

OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA.
Thursday, August 8, 1872.

FOR PRESIDENT,
HORACE GREELEY,
OF New York.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT,
B. GRATZ BROWN,
OF Missouri.

STATE ELECTORAL TICKET.
Col. ROBERT E. WITHERS, of Richmond.
Gen. JAMES L. KEMPER, of Madison.

DISTRICT TICKET.
1st District—W. W. WALKER, of Westmoreland.
2d District—Col. D. A. GOWDY, of Portsmouth.
3d District—Wm. S. GILMAN, of Richmond.
4th District—P. W. MCKAY, of Prince George.
5th District—BENJAMIN GRIFFIN, of Richmond.
6th District—ROBERT A. COFFILL, of Amherst.
7th District—MORRIS WATSON, of Richmond.
8th District—JAMES H. WILLIAMS, of Winchester.
9th District—JAMES M. EHRICH, of Albion.

COL. HUGHES ATTEMPTS RADICAL SALVATION.

Radicalism has raised such a howl of delight over the address of Colonel Hughes that we cannot forbear a partial criticism. It is difficult to understand, as you glance along its sentences, that the author is the pleasant, genial companion, who in private converse delights you with the originality of his glowing thoughts, which gather beauty in the hesitating delicacy of manner in which they are delivered, so different is the gentleness of the man from the harsh, bitter spirit of the politician. We caution the reader who peruses his address—and we hear that he has written a volume of the same character of opinion—that they should not judge either the genius or the temper of Col. Hughes by this effort. It is far below the standard of that genius which once illuminated the 'Richmond Examiner's' columns, in those days when intellectual giants were in the land, and evinces a capacity for hate that cannot surely exist in the heart of a man who appears to have all the sensibility and tenderness of a girl.

Col. Hughes' production is divided into sections as a Militia Captain divides his company. In *capitula* he marches in his captions, and his commentary to each is set forth in the dogmatism and bravado of style ill befitting him who but a brief period since was bewailing the hatred which pervaded the democratic heart, and congratulated himself that he was not such a heart.

After dallying along through an excited exordium, Col. Hughes intrenches his heavy artillery under the significant sentence, "Onion is Now Ripe," and it is here that we are informed—not for the first, but we hope for the last time—that seven years ago, over the wrecked fragments of a republican government, he accepted the fact of consolidated union, intimating that this was the effect of a christian resignation, induced by the remembrance that the Saviour was born in a subjugated country, and obeyed Caesar. "I am proud (he exclaims) that I have been faithful to the national creed which I embraced in the time that tried men's souls." Well, this clause is no news to us. The year of 1865 was a time that tried men's souls.—President Davis, for example, was so tried, put in chains, thrown into prison, and made to march into Court and hold up his hand as a criminal.

The soul of honest John Letcher was tried, when he was seized in the midst of his home, conveyed from thence through the State as a felon, and cast into the old Capitol prison at Washington.

We have not understood that Col. Hughes was ever surrounded by difficulties of this kind. He had no trial in the way of danger, at least. He was as free as the bird on the wing; not arrested, nor watched, nor hunted down, yet, with the manner of a martyr, he deliberately eschewed all the old party that was once so proud of him and takes his position on the penitential seat, to be rejoiced over and glorified by the motley herd which were a blot upon the race of men, and who were incapable of appreciating the prize they had won, except through the fame he had acquired in antagonism to them. Does not Col. Hughes remember that it was the faithful, the men of the South, who did not, in hot haste, fall into the ranks of the conqueror and grace his pageant, that were tried? The fatted calf (to please Col. Hughes' scriptural taste) was slain for the proselyte. If it is a satisfaction to him to have become a member of red handed radicalism when it was building up a wall of division between the southern white people and the negro; when they were investing the latter with power and depriving the former; when the ballot could be cast by a black hand and a white was forbidden; when Lewis Lindsey was made a voter and Gen. Lee was made a traitor; when Porter could open his carpet-bag in the Capitol grounds and bawl his billingsgate to a joathsome crew as they broke their peanuts at the base of Washington's statue; if Col. Hughes can rejoice that he entered the Radical camp when these barbarian ideas were announced, we have only to say that he can achieve happiness on very small capital in trade.

Col. Hughes regards with horror the union of Greeley with the Democracy, upon the principle of established conditions embraced in constitutional amendments in 1872, when these amendments were first. In the time

that tried men's souls, did not Grant and Radicalism unite with Col. Hughes on the extreme of the principles of those amendments before they had become laws? and if Grant could unite with Col. Hughes, one Democrat, on certain facts before they had become laws, could not Greeley unite with a number of Democrats on the same facts after they had become laws? And if Col. Hughes could unite with all of radicalism in 1865, on a policy to make laws embracing certain facts, could not the democracy unite with the better portion of radicalism upon the laws after they have been made?

Col. Hughes may not shift the issues as you really exist. He cannot place the democracy in the position of defending Horace Greeley in the past. Emphatically it has uttered its dissent therefrom. It is meeting the active circumstances of the year 1872, and not of 1860. Now we stand by the Hughes of 1860. His versatility of genius; his bold vindication of the South, attached to his name a brightness which has not all been lost in the night of gloomy thoughts into which he has rushed.

Horace Greeley, the editor of the *Tribune* of 1860, we disapprove of and condemn, as he then was. But the Hughes of 1872—because we dissent from his views—we object to; and the Greeley of 1872—because we have certain general points of agreement—we support.

We cannot be induced to make a defence where we do not make an approval; nor enter an arena of controversy, which has already been fought over and the lists closed. We take Greeley to be Grant, because he more directly is our friend than Grant.

If Col. Hughes is stern and unbending in his criticism of Horace Greeley, he is just the opposite in his tenderness and pathos for the name of Gen. Grant. He is the stern judge when he sits upon the acts of the one, but comes with a woman's heart to look upon the deeds of the other. "Grant was no incendiary. He was a humane general," he shouts, through roman capitals; "It was General Sherman that desolated in the march to the sea, and not Grant," he proclaims. "It was Sheridan, and not Grant, that swept our Virginia Valley so completely with fire and sword as to realize his own boast, that a crow would have to carry its rations along in passing over the country after him."

Now this is smoothly said; yet it will hardly avail in the settlement of objects for which it was written.—Nobody ever claimed that Grant, in person, with his own right hand and from his own tinder-box, struck the fire that consumed so much of the property of the Valley and left helpless children and women weeping around its ashes for bread. Sheridan, himself, we do not pretend to say, did this in person; but he gave the order. They who burnt were but the instruments of that order; he commanded the burning brigade. He never disavowed the fact, and we hold him responsible before the civilized world for his fiendish cruelty. Sheridan, himself, was but an instrument of a higher power, and that higher power was Grant. We do not intend to do Grant injustice. We mean that Grant was the commander superior in grade and authority to Sheridan; but we nevertheless know that there are some acts which are done by inferior officers without advice from his superiors, and we hope that such is the case in this present instance, for we would fain believe, with all his faults thickening upon him, the President of the United States was not an incendiary of malice premeditated.

We do claim, however, that General Grant tacitly recognized this burning as proper. He never published his disapproval. He never called a Court Martial. He never severed the tie of friendly regard existing between himself and the burner. On the contrary, Gen. Sheridan has, through all his administration, been the recipient of his regard; the officer to whom he has turned with a love second to that alone which he bears to Tom Murphy.

"He ain't an incendiary," says Col. Hughes. "Gen. Sheridan it was that swept our Virginia Valley with fire and sword." Yet when we look to the "logic of events," they display this flaming scourge—Sheridan—promoted to the chief place in the affections of his old Commandant-in-Chief, traveling in European countries on military surveillance; taking notes at Quatre Bras and Hagenout, for Grant's gratification, and discussing bomb shells and greek fire with the Crown Prince, around Strasburg.

We hardly think an agent would require better endorsement than this Grant has given Sheridan. He was an accomplice, at the least, after the fact.

And where, whilst this incendiarianism was progressing, was Horace Greeley? We read that in July, 1864, when the South was well spent, Horace Greeley suggested to Lincoln to propose peace on the plan of negro-freedom—the South to be paid FOUR HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR THEM, complete amnesty and complete restoration of the Union, and equality of all its members. [See letter to Lincoln.]

But we trespass on space designed for other matter and remark finally that Col. Hughes can hardly be serious

in objecting to Greeley that he is a vegetarian—eating no meat—and a temperance man—eschewing whiskey—and an abstemious. We know nothing of the last charge, and care nothing for the first. The best and greatest men the world ever produced were affected with superstition. Dr. Johnson believed in the Cock Lane Ghost; Brutus thought the shade of Caesar rested upon him at Philippi; Socrates had his *dæmon*, and the Empress Josephine had a negress's prophetic vision actually fulfilled when she took her seat on the throne of France. Even that "child of fancy," Edgar A. Poe, was impressed with supernatural influences. His imagination beguiled him with a "ghostly, grim and evil" vision, as he lay on his deathbed, "Perched upon a bust of Pallas just above his chamber door."

That Mr. Greeley prefers cabbages and cauliflowers to pickled pork and heavy sausages, and lemonade to whiskey straight, is a matter of taste only; just as it is a matter of taste to General Grant to prefer whiskey to lemonade, which we don't object to, and mean cigars to a meerschaum pipe, and a horse race to a prayer meeting.

However much of political delusion Greeley labored under in his hard-working life, we are sure he would never have perpetrated a cruel joke on his old father in teaching him, as did Ulysses Sidney, Jessie Grant, that Kosciusko died fighting for liberty on American soil, when he did neither one nor the other. Or if not a joke, he would never have written ignorantly upon such a subject. But enough, except that we hope Col. Hughes will soon again be found in party affiliation with those he so long united with, (whom he prematurely deserted and now stands aloof from in monkish asceticism among those who cannot appreciate his ability, no more than he can assimilate with their coarse propensities and unholy ambitions,) and assist to re-establish the ancient glory of Virginia.

Let the old editor of the *Richmond Examiner* respond to the cry of "back thieves," shouted by the old editor of the *Tribune*, to the carpet-baggers of the South.

FROM LONG BRANCH.

Frolic and fun still holds dominion. Gen. Grant has his headquarters here, but makes an occasional excursion to Washington, Boston, the Thousand Islands, etc.

Tom Murphy—glorious, lucky old Tom—breezes round here in style.—His is the genuine Irish heart. Gen. Grant's cottage by the sea is testimony, and Gen. Grant, too, is liberal to old Tom; he gave him the Collectorship of New York City. Both gentlemen are in good physical condition.

Harry Bassett is sleek and well; but Longfellow has not yet recovered from his accident at Saratoga.

Wm. S. Groesbeck, the nominee of the Fifth Avenue party for President, has announced for Greeley.

Mr. Groesbeck's name has been for a long time prominently associated with a chance for the presidential candidacy. Failing to secure a Democratic nomination, he speaks as a man and stands in his party's decision.

An extensive riot and fight occurred in Savannah, Georgia, on July 29th, originating out of negroes endeavoring to force their way into street cars. Several white men, women and children were wounded, and several negroes.

Several thousand negroes were raging through the city. A negro street car driver vacated his seat and joined with the negroes in the riot.

In the Rockbridge Congressional Districts, Capt. Whitehead, of Nelson, is nominated a candidate. We detract not from his merits, but regret that we couldn't see Gov. Letcher once again in political life. He should have lived in this district. But perhaps the Senate will do as well.

Greeley has gone to his old home in New Hampshire to drink once more from "the old oaken bucket, the moss-covered bucket, the iron-bound bucket, that hangs in his well."

See N. P. Banks' letter. His defection from Grant will conclude the New England party. Even Massachusetts cannot fail to regard his voice.

OFFICIAL.—For striking out the usury clause of the State Constitution, 40 166; against striking out, 21,326.

HYMENEAL.—On July, the 30th, near Midway, Rockbridge county, by the Rev. Wm. Pinkerton.—(Prof. Job Turner interpreting in the signs).—Prof. Lawrence W. Saunders to Miss Virginia B. Fultz. The above couple married were both graduates of the D. & B. Institution in this place.

Prof. Saunders was a Professor in this Inst. and is at present a Professor in the Mississippi Deaf-mute Institution, to which he was elected last year. At the celebration of this marriage, many deaf-mutes were present—teachers and pupils—and enjoyed the festivities *unspeakably*.—*Staunton Spectator*.

R. P. Schoonover, a life-long Republican, writes from Mountain Top, Luzern county, Pennsylvania, that he knows of but one Republican in that town that will vote for Grant.

From the Abingdon Virginian.

Important Correspondence.

WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, CLERK'S OFFICE U. S. DISTRICT COURT, ABINGDON, VA., July 22, 1872.

My Dear Sir:—There are conflicting and various opinions with regard to exemptions under the bankrupt law as recently amended, and I would be obliged to you for your views upon the following points:

1. What effect has the decision of the Court of Appeals of Virginia as to the constitutionality of the homestead law on the exemptions allowed by the recent amendment to the bankrupt law?

2. If there are judgment liens against a bankrupt can he claim the exemptions allowed, or must his property be sold to satisfy the liens?

3. Has Congress extended what is called the fifty per cent. clause? If so, to what time? and does not this clause refer only to debts contracted since the 1st of January, 1869? Yours truly,

E. S. WATSON.

Colonel R. W. Hughes, Abingdon.

OFFICE U. S. DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, ABINGDON, VA., July 26, 1872.

Dear Sir:—I will answer your letter of the 22d instant as explicitly as I can, supposing that you desire to have a statement of the condition of the law relating to the homestead which you can place in the hands of persons contemplating bankruptcy. Such an explanation is rendered necessary in our part of the State by the fact that the lawyers who practice in the State courts are so much interested in the collection of old debts, and the enforcement of judgment liens, and the sale of debtors' property, as to desire the overthrow of the homestead exemption. They naturally advise those who consult them against going into bankruptcy, and charge heavy fees in bankruptcy cases. Where there is such a powerful interest and influence against the bankrupt law may will be dissuaded from availing of it who ought to do so, and for whose benefit this humane law and enacted by Congress.

The bankrupt law is administered in the courts of the United States, and these courts have entire jurisdiction of the effects of bankrupts exclusively of the State courts.

In Virginia the bankrupt law exempts from sale and retains from a bankrupt out of his estate the four following classes of property:

1st. The necessary household and kitchen furniture, and other articles and necessities of the bankrupt not exceeding five hundred dollars in value.

2d. The wearing apparel of the bankrupt and of his wife and children.

3d. The uniform, arms, and equipments of the bankrupt, if he has been a soldier in the militia, or in the service of the United States. And

4th. Such other property as is exempted by the statute laws of Virginia and by the bankrupt act itself, which is an act of Congress.

The property of the fourth class, exempted by the laws and Constitution of Virginia, and made part of the exemptions in bankruptcy by the bankrupt act of Congress, includes the homestead article of the State Constitution, now made part of the bankrupt act of Congress, and is in the following words:

"Art. XI, Sec. 1. Every household or family shall be entitled, in addition to the articles now exempted from levy or distress for rent, to hold exempt from levy, seizure, garnishment, or sale, under any execution, order, or other process issued on any demand for any debt heretofore or hereafter contracted, his real or personal property, or either, including money or debts due him, whether heretofore or hereafter acquired or contracted, to the value not exceeding two thousand dollars, to be selected by him," &c.

This article is made part of the bankrupt act of Congress in this State; and I have to say with entire confidence that the national courts, in all cases of bankruptcy, will execute this article according to its letter and spirit. They will uphold this exemption and apply it in favor of bankrupts against debts due before the adoption of the State Constitution as well as those due after that event. They will do it as to property which at the time of going into bankruptcy was vested in the bankrupt; but they will not give the exemption against property which shall have passed from the bankrupt when he goes into bankruptcy, by deed of trust, deed of mortgage, or by special pledge and delivery as security for debt. They will give the bankrupt the benefit of this exemption as against all debts, whether in the form of judgment liens or not, whether contracted before or after the adoption of the State Constitution, except the following, viz:

1. Money due for the purchase of the property claimed from exemption.

2. Money due for the services of laboring persons or mechanics.

3. Money due officially by a public officer, or the officer of a court, or by any fiduciary, or any attorney at law.

4. Money due for taxes levied after the 1st of June, 1866.

5. Money due for rent accruing and 6. Money due for fees legally taxed in favor of public officers and officers of courts.

Except as to property the title of which has passed from the bankrupt at the time of going into bankruptcy, the homestead exemption will be upheld by the Federal courts as against all debts, whenever contracted, except of the six classes just above enumerated.

It will be observed that the homestead clause of the State Constitution quoted above expressly gives the exemption against debts contracted before as well as after the adoption of the Constitution. The provisions of the article stood intact and unimpeached on the 8th day of June last, when the act of Congress was passed amending the bankrupt act of 1867, and virtually making this clause of our Constitution, in *totidem verbis*, part of the bankrupt act of Congress. This retrospective operation of the homestead article might have been unconstitutional as a State law from the fact that the National Constitution forbids any State from passing any law impairing the obligation of contracts. But Congress, having adopted it as a part of its own bankrupt law, makes it valid as a congressional law; because Congress may

pass laws impairing the obligation of contracts, and may, especially, pass a bankrupt law.

It may be mentioned as a historical fact that the Virginia Court of Appeals rendered a decision on the 13th of June, 1872, after this homestead article of our Constitution had been made part of the bankrupt act of Congress, declaring it invalid in its retrospective feature as a State law—basing its decision on the single fact that a State cannot pass a law impairing the obligation of contracts—using the following language:

"The SINGLE QUESTION which we have to determine is whether this provision of the State Constitution and of the act of 1870, which is but a copy of this article, is in violation of that provision of the Constitution of the United States which declares that 'no State shall pass any law impairing the obligation of a contract.'"

Whether this decision be sound or not; whether this Court of Appeals has or has not the power to strike out of the State Constitution a clause placed there by the vote of twenty out of every twenty-one votes of the people of Virginia; whether this feature of this clause be valid as a State law or not, is immaterial to our inquiry. Before the Court of Appeals had rendered its decision, and while the clause stood intact and unimpeached, it was made part of the bankrupt act of Congress, by a body which was competent to make it so. As such, though the State courts may invalidate it as a State law, the United States courts will sustain it as a congressional law; and not only will do so, but are bound to do so.

As to the fifty per cent. requirement of the bankrupt law, it is as follows: In bankruptcy cases commenced after the 1st day of January, 1869, the bankrupt shall not be discharged unless those of his debts which have been contracted since that date shall be equal to fifty per cent. of the claims proved against his estate, for which he shall be liable as the principal debtor.

The law does not require the assets to pay fifty per cent., but only that they shall be equal in value to fifty per cent. of the claims actually proved. The practice is to grant the discharge where there is no positive opposition to it, made on the day that creditors are called upon to show cause why it should not be granted. Practically this fifty per cent. requirement does not operate to prevent the discharge of bankrupts. There is no recent amendment of the bankrupt act in respect to this requirement.

I ought probably to add that where bills in chancery are filed in the State courts to subject lands to sale in satisfaction of judgment liens, the United States courts would enjoin the parties complainant from proceeding in such suits at any stage before final decree; and that in many cases they will enjoin *after* decree and before the sale of the land.

As to the mode by which the bankrupt will assert his claim to the homestead exemption, substantially the same proceedings will be required in bankruptcy as are prescribed by the Virginia act of Assembly to be pursued in the State courts.

I am very decidedly of opinion that the United States courts will disregard any law of the State Legislature which authorizes a waiver of the right of the homestead exemption by the male head of the family, and hold that such waiver is in fraud of the purpose of the people in adopting the homestead clauses as a part of their State Constitution.

I fear I have not answered your inquiries clearly, but I believe I have answered them fully, and I am, most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
R. W. HUGHES.

E. S. WATSON, Esq., Clerk of United States Court, Abingdon, Va.

MR. SUMNER'S LETTER.—In reply to a request of about twenty-five of the leading men of color of Washington, Senator Sumner has given his views as to the two platforms and two candidates, considered specially with reference to the colored class. We shall quote freely from this letter hereafter. At present we content ourselves with a paragraph which we commend to our colored friends. It is this:

"The hardihood of political falsehood reaches its extreme point when it is asserted that under Horace Greeley the freedmen will be re-enslaved, or that colored people will in any way suffer in their equal rights. On the contrary, they have in his election not only the promises of the platform, but also the splendid example for a full generation, during which he has never wavered in the assertion of their rights. To suppose that Horace Greeley, when placed where he can do them the most good, will depart from the rule of his honest life is an insult to reason."

Says the *Chicago Tribune*: "Bingham's friends cry 'fund' in the nomination of Lorenzo Danford, for Congress, by the Republican convention at Bellaire, Ohio. The first ballot was for John A. Bingham, 51; Danford, 39; Updegraff, 18. Then certain of the Updegraff men, though instructed for Bingham as a second choice, went over to Danford, who had 55 votes 'to Bingham's 53.'"

The writer of this paragraph well remembers Dr. Updegraff, and however radical he may be, yet he is a better man so far as honesty is concerned than Hon. John A. Bingham, whose connection with the hanging of that estimable and innocent woman, Mrs. Suratt, will be forever remembered in this country. Mr. Danford's obscurity relieves him from any comment, but we presume he only triumphed over Dr. Updegraff, because his Quaker modesty prevented him from asserting his just claims to the nomination.

The World of Sunday represents a fearful gloom to have overspread the Grant camp in New York. They refuse to take bets on any terms—refuse to be comforted, and have well nigh abandoned their headquarters. The chief officers have deserted, and only one visitor, General BURNSIDE, called Saturday.

Wm. H. Frenger has been commissioned Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue by Beverly B. Botts, Collector of 6th District, Va.

LETTER FROM HON. N. P. BANKS.

Another Republican Leader Declares for Greeley—"Let Us Have Peace" in Earnest.

Boston, August 1.—The rumors of the defection of General Banks from the support of Grant and Wilson are confirmed by the following letter:

Boston, July 31.—My Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge by this note, in addition to our conversation to-day, the receipt of your invitation to address the citizens of Lynn, on Thursday evening, in support of the re-election of President Grant and the policy of his administration. No invitation could have greater weight with me from any part of the country, nor from any portion of my fellow-citizens, and it gives me great pleasure to assure you that nothing could be added to your suggestions as the representative of the citizens of Lynn to induce me to accede to your request. Their kindness to me many years since is a continuing life remembrance, and nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to have my associations with them, but I regret to say that I am not in accord with them in regard to the presidential canvass. Against my wishes and my personal interests, I am compelled to believe and to say that the perpetration of the present policy of the government is not for the advantage of the country, and that it will not tend to establish its former good and prosperity, nor to promote the interests of any class of citizens. No personal feeling of any form or character enters into this judgment. It is in view of general principles and public interests alone that I am led to this conclusion. The uniting of the masses of the people of all parties, sections and races in support of the grand results of the war is indispensable to the permanent establishment of the general recognition of those results. It can be secured by no other means. We shall all be forced to this conclusion sooner or later. United action upon this basis has been the hope of my life. I fervently desired it during the war, and in the reconstruction of the States subsequent to the war. I believe that it is now tendered in good faith in the nomination of Mr. Greeley, and for one I cannot reject it. It is what I desired, and its consummation, although sudden and startling, does not alarm me. My duty to myself and my country requires me to give him my support.

I cannot advocate before your friends a different course, which neither my judgment nor my heart approves. It grieves me most deeply to separate myself in thought or action from any one of those with whom I have been so long associated, and to whom I am so greatly indebted, but I believe that the result will justify my action, give to the country that peace and prosperity which is the object of all our labors, and secure to every citizen civil and political equality, and the freedom which was won by the sacrifice of so many valued lives. Accept the assurance of my lasting friendship and esteem, and believe me yours, &c.,

N. P. BANKS.

To Jns. S. Lewis, Esq., LYNN.

IMPORTANT TO THOSE CONTEMPLATING BANKRUPTCY.—Mr. L. A. Buckingham has furnished us the following letter from Judge Alex. Rives, of the District Court of the United States for the Western District of Virginia, from which it will be seen that he holds the two-thousand-dollar exemption under the bankrupt law to be good against judgment liens. The letter was written in answer to the following questions propounded to the Judge by Mr. Buckingham:

"Whether parties filing petitions in bankruptcy would be entitled to the exemptions under the amended bankrupt act notwithstanding the petitioners may have executed a deed of trust prior to the filing of his petition?"

"Whether parties filing petitions in bankruptcy would be entitled to the exemptions under the amended bankrupt act notwithstanding the judgments that may exist against him at the time of the filing of his petition?"

Hon. SUMNER, July 26, 1872.

My Dear Sir,—Yours of the 23d instant has been forwarded to me here. It is my practice where a dover-right is outstanding in bankrupt's lands to have it commuted on wife's petition for fee-simple value in specie or proceeds of sale, according to the circumstances of the case and the wishes of the wife. I take it as the general rule that bankrupt's exemption will not avail against his *voluntary* incumbrances; only against *involuntary* liens, such as judgments. Yours, &c.,

ALEXANDER RIVES.

L. A. Buckingham, Esq., [Christiansburg Messenger.]

LYNCHBURG, VA., August 5.—John Boisseau, a prominent Radical politician of this city, committed suicide this morning by blowing his brains out with a pistol.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

Gold closed in New York at 115½.

HARRISONBURG MARKET. CORRECTED WEEKLY BY LONG & REYNOLDS. THURSDAY MORNING, August 8th 1872.

Flour—Family	\$9 00/00 00
Do Extra	7 50/00 00
Do Super	7 00/00 00
Wheat, No. 1	1 40/00 00
Do No. 2	1 30/00 00
Do No. 3	1 20/00 00
Do No. 4	1 10/00 00
Do No. 5	1 00/00 00
Do No. 6	9 00/00 00
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OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA.

THURSDAY, : : : AUGUST 8, 1872.

S. M. Pettigall & Co., 57 Park Row, New York, Hudson & Menet, 21 Park Row, New York.

Dunckley & Co., 15 Fulton Street, New York, Arc Agency for the Old Commonwealth in New York City, and are authorized to contract for advertising space in this paper. Advertisements in this paper are charged at the rate of one dollar per line for the first week, and thereafter at the rate of fifty cents per line for each subsequent week. No advertisement inserted unless the advertiser is willing to pay the full amount in advance. No responsibility, except through the above named reliable firms.

Joseph Shinn, of Cairo, Illinois, says he is going to swim from that place to New Orleans. Well, let him.

Twelve thousand people attended the New York State camp-meeting at Round Lake on Sunday.

The posting of placards of quack medicines has been prohibited in the streets of Chicago.

A stupid exquisite, at a wedding, wished the bride "many happy returns of the occasion."

A cross-grained old bachelor says that "tin," is the favorite belle metal now-a-days.

GEO. S. CHRISTIE, Merchant Tailor and Clothier, Harrisonburg, Va.

RESPECTFULLY invites the public attention to the fact that he has recently received his new SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS for gentlemen. It is unnecessary to enumerate his stock in detail, as it embraces all that the season requires. He has also a choice lot of GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, Collars, Suspenders, Handkerchiefs, &c., &c. These goods will be sold low, and made up at short notice in the latest style.

A CALL solicited for a new assortment of READY-MADE CLOTHING of elegant quality of the latest styles, and well made. A CALL solicited for a new assortment of READY-MADE CLOTHING of elegant quality of the latest styles, and well made. A CALL solicited for a new assortment of READY-MADE CLOTHING of elegant quality of the latest styles, and well made.

BOUND FOR THE WEST! LYDIA THOMPSON, In her tours throughout the United States, has concluded to remain for a short period at

SIBERT & BROS.

NEW TOBACCO STORE.

All desirous of seeing the world-renowned Lydia, can do so by calling at the new Tobacco Store, in the middle room of SIBERT'S NEW BUILDING, South side of the Court-House Square, Harrisonburg, Va. We have just received a large stock of desirable and cheap Chewing & Smoking Tobacco, Cigars, Snuff, PIPES, STEMS, &c.

Try our 2c. Chewing Tobacco, and our 6c. package of Smoking Tobacco, &c.

SIBERT & BROS.

CLASSICAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCHOOL, HARRISONBURG, VA.

THE Session will open on the FIRST MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER, 1872, and will close the last of June, 1873. TERMS.—TUITION PER SESSION, \$20 00. In English Branches, \$20 00. Mathematics and Ancient Languages, \$30 00. Tuition payable monthly. Pupils will be received at any time during the session, and charged for the month in advance. REFERENCES.—Rev. Geo. W. Holland, Rev. J. R. Bowman, Messrs. C. G. Strayer, M. Y. Partlow, G. S. Christie, Hon. J. E. Hall, &c. A. C. LINDSAY, Principal. July 18-61

THE NEW AND CHEAP DRUG STORE!

JUVENILE DEPOT.

GOODS SOLD FOR LESS MONEY THAN AT ANY OTHER DRUG STORE IN THE VALLEY.

ALL GOODS WARRANTED PURE AND FRESH and of the BEST QUALITY.

Save Your Money.

By buying at the NEW DRUG STORE, OPPOSITE THE COURT-HOUSE, MAIN STREET, July 25

J. B. BAILE, WITH WILLIAM DEVRIES & CO.,

Who are Dealers in Foreign and Domestic DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS,

312 WEST BALTIMORE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD. July 18-71

STRAW WANTED.

The Winchester Paper Company WILL purchase any quantity of GOOD, SOUND STRAW, free from chaff, for which they will pay a fair price in CASH. FARMERS wishing to sell will please apply to HENRY KINZEL, General Agent, July 18-71

VALUABLE TOWN PROPERTY FOR SALE.

I WILL sell on accommodating terms, the valuable HOUSE AND LOT in Main Street, G. G. Coffman is now residing. It is situated on Main Street, containing eight rooms and a bath, and is a very desirable place of residence. The house is in good repair, and the lot is of a good size. The house is in good repair, and the lot is of a good size. The house is in good repair, and the lot is of a good size.

Also, A HOUSE AND LOT on Main Street, fourth north, containing six rooms, and about one-fourth of an acre of ground. The house is in good repair, and the lot is of a good size. The house is in good repair, and the lot is of a good size.

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CREATED FOR SALE!

VALUABLE

Mans, buildings, Store-house

AND TWO FINE

ROCKINGHAM FARMS FOR SALE.

PURSUANT to a decree of the County Court of Rockingham, rendered at the April Term, 1872, in the case of *John H. Kogler vs. John H. Kogler*, the undersigned, as Special Commissioner, do hereby offer for sale, on the premises, in the town of Bushville, in Rockingham county, one

On Saturday, 17th day of August, 1872,

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PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

JOHN E. ROLLER, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

JOHN PAUL, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

GEO. W. & F. A. BERLIN, Attorneys at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

W. F. A. BERLIN, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

SAMUEL HANSENBERGER, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

HAAS & PATTERSON, Attorneys at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

F. A. DAINGERFIELD, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

CHAS. T. O'NEILL, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

RO. JOHNSON, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

CHAS. A. YANCEY, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

W. F. A. BERLIN, Attorney at Law, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

DR. W. O. HILL, Physician and Surgeon, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

MEDICAL CO-OPERATION, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

DR. HARRIS & HARRIS, Surgeons and Dentists, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

STIEFF'S PIANOS! Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

UPWARDS OF FIFTY FIRST PRIZES AND GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS WERE AWARDED TO CHAS. M. STIEFF'S PIANOS!

OFFICE AND NEW WAREHOUSES, BALTIMORE, MD. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

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OUR PRINTING OFFICE.

THE OLD COMMONWEALTH, Harrisonburg, Va. Office in the Court-House, formerly occupied by John H. Kogler.

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MERCHANDISE.

WANTED AT THE CASH PRODUCE STORE, FRESH BUTTER, EGGS, LARD, FURS, DRIED FRUIT, BEESWAX, TALLOW, ONIONS, SPRING CHICKENS, &c., &c.

For which we will pay the market value in CASH.

C. F. DUTROW, West-Market Street, opposite "Register" Office, Harrisonburg, Va. #2-NO GOODS FOR SALE!

J. A. LOWENBACH, #2-NO GOODS FOR SALE!

HAS just arrived from the northern cities with a complete assortment of DRY GOODS, DRESS GOODS, NOTIONS, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Groceries, &c., &c.

Gent's Furnishing Goods. I will guarantee entire satisfaction. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere.

WM. PERRY BYRD, HOGE & JOHNSTON, (Successors to Hoge, Wetherburn & Co.) GENERAL COMMISSION MERCHANTS, For sale of every description of Flour, Grain, Country Produce, &c., &c.