

Novel Dedication of a New Court House.

By the Editor of the National Republican. It is my pleasant duty to report to you an interesting occasion in the history of our country.

Our able and energetic supervisors, headed by Major Thomas B. Nalle, have just completed a fine new courthouse, and court has been held in it several times.

Our regular monthly court, a large crowd was in attendance. That sober and urbane judge, John W. Bell, was about to take his seat when he was addressed by whom? Not one of the learned attorneys who are wont to make motions and file exceptions—but by whom? Why, a poor, unlearned and meek-looking colored man, aged at least "threescore and ten," who simply asked if the new "court-house" had bin dedicated by the "prayer?"

Everybody was surprised, and when the antiquated darky asked permission to make a prayer the judge very kindly granted it, and the novel scene of a poor, humble, illiterate colored man offering up an earnest prayer in such a place, and on such an occasion, was witnessed with breathless and respectful attention.

Lawyers bowed down upon their knees, and in fact all present seemed to be visibly affected by this novel exhibition of religious devotion by the good old colored man.

President Grant's Ancestral Record. A Hartford paper says that Mr. Heath, of that city, has recently been engaged in hunting up President Grant's ancestral record tracing it back to Matthew Grant, who came from England in the ship Mary and John to Dorchester, Mass., in 1630.

Whether the color of the skin of the white or colored race is a question yet to be determined. The public here will patiently wait the action of Judge Rixey in this matter. As this case totally eclipses the late "civil rights" or equality convention, recently held in Washington, when Pinchback had a headache, and Charles Sumner thought he could do more in the Senate than by making speeches, as requested, before the said equality convention, it is thought it best to ask you to publish this, as being an important event in the progressive history of our beloved country.

Astronomy—Professor Newcomb's Seventh Lecture. The subject of Professor Newcomb's seventh lecture before the Columbian University was announced to be the application of the telescope to astronomical measurements.

Discovery of Neptune. It is well known that the existence of this planet was first made known through its influence in changing the motions of Uranus.

Female Felicities. The last instance of originality in a marriage announcement is the following: "No cards, no cakes, no fuss."

Important Railroad Purchase. It is authoritatively announced that the Pennsylvania railroad company has purchased from the "Southern Railway Security Company" its interest in the Atlantic and Richmond air-line railroad.

Dogs and Sheep. We see it stated that Mr. R. W. Cameron, whose farm is on the island of Long Key, has a valuable flock of Cotswold sheep, most of them imported from the best English breeders, for sale.

GENERAL ITEMS.

The daughter of ex-Senator Ross, of Kansas, is one of the rising statesmen of that blighted State.

A professor in Montreal recently introduced two tame skunks to illustrate a lecture on the diffusion of odor.

There is one good thing about babies, says a late traveler, "they never change."

Among the "last words" of Professor Agassiz were these spoken to Dr. Brown-Segard—C'est fin ("the end has come"), the reporter says.

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Commercial. Richmond Price Current. CORN AND FLOUR EXCHANGE. Richmond, December 23, 1878.

Wheat—White, 50 bushels, Red, 47 1/2 bushels. Corn—Mixed, 20 bushels, Red, 47 1/2 bushels.

Wheat—Red, 48 bushels. Corn—White, 50 bushels, Red, 47 1/2 bushels.

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Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes items like Flour, Corn, and various oils.

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SALT—Liverpool, 22 1/2; jobbing price, per sack. Ground Alum, 23.50 per 50 lbs.

SHOTS—3.50 per doz. SPECIAL NOTICES. NOTICE TO FISHERMEN AND DEALERS IN SEINE THREAD.

REVISÉD BY L. POWERS & SON. 1540 East Main Street.

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UNITED STATES MAIL. POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT. PROPOSALS will be received at the Contract Office of this Department until 3 o'clock p. m.

From Winchester to Capon Springs (W. Va.), 24 1/2 miles and back, six times a week, from 15th June to 30th of September only in each year.

From Hampstead to Fair Haven, 10 miles and back, once a week. Leave Hampstead Wednesday at 8 a. m.

From West Point, by Shackelford's, Driver's Shop, Glenn's, and Salda's, Urbana, 20 miles and back, three times a week.

From Rural Retreat to Clem's Branch, Leave Rural Retreat Tuesday at 8 a. m.

From St. Tammany, by Shaw's Store (n. o.), Jorville's (n. o.), and Macrone (n. o.), to Cabanage Farm, 20 miles and back, once a week.

From Pamplin's Depot to Walker's Church, 6 miles and back, three times a week.

From Salt Creek, by Fedora's Mills and Miller's Store, to Fields of Buffalo, 16 miles and back, twice a week.

From Carsonville to Elk Creek, 30 miles and back, three times a week.

From Hansonville, by Hawkins' Mills and Willow Springs, to Nickolsville, 15 miles and back, twice a week.

From Peeryville (W. Va.), by Mouth of Bradshaw Creek (n. o.) and Head of Slate (n. o.), to Grundy, 25 miles and back, once a week.

AUCTION SALES. VALUABLE REAL ESTATE IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

In obedience to an order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, dated October 1st, 1878, in the matter of James R. Smith, bankrupt, I will sell at public auction, on SATURDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 1879, at 12 o'clock m., in front of the United States custom-house, in the city of Richmond, the following property, to wit: ONE EIGHTH (1/8) INTEREST OF AN UNDIVIDED TRACT OF LAND containing 17 1/2 acres more or less, situated in Copse township, Westmoreland county, which belonged to Albert W. Smith, and was purchased by the bankrupt from Peter Smith.

SALE OF VALUABLE REAL ESTATE. Pursuant to a decree of the United States District Court, pronounced on the 10th day of October, 1878, in the matter of Benjamin N. Robinson, in bankruptcy, the undersigned will sell, on the premises, at public auction, that VALUABLE REAL ESTATE, known as the "BRICK HOUSE," situated in the county of Westmoreland, comprising about 1,200 ACRES, lying adjacent to opposite the town of West Point; said sale to be made on MONDAY, THE 24th DAY OF MARCH, 1879.

Bankruptcy Notice. THIS IS TO GIVE NOTICE—That on the 1st day of December, a. d. 1878, a warrant in bankruptcy has been issued out of the District Court of the United States for the Eastern District of Virginia, against the estate of Walter B. Smithson, of Mecklenburg county, State of Virginia, who has been adjudged a bankrupt in his own petition: That the payment of any debts, and the delivery of any property belonging to said bankrupt, to him or for his use, and the transfer of any property by him, are forbidden by the creditors of said bankrupt, who hold a court of bankruptcy, to be held at Richmond, Va., before W. W. Forbes, esq., register, on the 19th day of January, a. d. 1879, at 10 o'clock a. m.

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AUCTION SALES. VALUABLE REAL ESTATE, CONSISTING OF A BRICK STORE ON MAIN STREET, AND HOUSE ON NINETEENTH STREET, IN THE CITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

By virtue and in pursuance of a decree of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, dated December 3d, 1878, in the matter of S. Lichtenstein, a bankrupt, we, the undersigned, as Special Commissioners, appointed in said decree, will sell at public auction, on the premises, on MONDAY, THE 27th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1878, at 10 o'clock a. m., that valuable HOUSE AND LOT, situated in the city of Richmond, on the corner of Main and Nineteenth streets, fronting on Main street twenty feet and eight inches, running back on Nineteenth street one hundred and sixty-five feet, and including the lot occupied by Dr. S. D. Shultz, being a portion of the above property.

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