern States to form valid State governments.

SATURDAY, Jan. 19.—In the Senate, a bill of the last session providing for the selection of League Island as a depot for iron-clads was reported back from the naval committee, and ordered to be printed. The bankrupt bill was taken up, read, and considered. The House disposed of several private bills, after which the subject of reconstruction was discussed, but no result arrived at.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16.—Both houses met in convention and proceeded to vote for United States Senator. The vote, however was about the same as on the previous day, and, therefore, no choice was made. The committee on elections reported that Dr. Ohr was not duly elected a Senator from Allegany county, and that Colonel Spates, the contestant, was entitled to his seat. The report was made the order of the day for Tuesday next.—Among the bills reported was one appropriating $5 000 to erect a monument over the remains of the late Chief Justice Taney. In the House of Delegates a bill was reported to establish a militia system for the State. The bill to provide for the calling of a convention to frame a new constitution was taken up, and an amendment was adopted, after a spirited debate, prohibiting the legislature from payment by the State for emancipated slaves. An amendment is also pending providing that the basis of representation in convention shall be the same as in the present General Assembly, with one member added to each of the twelve smaller counties.

THURSDAY, Jan. 17.—The two houses again assembled in joint convention to vote, *viva voce*, for an United States Senator, but without a choice being made.—In the House the consideration of the bill to call a new constitutional convention was resumed and debated until adjournment. Nothing of much interest was done in the Senate. The bill to pay extra compensation to mail pay agents was defeated, the enacting clause having been stricken out. A motion was made to take up the bill to repeal the law requiring an U. S. Senator to be taken from the Eastern Shore, pending which the Senate adjourned.

FRIDAY, Jan. 18.—Both houses again met in joint session, and voted for an U. S. Senator, with the result of the previous day. Robert Fowler, Esq. was re-elected State Treasurer for two years. Nothing of importance transacted in the Senate. Among the petitions presented in the House was one from the Corn and Flour Exchange & Board of Trade of Baltimore asking for an appropriation to aid in supporting an ice-boat, to keep the harbor of that port open. The bill to repeal the act authorizing colored persons convicted of crime to be sold for a term of years was passed unanimously. The consideration of the bill to call a convention to frame a new constitution and form of government was again taken up and discussed until the hour of adjournment.

SATURDAY, Jan. 19.—After an unsuccessful vote for U. S Senator, both houses appointed a joint committee to consider the best means of keeping the harbor of Baltimore and the Chesapeake bay open to navigation. Several bills were reported in the House, among them one to amend the law establishing a police force for Baltimore city. It provides for three commissioners, one from each legislative district, to be chosen by the legislature, who shall constitute the police board, without the mayor. A bill was reported in the Senate appropriating $5,000 to aid in procuring a building for the Maryland Disabled Soldiers' Home. The finance committee reported unfavorably on the resolution to suspend the payment of bounties to enlisted slaves, as provided for by the act of 1864.

To all those who think that the South is subdued in spirit, and are ready to be admitted to their former relations in the Union, without guarantees for future peace, we make room for the following extract from the *Southern Vindicator* published at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and copied on the editorial page of the Richmond *Times*:

"I am not inclined to be an assassin, but if to destroy a tyrant is assassination, then I would destroy the tyrant.

"And it has been proved President Lincoln was the elected head and voluntary servant of the Radicals, who proposed the destruction of the South, and in a measure succeeded in their hellish designs.

"I was opposed to and fought against Lincoln and his tyranny and ever will.

"When the news of his death *reached me I rejoiced.*

"When I learned that a man who never identified himself with the Confederate cause struck the tyrant low, I thanked God that he had selected an instrument from the heart of Radicalism, right under the tyrant's guns, to deprive America of a Radical tool.

"And when I laid down my arms, after a bloody struggle for independence, *I thanked God from the fullness of my heart that Abraham Lincoln did not live to mock our misery.*"

It is well for loyal men to reflect seriously over these exhibitions of wicked temper—these diabolical but consistent expressions of hatred toward the Northern people, and the memory of those held sacred by the lovers of American liberty and nationality.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.—We were gratified to see, on Monday, that some of our most enterprising citizens were engaged in removing the snow and ice from their pavements that had become very compact and slippery. We hope the remainder will follow their example, and thus render the walking more pleasant and less irksome to pedestrians.

AN APOLOGY.—We are due our readers an apology for the illegible appearance of our paper this week. The extremely cold weather rendered our rollers very hard and unfit for service. We will endeavor to supply their places with new ones ere another publication day arrives, and atone for this week's deficiency.

ENLARGEMENT.—Our most estimable exchange, the Dorchester *News*, published at Cambridge, Md., by Kerr & Jones, came to us this week in an enlarged form and improved appearance. We hope they will meet with success commensurate to their undertaking.

DIRECTORS.—Wm. H. Groome, James Dixon, Wm. R. Hughlett, Peregrine Groom, J. L Adkins, M. M Dawson, Samuel Hambleton, J. H. Harrison, and Nicholas Orem have been elected directors of the Easton National Bank of Maryland, Easton, Talbot county, for the present year.

No mails from Baltimore on Tuesday, and consequently we have no legislative proceedings of Monday.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The adjourned term of the Circuit Court for this county will commence its sessions in this place on Monday next, the 28th instant.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Mr. Editor:—In your editorial strictures upon the acts of Senator Davis, published in the last issue of the *Union*, I think you used his name unjustly. It was, no doubt, unintentional upon your part, owing to a misapprehension of the facts. Instead of the Dorchester and Del. Rail Road being confined to the limits of Dorchester, the proposed line, as adopted by the board of directors, crosses the territory of Caroline three or four miles above the lower end of the county. And instead of Senator Davis being engaged in legislation for the town of Federalsburg in this matter of changing the appropriation from the Choptank to the Dorchester and Delaware Rail Road, he is actually using his efforts to secure the material interests of nearly, if not quite, one-half of the people of Caroline county, admitting the fact, which can scarcely be doubted, that the Choptank and Mispillion road will never be built. If Mr. Davis is never more at fault in the charge of partial legislation than in this particular case, I am sure there will be no difficulty whatever in vindicating himself from the charge; and when wheighed in the balance of public opinion, he will not be found wanting. Lack an intention as a matter of

STRICT JUSTICE.

Federalsburg, Jan 22d 1867.

[Our editorial remarks, in our last issue, in reference to Mr. Davis, were not based alone on this attempt to transfer the appropriation granted to this county to the Dorchester Rail Road Company.—We had other reasons, or we would not have made the assertion. In regard to the non-completion of the Choptank and Mispillion road, we have only to remark that the same was predicted of the Delaware and Maryland road, and yet its completion is now reduced to a certainty. The former may not be finished for years to come, yet when our State assumes a more inviting prospect for immigration, it is then we expect to see it completed.—Until that time let the appropriation remain where it is, and when it shall come, it will "materially" add towards the completion of the road. We were laboring under a misapprehension as to the exact location of the road, and are thankful for the correction. However, a distance of three or four miles is of little consequence. A railroad passing through one corner of the county cannot, neither will it, be, with all due defference to our correspondent, of as "material interest to the majority of the people" of this county, as one passing nearly to the centre of it. The Choptank and Mispillion road will extend twice as far into the *heart* of our county, as the Dorchester road will through the "lower end" of it, and must, therefore, be of greater advantage to a majority of our citizens. We have no doubt but that the Dorchester road would be of "material interest" to the people of Federalsburg, but will it be to the county at large? We have not been prompted to the course we have pursued in this matter through any ill will to Mr Davis, but because we thought and still think we are maintaining the interests of a majority of our citizens, which, as a public journalist, we are expected to do. On the contrary, we entertain the highest opinions of him as a moral and upright gentleman. We would be pleased to hear from persons in other parts of the county in relation to this subject.—ED.]

JUDGE BUSTEED ON THE AMENDMENT.—It was lately asserted in a Mississippi paper that Judge Busteed had declared at a dinner table that, though as Judge, he was for the Constitutional Amendment as a private citizen he is opposed to it.—Upon this the Judge writes to the Mobile Advertiser, denying that he has said anything of the sort, and adds:

"Let it be understood, to avoid by a jot the issue that is tendered, I here repeat in my capacity of an American citizen, what, in another character, was elsewhere declared by me. I believe the proposed Amendments to the Federal Constitution to be liberal, just and wise, and I further believe that before the lapse of twelve months a vast majority of the people in the Southern States will be of this way of thinking, and will reward with their gratitude and confidence, the men who are patriotic and brave enough to encounter the prejudices of a section and an hour in the attempt to secure to the whole country enduring peace and substantial prosperity."

EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY.—A Richmond paper contains the following:

"Aunt Milly," a colored woman, formerly belonging to Capt. Jas M. Harris, residing near Rockfish Gap, in Nelson county, Va., died at the residence of that gentleman on the 7th instant, in the 136th year of her age. She was born in 1731, in the beginning of the reign of George II. She was a contemporary of Pope, Swift and Bolingbroke—though probably she never heard of them. A colored woman, named Caroline James, died in Richmond on Tuesday, at the advanced age of 130 years. She was married but once, and was the mother of thirty-five children. She was a slave until the evacuation of Richmond, and was the property at that time of Mr. D. Benjamin Pitcher.

President's House on Fire.

The Conservatory Burned—Destruction of Rare Plants—Extensive Damages, &c. &c.

The Washington *Star* of Friday says: This morning, a few minutes before eight o'clock, dense smoke being seen issuing from the western end of the conservatory, adjoining the Executive Mansion, one of the guards on duty there discharged his musket, thus giving an alarm, which was taken up by others. An effort was made to turn in a fire alarm from the corner of New York avenue and fifteenth street, but this proving unsuccessful it was given from Willard's Hotel. The apparatus of the large bells being out of order on account of the cold weather freezing the oil on the striking machinery, the companies could not be informed of the fire, the bells failing to strike by machinery at the central office. A messenger was immediately dispatched to the engine houses, and in a short time the different city and government engines were on the ground and attaching to plugs in front of the mansion and at the Treasury Department. In a short time the hook and ladder company was on the ground, and their ladders placed in position to reach the interior of the conservatory. Although the water almost froze in the hose attached to the engines, they went manfully to work.—Chief Engineer Dixon, of the government department, and Chief Engineer Sessford, of the city fire department, were soon at the fire, and, with Secretary Stanton, Assistant Quartermaster General Rucker, and Major B. B. French, commissioner of public buildings, did all in their power to prevent the spread of the flames. In a short time the engines had streams on the fire, and, after battling for some time the flames were subdued, though not until the plants had been destroyed by the heat and smoke.

The conservatory of the Executive Mansion was formerly on the east side of the building, but during the administration of President Buchanan it was torn down, and the new one erected on the west side, over the row of one-story buildings used for the storage of wood and coal, the roofs of which were of copper; the floor of the conservatory was erected over this, leaving a space of about two feet between the floor and old roof, in which space the flues for heating the conservatory were laid.—The fire was first discovered immediately over the boiler, and, it is thought, originated from a defective flue. The firemen were compelled to tear up the doors of the conservatory in order to reach the flames, and thus they had to work for two hours before they could get the control of them. The weather being exceedingly cold, rendered it very difficult for the firemen to work effectively; but they were true to their duty, and manfully fought the flames until subdued. Many of the firemen and policemen worked until their clothes were frozen on them, trying to reach the fire.—Mr. A. C Smith, a special police under Commissioner French, on duty at the Executive Mansion, with the pipe of one of the engines, stood by the flames until he was nearly suffocated, and fell. He was then taken away, and the services of a surgeon procured, with beneficial results.—One of the members of the Hibernia fell through the roof, but fortunately escaped with a few scratches.

The loss will probably reach two or three hundred thousand dollars. Many of the plants were very rare, and have been accumulted for the past fifteen years—they cannot be replaced for any sum. Among the rare plants destroyed was a very large lemon tree, four 8 rubigia Regina, in full bloom, the largest plants in America; a Pandanus Odorata, or Screw Pine, very rare and large; one Cycus Revoluta, imported during the administration of General Washington, and a very large number of Camelia Japonicus, the finest in this country.

Vessels Destroyed During the War.

A table from the War Department shows the names and character of the various boats destroyed on the Mississippi river and its tributaries from May 1st, 1861, to the surrender of Kirby Smith and the cessation of hostilities, June 24, 1865. An examination of this table shows that most of the boats were steamers, perhaps one-tenth being tug-boats, &c. The following is a summary of the table of boats destroyed by the casualties of war: Captured and burned by the United States forces, twenty-four, valued at or alleged to be worth six hundred and eighty-six thousand dollars; captured and burned by the rebel forces, nineteen, valued at five hundred and eighteen thousand five hundred dollars; burned by the United States forces to prevent capture, ten, valued at two hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars; burned by rebel forces to prevent capture, thirty-nine, valued at one million two hundred and thirty nine thousand dollars; sunk by rebels to obstruct channels, twenty-three, valued at eight hundred and forty six thousand five hundred dollars; captured and burned by guerillas, twenty eight, valued at three hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars. The summary with regard to boats destroyed by accidental causes, is as follows: Burned by rebel incendiaries, twenty nine, valued at eight hundred and ninety-one thousand dollars; by striking snags, sixty-five, valued at one million five hundred and forty thousand dollars; by sundry accidents, twenty-eight, valued at five hundred and seventy-two thousand dollars; by collisions, seven, valued at one hundred and thirteen thousand dollars; by explosion of boilers, nine, valued at two hundred and three thousand five hundred dollars; burned accidentally, forty-six, valued at one million thirty-five thousand five hundred dollars. The table further shows that thirty-four boats were lost in 1861, eighty-three in 1862, seventy-six in 1863, ninety-eight in 1864, and thirty-six in 1865. The aggregate of these figures is three hundred and twenty-seven boats destroyed, with tonage of one hundred and fifty-two thousand four tons, valued, as alleged, at two hundred and fifty [illegible] lars.

A TWENTY YEARS' W[illegible] ville Journal contains t[illegible]

Two families of Cart[illegible] Tennessee, named Rob[illegible] have been waging a blood[illegible] each other for twenty years. [illegible] time fourteen men belongi[illegible] families have lost their lives [illegible] evening of the 5th instant. [illegible] Tennessee, the soul survivin[illegible] the two families engaged in [illegible] tion, which resulted fatally to i[illegible] domestic war originated over a dozen years ago [illegible] rails.

SALE OF FINE PROPERTY.—The executors of the estate of the late Hon. [illegible] May have sold "The Villa," in this [illegible]y, to Addison Randall, Esq., of [illegible]dalstown, Baltimore county, for [illegible] $60,000. The Villa is one of the [illegible]ountry seats in the United [illegible] with its surrounding two hundred [illegible] land originally cost $110,000.—*St. Michael's Comet.*

CONFLICT OF OPINIONS.—Judith, of Richmond, Va., de[illegible] Virginia stay law is uncon[illegible] Judge Baker, of the Norfolk [illegible] rules that it is constitutional.

Baltimore Grain Markets.

[CORRECTED WEEKLY.]

WHEAT—White,	$3 25 3 3
" Red,	3 00a3.1(
CORN—new White,	1 03a1 05
"new Yellow,	1 01a1,03
RYE,	1,25a1.28
OATS,	60a62

New Advertisemen

SEINE TWINE for sale at [illegible] [jn24 2m.] B. G. STEVENS.

BEST GILLING TWINE at [illegible] [jan24-2m.] B G. STEVENS.

COAL OIL! COAL OIL! at B. G [illegible]VENS, at 65 cts per gallon. [jn24-

NOTICE.

I HAVE placed in the hands of Wm. [illegible] Esq., for collection, sundry claims from citizens of the last election district persons indebted to me, residing in the named district, will pay to Mr. Wix treen of their indebtedness upon the presentation their bills, and thereby save costs.

jan24-3t. J. H. EMERSON

Commissioners' Notice.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,
DENTON, January 24th, 1867

THE Commissioners will meet in their office on MONDAY and TUESDAY next, for the purpose of appointing overseer's for the several roads in this county, and to attend to any other business pertaining to their office.

By order,

jan24-1t. WM. H. CHARLES, CLERK.

ESTRAY.



I have now in my possession THREE HOGS—two of them white, supposed to weigh 100 pounds live weight, without ear marks, both barrows. The other is a black and spotted boar, supposed to weigh about 130 pounds, with left ear cut off rounding. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take them away.

jan24-3t GEORGE SPURRY.

Notice to Creditors.

THIS is to give notice that the subscribers have obtained from the Orphans' Court of Caroline county, Md., letters of administration on the personal estate of

E H CHAFFINCH

late of said county deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to be subscribers on or before the 23d day of July, 1867, or they may otherwise, by law, be excluded from all benefit of said estate. All persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment.

Given under our hand this 22d day of January, 1867. S. I. CHAFFINCH and ELIZABETH CHAFFINCH, Administrators.

jan24-3t.

Notice to Creditors.

ALL persons indebted to the late firm of [illegible] G. Stevens & Co. on note or book account are requested to come forward and make immediate settlement. Persons having business with me will find me at Potters' Landing, all days during the week except Tuesdays, and on Tuesdays I will be in Denton, where I will be prepared to attend to business.

ROB'T M. MESSICK.

Potter's Landing, Jan. 21st, 1867-2mo.

Notice to Creditors.

THIS is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Caroline county, Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of

CHARLES HICKMAN,

late of said county deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber on or before the 15th day of July, 1867, or they may otherwise, by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate. All persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment.

Given under my hand this 15th day of January, 1867. WM. LOCKERMAN.

jan17-3t Administrator.

NOTICE.

MY wife, LOUISA McGEE, having [illegible] ded and board without just provocation on my part, I forwarn all persons from harboring or trusting her on my account.

jan10-3t* WM. McGEE.

SOZODONT for cleansing, whitening and preserving the Teeth, at [illegible]

sep21 ALBRIGER & SON'S.

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