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The Planters' Advocate.

UPPER MARLBOROUGH:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY.....1, 1857.

CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.

THE Democratic and Anti-Know-Nothing voters in the several counties comprising the Sixth Congressional District, and all who are disposed to act with them upon the present political issues, are requested (at such time and in such manner as may be determined on in each county) to appoint delegates to represent the said counties in a Congressional Convention recommended to be held at Bladensburg, on Tuesday, the 28th day of July next, to nominate a candidate for Congress.

The papers of the Sixth Congressional District requested to copy.

☞ We observe that the county convention of the Anti-Know-Nothings of Anne Arundel, which met at Annapolis on the 20th ultimo, took some action in reference to a Congressional nomination, looking towards the security of harmony and union after a nomination shall have been made. A preamble was adopted which sets forth that looking to the present condition of parties in Congress, when a few changes may give the mastery of the House to one or the other, it may be a matter of the last importance that our district should be represented by one who is friendly to the present safe and conservative administration, and to the principles upon which it came into power; that in view of this it is important that we should have harmony in the district, so that when a candidate shall be nominated he shall represent the undivided strength of the whole party. It is therefore resolved that a letter be addressed to the several gentlemen who have been named in connection with the nomination, to ascertain, whether they are willing to abide by the action of the Congressional Convention, and that their replies shall be laid before that body. The Anne Arundel delegation was also instructed to vote for no one who shall not be pledged, either by letter or by friends, to submit to the decision of the Convention. To interrogate gentlemen whose names have been merely suggested may not be altogether an approved precedent, but we apprehend no one who is a candidate will object to complying with the demand, for the reason that we do not suppose any one of them would be willing so far to hazard the cause as to disregard the Convention's decision. Our Anne Arundel friends named the 27th of August next as a proper day for the Congressional Convention, but as the 28th of this month had been previously suggested in several counties, we presume the latter day will be agreed on.

☞ We observe in the *Port Tobacco Times* the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of Nanjemoy District in Charles County, recently held for the purpose of taking some action looking towards "the better government as well as the amelioration of the wretched, idle and vicious free negroes and mulattoes" that infest the community. This result, well calculated to prove to the advantage of the vagabonds in question not less than to that of the whites, is proposed to be accomplished by a voluntary organization of the latter, which shall force the former to show how they make a living, and by compelling those who wont show their hands to go to work as the organization shall determine; and also by aiding the officers of the law in the discharge of their duty in the premises, &c. To the successful working of which plan the citizens pledge each to the other their time and means. It was resolved that notice be given all free negroes and mulattoes, now living in a state of idleness, that they are required to secure themselves permanent homes, and to satisfy a committee that such homes have been actually secured, and all who may disregard this requirement, and who, by the 17th day of July, are found not to have complied therewith, be set up at some public place in the neighborhood, to the highest bidder, for the residue of the year; and the person who becomes the hirer shall give note and security, to be placed in the hands of the committee, to be safely kept until the end of the year, at which time it shall be handed over to said negro; provided, however, that any negro who may abscond, or voluntarily withdraw from the service of his employer, forfeits all claim to said note; but the committee may in their discretion allow said negro what they may think reasonable and fair, which amount is to be made out of the note.

Several committees were appointed to carry out the plan as adopted. This problem of the free-negro population is becoming daily of increased importance in all those portions of Maryland where the slaves are numerous, and there is no locality whence we do not hear of the same sort of troubles and complaints. It is getting to be understood that the toleration of large numbers of free-blacks, rapidly increasing, is incompatible with the interests of a slaveholding community. It would have been well if public attention had been thoroughly awakened to the abnormal position of this class, years ago: it would have saved trouble both to them and to the slaveholders; and it may be doubted whether the inadequate legislation in this behalf has hitherto been of any service. The matter is bound in the end to come to a decision, when it must be determined that free negroes and slave negroes cannot subsist satisfactorily in the same community, and when some adequate steps will have to be taken to remove the former from our midst. Their injurious effect can hardly be calculated, and the sooner we have a clearing out the better. In common with all who respect the principles of jurisprudence we have great regard for the "vested rights" and interests of all manner of people, but there are certain paramount duties which every community owes to itself, for the protection of its leading interests, that must sometimes override the lesser interests; and, in accordance with this principle, our Bill of Rights expressly reserves to the Legislature, by an exceptive clause, the power of such absolute "disposition" of the free-colored population as shall be "necessary"—this reservation being in the nature of an exception to the general article which declares that "no free man ought to be disseized of his privileges," &c. This indeed seems to contemplate some such sweeping Legislation in the premises as, we are inclined to think, will eventually be necessary. And we see no reason but that a thorough reform may be accomplished without violating any of the "rights" with which the most fastidious may imagine the free negro be "vested."

EX-PRESIDENT FRANKLIN PIERCE and Senator MASON, of Virginia, are traveling together through the lake and mountain districts of New Hampshire.

Rumor asserts very strongly that Mr. BEVERLY TUCKER has been appointed to the lucrative office of United States Marshal for the District of Columbia.

Mr. DOUGLAS'S GREAT SPEECH.

Our readers have no doubt seen frequent mention in the papers of late of a great speech recently made by STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, in the State House at Springfield, Illinois, at the request of the grand jury in attendance there upon the Federal Court. The topics discussed by him were Kansas, Dred Scott and Utah. A report of his speech is now very generally publishing by the press throughout the country, and it will be everywhere read with great avidity. It may be added that it will well repay the eager interest with which it will be perused, for it is a manly, fearless, clear and most able exposition of the speaker's well known views of the questions touched upon. And it is a document that will beyond question do great service in liberalizing Northern opinion. Fanaticism and negro-worshipping have perhaps never before received such a terrible exposure. Its mild and cautious tone and the calm cojency of its facts and arguments must also tend to justify the Senator's course before the Northern people.

Upon the Kansas question he deems it necessary to say but little—reaffirming his confidence in his original positions as contained in the organizing act and appealing to the present state of the Territory as well as to public opinion for the correctness and justice of the principle of self-sovereignty. He congratulates the country upon the restoration of peace there; says the question of slavery is now solely in the hands of its *bona fide* settlers, and ridicules the movements of the "Free State" party there, acting as they are pulled by GREELEY, WILSON and others, who think to defeat the adoption of a State Constitution by absenting themselves from the election, having no agency in the Constitutional Convention, &c. These Free-Staters, and indeed all the Black Republican leaders, maintain that nine-tenths of the people are with them. If so, says Mr. DOUGLAS, why don't they go in, control the elections, and form a Free State Constitution? Why will they keep up the treasonable farce of the Topeka government, when they can legitimately have their own way—*except* that they will die rather than have Kansas organized *at all* under the Act of 1854, and prefer to keep up the agitation there for political effect? He says that the Democratic party is pledged, and *will see to it*, that the Territory shall be organized as a *bona fide* majority shall determine—independent of the traitors and agitators who thus stand aloof to keep alive the embers of discord.

The speaker also discussed at much length the Dred Scott case, reviewing and thoroughly sustaining the decision of the Court, and passing a very high eulogium upon the integrity and wisdom of the supreme bench. In this connection he principally enlarges upon that branch of the decision which declares that no negro can be a *citizen* of the United States, which he fully sustains as sound doctrine. In arguing to such a conclusion he is brought face to face with the pretence of the Black Republicans, that this decision overthrows the Declaration of Independence, which declares all men to be born free and equal. He proceeds at considerable length to show their deduction is a false one, and that they misconstrue the Declaration when they infer from it the equality of the black race with the white. He shows to what monstrous conclusions and effects such a dogma would lead, and how it *logically* end, in a *social* as well as political equalization of the two. He maintains that the equality asserted by the Declaration was the equality of white men, and in support of this he makes an argument of singular force, a portion of which is subjoined below.

Concerning Utah and the Mormons, Mr. DOUGLAS favors a repeal of the part of the act of 1850 which organized that Territory. He seems to admit that so long as Utah remains a *Territory*, laid out with the *right* of becoming a State under the Constitution, she is entitled to the benefit of the popular sovereignty doctrine to which every other Territory is entitled. But, he argues, Congress is not obliged to connect all the *land* we may possess into the *form* of Territories with Territorial rights. It has the power, if it shall choose, to repeal the organic law and to place the Utah Territories in the position of lands owned by the government, *under the exclusive control of Congress*, in which position they will not be entitled to those rights which they have as long as they are in the "line of succession" as a State. He favors the repeal of the organic law, because the people of Utah are mostly unnaturalized, have *refused to be* naturalized, have defied the government and aimed to overthrow its authority—thus placing themselves in the position of alien enemies. This is but a mere outline of his lengthy and elaborate argument. The whole speech should have the careful attention of every citizen.

We append a portion of his argument concerning negro-equality, and the true meaning of the Declaration of Independence, above referred to. He says:

"To show how shallow is the pretence that the Declaration of Independence had reference to, or included, the negro race when it declared all men created equal, it is only necessary to refer to a few historical facts, recorded in our school-books, and familiar to our children.

"On the 4th of July, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was promulgated to the world, African slavery existed in each one of the thirteen colonies.—Every signer of the Declaration of Independence was elected by, and represented, a slaveholding constituency. Every battle of the Revolution, from Lexington and Bunker Hill to King's Mountain and Yorktown, was fought in a slaveholding State.

"The treaty of peace acknowleding and confirming the Independence of the United States was made and signed on behalf of Great Britain of the one part, and of the thirteen slaveholding States on the other.

"The Constitution of the United States, under which we now live so happily, and have grown so great and powerful, and which we all profess to cherish and venerate, was formed, adopted and put in operation by the people of twelve slaveholding States and one free State—slavery having disappeared from Massachusetts about that time, under the operation of the great fundamental principle of self-government, which recognizes the right of each State and Colony to regulate its own domestic and local affairs.

"In view of these incontrovertible facts, can any sane man believe that the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and the heroes who fought the battles of the Revolution, and the sages who laid the foundation of our complex system of Federal and State Governments, intended to place the negro race on an equal footing with the white race? If such had been their purpose, would they not have abolished slavery, and converted every negro into a citizen on the day on which they put forth the Declaration of Independence? Did they do it? Did any of the thirteen States abolish slavery—much less place the negro on an equality with the white man, during the whole Revolutionary struggle? History records the emphatic answer—No. Not one of the original States abolished slavery during the Revolution, nor has any one of them, at any time since, extended to the African race all the rights and privileges of citizenship on terms of entire equality with the white man.

"No one can vindicate the character, motives and conduct of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, except upon the hypothesis that they referred to the white race alone, and not to the African, when they declared all men to have been created equal—that they were speaking of British subjects on this continent being equal to British subjects born and residing in Great Britain—that they were entitled to the same inalienable rights, and among them were enumerated life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The declaration was adopted for the purpose of justifying the colonists in the eyes of the world in withdrawing their allegiance from the British Crown and dissolving their connection with the mother country. In this point of view the Declaration of Independence is in perfect harmony with all the events of the Revolution, and the line of policy pursued under the Articles of Confederation, and the principles embodied and established in the Federal Constitution. The history of the times clearly shows that the negroes were regarded as an inferior race, who in all ages, and in every part of the globe, and under the most favorable circumstances, had shown themselves incapable of self-government, and, consequently, under the protection of those who were capable of providing for and protecting them in the exercise of all the rights they were capable of enjoying, consistent with the good and safety of society. It is on this principle that in all civilized and Christian countries the government provides for the protection of the insane, the lunatic, the idiotic and all other unfortunates who are incompetent to take care of themselves. It does not follow, by any means, that because the negro race are incipable of governing themselves, that therefore they should become slaves and be treated as such. The safe rule upon that subject, I apprehend to be this: that the African race should be allowed to exercise all the rights and privileges which they are capable of enjoying, consistent with the welfare of the community in which they reside; and that under our form of government, the people of each State and Territory must be allowed to determine for themselves the nature and extent of those privileges."

Gov. Wise's Letter.

HENRY A. WISE, the chivalrous Governor of Virginia, sent the following *live* letter in reply to an invitation to attend the celebration at Boston, on the 17th ultimo:

RICHMOND, Va., May 25, 1857.

SIR—I beg you to thank the committee for their invitation to me to attend their celebration of the eighty-second anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, on the 17th June next, and to express my regret at my inability to attend. Public duties, at that time especially to be discharged, will prevent my leaving Virginia. Coming through you, sir—a Warren—this invitation is very acceptable to me; for though this Union shall be torn—if it must be—by some madness or other, and though the sun of our destiny as a nation shall set in gloom and a night of darkness, and though fratricidal blood shall flow by the hand of folly and stain the hearths of our homes hereafter, I can never forget old Massachusetts—her Bunker Hill, her Warrens, her Adams, her Hancock—her hail—her sister hail—once to Virginia—in "times which tried men's souls." No, never, never, never! May God revive our revolutionary feelings.

Very gratefully, yours,
HENRY A. WISE.

Charles County Affairs.

We copy the following items from the last number of the Port Tobacco *Times*:

Fourth of July.—In Port Tobacco the usual observance of this great national holyday will take place at the court house. Dr. PETER W. HAWKINS will read the Declaration, and BARNES COMPTON, Esq., deliver the oration.

Resignation.—We understand that F. B. F. BURGESS, Esq., resigned his seat, as one of the Judges of our Orphan's Court, on Tuesday.—The vacancy, we presume, will be filled, for the balance of the term, by the Governor.

Damage by Storms.—We hear that much damage has been done to the growing crops of tobacco and corn by the violent storms that have visited portions of our county within the last two weeks. One gentleman in Pomonkey had an entire field of tobacco swept off by the floods of rain on Sunday last. In the same neigborhood a barn was blown down on Wednesday week.—Near Piscataway, we understand, the hail on Sunday greatly injured the crops of wheat and corn. This has been truly a season of violent storms; but as yet our immediate vicinity has not been visited by any that has caused a complaint.

THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR.—Captain DRAYTON, who, it will be remembered, attempted to carry away seventy slaves from Washington in the schooner Pearl, in 1848, and was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment and pardoned after four years' incarceration, committed suicide at New Bedford, Massachusetts, on the 24th ultimo.

Drayton, it appears, unable again to obtain employment in the line of his profession as a sea captain, has been travelling through the free States selling his personal narrative and other anti-slavery works, and speaking in various places. It seems his reward was not commensurate with his zeal, and in despair he ended his life. He leaves a widow and several children.—This is another illustration of the folly of a man's leaving his legitimate pursuits to embark in schemes of philanthropy unsanctioned by law.

THE AUGUST ELECTIONS.—The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, speaking of the importance of the August elections, says:

The August elections are looked to with much interest as being likely to determine the political character of Congress for the next two years.—In Kentucky the contest will be very animated between the Democrats and the Americans. But it is confidently asserted that the Democrats will not lose more than two of the eight Congressional districts.

GREAT RACE AT ALBANY.—A race for $2,000 a side came off on Wednesday afternoon, between the Dalton horse, owned there, and the Taylor horse, owned in New York. The distance was twenty miles, in harness. The Dalton horse made a waiting race for seventeen miles, laying close to Taylor's quarter and taking it easy, and at the eighteenth mile Dalton drew ahead and maintained it for a mile, when Taylor ran past him, going in a few lengths ahead. The time for traveling twenty miles was one hour, twelve minutes and fifty-four seconds. The judges decided in favor of Dalton, who gets the stakes in consequence of Taylor's horse running.

The horses are matched for a fifty mile race to come off at New York.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.—Rev. Dr. BALCH, the pastor of Christ Church, in Baltimore, has been elected principal of St. John's College, at Annapolis. Should he consent to accept the honor thus conferred upon him, his large congregation in that city will loose an able and accomplished pastor. Judge Mason, the collector of that port, has also been elected a visitor and governor of the college.

THE HON. LANGDON CHEVES, a distinguished citizen of South Carolina, died at Columbia on the 25th ultimo, aged 81 years. The deceased was a member of Congress as far back as 1811, and two years Speaker of the House, when he gave the casting vote against the recharter of the United States Bank, of which institution he was the president for several years.

A hogshead of tobacco sold in Richmond, Va., on Saturday last at $100 per hundred pounds. This is considered possibly the highest price yet obtained in Virginia for tobacco in the leaf. It was grown by Dr. A. G. READ, of Roanoke, immediately upon the line of the Virginia and Tennessee Road.

Herrings, says the *Union*, once considered *common* food, because of their cheapness, now hold a respectable place in the list of prices current. The "Potomac robins" are now quoted at from twenty to thirty-one cents a dozen, about the price of twelve eggs.

There are daily arriving and departing from the Depot of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, at Cumberland, *fifty three trains of cars per day*; forty-one of which are over the Baltimore and Ohio road; six over the Cumberland Coal and Iron Company's road, and six over the Cumberland and Pennsylvania road.

DEATH OF AN EX-CONGRESSMAN.—Hon. Zeno SCUDDER, formerly president of Massachusetts senate, and a member of the 32d and 33d Congress, from the first district of that State, died on Friday in Barnstable. He began life as a democrat, then became a whig and then a republican. He was about 60 years old.

ALFRED P. JUMP, Esq., in a neat valedictory, retires from the editorial charge of the Easton *Gazette*. The paper will hereafter be conducted by WILLIAM H. COUNCELL, Esq.

Sentor Mason of Virginia.

This gentleman, who spent the past week in Boston, seems to have created a very favorable impression among the Northern people. On Saturdy, in company with Mayor Rice, he visited the public schools of the city, and in the afternoon inspected the factories at Lowell. The *Post* says:

His genial and affable manners, his generous estimate of all he saw and heard, and his gratification at the frank and cordial civilities offered to him on all hands—by public authorities and individuals—were circumstances, to host and guest, which imparted unalloyed gratification to the parties interested. The speech of the honorable gentleman at Bunker Hill was appropriate, eloquent and national, and has received the warmest commendation; in his occasional brief addresses on various occasions during his sojourn—at Deer Island, at the Revere House, and at private tables where he had been called upon to acknowledge compliments to himself and to his State—he has exhibited a gracefulness of thought, and a flowing, colloquial, feeling diction, which have rendered his voice the most charming part of the numerous agreeable festive courtesies extended to him. He will leave many newly formed acquaintances in Boston who will cherish the recollection of his visit as among the most pleasing records of their memory; and we are sure he will return to his own home with convictions in favor of men and facts here which will give additional ardor to his love for the Union, and increased strength to that fraternal feeling which is the only link that can render our nationality indissoluble.

EXTRAORDINARY METEORIC PHENOMENON.—A letter dated Carbondale, Pa., June 20, mentions a startling phenomenon which is said to have taken place there about sunset that evening. It says:

A large cloud was seen making its appearance, coming from the northwest, accompanied by considerable wind. When near the place a dark-looking cloud, or substance, was seen to leave the cloud and make directly for the earth. So soon as it struck the ground, contrary to all expectation, it became highly luminious. Making directly for a large barn that stood in the field, it passed through the centre, setting it on fire, and continued its course, gaining in velocity as far as the eye could reach, making a straight course for the woods, melting stones of considerable size, and burning up brush and underwood, making a complete road, of a rod or more in width, for the distance of three miles, finally fetching up against a perpendicular breast of solid anthracite coal of 60 feet in thickness, proving rather too much for its cometship, leaving nothing but a sulphurous mass behind.

This is a pretty fair story, but we doubt if any respectable comet would have ventured upon the earth with such a *tale*.

THE HEALTH OF GEN. WOOL.—We are happy to learn that the health of Gen. Wool has greatly improved. A letter from Troy, N. Y., dated Friday evening, says:

"The General is now *entirely out of danger*.—The crisis of his disease arrived on Tuesday morning, at which time Dr. McNaughton, of Albany, and Dr. Watkins, mayor of this city, were called in to counsil and advise with the general's regular physician, Dr. Thorn, who had been attending to him alone since the Sunday previous. During the whole of Tuesday the general's life hung in the balance of uncertainty, but towards evening he improved and was then out of immediate danger. Since that time there has been no relapse, and he has been gradually getting better, and even yesterday a return of the disease was considered almost out of the question. This morning he was sitting up in a chair. His recovery has been almost as sudden as his illness."

THE GREAT EASTERN.—The Washington *States* publishes a letter from a gentleman in London to his friend in Washington, who says that Milford Haven has been definitely decided upon as the port of the Great Eastern on the British side of the Atlantic. Capitalists are now working a full force upon her, and she will be launched in August.

Capitalists, says the Richmond *Dispatch*, are investing in property in the town of Milford, which, in view of the steam ferry project, will, it is predicted, become a city of vast importance. Milford Haven is a deep inlet of the sea, in Wales, county of Pembroke. The town was founded in 1790, and has risen with great rapidity.

TYRE MAUPIN, Esq., editor of the Martinsburg (Va.) *Gazette*, died at that place on the 21st ult. The deceased was the founder and editor of the Harrisburg *Republican*, and conducted it for several years with much ability. He has since been connected with papers in Staunton and Richmond. He was also a fluent and forcible public speaker, and enjoyed a large measure of respect amongst his cotemporaries and the communities in which he resided.

PERSONAL COLLISION.—FREDERICK SCHLEY, Esq., of the *Examiner*, and BRADLY T. JOHNSON, Esq., of the *Union*, at Frederick, having lately got into a warm controversy through the columns of their respective journals, finally resorted to posting each other, which resulted on Wednesday in a personal collision, Mr. JOHNSON having attacked Mr. SCHLEY, striking him with a cane. They were separated, however, before either sustained any serious injury.

ENTHUSIASM FOR COL. GROOME.—A letter from Baltimore informs us says, the Cecil *Democrat*, that a Democratic meeting was held in Baltimore County, early in June, which was addressed by Dr. POWER and others, at which the Dr. made a happy allusion to Col. GROOME, which was received with the liveliest demonstrations of enthusiasm. With this name upon our standard the Democrats and Old Line Whigs will redeem Maryland from the domination of Plug Uglyism.

A SPECIAL MISSION.—The United States ship Decatur sailed from Panama on the 8th ult., to convey to San Juan del Sur Wm. Carey Jones Esq., who is intrusted with a special mission to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in behalf of our government, the nature of which, however, has not yet been made known. One point with which he is charged, it is supposed, is to negotiate for the reopening of the Nicaragua transit route to California.

ANOTHER HORSE FOR ENGLAND.—The Lexington (Kentucky) *Observer* learns that Mr. James K. Duke has sold his filly, Bonnie Lassie, to an agent of Mr. Ten Broeck for $5,000—the highest price, we believe, ever paid for a three-year-old in America. She goes immediately to England, where Mr. Ten Broeck proposes to test her speed against the best of Britain's three-year-olds.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF UTAH.—Col. Cumming, the new Governor of Utah, who is to put an end to the reign of "Brother Brigham," is said to be a gentleman of the exact type of character best suited to that most difficult and responsible post. Conversant with all phases of life and experienced in every degree of fortune, he is admirably adapted to exercise executive functions in the territory to which he has been appointed. Col. Cumming was at one time an extensive merchant in Augusta, Georgia, but failed. Removing to St. Louis, he established himself aa sutler to the forces stationed at Jefferson barracks, and was subsequently appointed Indian agent, the duties of which he discharged with great discretion and judgment.

LET THE LADIES BEWARE.—It is stated that lately some workmen fell sick in Paris in working on an apple-green silk dress. A piece of the silk was examined by a chemist, and it was found to have been colored with copper and arsenic. These substances adhered but slightly to the silk, were detached in handling, in the shape of powder, and was thus inhaled by the lungs. An order was issued prohibiting the future use of this kind of coloring matter. Many of these silks are supposed to have gone to the United States.

From the States of June 25.

Masonic Pilgrimage of St. John's Day to Mount Vernon.

The Masonic Fraternity, accompanied by about one hundred ladies, left this city yesterday at half past 10 a. m. in the steamboat George Washington. The whole consisted of nearly four hundred, and after touching at Alexandria to receive a deputation from Washington's own Lodge in that city, pursued its way prosperously to Mount Vernon. A fine looking and splendidly dressed deputation from the Richmond Commanders of Knights Templars, with the Richmond brass band were on board, the special guests of the Templars of Washington. Deputations from the Royal Arch Chapters under the jurisdiction of the Grand R. A. Chapter of Maryland and the District of Columbia, were also amongst the invited guest, and were specially ministered unto by Washington R. A. Chapter of this city.

On arriving at Mount Vernon, the Fraternity formed in procession and marched, with appropriate music from Withers' brass band, to the grave of the great and good Brother George Washington, when, after prayer by the Rev. J. N. McJilton, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, a most excellent address was delivered by Past Grand Master B. B. French. This address was full of interesting historical and biographical reminiscences of the masonic life of Washington, and will, no doubt, be printed by the Grand Lodge of this District. It would be supererogatory, therefore, to print it at length.

After Mr. French had concluded, six gentlemen, members of the Fraternity, sang, with admirable harmony, "Washington's Grave;" and the company was then dismissed, after an impressive prayer and benediction from the Rev. Mr. McJilton.

An hour was spent very profitably in sauntering near the grave and strolling through the house and over the grounds once familiar with the steps of *Pater Patriæ*, when all were again assembled on the bank of the Potomac to listen to an addrsss from the Rev. Brother A. F. N. Rolfe, of Prince George's County, Md. It is seldom that two addresses receive equal attention from the same audience; but the different styles of the respective orators rendered their success most striking. The address of the Rev. Mr. Rolfe was illustrative of the moral and benevolent operations and effect of Masonary, and the universal desire was expressed that it also should be published by the Grand Lodge. We must be allowed, however, to anticipate in our columns an incident related by Mr. Rolfe, which reflects great honor on St. John's Lodge of this city:

"An instance in point has come to my knowledge as gloriously completed this very day. A lady, living 3,000 miles or more away, left her husband to visit her friends in the East. He, as a precaution, provided her with the necessary proof of his being a member of the Fraternity in good standing. She, with four helpless children, fell a victim to outrages perpetrated by the pirates on the Isthmus of Panama, so recent and so well recollecte!, losing all the war lrobe of herself and children. She came to Washington to recover the damage she believed to have been provided by Congress. She found there was no such provision; she wanted friends—presented her credentials, and found friends in the Masons. All honor, &c., &c. I was privileged to witness the tear of gratitude as it started to the eyes when $150 was placed in her hands. She went on her way rejoicing. Three months past the money was returned in full by her husband, who spoke of this act as but one more link in that golden chain which binds us all in *one*."

During the interim betweem the addresses, a novel scene took place in front of the tomb of Washington. The Rev. Mr. McJilton, at the earnest request of the parents, baptised a little boy and girl; the first, a son of Mr. John Reese, of this city; the latter, a daughter of Mr. Wm. H. Bowen, of Baltimore.

Our worthy Mayor, a Past Grand Master of Masons, was sponsor on the occasion.

The young people were so transported with delight at witnessing such a solemn rite of the church performed under such interesting auspices, that very anxious looks were directed towards a pretty and affectionate couple, who would have gained a blissful immortality had they requested Brother McJilton to conclude with the marriage service. But Love was too blind to avail himself of circumstances.

Dinner was served on the boat; during which repast some three or four appropriate speeches were made by Mayor Magruder and others; and at a quarter past 5 p. m., the prow of our vessel began to cleave the turbid waters towards Washington, where we arrived safely soon after 7 o'clock.

The Virginia brethren were then escorted by the Washington Fraternity to 6th street wharf, where they embarked on the George Page.

Awful Calamity—Burning of the Steamer Montreal—Three Hundred Lives Lost—Many Others Wounded.

QUEBEC, June 27.—The steamer Montreal was burnt near Garonge, about 12 miles above this city, last night.

There were about 500 passengers on board, mainly Scotch emigrants, of whom only 175 to 200 were saved by the steamer Napoleon.

It is believed that many swam ashore and were saved in other ways, but it is certain that as many as two hundred perished in the flames or were drowned. Mr. Phillips, of Three Rivers, is among the dead. The captain of the Montreal, J. C. Radolph, and the crew, are among the saved.

The reporters have just returned from the steamer Napoleon, which has arrived with the saved. They are assured by those who were on board that the number of the lost will fully reach three hundred and fifty.

QUEBEC, June 27, P. M.—The following further particulars relative to the burning of the steamer Montreal have been obtained:

The Montreal left here at four o'clock yesterday afternoon for Montreal, with four or five hundred passengers, mostly Scotch emigrants, recently arrived from Europe. Nothing unusual occurred until the steamer reached Cape Range, twelve or fifteen miles above Quebec, when the woodwork near the furnaces was discovered to be on fire.—Quickly after the flames broke forth, causing the utmost consternation among the passengers.—Every possible effort was made to appease the flames, but to no purpose. Captain Randolph, finding it impossible to save the steamer, ordered her to be run toward the shore. The officers and crew of the Montreal exerted themselves at the same time to get out the life-boats.

The flames spread with the most astonishing rapidity, and the wildest confusion and despair prevailed throughout the ship. A number of the passengers threw themselves overboard and were drowned.

Fortunately, the steamer Napoleon, also for Montreal, was but a few miles in advance of the burning boat and put back, with all possible expedition, to her assistance.

The Napoleon succeeded in rescuing from the burning wreck a hundred and twenty-seven passengers.

Capt. Randolph and the purser of the Montreal were amongst those who threw themselves into the river. Both being excellent swimmers they succeeded in reaching the steamer Alliance and were saved.

It is quite possible that some of the others succeeded in saving themselves by swimming, but as the steamer became unmanageable when a considerable distance from land, no doubt the most of those who threw themselves from the burning boat met a watery grave.

Sixteen of those who were saved died shortly after reaching the deck of the Napoleon.

From present information it is believed that the total loss of life by this terrible disaster will not fall far short of three or four hundred persons. The steamer Alliance arrived here this afternoon with forty-five of the dead bodies. We have not been able to learn the names of any of those lost, except that that of Mr. Philips, of the extensive lumber firm of Norcross & Philips, of Three Rivers.

The Montreal had on board two hundred and fifty-eight Scotch emigrants, several German families and several American passengers.

Burning of the Montreal.

BOSTON, June 29.—Hon. Stephen C. Phillips, a distinguishen citizen of Salem, is among the killed by the burning of the steamer Montreal.

MONTREAL, June 29.—Some sixty or seventy survivers of the recent steamboat disaster have reached this city. Sixteen ladies have also been brought here, and 157 to Quebec. The coroner's jury will investigate the matter to-morrow. The emigrants are under the charge of St. Andrew's Society.

Jewelry Robbery.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., June 24.—The jewelry store of W. W. Adams was entirely emptied by burglars last night, and upwards of $20,000 in jewelry and plate stolen. No clue to the robbers has, as yet, been obtained.

Letters from the People.

[The following is from an old friend and "blower," who, like all other incorrigible wags, couldn't let an obvious typographical error prevent his taking a jocular lick at some of our Charles County friends. If they want the name of the criminal it shall be promptly given up to any vigilance committee that will undertake to catch and "him safely keep" in their balliwick—*provided* he shall be located in some region of Charles (and there are many such!) where mint flourishes and the ice-crop was secured. For under any other treatment he wouldn't *keep* at all—this hot weather!—ED.]

For the Planters' Advocate.

"A Bold Platform."

The Democracy of Charles County, Maryland, have recently adopted a series of resolutions, one of which was as follows:

Resolved, That we will steadily oppose Black Republicanism, Know-Nothing or Americanism, Abolitionism, Fourierism, or any ism antagonistic to the great principles of civil and religious liberty; the domestic institutions and rights of the States; the privileges of naturalized citizens; or the Bible, the recognized word of God; *when not in accordance with their peculiar notions and opinions.*

According to the plain words of the resolution the Democracy of Charles have committed themselves to oppose steadily every "ism antagonistic to the Bible, the recognised word of God," when not in accordance with their, (the Democracy's) peculiar notions and opinions. If the peculiar notions and opinions of the party in Charles were generally known, they might explain how they could by any possibility support an "ism" antagonistic to the Bible, provided that ism accorded with their peculiar notions and opinions. In Virginia the Democracy contend that the Bible is the basis of their principles, though some of the party do not practice its principles or follow its preceipts, and in this connection an amusing anecdote is told of a distinguished Democrat in the course of a heated canvass not many years since. This gentleman, it is said, had made an appointment at a certain precinct in his district, to address the people, and arriving at the house of a friend near the place, the Saturday previous, he accompanied him to church on the following day, where there was an unusually large attendance. After the services and an eloquent sermon from the pastor were concluded, the congregation were detained in the church by a storm, and some of the political and personal friends of the distinguished candidate expressed a desire to hear him. He of course declined to address them upon political subjects, but after earnest solicitation, he ascended the pulpit and proceeded eloquently to vindicate the Bible, as the true word of God.—Warming with his subject, he exclaimed in a manner that electrified his auditors: "Fellow citizens, I tell you that the Bible is the corner stone of Democracy." An old elder, a thorough going democrat, was so delighted with this clincher to his political principles, that forgetting the place, sprang to his feet and called for "three cheers for the Guvner." The congregation were about to join when the pastor almost as much excited as his flock, exclaimed leave the church if you wish to "*holler.*" The men hardly able to contain themselves rushed from the church, when nine times nine and nine again were given with a will.

It is needless to add that at the following election day the Governor carried that precinct *nem con.* This shows where the Democracy of Virginia stand upon this vital principle, and it is important that all true Democrats should be found square up to the mark. It is true that upon many subjects the Democracy allow a certain degree of latitude, of private interpretation, but upon this subject they must require absolute conformity, notwithstanding the peculiar notions of the Democracy of Charles. It is hoped they will avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to stand *rectus in curia*; so that the good people of old Charles, by promptly heeling it up to the accepted standard of Bible-Democracy, may bestow some good when they shall (as was their wont,) invariably reply to all inquiries after their local habitations—"From Charles Kcounty, *God bless yer!*"

SPOT.

For the Planters' Advocate.

LAUREL FACTORY, June 22, 1857.

MR. EDITOR.—During the past week, this vicinity has been visited with, an almost daily, successions of heavy rains, which have caused much devastation to the growing corn; in some places, on hilly grounds, washing it up by the rows. As to the wheat, there is nothing within reach of my observation, which has been pretty extensive around here, that justifies the name of a "crop" of wheat. What little was spared by the winter and the fly, is very backward in maturing. Indeed whole fields may be seen, and of prime lands, wherein the stalks are not eighteen inches high, and no signs of heads. The little that has headed, has yet great risks to run, from the rust. I heard one of the best and most observant of our farmers say, a few days since, that, "he never knew wheat, that had not "turned" almost ripe, before the fourth of July, to escape the rust, excepting in the year 1852." Very few farmers in this vicinity will gather enough wheat to compensate them for their seed and guano; to say nothing of their time and labor, which will be a dead loss. I hear the same accounts from Montgomery County, and from Elkridge. From various reliable sources of information, and from personal observation, I would place the average crop on Elkridge at about seven bushels *per acre*. In a letter from West River, written last week, I have information "that the wheat is very indifferent." A farmer of Elkridge, who two weeks ago travelled to Boston by railway, informs me that "along the whole route, there was the same sad appearance of short crops." Another, who went to St. Louis, on the late railroad excursion, and continued his trip through Minnesota, Northern Illinois, Michigan and Canada, gives the same report of the crops in the great North Western grain region.

Your readers may rely upon these statements as correct, and if they want your "authority for your statements concerning the crops," I trust you will not have the "silliness" to refuse them.

Another "item of interest to the farmers" within reach of here, is, that, the Avendale Factory will cease operations as a cotton factory on the first of July, and will be immediately transformed into a Merchant Flour Mill, with four run of stone. The property has passed into the hands of Mr. S. P. Heath of this place, and Mr. George Wheeler, late of the Savage Mill. The Laurel Mill is now conducted by Mr. Mason Brown as a Country Grist Mill.

The Factory is now doing excellent work, turning out daily upwards of 4000 yards of cloth, of a quality even superior to the old standard "Laurel D," which always maintained a position in advance of the market.

PHILO.

Mississippi Democratic State Convention.

JACKSON, June 23.—The Democratic State Convention, to-day in session in this city, made the following nominations: For Governor, Hon. Joseph Brown; for secretary of State, A. B. Dilworth; auditor of public accounts, Madison McAfee; treasurer, S. L. Hussey; attorney general, T. J. Wharton.

Sale of a Gallery of Arts.

NEW YORK, June 26.—The Dusseldorf Gallery of Paintings has been purchased by the Cosmopolitan Art Aassociation for $180,000. The whole collection, including Powers' Greek Slave, will be distributed among the subscribers to the Association in January next.

THE U. S. SUPREME COURT JUDGES.—Notwithstanding all that has been said in republican papers and by orators of that party, *the majority of the Supreme Court are not slaveholders.* Four of the justices reside in free States, where no one owns slaves. The Chief Justice is not a slaveholder, nor has he been for upward of thirty years. He never bought or sold a slave. Of those that the British spared his father, when they polluted the soil of Maryland, some came to him by inheritance. After educating those who were young enough to be taught, and qualifying them to take care of themselves, *he voluntarily gave them all their freedom.* Two, who were so old as to be unable to earn their living, *he cheerfully supported during their lives.* He has not since owned a slave. This is a full and complete answer to the statements often reiterated in the republican papers that a majority of the court were slaveholders, and as such had been influenced in making their decision [in the Dred Scott case.]—*Washington Union.*

Local and Personal.

POLITICAL NOTICE.

THE Democratic and Anti-Know-Nothing voters of Prince George's County, and all who propose to act in union with them upon existing political issues, are requested to assemble in Primary Meetings in the several Election Districts, at the usual places of holding such meetings,

ON SATURDAY, the 11th day of July,

at 3 o'clock, P. M., and to appoint *Ten Delegates* from each district to a County Convention to assemble in Upper Marlborough,

ON SATURDAY, July the 18th,

at 11 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of selecting four persons to represent the county in a State Convention to be held at Baltimore, on the 30th of July; and four persons to represent the same in a Congresssional Convention, to be held at Bladensburgh on the 28th of July; and also, to recommend to the Anti-Know-Nothing and Democratic voters of the county such plan for a subsequent local organization as shall seem to be expedient. June 24, 1857—tm

The Know-Nothing Convention, which met in this place on Thursday last, appointed the following belegates to their State Convention, which meets in Baltimore on the 23d instant—THOMAS I. MARSHALL, Dr. JOHN H. BAYNE, GEORGE W. DUVALL, (of Dennis,) and GEORGE W. DUVALL, (of George). They are understood to be favorable to the nomination of Hon. WM. H. PURNELL for Governor.

West River Classical Institute.—The Seventh Annual Examination of this Institution, under the charge of Rev. R. GASAWAY CHANEY, will take place at OWENSVILLE on *Friday* and *Saturday*, the 3d and 4th of July. The Masters Oration will be delivered by Dr. FIELDER B. SMITH, of Calvert County, and the Literary Address by Rev. SAMUEL CORNELIUS.

Post Master at Aquasco.—The Post Master General has appointed JOSEPH C. THOMAS, Esq., post master at Aquasco, in this county, in the place of JOHN W. THOMAS, Esq., resigned.—This is an excellent appointment, and one that will give general satisfaction.

THE MARKETS.

SATURDAY, *June* 27.—*Wheat.*—Receipts very light to-day. About 600 bushels offered on 'change to-day. Sales of 400 bushels fair to good red at $1.76@1.80. We quote nominally, good to prime white at $1.85@1.95, choice white at $2; and good to prime red at $1.80@1.85 ℔ bushel. *Corn.*—A better demand, and market firmer. About 11,000 bushels offered on 'change to-day, and sales of 7,000 bushels, good to prime white and yellow at 86@88 cents; fair do. would probably have brought 83@84 cts. ℔ bushel.—*Rye.*—None offered on 'change to-day. We quote nominally, Pennsylvania Rye at $1@1.03 ℔ bushel. *Oats.*—Market still drooping. About 14,000 bushels offered on 'change to-day, sales of 700 bushels good to prime Pennsylvania at 55@58 cents. We quote nominally, Virginia at 45@48 cents, and Maryland Oats at 48@52 cts. ℔ bushel.

MONDAY, *June* 29.—*Wheat.*—Receipts rather better to-day. About 1,700 bushels offered on 'change, but no sales reported. We quote good to prime white at $1.85@1.95, choice white at $2, but none offered; and good to prime red at $1.75@1.85 ℔ bushel. *Corn.*—A brisk demand for white Corn to-day, and prices advanced fully 2 cts. ℔ bushel. Yellow Corn dull. About 12,000 bushels offered on 'change to-day, and sales of 7,000 bushels, mixed white at 85@87 cents, prime white at 90 cents; and good to prime yellow 85@87 cents ℔ bushel. *Rye.*—None offered on 'change to-day. We quote nominally, Pennsylvania at $1@103 ℔ bushel. *Oats.*—A better inquiry. About 6500 bushels Oats offered on 'change to-day, and part sold, Maryland at 50@52 cents, and Pennsylvania at 55@58 cents. We quote Virginia Oats nominally at 445@48 cents ℔ bushel.

TOBACCO.—Maryland Tobacco comes in freely, and the inspections have been heavier than for some time past. There is a good inquiry for it from shippers and prices have been fully sustained. We quote Maryland Brown Leaf, as in quality, at $9@10; inferior short seconds at $7.50@8.50; Brown Leafy at $10@11, and Extra at $11@15. The receipts of Bay Tobacco have been large, but all sold readily within the range of quotations, viz: Best Yellow at $50; second do. at $40; Yellow Spangled at $35@38; Red Spangled $25@35; seconds $14@16, and tips at $10@12. Ohio Tobacco is also in good demand, and is bought up as fast as received by our shippers at former figures. We note sales this week of 200 hhds. Ohio at full rates. We continue our quotations, viz:—Inferior to good common brown $8 50@9.50; middling to good reds $10@12; good to fine reds and spangled $11@16; good to fine yellow $17@30; and some sold as high as $35; fine red segar wrappers may be quoted at $14@18. We quote Kentucky Tobacco at $9@9.50 for common Lugs; good Lugs at 11@13; medium Leaf at $13@15; Fair $15@16; Fine $17@18; and select do. at $18@20. The inspections for the week were 1,729 hhds. Maryland, and of other kinds 620 hhds. Total 2,349 hhds.

MARRIED,

On the 10th ultimo, Mr. WM. WESLEY HYATT and Miss SARAH E. WELLS, of this county.

On the 16th ult., Mr. CHRISTOPHER C. CLARKE and Miss CATHERINE E. PUMPHREY, of this county.

Declension.

To the Editor of the Planters' Advocate:

SIR:—I have observed with profound gratitude, that my national Democratic or Union fellow-citizens of Nottingham District, have brought my name before the public for the office of State Senator. Permit me, through your paper, to express to them my warmest acknowledgments for this testimony of their regard. Under existing circumstances, I believe I should best promote the harmony and success of the party by declining to become a candidate for this high honor. My determination thus to act, has been freely communicated to all friends who have consulted me on the subject, and I am glad that the announcement in your paper affords me an opportunity to make it public. Doubtless there will be a Convention, and all national Democrats or Union men will bow to its behests.

Yours very respectfully,
EDMUND BRISCOE.

July 1, 1857—1w

GUANO! GUANO!!

THE undersigned asks the attention of Farmers, Planters and Dealers to his stock of best quality of Guanoes, all of which he will sell at the lowest market rates.

"A" Peruvian Guano of the latest importations and best quality.

"AA" Mexican Guano of the best cargoes imported.

Columbia Guano, very rich in phosphates.

Also, Super Phosphate of Lime, Bone Dust, &c.

Purchasers may rely on having their Guano shipped in prime order, and in superior bags.—The general satisfaction heretofore given by all Guanoes sold by the subscriber he hopes will be a sufficient guarantee that all articles sold by him will be found as represented.

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
Nos. 4 and 6 Hollingsworth Street,
Near Pratt Street Wharf.

Baltimore, July 1, 1857—3m

NOTICE.

THE Commissioners of Tax for Prince George's County, will meet at the Court House in Upper Marlborough,

ON WEDNESDAY, the 1st day of July,

to receive the Collector's Bonds.

By order:
T. E. WILLIAMS, Clerk.

June 24, 1857—tm