Staunton Spectator.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1879.

Local Department.

Literary.

Among the articles in the SATURDAY MAGAZINE for February 1st, that which will attract most attention is a ghost story of the circumstantial and authenticated sort, with some original letters of Charles Dickens, now first printed, showing that he, Layard, Bulwer, and others, thought the account very remarkable. There is also the usual range of bright and readable selections.

To such as desire to see THE SATURDAY MAGAZINE, the publishers offer this and the next three numbers as a *Trial Subscription*, at 25 cents for the four. 11 BROOMFIELD STREET, BOSTON.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.—The number of *The Living Age* for the week ending Feb. 1st has some noteworthy articles. The first is an address on "The Historical Aspect of the United States," by Dean Stanley. This is followed by "The Logic of Toleration," by W. H. Mallock, author of "Positivism on an Island"; an article on "George Henry Lewes" by Anthony Trollope; an instalment of "Sir Gibbie" by George MacDonald, and of "A Doubting Heart" by Miss Keary; Insectivorous Plants, *Nineteenth Century*; Dreams, *Saturday Review*; Heather, *Blackwood*, and several choice poems, and miscellany.

For fifty-two such numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,000 pages a year), the subscription price ($8) is low; while for $10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American $4 monthlies or weeklies with *The Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Gay, Boston, publishers.

THE ALDERSON ENTERPRISE.—We have received the first copy of the *Alderson Enterprise* established at the enterprising town of Alderson on the Ches. & Ohio Railroad in Monroe county, W. Va., by Mr. John M. Ferguson late of the *Waynesboro' Tribune*. The editor makes his *debut* in a brief and appropriate salutatory. His paper is of good size, is neatly printed, and is filled with entertaining matter, both original and selected, and deserves the liberal support of the citizens of that growing town, and of Monroe and adjoining counties, and we hope it will receive it in good measure, "pressed down and running over." Nothing adds so much to the prosperity of a town or community as a well-supported and well-conducted newspaper. It is the "Aladdin's lamp" of merchants and business men who are wise enough to advertise liberally.

CHEAPEST BIBLES EVER SOLD.—See in another column an advertisement of Illustrated Family Bibles at astonishingly low prices.—The American Family Bible Publishing Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, is fully able to do what they offer, and we understand that every one who has bought a Bible of them are more than pleased; their Bibles are self-explaining, and the amount of extra matter they bind with the Bible, if bought separately, would cost more than they ask for the Bibles. The firm is first-class and the Bibles can be returned if purchasers are not satisfied.

Best oysters in the city, only $1.00, at Yeager's.

Personals.

Miss Willie Connell an attractive young lady of Charlottesville is now visiting her friend, Mrs. B. F. Stiff.

We are sorry to learn that Mr. E. J. Sullivan, Postmaster at Harrisonburg, is seriously ill with pneumonia.

Miss Mary Lee, daughter of Gen. R. E. Lee, was a few days ago entertained by Lord and Lady Napier at Gibraltar, and a few weeks before was within the Russian lines in Turkey.—So states the Norfolk *Virginian*.

Mr. J. T. Muller, of Iowa, is in our city, in the interest of immigration to the State of Virginia. He comes with letters of high commendation from numerous well-known gentlemen of Virginia, and this evening at 7 o'clock, will meet a number of our citizens at the Mayor's office for the purpose of explaining his views upon this important subject of immigration.

Major N. H. Hotchkiss, after several weeks visit North, returned home on yesterday looking well and hearty. Whilst on his visit he did not forget the city of Staunton, and wherever he went distributed copies of its recently published history. The Port Jervis *Gazette* N. Y., of the 28th of January, speaking of his visit to that town says:—"The Major is all the time traveling and he seems to have only two objects in view, viz: to set forth to the world the advantages of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, which passes through some of the finest scenery in the South, and to make people happy. He has ever a smile on his face and a good word for all. He is one of Nature's noblemen, and we sincerely hope he will live long and often visit his old friends in the North."

MR. A. Y. LEE'S CARD.—The following is an extract from the card of Mr. A. Y. Lee published in the last *Vindicator*:—

"The SPECTATOR's attack upon *Valley Farmer, Live Stock and Poultry Journal* would pass unheeded by, were it not that statements were made in the article which are not sustained by facts in the case. It is stated that I furnished a cut for the Hotchkiss pamphlet, and that being the worst in the whole book, I should bear some of the blame for the miserable cuts that adorn it. I deny furnishing any cut, or drawing whereby any engraving was made."

From this seemingly sweeping and unqualified denial, persons would naturally conclude that he had not the slightest agency and was not in any way responsible for the character of the "miserable cuts," as he terms them; but such a conclusion would evidently be very erroneous, for in the same card, he admits that the cut referred to was engraved from a photograph of the "original drawing" executed by himself, and that his "consent to its being used was obtained."

As the statement made in reference to this cut, is the only one denied by Mr. Lee, it will be seen, from his own admissions, to what degree the "statements" denied by him are "sustained by the facts in the case."

We are pleased to see that Mr. Lee promises that the next issue of the *Valley Farmer* shall be printed in a more creditable manner. We congratulate its subscribers upon the benefit the criticism upon its first issue promises to effect.

The Lexington *Gazette* in noticing the death and burial of Mr. Wallace Martin, son of Rev. Dr. J. S. Martin, of this city, says the procession which followed his remains to their final resting place was estimated to be about five hundred. At the burying ground the ritual peculiar to the Methodist Church was read. When the grave was about to be closed over his remains the venerable father of the deceased, with his sorrowing wife leaning on his arm, stepped forward and addressed the assemblage as follows:

"*Kind Friends:* I thank you for for this manifestation of respect shown to my deceased son and sympathy for us in our bereavement. He was a dutiful son. Oh! Wally Wally, farewell till the resurrection morn, when you arise and are arrayed in glory. We shall meet on that shining shore."

It was an affecting scene, and quite a number gave vent to their feelings in sobs and tears.

Valley Railroad.

ROANOKE COUNTY REPUDIATES HER SUBSCRIPTION.

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Roanoke county, on the 31st of January, resolutions were adopted revoking the subscription of two hundred thousand dollars to the Valley Railroad. These resolutions were taken under the power conferred on the Board by an Act of the General Assembly approved March 29th, 1873, entitled—

"An Act to authorize the revocation of subscriptions to the Valley Railroad Company, and the transfer of the same on certain conditions."

After the adoption of the resolutions an appropriation of $1,200 was made to employ counsel to resist the payment of the said subscription of $200,000.

PLUNKET.—In this place, on the 1st inst., Mr. Wm. McG. Plunket, son of Benjamin and Betsy Plunket, aged 33 years.

He had been a member of Company E., 5th Va. Regiment, Stonewall Brigade, and was for some time connected with the Stonewall Brigade Band during the war. He will be remembered by all who knew him in the army as a young man of the kindest and most generous feelings, ever ready to share his last morsel of food or his blanket, with a friend in need. The funeral procession on yesterday evening was attended by a large number of friends, headed by the old Stonewall Brigade Band and quite a large squad of members of the old Brigade. His remains were interred in Thornrose cemetery—Dr. Jno. S. Martin, conducting the services.

GROUND-HOG DAY.—Those who have faith in the superstition that if the ground-hog (Woodchuck) can see his shadow on the 2nd day of February there will be severe weather for the next six weeks, will now expect six weeks of cold weather, for on Sunday last, the 2nd inst., there was bright sunshine nearly all day.

For the SPECTATOR.

A RUINOUS MONOPOLY.

AN APPEAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL FOR RELIEF.

Sirs:—I read with much interest, in a recent number of one of the city papers, a communication having reference to the exorbitant charges made by our butchers for fresh meat.—It was demonstrated that while the butchers were paying from 2 to 3 cents per pound for beef live weight, they were selling it for from 8 to 12½ cents per pound net weight, or at an advance of over 200 per ct. per week! and this not counting the hide and tallow or fifth quarter which goes to swell the butchers' profits. The hope was expressed by the writer of that communication, in the interest of justice and fair dealing, no less than from considerations of mercy for our poor and struggling people that the butchers would lower their prices. It was thought that, of their own accord, they would take this step. An appeal was made to them to do so. It has been made in vain. The butchers have abated nothing of their excessive charges. Here is an emergency in which the people, whose voice is the voice of God, must take matters into their own hands. Let us see if the 30,000 people of Augusta county and of Staunton are to be rode, booted and spurred by a half dozen city butchers.

If the City Council will allow the city grocers to retail fresh meat, farmers can sell to them at a price which will enable the people of Staunton to eat roast beef at from 4 to 6 cents per pound. That the Council will grant us the measure of relief asked I do not doubt. They will not lend themselves to any scheme for grinding the faces of the poor. The 8000 people—Staunton and environs—the 25,000 people of the county are not to be sacrificed to a half dozen butchers. The days of Staunton's prosperity are numbered if this thing continues.—Is it surprising that many parents are driven to seek other schools than those unrivalled ones of Staunton, for both male and female education, when a prime necessary of life is so excessively enhanced in price? Well attended as are our Female Seminaries they ought,—all of them, to have double their present number of pupils, and would have if the necessaries of life could be had at a cheaper rate.

Is it to be wondered at that thousands of Summer tourists, sight-seers and health-seekers, give Staunton the go-by for less favored resorts of health, when our Hotel and boarding house proprietors are compelled to pay 200 per cent. a week on the meat they consume! With such a monstrous state of things it is not in the power of either schools or hotels to lower their charges and thus invite an influx of visitors.

To cut the matter short: The butchers by this course are not only oppressing our resident population, but impairing the usefulness of our schools, and keeping away strangers who would diffuse annually hundreds of thousands of dollars amongst us. In the murderous spirit of their calling they have laid the knife at the vitals of our prosperity. It is for you, gentlemen of the City Council! to save us from their rapacity and the town from ruin.

LIVE AND LET LIVE.

Letter from Mount Sidney.

MOUNT SIDNEY, Feb. 1st, 1879.

We now have the depot agency established at this place, and expect to open an express office in connection with it, in a few days.

That highly cultivated and valuable farm containing about 33 acres—on a portion of which the depot is built—formerly owned by Mr. Wm. Shumake, but recently sold to Mr. Geo. P. Sheets, was resold, by Mr. Shumake, on the 28th ult., to Mrs. Jonathan S. Johnson for $2,700.

The handsome two story brick building with a large lot attached, known as the "Hotel Property," situated near the center of this town, lately owned by Peter Neff, dec'd., was offered for sale to-day, pursuant to a decree of the Circuit court of Rockingham county; but as the bids did not amount to as much as the commissioner desired, it was not sold. The above property will be sold in front of the Court-house in Harrisonburg, on the 8th inst., for whatever it will bring, as this is the third time it has been offered for sale.

Mr. Wm. R. Hunter, better known, we suppose, as "The Children's Friend," has delivered a series of interesting and instructive lectures, in the M. E. Church in this place, to large and appreciative audiences on the subject of Sabbath Schools. He is a popular speaker, eloquent and influential, and we feel confident—judging from the marked attention his lectures commanded—that some good and permanent impressions have been made upon the young, if not the older hearts, of those who have heard him, which will bring forth fruit in honor and praise to the great, "I am." On Tuesday night he entertained a large audience with an apposite Temperance address; the members of the order of Friends of Temperance attending in insigna. We take pleasure in recommending Mr. Hunter, as a gentleman of superior qualities and an earnest worker in this great and important mission; and we trust that he will receive a liberal encouragement from the public, for we feel certain that those who have heard and may yet hear him will bless him in years to come, and his name will long be in their memories. REPORTER.

NEWS ITEMS FROM POND GAP AND VICINITY.—We are under obligations to our correspondent at Pond Gap for the following items of news:

Mr. Robert Buchanan, of Walker's Creek, who was so injured by his horse falling on him and striking him in the face with his feet, as to render him for a time unconscious, is now able to go about.

Mr. John Glover, of Craigsville, who was hurt by his horse falling with him on the ice during our recent cold spell, is now able to attend to business, though for some days it was thought he would not recover.

It is the Lessee of the "Coral Marble Works" at Craigsville who is making the extensive improvements for the shipment of marble, instead of below Goshen, as stated in a recent issue.

The proprietors of the "EUREKA IRON COMPANY" are now running their furnace, sixteen miles west of Staunton, themselves, and making from nine to eleven tons of metal per day. This is doing quite well, but their furnace has capacity for nearly two tons more.

Messrs. Huffner & Harris are engaged in getting out hoops for the manufacture of sugar hogsheads in Cuba. They are operating in the western portion of the county, and by the end of this week will have ready for shipment about 250,000 hoops.

SECOND AUDITOR'S STATEMENT OF THE STATE DEBT:—

Bonds of the State of Virginia held by creditors, treating the whole as funded	$29,367,958 06
Interest due thereon 1st of October, 1878	4,640,990 59
	$34,008,948 65
Held by the Literary Fund	$ 1,428,245 25
Interest due thereon 1st of October, 1878	263,273 28
	$ 1,691,518 53
Held by Sinking Fund	$ 5,130,871 90
Interest due thereon 1st of October, 1878	1,240,375 39
	$ 6,371,447 29
	$21,639,906 45
Amount of West Virginia's proportion of debt set aside by the funding act March 30, 1871	$15,239,370 74
Interest due thereon to 1st of October, 1878	6,400,535 71
	$21,639,906 45

Solid oysters only $1.00 at Yeager's. 3ts

YONGE—LOWRY.—On last Wednesday night the Chapel at the Virginia Female Institute was beautifully decorated by loving hands in honor of the nuptials of Miss Caroline F. Lowry, a graduate and teacher of the Institute. The happy groom was Mr. Chandler C. Yonge, son of Judge Yonge, of Pensacola, Florida, a young gentleman of high character and worthy of the sweet and charming prize he has secured. The ceremony was performed by Rev. R. H. Phillips, Principal of the Institute, assisted by Rev. Walter Q. Hullihen, rector of Trinity Church. The Trustees of the Institute as a testimonial of their regard and affection for the fair young bride attended in a body, and many friends were also present to offer their congratulations and wish the newly married couple *bon voyage* on the matrimonial sea, after which they left on the express train for the home of the groom in the flowery land of Florida.

DEATH OF MRS. LIGGETT.—We learned on yesterday the sad intelligence of the death from pneumonia of Mrs. Liggett, of Harrisonburg, wife of Philip Liggett, on Sunday night at half-past ten o'clock. She was in her sixty-fifth year. Her youngest son, Wm. Liggett, an employee in the SPECTATOR office, received on Sunday evening a telegram announcing her serious illness, and hastened at once to Harrisonburg, but she breathed her last an hour before he reached there. She was an aunt of Maj. Yost of the *Virginian* of this city. Her burial will take place this morning.

Salt water oysters at Yeager's—only $1.00 per gallon—solid measure. 3ts

Brief.

Sunday was "ground-hog day."

Another "polar wave" reached us on last Saturday.

The *Goodson Gazette* has become an illustrated paper.

Now go and get your Valentine, if you would please that girl of thine.

The Waynesboro *Tribune* is puzzling its readers with a puzzle department.

Coughs, colds, and cat-nip tea are prevailing as epidemics in this community.

There will be a meeting to-day of the Board of Directors of the Baldwin Augusta Fair.

The Readjusters' meeting will take place on next Saturday, the 8th inst., at the Court-house.

The approaching season of Lent is looked forward to with much anxiety by the members of the various festive clubs of the city.

Popular song in England "By Baby Bunting, Dizzy's gone a hunting, to get a little Afghan skin to wrap the British lion in."

Sunday was a cold but bright day, and all the churches were well attended. Communion services were held at the Episcopal, Baptist, and First Presbyterian churches.

The young folks of the Methodist church South will give a Fair under the City Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday nights for the benefit of the parsonage.

The work on the city theatre is being pushed ahead rapidly, and Staunton will soon be prepared to properly accommodate first-class theatrical companies.

The Ladies of the Baptist church began a Fair and Festival last night, on Augusta street, in the room formerly occupied by Lipscomb & Somerville, and it will be continued to-night.

The Farmville *Journal*, a new paper started at Farmville, Virginia, comes to us for the first time. It presents a very handsome typographical appearance and is ably edited. We wish it success.

"A young lady in Albany has been fined $5 for eaves-dropping." And a young gentleman from Richmond has been fined $1.20 for throwing a kiss to a Staunton school-girl. A fine pass this world is coming to.

The Temperance prayer-meetings, which have been suspended for some time past, will be resumed next Sunday, in the Hall of West Augusta Lodge, service commencing at three o'clock. The public are invited to attend.

The City Council has agreed to accept the $75 tendered for the recordation of the deed of transfer of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad.—This is quite a come down from the $17,000 first demanded, but entirely in accordance, we think, with right and justice.

We return thanks for an invitation to a musical soiree at the Virginia Female Institute on last Friday night, and regret that we were not able to be present. The programme was a very attractive one, and its rendition afforded much pleasure to all who were fortunate enough to be present.

We sympathize with the *Goodson Gazette* in the misfortune which befell it last week in piing its inside form, just before going to press.—It rallied, however, and, instead of the usual amount of interesting reading matter, gave its subscribers a very handsomely printed cut of the Institution, and also the illustrated alphabet of the deaf-mute manual.

Leon Lewis, who has humbugged the country papers generally with an advertisement of his paper, the "Penn Yann Mystery," has eloped from Penn Yann with a sixteen year old niece of his dead wife, and leaving $50,000 of debts behind him. The above may be of some interest to our readers, as the advertisement of his paper has appeared in these columns.

Be on time; for prevention is better than cure. All Coughs and Colds and such affections of the throat and lungs as lead to consumption are cured by Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. Price 25 cents.

There is not a case of Neuralgia which cannot be at once relieved by the use of Keller's Roman Liniment. At all Drug Stores. Price 50 cents.

Richmond and Alleghany Railroad.

A SKETCH OF GEN. ECHOL'S SPEECH IN THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES IN OPPOSITION TO THE BILL.

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 31, 1879.

Editors Staunton Spectator:—Having been present in the House of Delegates yesterday when your distinguished representative, Gen. John Echols, delivered his speech on the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad bill, I have thought that I might perform an acceptable service to you and your readers by calling attention briefly to some of the points presented by him in one of the most remarkable efforts which has been made during the present session of the Legislature, and which fell like a bombshell among the advocates of the bill, spreading dismay and confusion through their ranks.

SKETCH OF THE REMARKS OF GEN. ECHOLS.

I feel deeply the gravity of this question, and regard it as second only in importance to that other great question now pressing upon us for solution. I say, with unaffected sincerity, that I oppose this bill with reluctance, supported as it is by so many of my friends, with whom I am in the habit of acting in concert. I am reminded that Richmond feels a deep interest in the success of this bill, and it is with pain and reluctance that I raise my voice against a measure which her representatives on this floor consider beneficial to her interests. Only an overshadowing sense of duty could induce me to oppose this bill. No citizen of Richmond desires her prosperity more sincerely than I do. It has been one of the dreams of my life that Richmond should become a great commercial and manufacturing centre. Intimations have been made that opponents of this bill are influenced by local feelings, and are more interested in other improvements. Mr. Henry adverted to the fact that delegates from counties on the line of the A., M. & O. R. R. and the C. & O. R. R. were influenced by local feelings. I have yet to learn that any opposition to this bill proceeds from the C. & O. R. R or those who control it. I stand here representing the interests of the county of Augusta and of the people of the whole State.

This bill proposes a contract—not a sale, but a grant—an absolute transfer of all the interests of the State in a great State improvement.

What is it that we propose to give up by this bill and transfer to the R. & A. R. R. Co.? The State of Virginia has appropriated to the James River & Kanawha Company $7,400,000, now standing in the form of preferred stock. Shall we give up the control of this interest and what shall we receive for it? This bill also gives up the dock, the only means of communication between the waters of the James and tidewater. The net revenues last year were $31,000; the net average income of the last five years of great depression of all interests was $36,540. This bill proposes to transfer from the control of the State this great artery. It transfers the basin leading from the canal, the most valuable property in Richmond. The real property of the James River & Kanawha Company goes with the grant.

An immense water power, sufficient to make of Richmond a Manchester, is passed by this bill forever to a private corporation. The average net water rents for the last five years amounted to $17,683. Suppose the canal were filled up and destroyed, the water power would be quadrupled, increased ten fold. It is estimated at $200,000 per annum, and that also is transferred beyond the control of the State of Virginia and city of Richmond. This bill gives the water power at Richmond miles from the city, and also at Lynchburg. It proposes to transfer the tow path of the canal, and what is that worth? The right of way cost the James River & Kanawha Company $750,000, and the construction of the tow path millions. What would be its value to a railroad? To be used as a railroad bed $10,000 per mile would be a small valuation. The canal being over 200 miles long, the value of the tow path to a railroad would be $2,000,000. The Legislature chartered a railroad from Clifton Forge to Buchanan, and the State of Virginia has contributed convict labor to the construction of that road. It is now one-half completed, and $375,000 would finish it. That also is given up by this bill. The State also guarantees to the Richmond & Alleghany Railroad Company the EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF WAY for a railroad from Richmond to Clifton Forge for thirty years. What does the State of Virginia receive? THE BARE CHANCE OF A RAILROAD!

I have been astonished to hear the contemptuous depreciation of the James River & Kanawha canal by the friends of this bill. We are told that the canal is a dead body. When has this light burst upon the minds of our friends?—When was it first ascertained? I read from a memorial of the Supervisors of Rockbridge and Council of Lexington to the Legislature of Virginia on the 27th day of December, 1877:

"The abandonment of this great improvement which has been constructed at a cost of quite twelve millions of dollars, which has conduced immensely, even under adverse circumstances, to the convenience, the advantage, and the prosperity of the country through which it passed and of the cities to which it is tributary, which, even under existing conditions, is worth to those cities and to the country drained by James River not less than five hundred thousand dollars per annum, and which can, with the use of the convict labor of the State, as provided for by existing legislation, be placed in more thorough repair than it has ever been, at a cost not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, would be destructive of the interests of the State and of the people of the James River Valley."

These statements were made by the Supervisors after the damages had been done by the great flood of 1877.

Gen. Echols here read various extracts from the 44th Annual Report of the President and Directors to the stockholders of the James River & Kanawha Company, showing that only sixty days ago Col. John W. Johnston, the President of the James River & Kanawha Company, entertained a very high opinion of the value of the canal, and was decidedly opposed to the policy of the pending bill, of which he is now the patron.

He urged members to read the 44th Annual Report to the stockholders of the James River & Kanawha Company, and he asked the friends of this bill to answer the arguments of the President of that Company against the surrender of the canal to strangers. On page 407 he says:

"There is reason to believe that, sooner or later, nearly all of our known bondholders will have been approached by would-be speculators and spoilers, who have from time to time made and used extraordinary efforts and means to ascertain the names and residences of all bondholders."

And yet we are asked to believe that the speculators and spoilers are after a dead body!

Gen. Echols also read from the report, pages 388-89, a letter from H. C. Parsons, of the Richmond & Alleghany Railroad Company, to the President of the James River & Kanawha Company, under date November 13th, 1878, in which, among other things, it is stated: "It is apparent from these examinations that SOME PART AT LEAST OF THE WORKS OF YOUR COMPANY are essential to the early and cheap construction of its road." Is there any man living, said Gen. Echols, who, upon reading that letter, would have supposed that it was the commencement of negotiations for the ABSOLUTE SURRENDER of the canal! Gentlemen must have been surprised at the ease with which these propositions for a surrender of the canal and all its franchises by the James River & Kanawha Co. It reminds me of a lawyer who, when a client paid without complaint a bill of one hundred dollars, regretted that he had not charged two hundred.

When Lord Clive returned from India and was arraigned before the British Parliament, his reply was: "When I look back upon my course in India and find that I only acquired a few millions, I am astonished at my own moderation." And the Richmond & Alleghany Railroad may well be astonished at taking the property of the James River & Kanawha Company without also taking something to put it in repair! In estimating the value of the franchises transferred by this bill, I am reminded that the absolute control of James River from tidewater to its source is given to a private corporation, which has the right to erect dams wherever it may choose. But it is said that the James River & Kanawha Company may be sold out under the mortgage. I do not regard that danger as imminent, but, to provide against it, my friend from Richmond has proposed a bill authorizing that city to purchase the franchises of the canal whenever they shall be for sale. But it is claimed that the debt of the Company is so enormous that it cannot survive much longer. On page 400, the Annual Report of the President of the James River & Kanawha Company states the debt of the Company, after deducting the debts due to the State of Virginia, and the cities of Lynchburg and Richmond, at $1,168,843.57. The President also says on page 403: "It is believed that the early completion of the Buchanan and Clifton Forge Railroad would so increase the tonnage and receipts of the canal as to enable the company, with favorable legislation, to manage all of its indebtedness (except perhaps that to the State, the cities of Richmond and Lynchburg and the county of Rockbridge.")

After having read this report my previous conviction was intensified that it would be unwise in the Legislature to pass this bill. I would be recreant to my duty to the State if I were to go blindly into the support of this measure. The gentleman from Shenandoah has drawn a picture of the canal, that it is to be thrown into court and turned over to a receiver. There is another picture that may be drawn of the Old Commonwealth borne down by debt, and having creditors here to compromise debts that you cannot pay. The course proposed in this bill is that of a debtor compounding his debts, and giving away his assets. Your penitentiary is in ruins, your creditors are unpaid, and the demand is made upon the State to give away her property, when the President of the Co. within 60 days has told you of the great value of this property, and calls attention to the fact that persons influenced by speculative considerations are anxious to get possession of it. Let each man answer for himself if it is right to give away this property without demanding even a voice in the councils of the Co. I am anxious that the State shall meet her obligations, but will never agree to transfer the franchises of the James River & Kanawha Co. by any bill which does not guard and protect the rights and interests of the State and of the city of Richmond, and I will never consent that the State shall part with property that in my estimation is of great value, without obtaining any equivalent. We said to our creditors a few years ago,—"Throw off one-third of the debt until we settle with West Va." If this bill shall pass, when we come to that settlement and are asked, what have you done with this property which cost you $12,000,000? Our answer must be we have given it away to the R. & A. Railroad Co.

In order to understand what we give away in this bill, it must be remembered that it is estimated that by using the tow path of the canal for the bed of the railroad, it can be constructed from Clifton Forge to Richmond and Lexington for $2,500,000. We are going to give to the Railroad Co. everything necessary to build a railroad of 200 or 220 miles, except $2,500,000. The question is with the house. The President of the J. R. & K. Co. tells you that in a few months the Canal will be in a better condition, so far as resistance to floods is concerned, than it has ever yet been. Yet we are asked to give it away and retain not one dollar of interest. I have spoken warmly, but without any feelings of unkindness to those who differ with me, and who have the same right to their opinions that I have to mine. If the railroad to Clifton Forge will be beneficial to Richmond, I shall be glad to see that road built. At no distant day it probably will be. But, however much I love the city of Richmond, I love the State of Virginia more, and I am not willing to make this great sacrifice even for Richmond.

The above is a most imperfect sketch of the speech as delivered by Gen. Echols. It was the effort of a STATESMAN, which was addressed to the reason and intelligence of his audience, and contained no appeal to the prejudices or passions. It was marked throughout by the earnestness, eloquence and commanding ability, for which he is justly celebrated; and the spirit of patriotic devotion to the interests of the entire Commonwealth, which pervaded the whole speech, was worthy of the man himself, and of one of the representatives on the floor of the House of Delegates of Virginia of the great, intelligent and historic county of Augusta.—He was heard with great attention by the House, and it is believed that his effort will exercise an important influence in determining the fate of the bill.

OBSERVER.

DECISION IN THE ARLINGTON CASE. The Arlington ejectment suit, as was anticipated from the decision of Judges Hughes upon the respective prayers of plaintiff and defendant, has ended in a complete verdict for Gen. Lee upon all the points at issue. The entire property is restored to its rightful owner, who is declared never to have ceased to have a title in it, and the verdict calls for the ejectment of all the tenants who have been in possession since the sale of the estate, in 1863. These include the United States, which has a national cemetery, and two other holders, who bought at this illicit sale. They are probably liable also for rents from the day of sale. The case goes up to the Supreme Court of the United States on appeal, and in the meantime it will be no more than decorous and proper for Congress to compromise it by the purchase of the property, and so perfect the title to one of the most extensive national cemeteries. The government will not be expected to abandon such a burial place to Gen. Lee, and yet the Supreme Court cannot help but confirm the decision of the court below. Hence Congress should buy the property and be done with the unpleasant episode. It may be stated that this ejectment suit was not entered upon until Gen. G. W. P. C. Lee, and his mother also, had repeatedly, but always in vain, tried to get Congress to take action in the matter and compromise by buying the estate.

Senator Johnston, of Virgina, had a bill proposing this in the last Congress and in the first session of the present Congress, but he could not procure its consideration. In the House the various political palterings of the rival parties has always prevented action, and so Gen. Lee has had no recourse but to take such action for himself as will compel Congress either to restore him his patrimony or pay him an equivalent in money for it.—*Balt. Sun.*

THE GREENWICH SEA-SERPENT AGAIN.—The Greenwich sea-serpent has been seen again, this time by Capt. Dalton and his two sons, of the sloop Jane Eliza. Capt. Dalton, who is described as a weather-beaten mariner, about fifty years of age, with eyes that are blue and truthful, and a face beaming with candor, says he was off Greenwich Point bound for New Haven on the 2d day of January, when his son descried the serpent close to the vessel and heading toward Captain's Island. Some ten feet of him was exposed to view. His head was like that of a snake, being flat on top, and a foot and a half broad. In color it was black, with green spots.—The left eye, which was the only one they could see, was as big as a saucer, and stuck out of his head like a frog's eye. The head was about three feet long, or at least began to taper down about that distance from the nose. The smaller part continued for about ten feet, and was held up completely out of the water. After that it began to swell all at once until it was as large as a barrel. Its length must have been from thirty to fifty feet. Captain Dalton says he has seen lots of sharks and porpoises and all kinds of sea creatures in his travels over the globe, and knows that this is a snake. So many parties claim to have seen a marine monster off Greenwich in the last year or two that it looks as if the creature might not be a product of the imagination.—*New Haven (Conn) Palladium, January 29.*

WHO CALLED THE READJUSTERS' CONVENTION.—Let every citizen of Virginia open his eyes at this and ponder it well. A convention called to form a political party to rule Virginia—called by fifty-seven persons; twenty-three of whom consist of negroes, white Radicals, Independents, and bolters! And only thirty-six of whom were elected to the Legislature as nominees of the Conservative party! Nay more, when the address and call for the convention were adopted, only nineteen persons who had been elected to the Legislature as nominees of the Conservative party (including Chiles and Barbour, bolters,) voted for the convention, while sixteen who had been elected as Conservatives voted against the convention. Thus, this convention to form a political party to rule Virginia has been called by a body of men in which only nineteen Conservatives voted for the convention along with twenty-one negroes, white Radicals, and Independents, with thirty-six Conservatives only in their caucus, out of more than a hundred in the Legislature.—*Rich. State.*

FIGHT WITH MOONSHINERS.—Deputy U. S. Marshal Shaffer was in town on Monday, and reports a skirmish on Elkhorn, in McDowell county, between his squad and six moonshiners. Quite a number of shots were fired, and one of Shaffer's men slightly wounded. The Deputy Marshal was unable to come up with the moonshiners, but saw them frequently on the sides of the mountain above him.—*Mountain Herald.*

Matt. Carpenter said in his Milwaukee reception speech:

"A chief duty, and a chief means of increasing the prosperity of the country, is that the existing differences in the South be healed. *Bayonet rule has had its run as long as it was useful, and civil government is now the proper instrumentality to use in dealing with the affairs of the South.*"

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT.—We learn that Mr. Hartman, a brakeman on the C. & O. R. R., accidentally shot himself in the leg while handling a pistol last Friday night. No bones were broken, and the ball was cut out near the knee by Dr. Peck.—*Mountain Herald.*

SPECIAL NOTICES.

ARE YOU A SUFFERER?—Are you afflicted with Chills and Fevers, Nervous Headache, Sour Stomach, Indigestion, Torpidity of the Liver, Costiveness or Loss of Appetite? If so, resort at once to the use of BAKER'S PREMIUM BITTERS, and be relieved. Have you a bad Cold, or do you suffer with cold feet? Then take BAKER'S PREMIUM BITTERS, and be permanently cured.—Acting as they do upon the blood, stomach and bowels, no ordinary disease of the system can withstand their assaults, but yield to its invigorating powers, and health and cheerfulness assume the steads of debility and low spirits. Are you a dyspeptic, suffering the hourly torments of that distressingly vexatious disease? If so, in BAKER'S PREMIUM BITTERS you find an unfailing panacea—one that has not yet failed to produce a cure, however long the consuming fire may have been burning. Prepared in the most scientific manner, from vegetables substances only. These BITTERS are without a rival for diseases of the stomach, bowels and blood; and when regularly used at this season of the year, will prevent colds and sore throat, by toning up the system to its naturally healthy condition. Let not the afflicted take our word in recommendation of this medicine, but try it for themselves, as thousands have done, and become converts to its priceless virtues.

Sold by all druggists and country merchants everywhere. H. BAKER,

Richmond, Va.

A SPRING WAGON—New, and well made, for sale low. Call and examine, at

jan28-3t BAKER BROS.

DEATH OF REV. EDMUND WITHERS.—Rev. Edmund Withers, rector of the Episcopal churches in Nelson county, died at his home near Norwood, on Friday after an illness of several months.—He was a man of many excellent qualities, an earnest and conscientious minister, a devout christian, and his death will be mourned by all who knew him, whether as a man or minister.—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

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THE COLOSSAL BRONZE STATUE OF VICTORY which stands in the Park, at Lowell, before the tomb of the first soldiers that fell in the revolution, is a lasting and beautiful tribute of art. It is one of the first objects sought by strangers visiting our sister city, which, indeed, many visit purposely to see this elegant object of high art. It was obtained from the King of Bavaria by Dr. J. C. Ayer, to whom his Majesty was especially gracious in acknowledgment of what his remedies are reputed to have done for the suffering sick. It was designed by the Doctor to the City of Lowell as a permanent and speaking emblem of the victories both of Science and Arms.—*Hagerstown (Md.) Press.*

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To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, &c., I will send a receipt that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. JOSEPH T. INMAN, *Station D. Bible House, New York City.* jan14-ly

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