Staunton Spectator.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1886.

THE NECESSITIES OF THE DAY.

The people of Augusta county have had under consideration the existing necessities for better roadways, and all agree that the situation should be remedied; but the day for final decision in the premises is postponed for what has been thought to be a more convenient season. The proper course to pursue is to clear the way of one trouble before another comes. Another is here, and delay increases danger, and it cannot wisely or safely be postponed. The county is doing injustice to itself by negative action in the matter of improving the roads, and the thoughtful of its citizens cannot with propriety assent much longer to a similar course in respect to the necessity which exists for bridges over its larger streams.

The Spring season, with its constant rains and sweeping floods, brings upon the surface another question of vital importance, and the people cannot close their eyes to it if they would. Augusta county always has had—and its people should be especially anxious to maintan it—the reputation of being a community of pronounced progress and influence in the commonwealth. In that connection local pride and interest should stimulate us to keep pace with other sections of the State that are now moving forward with a fleet gait in the race of improvement, mainly through the advantages obtained in local development. Why should the wealth, the power, the pride, and the fame associated with Augusta county remain inactive in reference to those essentials upon which its prosperity must in a great measure rely for a new and a needed start? The county has but to will a prudent and powerful progress in order that it may be won, and that without so much as feeling its cost.

To return to the proposition in view when commencing this article, namely—another necessity requiring action and in close association with—in fact a part of the system of improved highways—the need of bridges over streams that are often impassable. The two largest streams in the county, the Middle and the South rivers, in their often impassable condition, have frequently this Spring endangered the lives of persons when upon necessary travel, and there are also instances that can be named where property was sacrificed, because no bridges existed where the public needs call for their construction. The city papers have frequently referred to these matters as they have occurred; and again the Waynesboro' *Free Press* records a thrilling scene which was enacted at the ford of South River at that town, two weeks ago. Capt. Wm. L. Balthis, a former resident and Mayor of Staunton, who now resides in Albemarle, in company with his brother-in-law, Mr. Schad, and his wife, of Baltimore, in attempting to cross the river, were all saved perhaps from drowning by the fortunate presence of mind, and the determined efforts all three of them exercised. For the want of a bridge, the life of a lady was lost a few years ago at Waynesboro'. It is sad enough to realize the fact that persons are often required to take such risks, but how inexpressibly painful would it be that another life should be sacrificed because of the delay to build a bridge.

Heretofore we have raised a warning voice and invited the public authorities to consider the fearful responsibility which exists because there are no bridges where the public necessities and the safety of travellers imperatively require that they should be erected. A repetition of the admonition is not called for, because everybody is informed of the danger by which not only citizens of the county, but strangers also, are imperiled. At Waynesboro' and other points on the South River—at Dudley's Mill and several other fords on Middle River—there is always danger when the streams are swollen. From the Valley road down to Port Republic, about fifty miles by the course of the stream, the inhabitants of the Middle River valley are subjected to constant danger, great loss of time, and delays in going to the railroads and to Staunton—there being not a bridge on that long section of the river.

Apart from the considerations here presented, the failure to provide safe crossings over the often-turbulent streams, continuing so for many days at a time, is an injustice to the lines of railway which traverse the county, by practically denying to the people who may desire to reach them the privilege, during floods, of doing so. In this view of the case, too, the estimate of inconveniences to the public is no small matter. The railroads are tax-payers, and the quick dispatch of business for the benefit of the communities tributary to them, is a matter commending itself to timely provision for promoting, rather than withholding, our share of the mutual privileges which should at all times exist.

If the improvement of the roads be deferred, who will say that the bridges should not be built? The first would be a mistaken policy, but the last would hardly be considered less than a harrowing realization of a continued procrastination, which might call another and still another victim from the circles of home and society in consequence of such fatal indifference. Let the continued apprehensions of danger and death be a thing of the past. If the business interests of large, wealthy, and Christian communities can say that they are not called upon by considerations of intercourse and the common necessities incident to every neighborhood to render their associations more permanent and more prosperous, surely those who are required to pass along the roads are entitled to some safe passage-way over the turbulent waters, which so often flow across the highways.

The citizen who reflects upon the condition of these things as they are will surely ask a change for the better. The people of Augusta, as individuals, are careful and provident in their ways and methods, and will certainly do justice to themselves as a large, wealthy, and influential community, in thinking of a matter which appeals to every consideration of business interest, and to the generous impulses of the human heart for correction; if, indeed, a higher responsibility does not rest upon them, demanding affirmative and prompt action.

Rev. Meyer Lewin, of Upper Marlboro', Maryland, a member of the Episcopal Convention, which has been in session in Washington during the week, died suddenly last Friday night at the Ebbitt House of apoplexy. He had been elected a member of the standing committee of the diocese, and also a delegate to the General Convention at Chicago. He was sixty-five years of age.

On last Thursday Charlottesville voted to authorise the council to issue $150,000 in bonds to meet a debt incurred on account of the water-works was exceedingly light. The issue of bonds was authorized.

The Virginia Agricultural Bulletin.

Col. Harrison, our Commissioner of Agriculture, treats the farmers of Virginia to a very interesting report of the growing crops in his Bulletin for May, issued on the 10th. He also discusses the dairying interest and the damage it sustains in the imitations of butter put upon the country, known as oleomargarine, butterine, &c. A bill is now pending in Congress, and published in the Bulletin, to regulate this traffic so that the people may not be imposed upon. The Commissioner urges its careful consideration by all interested and requests them to furnish their representatives at Washington with their views and conclusions in the premises. We make extracts from the Bulletin as follows, omitting references to cotton and tobacco:—

CONDITION OF CROPS.

"There has been a marked improvement in the appearance of Winter grain since the last report. It came out of Winter quarters somewhat damaged by hard freezes; in fact it had not, as a general thing, had a good send off in the Fall, owing to a drought of considerable severity; but since the middle of March the weather has been very propitious, and now the plants show a healthy color and (in general) a lusty growth. The few exceptions to this are where the crop has been attacked by Hessian fly, or where the growth was crippled by Winter killing, past complete recovery, or else because the land was not fit for the work assigned it—not rich enough, or not properly prepared. Unhappily there are but too many instances of this, although a great and general improvement has been going on in this respect. The old method of cropping a large surface, imperfectly prepared, rather than a more moderate area, put in prime condition, still lingers among us, and keeps the average yield of our crops down amongst the very lowest of the States of the Union. Now when everything is depressed almost to stagnation—everything low-priced except *labor*, which is the costliest item of a farmer's expenses, we should concentrate our efforts in a smaller field and try to get better results at a less expenditure of work.

"This point has been much insisted upon, but will bear constant repetition, even at the risk of wearying some of the farmers upon whom it is urged. The importance of it cannot be overestimated; if it were fully recognized and acted upon, there would be a complete revolution in our system of agriculture.

"Notwithstanding the improvement in cereal and grass crops, the general average condition is not reported as high as private letters and representations and his own observations in different localities had led the Commissioner to expect. The crop prospect is really somewhat better than the figures would indicate, however; because the best reports are from the largest grain- and grass-growing counties, so that each correspondent represents a larger constituency, as it were. This is exactly the converse of the condition of crops last year, the principal wheat-growing districts showed the lowest percentage of condition.

"The average condition of the Winter wheat crop of the United States is, according to the last report of the statistician of the Department, 92.50, against 76 last year (which was the lowest ever reported), and 94 two years ago, an unusually good year for wheat.

"The same report shows a reduction of 5 per cent. from the area seeded a year ago. This is for the whole country—for all the winter wheat States of the Union.

"For Virginia the estimate is that the breadth sowed is two per cent. less than last year. This does not accord with estimates made from reports of the correspondents of the State Department. According to these, the area seeded in wheat is greater than last year, but largely below the average of ten years past.

"I take this occasion of soliciting correspondents to keep a record of their reports, so that they can refer to them at the corresponding periods of subsequent years. In order to save them trouble, a wrapper was sent with each postal card for this month, printed in duplicate with it, with the request that correspondents would fill them just like the postals, and keep them for reference hereafter, as standards of comparison. This would be found very interesting, and would refresh the memory, so as to enable a much more accurate opinion of the condition of crops to be formed. Some amongst our best correspondents seem to have misapprehended the intention of these wrappers, as they enclosed them back to us.

"There are many accidents which may happen to the wheat crop before it is secured, so that forecasts made now may be very wide of the mark, yet they are being made. A private letter from Milwaukee, from high authority, says, "What information I have (not official) is that the wheat crop promises well in the winter wheat States, except Michigan and Kansas. The latter State reports the condition very low, and estimates the yield at about thirteen million bushels (say a third of a maximum crop—COL'R.) The area is considerably less than last year. Spring wheat is just coming up. The season, so far, has been exceedingly favorable."

"By the latest advices crops continue to be well reported in Europe and in India."

"With a view to ascertain where there is an increased area laid down to grass, the question was put, and one hundred and sixteen correspondents reported an increase, averaging between seventeen and eighteen per cent. This is encouraging.

"As the season since the spring opened has been very favorable for grass, I am unable to account for the rather low percentages of the reports, except upon the supposition that the roots were thrown out to some extent by the severe weather of February. Perhaps also the flooding rains about April 1st damaged meadows on the banks of streams."

Remarks on Virginia.—Wheat, condition 91.81 per cent.; some Hessian fly, and one report of chinch-bug; also some report of damage by floods.

Oats, Winter, condition 70 per cent.; suffered by Winter killing; Spring, 88.86 per cent.

Rye, 90.70 per cent.

Clover, 93 per cent.

Timothy, orchard grass, &c., 94 per cent.

CORN.

"There will be a full crop planted—between one and two per cent. over a full average.

"The area already planted is 73.59 per cent."

The Bulletin closes with remarks upon fertilizers, their commercial values, and report of the Chemist. Our Agricultural Department is accomplishing much good to the producing interests by the scrutiny exercised in relation to the values of fertilizers.

THE PRAIRIE FARMER—THE "HAY NUMBER."—For some time past the *Prairie Farmer* has referred to a coming "Hay Number" of that standard and interesting weekly which we have often commended for its great worth to the farmer, stock-grower, &c. The issue of the 29th ult., has been received, and the promised article is one of its chief and attractive features.—Grass and hay, and machinery for curing, housing, ricking, and baling hay, are discussed in a lively manner. The article treats of the several methods of grass-culture, and, at this particular time, is specially entertaining.

LUTHERAN CONVENTION.—An ecclesiastical convention, representing the Lutheran Synods in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi and Tennessee, will convene at St. Mark's Church, Roanoke, Va., June 23, 24 and following days. Special railroad rates will be allowed delegates and visitors.

CHEAP FREIGHT.—The New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad is now charging 15 cents per barrel for cabbage and 20 cents per barrel for potatoes between Norfolk, Va., and New York.

The Staunton Post-Office Building.

Last Wednesday, in the House of Representatives, Hon. C. P. Snyder, the member from the Kanawha District, West Va., who is on the Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings, reported favorably the bill appropriating $75,000 for the purchase of ground and to erect a government building in this city. This bill was introduced by our Representative, Mr. Tucker, upon the petition forwarded to him through our City Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Snyder, zealously co-operated with Mr. Tucker in securing the favorable action of the Committee, and will continue his support before the House. Mr. Tucker will press the bill, and under such auspices, we have no doubt of its passage in both branches of Congress, thus securing to this city accommodations for both the postal and the internal revenue service, which the large transactions of both demand. The Staunton Post-office is the fourth in importance in the State. They rank in net income to the Government in the following order: Richmond, Norfolk, Lynchburg, Staunton. The clear income here is nearly ten thousand dollars. This city is the headquarters of the internal revenue for this district. The receipts are largely over one million dollars, two hundred thousand of which are received from Staunton and Augusta county.

Consecration of Grace Memorial Church at Lexington.

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church at Lexington, was consecrated last Sunday by Bishop M. Whittle, assisted by the rector, Rev. R. J. McBryde, and Minister Hullihen of Staunton. Nelson, of Warrenton, and Lawrence, of Amherst. Bishop Randolph was expected to be present, but was unavoidably detained in consequence of sickness. The exercises were opened and conducted according to the Episcopalian forms and usage. They were very impressive, entertaining and instructive.

The instruments of donation and endowment were presented to the Bishop by Vestryman General Francis H. Smith, and the sentence of consecration read by Rev. R. J. McBryde, rector. The choir, with organ accompaniment, rendered Psalm 26th, 6th, 7th and 8th verses, with the Gloria Patri. The consecration sermon was delivered by Bishop Whittle, text from Exodus, chapter 35, verses 4, 5, 20, 21 and 29, and was an able and learned exposition of the truths of Holy Scripture.

This church is attractively situated in the campus of Washington and Lee University, and is said to be one of the finest church edifices in the South. The erection was begun in 1870 under the supervision of Gen. Robert E. Lee, who was a member of the vestry at the time, and has just been completed at a cost of $60,000. It has received contributions from friends in all sections of the country, and among its benefactors are to be found the names of Vanderbilt, Corcoran, Anderson, Lee and others. A unique and handsame memorial window to the memory of Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee has been erected just in the rear of the chancel, and on either side of this window are to be seen two bronze tablets of beautiful design in memsry of Revs. William Bryant and Wm. N. Pendleton, former rectors of Woodville and Latimer parishes.

The congregation which assembled for worship in the morning was brilliant and fashionable. His excellency Gov. Fitzhugh Lee and ex-State Senator W. H. F. Lee, of Fairfax, W. H. Palmer, of Richmond, Va; Col. Charles Venable, formerly of Gen. Lee's staff; Mrs. Worth, daughter of Commodore Maury, and others were among those present. The seating capacity of the building, which is large, was somewhat taxed, but all who came were comfortably provided for. The corps of cadets of the Virginia Military Institute attended the services in ranks. Services were held at night, on which occasion the rite of confirmation was administered to a class of 25 by Bishop Whittle.

CONGRESS—SPEECH BY DANIEL.—The United States Senate was not in session Saturday. The oleomargarine bill was again before the House. A dispatch was read from Master-Workman Powderly denying that the Knights of Labor had taken position for or against the bill. An amendment reducing the tax on oleomargarine from ten to two cents a pound was defeated.

Mr. Daniel, of Virginia, spoke in advocacy of an amendment, which he proposed to offer hereafter, abolishing the internal revenue tax on tobacco and on fruit brandy. In the platform of the democratic party assembled at Chicago, which nominated the President now occupying the executive office, there was a distinct declaration and pledge to abolish war taxes. The internal revenue system was distinctively a war tax. Mr. Daniel expressed his astonishment when he saw democrats, who had pledged themselves to abolish war taxes and who had placed upon their banners "equal and exact justice to all men," take a wide leap through the constitution and through the roof, and run three leagues beyond where the most radical gone-to-seed republicanism had ever gone before. Mr. Daniel was frequently applauded during the delivery of his speech. Pending action the committee rose and the House adjourned untill Tuesday.

MISS FRANK FOLSOM'S FEATURES AND BEAUTY.—The *Buffalo (N.Y.) Courier* says the published prints and photographs of Miss Folsom do not greatly resemble her. One of the best likenesses of her, as the Courier stated last Sunday, is by an amateur photographer. Her hair is soft and brown, of a shade between light and dark. She wears it combed back from her forehead, and loose; wavy tendrils escape here and there. She has violet blue eyes and rather large nose. Her eyebrows are very heavy and nearly meet. The chief and striking beauty of her face is her mouth and chin. Mr. Ammi Farnham, the artist, once said that Miss Folsom had the most beautiful mouth he had ever seen.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—During a storm last Saturday evening a week a young man named Fink, residing near Hillsboro', Loudoun county, Va., was struck by Lightning, and he and the horse he was riding instantly killed. He was in the public road from Hillsboro' to Harper's Ferry, and near his own house. He leaves a wife and two small children.

Most and his two companions, Braunschweig and Schenck, were found guilty in New York Friday on the charge of inciting a riot. The jury recommended Schenck to the mercy of the court. Sentence will be pronounced Wednesday, to-day. Braunschweig and Shenck testified in their own behalf, but Most did not.

Speaker Carlisle says that in his legislative experience he never saw a Judiciary Committee do more, or, in his judgment, better work than the present committee of the House, of which Mr. Tucker is chairman." That is a very high compliment but one which Rep. Tucker richly deserves.

The President's Marriage.

The Washington correspondent of the Balt. *Sun*, under date of last Friday, says:—

"The President is to be married to Miss Frances Folsom next Wednesday evening, June 2, at 7 o'clock. The ceremony is to be performed by Rev. Byron Sunderland, of the First Presbyterian Church, in the Blue Parlor of the White House. This announcement was made officially this evening by Col. Lamont, who returned from New York to-day. The mysterious arrival of Miss Folsom last night, and her reception in New York harbor by Col. Lamont, set the gossip's tongue's wagging so fast that the date of the wedding was moved up to deliver the young lady from further embarrassment which might be occasioned by publication in the newspapers. The President will leave here Sunday for New York city, where he will probably be the guest at Secretary Whitney's residence on Fifth avenue. On Monday he will attend the Decoration Day ceremonies and return to this city Tuesday, accompanied by the bride elect and her relatives. It is the President's desire, as well as that of Miss Folsom, that the marriage ceremony shall be performed with as little display as possible, and owing to the recent death in the Folsom family, only the immediate members of the Cleveland and Folsom families, the cabinet officers and their families and a few personal friends will be invited to witness the marriage ceremony. There will be no bridesmaids or groomsmen, and the services will be conducted in accordance with the regular form of the Presbyterian Church. A wedding supper will be served in the state dining-room, at which the new hostess of the White House will preside for the first time. The President has decided to postpone his bridal tour until after Congress adjourns, and will spend his honeymoon at the White House, giving such time as he is able to his executive duties."

The Bridal Dress of the President's Bride.

Miss Folsom had her bridal and other dresses made in Paris. The Paris *Morning News* of a recent date gave a minute discription of the bridal- travelling-morning-walking- afternoon- visiting and other dresses of Miss Folsom. Of the bridal dress, it says:—

"The wedding gown is a poem in its pure simplicity, of thick ivory satin of the kind that stands alone. The round, plain jupe is draped from side to side with a very soft silk Indian muslin, attached on the left side, and nearly joining the traine de cour. The muslin is ourle, or bordered, with a very narrow band of orange flowers and leaves that outline the draping. The traine de cour is attached on to the plain bodice, just below the waist behind, and measures four meters in length. It is slightly rounded and falls in full orange plaits on the ground, no trimming upon it whatever. The bodice is extremely nat. Two scarves of the soft, filmy muslin start from the shoulder seams, cross the bosom, and are bordered with a narrow band of orange flowers, to correspond with the skirt. The scarves at length hide away beneath a broad ceinture, or lappet of satin that crosses the bodice from left to right, and fastens on the hip. The effect is simple and exquisite. The sleeves are made to reach just below the elbow, and have three crossway bands of India muslin, forming plisse. Attached at the elbow point, on the inner side of the arm, are tiny blossoms, buds, and two or three leaves of 'oranges.' The veil is of plain white silk tulle of enormous length, to be dressed high on the head with an upstanding piquet of myrtle and orange blossom, the six meters of tulle lightly covering the entire train."

SANDS SWEPT BY FLAMES.—The village of Sands, the first station on the railroad south of Luray, was visited by a very destructive fire last Monday about mid-night.

The buildings burned were Mr. F. R. Biedler's store houses, consisting of a two-story brick building and also a large new frame building. The latter building was not quite complete, but would have been this week. Also Mr. T. S. Brown's saloon, including a large portion of his stock. Mr. Brown's dwelling, near by, was considerably damaged. Mr. Biedler's stock of goods was almost entirely destroyed. He estimates his loss at about $5000, on which there is an insurance of only $1000. Mr. Brown's loss is about $500. The Masonic fraternity, whose lodge was in the second story of Mr. Biedler's store house, lost all their property. The lodge room was handsomely furnished. A number of carpenters, who had been at work on Mr. B's new building, lost a large number of valuable tools. The fire is believed to have been incendiary.—*Page Courier, May 27th.*

COMPROMISE REJECTED.—At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on Saturday last, a proposition of compromise was submitted to them by the sureties of Samuel R. Sterling, in which they offered to pay the county $7,000 in liquidation of the shortage due the county, but the proposition was rejected by the Board. We understand that nearly all the sureties joined in this proposition, which was to work a release from further obligation only to those who participated in it. The Board of Supervisors made a counter proposition, agreeing to release the sureties upon the payment of $9,000, provided they would turn over to the county certain tax tickets and allowing them recourse upon any property belonging to S. R. Sterling. We have no means of knowing how this proposal will be received by the sureties. They will doubtless consider it until the next meeting of the Board, when it will either be formally accepted or rejected.—*Rockingham Register.*

THE SHERIFF AFTER HIM.—The people of our county were surprised and pained to learn that Marcellus Rudasill, of Brown-town, had left his home and family on Saturday night last because it had been discovered that he had forged the names of some of his neighbors and friends as endorsers on negotiable notes and other paper upon which he got the money, amounting to several thousand dollars. His general reputation for honesty was excellent. Sheriff Compton, Constable Roy, and their assistants have been in hot pursuit, but so far he has escaped arrest.—*Warren Sentinel.*

Rev. R. H. Fleming, pastor fo the Presbyterian church, of this place, has received a call from the New York Avenue Gurley Mission church, Washington, D. C. This is the third call he has received from this church. His congregation here voted unanimously against its acceptance and it has been referred for the action of Presbytery at the Fall meeting in September, at Petersburg, W. Va. Mr. Fleming is one of the ablest and most popular ministers this place has ever had, and his departure for another field of labor will be a source of regret to all our people.—*Woodstock Herald.*

ACCIDENT ON VIRGINIA MIDLAND RAILROAD—*Charlottesville Va.*, May 27.—The engine and postal car of train No. 53 of the Virginia Midland Railroad, which passed here at 4.30 A. M., went through a small trestle near Gilbert's Station, north of Charlottesville. Postal Clerk Wood and four other men, named Jones, Rucker, McNeill and Holcombe, were injured. The engineer received severe bruises, and the fireman's shoulder was dislocated. The Midland trains have been running via Gordonsville since the accident. The mail was saved, but badly damaged.

MT. ÆTNA'S ERUPTION.—*Catania*, May 27.—The lava from Mt. Ætna is advancing toward Nicolosi at the rate of forty metres hourly, and is now within one kilometre of the town. The adjacent country is also menaced, and the inhabitants are flying from their homes. All the streams and watercourses in the district have dried up and a water famine prevails.

The lava has engulfed the old convent outside Nicolosi. The King has sent 20,000 lire for the relief of sufferers from the eruption.

BURNING OF A MINISTER'S DWELLING.—MARTINSBURG, W. VA., May 29.—The Rev. J. W. Hedges, residing in the suburbs of Hedgesville, about six miles from this city, lost his dwelling-house and its contents today by fire. The fire happened through cleaning a bed with coal-oil, to which a match was accidentally applied. Loss about $4,000. Mr. Hedges lost his barn and all its contents about four months ago. —*Baltimore Sun.*

From Washington.

Congress like a swivel gun—Oleomargarine—President's marriage—Fall elections for Congressmen—Public Buildings at Staunton—Hanging of an Italian—Prospects of wheat-crop.

[From our regular correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, May 30th, 1886.

Congress is like an old fashioned swivel. It was a pivot gun intended to shoot in any direction and was very loud mouthed and generally about as dangerous to friend as foe. When Congress takes a talking spell, and it is always afflicted more or less in that way, they will talk all around the circle and on all imaginable subjects. This was fully illustrated in the House last week on the oleomargarine subject. The bill was originally for the suppression of bogus butter. This discussion was a long and heated one in which the tariff and the power of the Government to raise revenue and State Rights, &c., came in for a full share. The main objection to the bill was on constitutional grounds.—That it was a subject which belonged to the States and not the Congress to regulate. That if Oleomagarine was injurious a revenue bill was not the proper way to reach the evil. It was claimed Congress could not tax out of existence one branch of business without trangressing its powers and establishing a dangerous precedent. There were two reports on the subject; one from the Committee of Agriculture favorable to the bill imposing a heavy tax on all imitation butter and one from the Judiciary Committee adverse to it.

I enclose the following extract from the report which will be interesting and instructive to your readers:—

"They find that there are in the United States over 15,000,000 cows, producing annually over 1,000,000,000 pounds of butter, and 300,000,000 pounds of cheese, and that the product is worth $250,000,000; that about an equal amount of milk is consumed as milk, so that the product of the dairy interest of the United States is worth $500,000,000 annually;

That cows were worth on an average $40 per head until the introduction of counterfeit butter, and are now worth but $30 each, making a total loss of $150,000,000 in milch cattle alone;

That during last year there were slaughtered in Chicago alone about 300,000 milch cows, or an average of 1,000 per day; that there are from four to five million American citizens engaged in the dairy business, and that they must all abondon it, and be driven into some other already overworked branch of industry unless they can be relieved from the present ruinous competition with cheap imitations of butter and cheese;

That the dairy interest is a necessity to all other branches of agriculture, as it is the cheapest and most reliable means of producing or continuing the conditions of soil necessary to the production of crops of grain and grass; that the cost of producing the usual imitations of butter is from 7 to 8 cents a pound, and the cost to the consumer has been and is about equal with the price of genuine butter.

That such imitations are not only disastrous to the dairy interest directly and to all branches of agriculture indirectly, but that they are detrimental to public health, being the fruitful cause of dyspepsia and other diseases;

That among the articles and ingredients used in the manufacture of such imitations there are the following: Nitric acid, sugar of lead, sulphate of lime, benzoic acid, butyric acid, glycerine, capsic acid, commercial sulphuric acid, tallow, butyric ether, castor oil, caul, gastric juice, curcumine, chlorate of potash, peroxide of magnesia, nitrate of soda, dry blood albumen, saltpeter, borax, orris root, bicarbonate of of soda, caparic acid, sulphite of soda, pepsin, lard, caustic potash, chalk, oil of sesame (or bene), turnip-seed oil, oil of sweet almonds, stomach of pigs, sheep, or calves, mustard-seed oil, bicarbonate of potash, boracic acid, salicylic acid, cotton-seed oil, alum, cows' udders, sal soda, farinaceous flour, carbolic acid, slippery-elm bark, olive oil, broma chloralum, oil of peanuts, sugar, caustic soda.

From the best and most reliable information obtainable your committee believe that about 200,000,000 pounds of spurious and imitation compounds and mixtures are now being manufactured annually, which not only takes the place of so much butter, but stops the consumption of much more by the demoralization of the trade.

Your committee further believe that the unrestricted traffic in counterfeit butter is demoralizing in its effect upon the people;

That the existence of such base counterfeits has already seriously impaired our export trade and will result in still greater damage if not checked. It further appears, from all the information before your committee, that at least nine-tenths of the people of the United States demand this legislation."

I promised to keep your lady readers posted in regard to the President's marriage. A large share of that promise will have to go unredeemed. It would take two or three papers the size of the "SPECTATOR" to print all the gossip that is afloat here on that subject. It may be set down as certain that the "event" will happen.—The President has certainly bought the house of which I wrote. He has the cage and all the signs are he will secure the bird. Miss Folsom has arrived from Europe and she has been seen and interviewed by Col. Lamont, the President's private secretary, and probably before this reaches you has been met by the President himself. She is pronounced young and pretty and smart. All indications are that she will be mistress of the White House before the Ides of June.

The Houses of Congress have adjourned over till Tuesday next on account of Decoration Day. There is a feverish feeling always about this season among Congressmen, in view of the approaching elections next Fall. A few of the old members have been renominated; some have been left, but in a great majority of cases the conventions are yet to be held. The Labor question has complicated the situation this year and made the result in many cases uncertain. In some States the liquor question is an important factor. Ohio has been re-districted by the Republicans, and Indiana by the Democrats, so the parties in these are at sea.

In regard to Virginia, I clip the following from th *Star* of this city:—

"It is expected that all the Democrats from Virginia will be returned, except Daniel, who goes to the Senate, and there is no guessing as to who his successor will be.—Tucker and Barbour have declined a renomination, but Virginia politicians unite in declaring that they will be nominated all the same. In both cases every man of prominence who has been named to succeed these gentlemen has declined and insisted upon their return."

My prediction in regard to the bill for public buildings at Staunton has been so far verified as to have received a favorable report. It provides for an appropriation of $75,000.

Nardello, an Italian, convicted of killing a countryman of his own last Summer, was hung on Friday last, in jail here, on the same gallows used for Guiteau. He died declaring his innocence and "going to glory" as they all do.

Since the above was written I have passed up the Valley, and was glad to find the wheat-, corn-, and grass-crops giving such fair promise all along the route. There is a most marked difference in the wheat prospects between this and last year at this season. Without an unforeseen accident the wheat crop will be very large and fine. The only apparent danger is from rust produced by the continued wet weather. It is very gratifying to see such signs of prosperity as are apparent all along in the Valley counties of Virginia. Their lands are in better condition than ever before since the war, and their houses and other buildings have a neat, bright appearance, which shows taste as well as thrift. "M."

M. B Oberdorfer, a native of this place, now a resident of Staunton, has taken a prominent stand among the business-men of Staunton. He has recently been appointed a visitor to the Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum, and he was voted for yesterday as one of the councilmen of Staunton. For so young a man he has taken pretty rapid strides.—*Charlottesville Chronicle.*

We are very sorry to have to chronicle the death of Mr. Andrew Boyd, formerly a pupil in the Deafmute department of the Insitution. His illness lasted about one month.—*Deaf-mute Excelsior.*

PRESIDENT'S MARRIAGE.

The papers are filled with matters respecting the marriage of the President to Miss Folsom which will take place this evening. From a letter from the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun*, under date of Sunday last, we extract the following:—

THE PRESDENT HAPPY.

Now that the President has opened his heart and taken the people into his confidence he seems much happier and contented. He is sensibly and feelingly impressed with the kind, tender and unobtrusive solicitude which is manifested for him and his affairs, so entirely different from the manifestations of eager curiosity and want of proper consideration which embarrassed and irritated him while he was endeavoring to keep the fact of his approaching marriage a secret. This is what was to be expected. The announcement made by authority has stilled the tongues which wagged loosely, and the sense of American chivalry now comes forward to protect the President from unseemly prying and intrusions upon his private affairs. It is now said that there were reasons which prompted the President to his long maintenance of silence in this matter, which can be fully appreciated by all well-thinking people, but that now, respecting and recognizing the public interest, he will not object to such details going forth as are properly of general consequence and not inconsistent with the private character of the wedding and antecedent circumstances which have been determined upon in consequence of the recent death in the near family of Miss Folsom. Of course the President has no power to put a stop to the fanciful statements which sensation mongers of the press have been rioting in for weeks past, and which, undoubtedly, they will continue to indulge in until long after the wedding feast. He said this morning, in speaking on this very point, that he had full trust that the American people held his common sense in too strong esteem to believe him capable of some of the asburdities attributed to him. He looks with reverence and with a deep feeling of responsibility upon the step which he is to take, and believes that while it will add so much to his own personal happiness, it will also be the means of helping to a more faithful and a broader discharge of his public trusts.

PROGRAMME FOR THE CEREMONY.

The first wedding of a President in the White House will have the additional novelty of kingly surroundings, which it is scarcely necessary to say is the result of accident, not design. The President does not go to meet his bride; she comes to him under the escort of her own relatives and friends, and he will receive her directly from them. The wedding party, according to the arrangements now agreed upon, will reach here from New York on Wednesday morning, and will proceed direct to the White House, and not to Secretary Whitney's, as was at one time proposed. Mrs. Whitney, who did not go to New York this afternoon, will remain at her house here and be ready to take charge of Miss Folsom in case the plans should be changed. It is thought this will not be done, and Miss Cleveland is to receive the party at the White House and escort the bride to the suite of rooms set apart for her accommodation. As outlined in *The Sun* of Saturday, the wedding is to be comparatively private. The guests outside of the two families will be the members of the cabinet and their wives, who comprise the official family of the President, his intimate personal friend, Mr. Bissell, of Buffalo, his private secretary, and possibly one or two others, but it is thought not more than thirty in all. Mrs. Hoyt and Miss Cleveland are the only relatives of the President who are positively to be present. Two other sisters, Mrs. Bacon, who has been at the White House several times, and Mrs. Yeomans, are not expected, but may possibly be present.—The fifth sister, Mrs. Hastings, is in India, where her husband is a missionary. The mother of the bride and her cousin, Mr. Benjamin Folsom, who may be selected to give her away, will be the only ones present on her side. Miss Cleveland will remain at the White House for a few days after the wedding in the capacity of hostess. She will then abdicate in favor of her youthful successor, whom she has always denominated "My little school girl," and leave the White House for her home in New York. When she next returns to the White House it will be as a guest. The prolonged absence of Miss Cleveland from the White House, which has given the gossips so much trouble and anxiety, is all now explained. She has kept away these many weeks because she did not wish to run the gauntlet of the numberless questions which would have been fired at her by her own set, and which would have called into requisition all of her wonderful tact and equipoise to parry.

THE WEDDING SUPPER.

While those bidden to the wedding feast will be small in number, the supper will be of a character not less elaborate and tempting than any of the entertainments at the White House under the present regime, of course bearing in mind what is suitable for the occasion. The Marine Band, which will be in attendance, will furnish what music is appropriate during the rendering of the plain and simple service through which the Rev. Dr. Sunderland will make the twain one. Afterward, when the guests are at the table, the musical selections to be rendered will befit that occasion. All the magnificent silver, china and glass service of the White House will be brought into requisition, so that the choicest sets may be selected to grace the table and vie with the floral adornments. The menu is now the sole study of the chef and confectioner of the White House, and these two illustrious functionaries will rack their brains until the latest hour possible in the effort to outdo all their former achievements.—The wedding cake, they are determined, shall be a masterpiece, but however they may try, they cannot get an oven which will bake a cake big enough to supply a bit to all the love-sick damsels who will want to dream on it. The cabinet ladies, who are the envy of all society because they only are to be present at the ceremony, find their happiness mixed with some alloy. The short notice which they had apparently precludes all hope of new dresses for the wedding, and to fall back upon a wardrobe which has been constantly drawn upon for an entire season is misery indeed. Modistes here and in all the adjacent cities have been sounded, but this is one of the busiest seasons of the year, and if one or more of the cabinet ladies should succeed in obtaining something, it will, as one of them said who has given up all expectations in that line, "be nothing to brag on."

THE INVITATIONS.

The folllowing is said to be the form of invitation sent by the President to the members of his cabinet:

Executive Mansion, May 29, 1886.—My Dear Mr.——: I am to be married on Wednesday evening at seven o'clock at the White House to Miss Folsom. It will be a very quiet affair, and I will be extremely gratified at your attendance on the occasion. Yours, sincerely,

GROVER CLEVELAND."

To the members who are married the invitation includes their wives. Three of the members of the cabinet are widowers—Messrs. Bayard, Lamar and Garland.

Miss Van Vechten, who is the particularly intimate friend of Miss Cleveland, and who, rumor says, was perferred by the latter for the spouse of the President, is not among those mentioned as likely to be present. As she has been a frequent visitor at the White House, there is some comment over this, although very probably it has no significance.

The arrest of H. S. Taylor, and his commitment to jail on the serious charge of breach of a marriage promise under the most revolting circumstances, has created quite a sensation in Clifton Forge, where the principal parties reside. Taylor is now in Covington jail, having been refused bail by the committing Magistrate. His wife, married since his liason with the plaintiff in the present suit, is from Staunton.—*Alleghany Sentinel.*

Much excitement has been caused at Bismarck, Dakota, by the arrest of Dr. Carroll Corson and Joseph Hulsey, charged with attempting to burn the Sheridan House Friday morning. Corson is a prominent physician, well connected and having many friends.

Suicide at Charleston, W. Va.

On Saturday last, Ashton G. Wharton, a groceryman of Charleston, W. Va., committed suicide by throwing himself in the Kanawha river, about a quarter of a mile above that town. Several persons saw him divest himself of his coat and plunge into the water. When they became aware of his intention to drown himself it was too late to rescue him. He was thirty-five years old and married.

The Charleston (W. Va.) *Star* of Saturday gives the circumstances as follows:—

"A few minutes before eleven o'clock this morning, a man was seen running down what is known as the Silas Ruffner lane, and his wild look indicated that he was insane. He ran to the river bank, gazed for a moment at the sky and then walked into the water to the depth of his waist. He then placed his head under the water and immediately returned to the shore; there he sat for a moment then suddenly jumped to his feet, divested himself of his coat and rushed back into the river and drowned himself. As he went back into the water the second time he exclaimed as if in great agony, "I know, Tom, that you are going to shoot me." When it become evident that he had committed suicide several persons went into the river and found the body, but too late to restore him to consciousness. Young Wharton was in the 35th year of his age, and for the past two weeks he has been in Cincinnati, but returned to Charleston this morning on the Boone in company with his wife."

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY.—We extract from the Lexington *Gazette* the following preceedings of the Board of Supervisors of Rockbridge county at their meeting on Thursday week:—

"The county tax levy was made for the year 1886, to pay interest on railroad bonds and provide a sinking fund, and to pay the outstanding canal bonds and interest, and provide funds for the current expenses of the county. The levy was made at 58 cents on the one hundred dollars of property. A district road tax of 7½ cents on the $100 was levied in each district for the repair of roads. A special tax of 5 cents on the $100 was levied in each district for road purposes. The county school tax was made at 10 cents on the $100 in each district. A district school tax of 10 cents on the $100 was levied in Buffalo, Kerr's Creek, Walker's Creek, and South River districts, and 7½ cents for Natural Bridge district, and 5 cents in the Lexington district.

There was appropriated the sum of $4,744.20 for the repair of roads in addition to to the proceeds to be derived from the 7½ cents district road tax. The fund was apportioned as follows; Lexington district, $400; Natural Bridge, $060; Buffalo, $880; Kerr's Creek, $804.80; Walker's Creek, $858; and South River, $851.20.

From the funds to be derived from the 58 cents general tax $17,804 was set aside to pay interest on the railroad bonds and to create a sinking f