EVENTS LAST NIGHT

Notable and Enjoyable Masquerade Ball at Moss' Hall.

MANY INGENIOUS COSTUMES

Visit of the Grand Vice Chancellor to Warwick Lodge, K. of P. Meeting of Heptasophs. At Gospel Mission.

Moss' Hall, which as been the scene of so many gayeties in the past, has probably never witnessed a prettier or more picturesque scene than that presented last night at the Masquerade Ball. The occasion was a notable and enjoyable one. There were something like half a hundred couples present and most of them were in costume. These costumes were, many of them, striking and well conceived. Almost every character was represented, from the Empress Josephine to the Princess Pocahontas, and from the race track sport to Uncle Sam. There were soldiers of different periods, brave in uniform and lace; there were maids attired in colonial garb, and others in raiment of days more matter-of-fact, but less poetic.

But if the customs were unique, the wearers were even more interesting, for the feminine portion of the revelers was an exceedingly pretty and graceful portion, and the masculine contingent was good-looking and gallant. An elaborate dancing program was enjoyed, the spacious hall. Upon this table was erected, extending the entire length of thspacious hall. Upon this table was quickly heaped a load of good things, delicate and substantial, and these in a marvelously shor; time disappeared, after which the table was cleared away and dancing was resumed.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Grand Vice-Chancellor Catlett Attends the Meeting of Warwick Lodge.

Warwick Lodge, No. 72, Knights of Pythias, at a called convention held in their castle hall last night, had a distinguished visitor, in the person of Colonel Robert Catlett, of Lexington, Va., Grand Vice-Chancellor of the order in the domain of Virginia. He exemplified the unwritten work of the order for the lodge, and also made a very interesting and edifying address, which was listened to with the utmost pleasure and attention by the assembled Knights who had turned out in full force in order to be present on the enjoyable occasion.

The lodge also nominated officers to be elected for the ensuing term. The election will take place tonight week, at the regular convention of the lodge.

HEPTASOPHS MEET.

Newly Elected Officers Will Not Be Installed Until Some Time in January.

The James River Conclave, No. 253, Heptasophs, or Seven Wise Men, met last night in their hall in the Phillips building, but were in session only a short time.

The officers recently elected will not be installed until some time in January, probably at the first meeting night in that month.

GOSPEL MISSION.

Interesting Exercises at the Little Improvised Chapel on the Corner.

The Union Gospel Mission, at the corner of Washington avenue and Twenty-eighth street, was crowded last night, as it has been generally of late, and the exercises were, as usual, interesting, especially Mr. Redding's talk, and the singing.

It is probable that the Council Committee will grant the request of the superintendent by taking out the petition between the room now being used by the mission and the adjoining room. It is the intention of Mr. Redding, if this permission is granted, to put several cots in the rear of this room for the accommodation of those who are worthy and cannot afford to get lodging elsewhere.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING.

Some of the Matters That Will Come Up at the Next Session.

There will be no meeting of the school board until the evening of the first Tuesday in January. Upon that occasion a number of questions will come up of importance. Among these will probably be that of fixing the time for moving into the new East End school building. There will also be the report of the acting supervising architect on the work of draining the basement of this same school. The job has been very effectually done, and no further trouble is anticipated.

It is expected that the contractor on the high school building will be able to report that that structure is almost completed. It is not thought that the matter of requiring the forfeit in the case of the contractors who have failed to finish their work in the specified time will come up at this meeting as it is supposed to be shelved until the work is all completed.

There will be a report from the special committee appointed to sell the old school buildings that will be interesting provided the committee succeeds in the purpose for which it was appointed.

The New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, has just purchased ten more Ives & Pond pianos, making 236 of these instruments now in use by that institution. Over 300 other first-class schools also use them exclusively and they are used and endorsed by disinterested musicians everywhere. Why? Because of their superior tone and because they are especially constructed to stay in tune and to resist dampness, and they do it. Ivers & Pond pianos and Estey organs are the very best instruments made. For prices, terms, etc., address, W. S. Caulfield, Box 102, City, Local salesman for Sanders & Stayman, Baltimore. 1t*

Suits and overcoats at Christmas—Monday prices. Woodward & Womble. dec14-tf.

Finest assortment of Christmas and New Year Cards in Hampton at Highfield's. de 16-12t.

IN REAL ESTATE CIRCLES.

Striking Evidences of the Advance in Property Values.

The pace at which Newport News real estate has been going during the past month has caused people to open their eyes. There is probably no parallel to it in the history of any city in the South, or anywhere else, for that matter. There have been plenty of booms, as the citizens of Virginia know to their sorrow, but that property should steadily and legitimately advance to double its former price in the space of a year without any artificial booming is unique in municipal annals.

There seems little doubt that prices are going even higher before the limit is reached. This is certainly true of certain sections, and possibly true of all.

There is perhaps no better evidence of a city's progress than the fact that people are willing to bank upon her future. The best evidence of this is afforded by the transactions in Washington avenue property, which have been noted of late in these columns. One of the most notable of these is the $15,000 offer for the Wilkins' corner, at the intersection of the avenue and Twenty-seventh street. Another is the sale made Tuesday through Messrs. Marye & Boyenton of the Phillips' property, at the corner of Washington avenue and Twenty-sixth street, considered one of the best sales that has been made on this thoroughfare.

Mr. W. J. Payne, president of the Newport News and Old Point Railway and Electric Company, has purchased from Councilman B. B. Corey the two vacant lots on Twenty-fifth street, near Washington avenue, adjoining the residence of Mr. G. T. Uzzell.

Mr. Payne paid $2,000 apiece for the lots. The deed was placed on record in the clerk's office yesterday morning.

Among the other deeds entered for record in the Corporation Court Clerk's office yesterday are the following:

W. L. Powell to H. I. Tucker, one lot; consideration $890.

Old Dominion Investment Company, to Daniel Martin, one lot; consideration $215.

H. I. Robinson, to D. M. Waller, et als, house and lot, consideration $1,400.

W. J. Powell, to A. J. Askew and J. W. Harris, one lot; consideration $750.

Central Land Company, to J. W. Rollison, one lot; consideration $60.

WANTED IN PHILADELPHIA.

James Rutherford Arrested on a Serious Charge by Sergeant Reynolds.

James W. Rutherford, a workman on the battleship Kearsarge, was arrested yesterday by Sergeant Reynolds upon the request of the Philadelphia authorities who want him for alleged criminal assault upon a sixteen-year-old girl in that city by the name of Alexander. The young man protested his innocense, but admitted having entered the room of the young lady while intoxicated.

Officer Luffbarry, of the Philadelphia police force arrived in the city in the afternoon and last night took the prisoner back to the city of Brotherly Love.

Commercial Changed Hands.

It is understood that the Daily Commercial, until recently owned and conducted by Messrs. John A. Robinson & Son, has changed hands, Mr. Robinson selling out to a newly organized company, with which, it is stated, Mr. J. B. Locke is identified in the capacity of manager. The change, it is said, went into effect last Monday morning. At any rate, the paper has been issued under a new management, several changes having been made in its staff and mechanical force. It is reported that the company will in the near future change the name of the paper to the Evening Journal.

Cakewalkers Coming.

It was at first thought that there would be no Christmas attraction at the Opera House, but Manager Booker has decided to have one, and has, accordingly, secured for Monday, December 26, for matinee and evening, the now famous Nineteenth Century Cake-walkers, who have made such a hit in Richmond.

POLICE COURT.

His Honor, Justice Brown, had several cases of rather more than usual interest before him yesterday.

William Rawlings, a colored man who formerly worked for Benson, Phillips & Co., was sentenced to serve serve six months in jail for stealing a bicycle, a lamp and a clock from Chas. Beall, who is employed by the firm.

It seems that Rawlings made away with the articles and was afterward accused of stealing them. He then "cut and run" and was not arrested until Tuesday night, when Officer Mitchell spied him at the depot and "collared" him after a lively chase.

George Burnett, was placed on trial on the charge of stealing $36 and two tables from a man by the name of Cheadle. He was yesterday fined by Justice Brown $25 and costs and sentenced to serve thirty days in jail.

It seems that Burnett obtained the money and goods from Cheadle on the representation that he proposed to go in business and had no idea of fulfilling his promise.

Harry Blake, a well dressed young man with a stylish spring overcoat on his arm, and William McKenney, dressed, but not so well dressed, were before His Honor on the charge of conducting themselves in a disorderly manner while under the influence of liquor. Of course, they had no recollection of being disorderly, but Justice Brown thought otherwise and each of the offenders was fined $3 and costs.

John Barry and John Noble, two boys fourteen and fifteen years of age respectively, were charged with wrongfully taking a brass steampipe valve from the shipyard, where they have been at work. The valve is valued at 25 cents.

Watchman Neibergall testified that the boys admitted taking the piece, but Noble and Barry denied this and furthermore said they never saw it until accused of the theft. Justice Brown decided that the boys were too young to prosecute on such a charge and let them go with a reprimand, cautioning them against such conduct on the pain of a jail punishment.

Charles Read went to a colored friend several days ago and borrowed a pair of boots. The friend later had him arrested for stealing the boots, but in the Police Court Read succeeded in proving to Justice Brown's satisfaction that he is a model young man and never dreamed of making away with his friend's property. He was discharged.

ALONG THE WATER FRONT

ITEMS OF INTEREST GATHERED ABOUT THE PIERS.

Sun Rises 7:15
Sun Sets.....4:53
High water 4:30 A. M., and 5:02 P. M.
Low water 11:07 A. M., and 10:54 P. M.

Weather Forecast

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Forecast for Thursday: For Virginia—Rain; light veriable winds.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Vessels Arrived Yesterday.

Steamship Orion (Amr.), Smith, Boston.
Steamship Kong Frode (Nor.), Sandersen, Port Antonia.
Schooner Jennie E. Reighter, Crossley, New Haven.
Schooner J. W. Hawthorn, New York.
Barge Kentucky, Boston.
Barge Carbon, Boston.

Vessels Sailed Yesterday.

Steamship Monarch (Br.) Lugg, Boston.
Steamship Orion (Amr.) Smith, Norfolk.
Schooner Alice B. Crosby, Cienfuegos.
Barge Lone Star, Boston.

LOW XMAS HOLIDAY RATES.

On December 23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st, the M. & M. T. Co., will sell over their line tickets at greatly reduced rates on account of the Xmas holidays Tickets limited to January 4th.

For further information and full particulars, apply to L. C. Saunders, agent.

Look at "The Bazaar" windows, nearly opposite the postoffice and see what handsome presents Santa Claus has for you. de17-2t.