

Subscription for One Year, \$2.00. For Six Months, \$1.25. For Three Months, \$0.75. For One Month, \$0.25.

POSTPONED PAYMENTS. If not paid in advance, payments on the above charges will be made as follows:—If payments be delayed for three months, an addition of 12 1/2 per cent. will be charged; if for six months, 25 per cent.; and if for 12 months, 50 per cent.

ADVERTISING RATES. Advertisements will be inserted at the rate of One Dollar per square of Ten Lines or less, for every insertion. Unless the number of insertions be marked upon the manuscript it will be published until forlorn and charged accordingly.

Professional. JOHN SCHEIDT, R. H. CATLETT, R. H. BELL, Staunton, Meigs county, Lexington.

ROBOLS, BELL & CATLETT, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, STAUNTON, VIRGINIA.

JAMES W. MILLER, SURGEON DENTIST, STAUNTON, VA.

D. R. K. MADISON (Late Surgeon of the Va. Military Institute) offers his professional services to the citizens of Staunton and its vicinity as SURGEON and PHYSICIAN.

BOLIVAR CHRISTIAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, STAUNTON, VA.

MICHELLE & SMITH, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, STAUNTON, VA.

Orlando Smith, ATTORNEY AT LAW, AND COMMISSIONER IN CHANCERY, STAUNTON, VA.

BAYLOR & HANGEM, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, STAUNTON, VIRGINIA.

DR. B. M. ATEENSON, late of Lunenburg county, Va., has permanently located in Staunton, and offers his PROFESSIONAL SERVICES to the citizens of the town and neighboring counties.

GEORGE H. SMITH, ATTORNEY AT LAW, STAUNTON, VA.

DR. E. K. YOUNG & DR. O. M. KING, OFFER their Professional Services to the citizens of Staunton and vicinity.

DR. ARTHUR HARRINGTON, and will be glad to see his old patrons. Oct. 24. 1865.

Real Estate Agencies. J. D. PRICE & CO., REAL ESTATE AGENTS, HARRISBURG, ROCKINGHAM CO., VA.

PERSONS having Real Estate to dispose of will secure early CASH purchasers by calling on us. We commission early sales are positively effected.

THOS. J. BAGBY, Real Estate Agent, AND Commission Merchant, 50 S. Wall or 15th Street, between Main and Franklin.

NOTICE.—The undersigned, having associated with him as Partner in the Staunton FURNITURE, Mr. Wm. Stover, a practical tanner who has been engaged with him during the past 18 years, the style of the firm will be Maize & Stover.

STATIONER'S SUPPLY.

STAUNTON, VA., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1865. VOL. 42. NO. 25.

Gift Distributions.

GREAT DISTRIBUTION BY THE Eureka Gift Association.

150 Broadway, New York. ROSEWOOD PIANOS, MELODEONS, FINE OIL PAINTINGS, ENGRAVINGS, SILVER WARE, FINE GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, Diamond Pins, Diamond Rings, Gold Bracelets, Ladies' Sets, Gold Pens with Gold and Silver Extension Holders, Silver Buttons, Sets of Stays, Vest and Neck Chains, Gold Rings, &c. Valued at \$1,000,000.

DISTRIBUTION is made in the following manner: CERTIFICATE naming each article and its value, are placed in SEALED ENVELOPES, which are well mixed. One of these Envelopes, containing the Certificate and Order for some article, will be delivered at our office, or sent by mail to any address, without regard to choice, on receipt of 25 Cents.

For One Dollar

which they need not pay until it is known what is drawn and its value. Entire satisfaction Guaranteed in all cases.

THE EUREKA GIFT ASSOCIATION

would call attention to the fact of its being the Original and Largest Gift Association in the country. We are therefore enabled to send Fixed Goods, and give better chances to obtain the more valuable prizes, than any other establishment of the kind.

During the past year this Association has sent a very large number of valuable prizes to all parts of the country. Those who patronize us will receive valuable prizes for their money as no article on our list is worth less than One Dollar, retail, and there are no blanks.

To be Sold for \$1.00 Each.

- Without regard to value and not to be paid for until you know what you will receive. ELEGANT ROSEWOOD PIANOS, \$250.00 to \$500.00. 100 Fine Oil Paintings, \$25.00 to \$100.00. 100 Ladies' Gold Watches, \$5.00 to \$25.00. 100 Silver Watches, \$2.50 to \$10.00. 100 Fine Steel Engravings, Framed, \$1.00 to \$5.00. 100 Music Boxes, \$1.00 to \$5.00. 100 Silver Revolving Patent Castors, \$1.00 to \$5.00. 100 Silver Fruit and Cake Baskets, \$1.00 to \$5.00. 100 Silver Tea and Table Spoons, \$1.00 to \$5.00. 2,500 Vest and Neck Chains, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Ladies' Silver Port Monies, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Gent's Knives, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Pairs Ear Rings, (new styles), \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Gold Pens and Tooth Picks, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Quills, and Amethyst Brooches, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Gold Chains, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Masonic Pins, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Fine Gold Watch Keys, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Gold Rings, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Sets of Bone Stays, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Enamelled Sleeve Buttons, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Plain Gold and Gilt Rings, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Gold Chains and Seal Rings, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,500 Gold Lockets, all sizes, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 10,000 Sets of Ladies' Jewelry, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 10,000 Ladies' Goggles, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 5,000 Gold Pens, Silver &c. Cases, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 5,000 Gent's Breast and Scarf Pins, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Ladies' New Styles, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Gold Chains and Seal Rings, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 1,000 Gold Bimbles, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Sets Ladies' Jet and Gold, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Gold Chains, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Gold Bracelets, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Ball Earrings, all colors, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Fine Gold Pens, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 New Style Jet and Gold Earrings, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 New Style Long Crystal Earrings, \$1.00 to \$2.50. 2,000 Gold Pens, \$1.00 to \$2.50.

FOR 25 CENTS

SEALED ENVELOPES will be sent for One Dollar; Eleven for Two Dollars; Thirty for Five Dollars; Sixty for Ten Dollars; One Hundred for Fifteen Dollars. AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE.

Our patrons are desired to send United States money when it is convenient. Long letters are unnecessary.

Orders for SEALED ENVELOPES must in every case be accompanied by the Cash, with the name of the person sending, and the Town, County and State plainly written. Letters should be addressed to the Managers, as follows:

GOODWIN, HUNT & CO., Box 5706 Post Office, New York. Nov. 23-1m

METROPOLITAN ENTERPRISE.

Great Gift Sale OF THE NEW YORK AND PROVIDENCE JEWELERS' ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL, \$1,000,000. DEPOT, 137 BROADWAY.

AN immense stock of Pianos, Watches, Jewelry, and Fancy Goods, all to be sold for ONE DOLLAR each, without regard to value, and not to be paid for until you see what you will receive.

POETRY.

Morning Memories.

I love to go far back in thought, And wander o'er all that I loved; The dear old places where first I met; On old-time's hallowed ground, In sun-bright childhood; where the shade Of morning filled the hours, And hope's soft-star so brightly burned, Above heart-buds and flowers.

Mercy.

When man from Paradise was driven, And thorns around his pathway sprung, Sweet mercy, wandering there from Heaven, Upon those thorns bright roses hung. And eye, as justice cursed the ground, And stole behind, unheard, unseen, And as the curses fell around, She scattered seeds of joy between. And thus as evil springs to light, And spread like weeds their poisonous wild, Fresh healing plants came blooming bright, And stood to check them side by side.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE (Extracts.)

THE PUBLIC DEBT. The amount of State Bonds registered and bearing interest at six per cent. is \$21,888,898 33. Registered five per cent. bonds, 108,000 00.

Six per cent. Coupon Bonds, \$11,108,000. Bonds, payable in London, 1,865,000 00.

Aggregate Amount, \$4,966,898 33. Interest and sinking fund, 5,071,337 29. Add Guaranteed Bonds, by which the State is liable, and will have to pay, 822,855 00. Interest thereon to July 1st, '65, 147,726 20.

Aggregate up to July 1st, 1865, \$41,961,316 87. ASSETS OF THE STATE. Stocks in Railroads, \$18,649,843 34. Seven per cent. Bonds loaned to Railroads, 3,693,333 33. Add four years' interest, 809,133 29. \$22,702,319 87.

OTHER ASSETS.

The State has invested several millions of dollars in stock in the James River and Kanawha Canal Company, and holds a large amount of stock in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, but there is no hope that any of these investments can be relied on as sources of revenue for many years to come, if ever. She has, also, some tobacco warehouses, and the armory grounds in this city, which are valuable water power, and are connected with the laborer for a violation of his engagement. Freedom, in its great essential, consists in the privilege to a man of appropriating whatever he earns to his own use. To be free, labor must be voluntary; every effort to enforce it by law, except in such cases as are necessary for the public safety, will result in failure. Idleness brings its own punishment. After the most mature consideration I have been able to give to the subject, I think there is very little positive legislation needed in regard to this class. A law should be passed requiring the clerk of each county or corporation to keep a book, in which, at the joint request of a negro man and woman who have heretofore been living as man and wife, he shall register their names and the date of their marriage. For which service he shall require a fee not to exceed ten cents. This registry should be considered a lawful and legitimate the children of the parties, and impose on them all the obligations of husband and wife, and of parents. A license should be required to be obtained by those desiring to marry, as in the case of white persons; but a separate register should be kept of all such licenses granted. I would recommend that a law be passed authorizing the courts to grant permission to colored persons to be married, and to be recognized as matrimony. The constitution of the State authorizes the apprenticing of colored children on the same terms that white children are apprenticed, and therefore the law will need amendment in this particular. Negroes should be tried and punished for offenses in the same manner as white persons. They should also be allowed to testify as witnesses in all cases in the courts of justice. I am aware of the objections which are made to this last recommendation, but I think these objections are founded more in prejudice than in reason.

PAYMENT OF THE STATE DEBT AND TAXATION.

The holders of Virginia State Bonds are pressing for the payment of the interest due. On the first day of January next, the interest due on these bonds will amount to above six millions of dollars. Various plans have been suggested for finding the interest, and the issue of the bonds for the same, bearing different rates of interest; those who hold no bonds, for the most part, propose that the bonds issued to pay this interest shall themselves bear interest, while others, including the bond holders, insist on different amounts of interest, from one to six per cent. The English bond holders propose that the State shall fund the interest on the 1st day of January, 1867.

OSPEERS.

The privilege of taking oysters is a legitimate subject of taxation, and the collection of the tax will be easily executed if the Legislature shall take hold of the subject in earnest. In the course of fifteen or twenty years this fund would be adequate to pay a large part of the public debt, and create a literary fund which would afford a common school education for all the children of the State.

RAILROADS.

As above stated, we have upwards of \$22,000,000 invested in railroad stocks and bonds. Something more than \$15,000,000 of this sum is in railroads in running condition, and would, in the hands of private stockholders, soon yield a revenue of from seven to ten per cent. to the owners; but whether they will ever yield anything to the State and stockholders under the existing system remains to be seen. I express this doubt from the experience of this and other States that have embarked in a general system of internal improvements. It was found that while the State was an owner or partner, little or no profit was realized. A number of States sold out their interest in internal improvements to private companies, who became the owners where the State owned the whole, or the joint owners with original stockholders. These works, in the hands of private individuals, immediately became profitable.

I am of opinion that all these improvements in the hands of private individuals would, in a short time, yield dividends of from 7 to 10 per cent, and believe that the interest of the State in them can be leased, say for a period of thirty years, for more than six per cent. per annum on the investment, by giving the lessee the privilege at any time within the 30 years, of purchasing the interest of the State, paying the amount of the State's investment in money, or in the bonds of the State. Some of these roads are deemed more valuable than others; each one, therefore, should be less

ed or sold to the highest bidder, and in no case should the State's interest be sold or leased for less than its cost to the State.

This would obviously be greatly to the advantage of the private stockholders by furnishing them active and able partners instead of the State, which is the present system. This plan would at once relieve the State about fifteen millions of its debt.

COLLECTION OF TAXES.

The mode of collecting the taxes of the State is one that eminently needs reform, and deserves the prompt action of the General Assembly. By the present law five per cent. is allowed for the collection of the revenue. The collection of \$2,500,000, the interest on the public debt, costs the State \$125,000. For the collection of the license tax a less sum is allowed. The report of the Auditor shows that from 1852 to 1859, a period of seven years, there was in the hands of sheriffs, uncollected, of principal and interest, above \$440,000. Here was a sum of itself more than sufficient to pay for the collection of all the taxes of the State in the mode by which they are collected in other States. But a great deal of time is expended by the Legislature at every session, in considering petitions and passing bills to relieve the securities of defaulting sheriffs from a contempt which they are liable to incur for the failure of their principals to pay into the treasury the revenue collected by them. This is only a part of the evil growing out of the system. The sheriff or deputy, to whom he farms the office, becomes a "paper sheriff," and the tax collector is not infrequently used for purposes of extortion and usury. Habits of extravagance are often contracted in the sheriff by the long use of money not his own, he becomes a defaulter, and the people and the State are the losers. It is necessary to appoint a person of good character and business habits to collect the taxes; who shall be paid a per diem compensation for his services; that the commissioner of the revenue when his books are made out, as now required by law, shall place them in the hands of a collector who shall be required to collect the collection of taxes on the first day of October in each year; he should be required to appoint two consecutive days on which he shall attend at the usual places of voting in each magistrical district; and that any person who shall pay his taxes at the time so appointed should be allowed a discount of five per cent. on the amount of the same. After the collector shall have visited all the districts of his county, any person who shall have failed to pay, should be allowed to do so by calling on the collector at his usual place of business, within thirty days from the date of such failure, but no discount should be allowed on such payment. All assessments remaining unpaid in the hands of the collector should be placed in the hands of a district collector in each magistrical district, with ten per cent. added, which should be allowed as commissions to such collector on all sums collected by him. Power should be conferred on the district collector to levy for the amount of the tax, or a violation of his engagement, proper, taken to satisfy the same after ten days' notice. These district collectors might be allowed until the first of March in each year to make their returns. The names of the delinquents should be published; and as the Constitution of the State requires that the names of the delinquents be published, it is necessary that the names of the delinquents should be published in a newspaper for every person offering to vote, no previous notice should be allowed to exercise the right of suffrage after such publication.

REVENUE.

It is obviously the duty as well as interest of land owners and other employing colored laborers to treat them kindly, and pay them fair wages. For which wages can be required by law, or that any new mode of enforcing contracts ought to be prescribed by the Legislature; but written contracts with this class of persons should be encouraged. The forfeiture of wages for non-fulfillment will, it is believed, be a sufficient punishment to the laborer for a violation of his engagement. Freedom, in its great essential, consists in the privilege to a man of appropriating whatever he earns to his own use. To be free, labor must be voluntary; every effort to enforce it by law, except in such cases as are necessary for the public safety, will result in failure. Idleness brings its own punishment. After the most mature consideration I have been able to give to the subject, I think there is very little positive legislation needed in regard to this class. A law should be passed requiring the clerk of each county or corporation to keep a book, in which, at the joint request of a negro man and woman who have heretofore been living as man and wife, he shall register their names and the date of their marriage. For which service he shall require a fee not to exceed ten cents. This registry should be considered a lawful and legitimate the children of the parties, and impose on them all the obligations of husband and wife, and of parents. A license should be required to be obtained by those desiring to marry, as in the case of white persons; but a separate register should be kept of all such licenses granted. I would recommend that a law be passed authorizing the courts to grant permission to colored persons to be married, and to be recognized as matrimony. The constitution of the State authorizes the apprenticing of colored children on the same terms that white children are apprenticed, and therefore the law will need amendment in this particular. Negroes should be tried and punished for offenses in the same manner as white persons. They should also be allowed to testify as witnesses in all cases in the courts of justice. I am aware of the objections which are made to this last recommendation, but I think these objections are founded more in prejudice than in reason.

THE JAMES RIVER CANAL AND RAILROAD.

I do not despair of the canal yet becoming a useful work and remunerative to the State. By prudent management it may be kept in repair from the tolls until the Covington and Ohio Railroad shall be completed, which work will form a great auxiliary to the canal and make it profitable. It is about one hundred and forty miles from Covington to the rich canal and bituminous coal fields on the Kanawha river. The maximum grade on this road coming east is only forty feet to the mile, and only a little more going west. Large amounts of oak ship timber of the finest quality are reached within thirty or forty miles from the canal. Immense forests of this timber are there, immediately on the line of the road. The wild cherry and the walnut, which are in such demand for making furniture, are also abundant in the section through which it passes. But its great local business will be derived from the transportation of canal coal, which is found in inexhaustible quantities in the Kanawha valley. This coal is produced in a manner in which he declined being accounted for the vice of Speaker, and if his friends thought that the floor was the proper place for him, he would remain there

vains from ten to fourteen feet in thickness. The latter coals are peculiarly valuable for smelting iron ore, owing to their freedom from sulphur. The Covington road runs through the great iron deposit in Allegheny and Greenbrier counties. The proximity of this coal and iron ore will build up a large trade upon the road. But the local advantages of this road are only a small part of the inducement for its construction. A large portion of West Virginia, Southern Ohio and Kentucky will find over it a natural and easy outlet to the water. Passengers and freight from Cincinnati, its western terminus, by taking this road will arrive at Washington and Baltimore by the Virginia Central and Orange and Alexandria roads sooner than they can reach the cars on the Baltimore and Ohio road at Parkersburg and Wheeling, by the ordinary steamboat route. The connections with tide water at Richmond will be so ample, and of such easy access, that millions of dollars worth of produce, whose value is now half consumed in transportation, will find a cheap and expeditious route to market on this road, and thereby build up the great interests of Virginia.

Virginia Legislature.

SENATE.—Monday, Dec. 4, 1865.—On calling the roll of the Senate, there was found to be 24 Senators present and 9 absent. In the absence of Lieut. Gov. Cowper, Mr. E. C. Robinson, of Norfolk, was appointed Speaker pro tem. The Speaker announced that the next business in order would be the election of Clerk of the Senate, Mr. Shelton C. Davis, of Richmond, was nominated a former clerk of the Senate, was nominated. No other person being in nomination, the vote was taken, and resulted unanimously for Mr. Davis. For the office of Sergeant-at arms, Messrs. J. A. Jordan, F. V. Sutton, of H. W. Wm. Wirt, Harrison, of Richmond, and N. A. Thompson were nominated. There was no election on the first vote. Second vote—Harrison 21, Thompson 2, Sutton 1. Harrison was elected Sergeant-at arms of the Senate. The election of Doorkeeper being next in order, Messrs. Miles C. Eggleston, of Henrico, Dr. Clayton G. Coleman, Jr., of Louisa, August Rozine, of Richmond, Shelby Baldwin, of Augusta, and Edwin C. Moore, of Orange, were nominated. No choice on the first, second and third votes—Fourth vote—Rozine, 18; Moore, 6. Necessary to a choice, 18. Rozine elected. The election of Printer to the Senate being next in order, there was a motion made to postpone, which was lost—ayes 8, noes 14. Messrs. J. W. Sewell, of Richmond, James C. Goode, the former printer, and Richard M. Smith, of Richmond, were then put in nomination, and on the third vote, Mr. Goode was elected, having received 18 votes.

RESOLUTIONS.

On motion of Mr. Bolling, the following resolution was adopted: Resolved, That the House of Delegates be informed that the Senate is now organized, and that a joint committee be appointed, consisting of three members on the part of the Senate, and five members on the part of the House, to inform the Governor that both Houses of the General Assembly are organized, and that the General Assembly is ready to receive any communication he may desire to make.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Bolling was designated by the Speaker to communicate the above resolution to the House. The Senate having been informed that the House was organized and ready to receive communications, the Speaker thereupon appointed Messrs. Bolling, Meador and Carter, a committee on the part of the Senate, to unite with a committee of the House, to wait on the Governor of the State and inform him of the organization of the two Houses and of the readiness to receive any communication he may deem proper to make.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Bolling, of the Senate's committee, announced that the joint committee had waited on the Governor, who informed them that he would forthwith make a communication to the Senate.

THE MESSAGE.

The message was handed in and five hundred copies ordered to be printed. Mr. Gray rose and said, as the reading of the Governor's message was occupying the attention of the Senate to-day, he moved that the Senate adjourn.

AGREED TO.

Agreed to, and the Speaker announced the Senate adjourned until 12 o'clock, Tuesday.

HOUSE.—At twelve o'clock, the Virginia House of Delegates assembled in the Hall in the building of the State Capitol, and was called to order by John Bell Bigler, late assistant Clerk.

Mr. Bigler was elected Clerk of the House, by a vote of 48 to 44.

THE SPEAKER.

The Clerk announced the election of a Speaker as next in order. Mr. Grattan, of Richmond, nominated F. N. Watkins, who, he said, although a new member, had had great experience in presiding over important deliberative bodies. Moreover, he is a high-toned Virginia gentleman, and is distinguished by all the qualities necessary for the office. In his decisions, members might rest assured, he would ever be prompt and decided.

MR. WORD OF BOTETOURT.

Mr. Word of Botetourt, nominated John B. Baldwin, of Augusta. Though there are many strangers in the House, there were none who had not heard of the gentleman named. Twenty years ago he was a member of the House and at once took high rank among its leading members. His perfect acquaintance with parliamentary law renders it highly important that, at this particular time, he, of all others, should be elevated to the Speaker's chair.

MR. KILBY.

Mr. Kilby, of Nansemond, nominated Mr. Joynes, of Petersburg, who, he said, had presided in the Circuit Court of his district with marked ability. The fact that he has not had much legislative experience did not, in his opinion, unfit him for the Speakership.

Mr. Woodson said—Coming, as he did, from the county adjoining that which Mr. Baldwin represented, he thought it proper that he should second his nomination. He said Col. Baldwin was a gentleman of high character, great legislative experience and remarkable decision. In a word, that he combined, in a very high degree, all the qualities requisite in a Speaker, and, if elected, could enter, without preparation, upon the discharge of the important duties which would devolve upon him in order.

Mr. Straughan agreed with the gentleman who had preceded him, as to the qualifications of their candidates, but he also desired to present to the House the name of a gentleman, who possessed high qualifications for the Speakership. He alluded to Muscoe Garnett, of Essex, who, in addition to having served in the House for a number of years, was a member of the lengthy Convention of '50-'51.

Mr. Garnett said—Tendering to my friend from Northumberland my grateful acknowledgments for the very flattering manner in which he has placed my name before the House, for the high and honorable position of its presiding officer, I very respectfully ask him to withdraw it. I am unwilling to be a party even to a seeming contest here for anything. I came for no such purpose. Mr. Joynes withdrew his name, and paid a high compliment to the ability of Mr. Baldwin, but he preferred him on the floor as a member of the Judiciary Committee, instead of in the Speaker's chair. He would, therefore, support Mr. Watkins, who, he thought, would make an excellent presiding officer.

Mr. Baldwin here arose and said that his friends who had approached him upon the subject would bear him out in the assertion that he had declined being accounted for the vice of Speaker, and if his friends thought that the floor was the proper place for him, he would remain there

and do all in his power to advance the interests of the State.

Mr. Word insisted on keeping Mr. Baldwin in nomination.

Mr. Woodson nominated Mr. Pendleton, of Giles, but he declined.

Messrs. Garnett and Miller, of Amelia and Notoway, spoke in favor of Mr. Watkins, after which the roll was called, with the following result—Baldwin, 45; Watkins, 44; Joynes, (Mr. Kellam's) There was consequently no election. The name of Mr. Joynes being dropped, the roll was called a second time, when Mr. Baldwin was elected by a vote of 49; Mr. Watkins receiving 42.

Mr. Baldwin, on taking his seat said—Gentlemen, the best evidence I can give you of my appreciation of the honor conferred upon me, is to enter at once upon the earnest and honest discharge of the duties of the position. The House will come to order.

The Speaker announced the election of a Sergeant-at Arms next in order. Mr. Robert W. Burke, of Augusta, was elected on the 2d ballot. For the position of First Doorkeeper, Kebley, of Albemarle, was elected.

Mr. George Wilson, Jr., was elected Second Doorkeeper.

On motion of Mr. Watkins, of Prince Edward, a committee of three was appointed to act in conjunction with a similar committee on the part of the Senate and inform the Governor that the two Houses were organized and ready to receive a message from the Governor.

A message was received from the Governor, through Col. Charles Lewis, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

On motion of Mr. Garnett, it was laid upon the table and ordered to be printed for the benefit of the people.

On motion, the House then adjourned.

Letter of Rev. B. H. Crever.

The following, from the pen of Rev. B. H. Crever, was published in the New York "Methodist," of Nov. 4th, 1865. Mr. Crever was appointed by Bishop Clark, of the North-Hem Methodist Church, to take charge of the Methodist congregation in Winchester, Va. The Reverend gentleman made his appearance about the 1st of September, and took formal possession of the Church, supplanting their regular pastor, Rev. Norval Wilson, a high-toned gentleman, devout Christian, and an able and venerable minister of the Baltimore Annual Conference, and thus by foisting himself upon a people who did not desire his services, deprived them of the sacred right of worshipping God in a Church erected by their own hands.

The congregation having been turned out of their own Church, have accepted an invitation to occupy the commodious Church erected by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, where they have the pleasure of listening to the word of God as preached by their beloved pastor, Mr. Wilson, a man of their own choice.

As an evidence of the Christian faith exhibited by Mr. Crever, and of the "howels of mercy" with which he yearns towards his erring, but unrepenting brethren, and also to apprise Virginia Methodists of the kind treatment they may expect at his hands, we subjoin the following charitable opinions expressed by him in the letter referred to:

"The attempt of certain ministers, formerly of the Baltimore Conference, to occupy her church edifices in this valley, and to corrupt the minds of her people, is an unholy effort of desperate men to save themselves by the destruction of the Church. It is a criminal conspiracy, limited in its primary and secret agency to a few leading minds, and generated by the identical spirit that produced our civil war. These men are so shamefully involved by public and professional advocacy in the guilt of the rebellion, that they dare not openly repudiate and fruitless repentance could secure for them toleration or favor in thoroughly loyal communities. They are themselves profoundly convinced of this fact. But they are unblushingly unrepentant, with the fact staring them in the face that they were expelled from Staunton, in 1861, for helping to lead the State of Virginia, and to precipitate the rebellion. Responsible before heaven for the slaughter of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of young men, detained by their sophistries into the rebel ranks, they yet betray no particles of regret.

"In this condition they accept the alternative which is forced upon them, which is to adhere sullenly to the fields they have helped to desolate, and to the people whose souls they have betrayed to unhonored graves.

"To foster the rebel sentiment which slavery is, with them, a cardinal virtue, essential to success. The great feature of their field tactics is 'to resist the invaders'—that is, the coming of the regular ministry of the M. E. Church. They cannot be otherwise than hostile to themselves than by inflaming the lingering sparks of the rebellion, branding native loyalty with reproachful epithets, and creating local prejudice against Northern enterprise and thrift.

"Thus we have reimagined on Virginia soil the worship of the golden calf, by which we proclaim the gospel of peace and good will stand at God's altar and virtually swear their subjects to undying enmity of those who are in reality their best friends.

"Some apology might be discovered for their lamentable, church accessible, while slavery yet ruled with despotic sway. It were charitable to believe that they neither foresaw the consequences of that act, nor sought to strengthen the hands of political criminals who were even then in power. But to maintain the present attitude, after the unequalled horrors of the past four years, shuns out all charitable presumption.

"The Christianity and patriotism of this scheme of building religious institutions on the basis of sectional prejudice, is only equalled by the expediency of those who are seeking its promotion. Some of them have recently been to Washington. Rebels have been there in great numbers receiving amnesty for past sins, and swearing anew their fealty to the government, and their allegiance to the Constitution. They are not convicted of sin, they were not concerned about pardon. What they wanted was protection. Heaven save the mark! If their prayers for the success of the rebellion had only been answered—so fervent and so well remembered now—they would not have needed even this; but by some mysterious providence, doubtless intended for the trial of their faith, the blessed confederacy is in a state of suspended animation, and slavery is apparently dead, they find it convenient, for the time being, to recognize a federal executive, and to profess to be loyal to the Union.

"Their modest request was that they simply be protected in the possession of the property of the great and venerable Church whose interests they have so fully betrayed. Thoroughly versed in the conventional unity of Methodism, knowing well that this is the secret of her power as a denomination, and that, to this very end—that is, to maintain this unity—her church property is secured to the use of her ministry at large, under the pastoral control of her bishops, these scoundrels claim to be the exclusive priests at her altars.

"This would be conciliation with a vengeance. When loyal and true men, who are a part of every community, find the doors of the M. E. Church shut in their