THE DAILY DISPATCH.

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.—The circulation of the DISPATCH is THREE TIMES as large as that of any other Daily paper in the city of Richmond. It is therefore greatly superior to any other as a medium of advertising.

RICHMOND, VA.:

Wednesday Morning, April 14, 1852.

THE CAPITOL SQUARE.

The improvements contemplated by the plan of Mr. Notman, which have been in progress for some time past, under the supervision of the Committee on the Public Square, are now nearly finished as far as the western section of the Square is concerned. No one, we think, who remembers the former appearance of this section, can look at it now, without being forcibly struck with the very great change for the better which has already been wrought. A few weeks hence, when the complete verdure of early summer has mantled the slopes and the trees are out in full foliage, no public pleasure ground in this country will present a more grateful or picturesque sight to the eye.

We feel a great pride in the Capitol Square, and we have therefore taken a real interest in the improvements which have been recently begun. We are glad to learn that it is proposed to remove the unsightly Bell House which now deforms the southwestern extremity, and to erect a handsome building over the principal gate-way which shall be used, as a place of deposit for the standard weights and measures of the Commonwealth, as well as for the purposes which the present Bell House subserves. This is wise in every respect. It is designed that the town time shall be struck in the new edifice, as it should be, by machinery, connected with an accurate and well constructed clock. It is perhaps not known to many of our country readers that there is not in Richmond a single public clock upon any church, town-hall or other structure, with dials showing to the passer-by what is the hour of the day. It will certainly excite a smile with such readers to be informed, furthermore, that the hour is now struck by hand, and that sometimes it happens, through the drowsiness of the guard, that the stroke is not given for minutes after the proper moment has arrived. Now, the want of a public clock, regulated with care, and of delicate mechanical contrivance, is felt by our citizens more seriously than they are themselves aware of, and is the cause of two little inconveniences that may seem whimsical. One is the frequency with which they are stopped by strangers asking "What's o'clock?" and the other is the universal derangement of their watches, which they undertake, absurdly enough, to regulate by the town-bell. The old maxim of the law, *nullum tempus occurit regi*, might be applied here, with some show of fairness, to the guard. This is, to be sure, a good thing for our excellent friends, the jewellers, who profit thereby in the perpetual repairing of their customers' watches, but it is of real and serious disadvantage to the community. We are therefore greatly in favor of the project of the new gateway edifice, and of removing the old pepper box of a Bell House which has so long disgraced the city.

The basin of the fountain, which has been constructed in the dell west of the Capitol, seems substantial and well adapted to its purpose, and we hope to see an appropriate ornament introduced in the centre, a dolphin or something of the sort, out of which the *jet d'eau* may throw up its spray to the sunshine. We have but one suggestion to make to the Committee concerning their beautiful improvement, and for this we respectfully ask their attention. It seems to us that no adequate provision has been made for the drainage of the grounds, which will very soon be in danger of violent washing by the drenching thunder-storms of our spring and summer seasons.—Perhaps the Committee yet intend guarding the plats and parterres by proper gutters for conveying off the water. If so, we think it should be done at once, before the furious rains begin. It would grieve us to see the gentle declivities, into which the ground has been shaped, furrowed by gullies, and the gravel of the walks washed over the greensward.

It seems to be a matter of some doubt whether or not the improvement of the grounds is to be carried out fully, in accordance with Mr. Notman's original drawings. The eastern section presents a much better field for the display of taste in the arrangement of ornamental pleasure-grounds than the western, and in its present condition, is certainly quite out of keeping with the general appearance of the Square.—There is but one walk through it, and this straight down the middle, while the terraces are overrun with the wild-onion. Our citizens, we are sure, will never rest satisfied until the same pleasing improvement is made in it that commands such admiration in the western section. Another fountain is embraced in the drawings, to be placed near the new Court House, and to be of similar design with the one already completed west of the Capitol building.

We have spoken thus at length on the subject of the Square, because we think there is nothing which adds so much to the beauty and comfort of a city as large and well-ordered parks, accessible to all classes of the citizens. The magnificent parks of London have been called *the lungs* of that great metropolis, and it cannot be doubted that they contribute greatly to the health of its crowded population.—Our little Square of twelve acres is insignificant when compared with such immense grounds as Regent's, or Hyde Park, and yet it is not less important to the citizens of Richmond than these celebrated resorts to the cockneys. We therefore feel that no apology is necessary for the space we have devoted to the subject this morning.

APPOMATTOX RIVER.—The citizens of Petersburg, have decided, by the following vote, to empower the town council to borrow money for the purpose of improving the Appomattox:

For the appropriation,	332
Against it,	18
Majority,	314

THE TELEGRAPH BEATING TIME.—A telegraphic despatch to the New Orleans Picayune, which left the city of New York at twenty minutes past nine o'clock on Friday evening, arrived in New Orleans, and was in the hands of the compositors there, at twenty-two minutes past eight, beating time by fifty-eight minutes.

THE EXPEDITION TO JAPAN.

The object of the naval expedition now being fitted out by our government to sail for Japan, under command of Commodore Perry, although not officially so announced, is generally understood to be the opening of the ports of that country to the commerce of the world in general, and of the United States in particular.—For a long time, the empire of Japan has been little known to the various nations of the civilized world. The policy of its rulers has been even more exclusive than of those in China.—It has sustained commercial relations with only two countries—the Dutch and Chinese—and that to only a very limited extent, a couple of Dutch ships, carrying cargoes to the value of about $300,000, and ten Chinese junks, being all that are annually admitted into Nangasaki, its principal port.

Under these circumstances, our government appears to have come to the conclusion that since the Japanese dignitaries will not amicably enter into some arrangement for the mutual benefit of the commercial relations of both countries, it will be right and proper to use a little moderate compulsion to bring them to terms—at least so far as the appearance of Commodore Perry on the shores of Japan may tend to persuade her thereto. It would seem that Great Britain takes a similar view of the matter, and, if necessary, will co-operate with the United States. The London Times, of March 26, argues the propriety of the expedition after this wise:

"It is a fair question how far any tribe or race of human beings possess the right of excluding the rest of mankind from all participation in the benefits to be derived from an extensive and beautiful region. That it abounds with mineral and vegetable productions, and is admirably adapted for carrying on commercial intercourse with advantage to the inhabitants and profit to the rest of mankind, may not affect the properties of the problem, but at least it quickens our desire for a solution.—Is this right of exclusion founded on reason or on force? If on reason, we should be curious to see the arguments by which it can be maintained. If the right of exclusion is simply the right of force, why, let those who appeal to such a principle be prepared at all times to make it good. They may feel well assured that, some time or other, their pretensions will be put to the test. In any case, they can lay little claim to sympathy. They have by their own acts put themselves out of the pale of the great brotherhood of nations. They have refused all aid to others; how can they ask it for themselves? The Tartar dynasty had long contrived to exclude the world from any but the most humiliating intercourse with China. That pretension has been set at rest forever by the operations of the British forces.—Now it would seem the term of civilized exclusion from Japan is at hand, although, happily, we are not in this instance to be the executioners. The expedition is to be undertaken by the United States. If carried out in a spirit of humanity and sound policy, without unnecessary waste of life, and under the full impression that the agents of the government, and not the great mass of the population, are in fault, Commodore Perry will be backed with the sympathies of all European nations."

The Times also says that "public opinion in England will run in favor of the expedition which is about to sail from New York."

Commodore Perry's squadron will consist of the Susquehanna steam frigate, now cruising in the Eastern waters, and of the steamers Mississippi and Princeton, an additional frigate, a sloop-of-war and a store ship. With such a force at their disposal, it is believed that the officers in command will have little difficulty in dictating their own terms. The Japanese can offer but little resistance against it. The operations can be conducted without quitting the sea-coast; and the squadron will have the benefit, not only of careful surveys, but also of the intimate knowledge which has been obtained by our whaling ships of the navigation along the eastern coast of Japan, and through the Straits of Sangara, which divide Niphon from Jeso.

A portion of the Japan fleet, it is understood will sail the last of this month, to be followed by the remainder in due season. The whole will rendezvous at San Francisco, and proceed in company to Jeddo, the capital city of Japan. The marine force now stationed at the Washington navy yard will accompany it.

The non-intercourse policy of the Japanese is said to be more attributable to a combination of circumstances, than to ignorance or want of civilization. They were a long time ago far advanced in the arts, and a great commercial people even before commerce had become any considerable element among the civilized nations of modern times. They traded with no less than sixteen foreign countries previous to the year 1543. At that time the Portuguese came among them and intermarried. With the Portuguese came also some Jesuits. A civil war raging at the time, the latter joined the party which subsequently proved to be the weakest, and were locked up and persecuted for their presumption. They afterwards rebelled, made a formidable resistance, and were driven to the Peninsula, to the number of 70,000. The Dutch subsequently sent a ship-of-war which fired upon and dislodged the Jesuits from a strong position they had secured. For this service the Dutch were permitted to retain a factory in Japan, while all other christians were destroyed or driven out. Since that time, every stranger, (excepting those connected with the Dutch factory,) has been required to trample on the image of the Saviour, as an evidence that he is not a christian interloper.

A strict system of non-intercourse and espionage has been kept up in Japan ever since these events. Nearly half the population receive pay as officials, and spies abound every where. Each man is expected to watch his five next-door neighbors. Every Prince has a couple of Secretaries to watch over and perform acts of government for him. His wife and family are kept at Jeddo as hostages for his loyalty. He is not permitted to become rich, though required to give expensive entertainments. Cases of malfeasance, or neglect of duty, are followed by disgrace, which every honorable Japanese wipes off with suicide, by ripping open his stomach, the art of which, it is said, is taught in the schools—in theory, probably, as the practice of this custom must necessarily be somewhat limited in its frequency.

Such is a brief sketch of the people to whom the gallant Commodore Perry is about to pay his respects in the name of Uncle Sam. His success in bringing them to their propriety remains to be seen.

There are 1200 omnibuses daily running in London.

Virginia Legislature.

TUESDAY, April 13.

House of Delegates.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Board of Public Works, transmitting copies of the proceedings of the Board relative to the State loans (coupon bonds) negotiated by them with Selden, Withers & Co., being the documents called for by a resolution of the House. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Rives, of Albemarle, presented a petition of citizens and merchants of the county of Albemarle, praying that their license tax should be proportioned to the invoices of purchases rather than to the annual sales as proposed by the license law now before the House, which was, on his motion, laid on the table.

The preamble and resolutions relative to the coinage of silver, and against the circulation of small notes, which was under consideration when the House adjourned yesterday, was taken up, the amendment to the preamble, submitted by Mr. Speed, agreed to, and the preamble and resolutions passed.

BILLS PASSED.

A bill to exempt millers of manufacturing flour mills from grinding corn or other grain, except wheat;

A bill concerning suits against persons and corporations who represent the Commonwealth—and

A bill appropriating the entire capitation tax to education in primary and free schools.

RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY.

By Mr. Yerby—Into the expediency of providing by law that no Sheriff or Clerk of any county, city, or town in this Commonwealth, shall receive for his services more than a certain sum per annum; the fees of any such Sheriff or Clerk amounting in any year to more than that sum, to be paid over to the County Court for county purposes.

By Mr. Browne, of Stafford—Of incorporating the Fredericksburg and Lowell Manufacturing Company; and also the Mitchell Manufacturing and Mining Company.

By Mr. Wiley—Of providing by law that in all cases, where the greatest number of votes are equal for two or more persons, the election shall be remanded to the people.

Mr. Robinson, of R. City, reported from the Committee of Courts of Justice, the following bills:

A bill concerning the officers of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and of the District Courts;

A bill concerning the bonds of Clerks of Courts;

A bill authorizing notices for taking depositions to be served upon counsel;

A bill concerning the power of County and Corporation Courts to change the time for holding their quarterly terms—and

A bill concerning the plan for the execution of sentence of death, and the persons to be present at such execution. [The execution to take place in the jail yard, in the presence of the officers of the court which sentenced the criminal, and twelve respectable citizens, including a physician or surgeon; also, the convict's counsel, Ministers of the Gospel, and the relatives of the convict.]

A bill was also reported, changing the mode of appointing tobacco inspectors. [Gives to the Governor the power to appoint the first and second inspectors.]

Mr. Taliaferro, from the Select Committee on a house to be erected on the Public Square for Houdon's Statue of Washington, made a report in favor of the erection of a house, accompanied by a resolution providing for the procurement of plans for the proposed building, which resolution was adopted.

And then the House adjourned.

THE ELECTORAL VOTES.—Some doubts having been expressed as to whether the States, in the next Presidential election, will choose electors under the apportionment of 1840 or that of 1850, the subject was referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, who have reported that they are to elect according to the apportionment under the census of 1850. Each State will choose as many electors as it has Senators and Representatives under that apportionment. The following table shows the number of electors to which each State is entitled, with the number under the old apportionment:

	Vote 1852.	1848.		Vote 1852.	1848.
Maine,	8	9	Indiana,	13	12
New Hampshire,	5	9	Illinois,	11	9
Vermont,	5	6	Iowa,	4	4
Massachusetts,	13	12	Wisconsin,	5	4
Rhode Island,	4	4	Michigan,	6	5
Connecticut,	6	6	Kentucky,	12	12
New York,	35	36	Missouri,	9	7
New Jersey,	7	7	Alabama,	9	9
Pennsylvania,	27	26	Louisiana,	6	6
Delaware,	3	3	Tennessee,	12	12
Maryland,	8	8	Mississippi,	7	6
Virginia,	15	17	Arkansas,	4	3
North Carolina,	10	11	Texas,	4	4
South Carolina,	7	9	California,	4	0
Georgia,	10	10			
Florida,	3	3	Whole num.	295	
Ohio,	23	23	For choice,	148	

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE PRESTON.—The officers who brought the fugitive slave Preston to Baltimore, have returned home, having discharged their duty. The papers of New York say the owner of the fugitive instructed them to say, that if the abolitionists desired to purchase Preston's freedom they could do so by paying $1,500, otherwise he would be sent to Kentucky.—*Sun.*

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—The mayor of New Orleans has appointed a large delegation to attend a Convention, to be held in that city on the First Monday of May next, for the purpose of adopting preliminary arrangements to advance the holding of a Great Southwestern Agricultural and Mechanic's Exhibition and Fair, in New Orleans, in May, 1853.

Miss Catherine Hayes had a brilliant concert at Cincinnati, on the 6th inst.

Gen. Pillow, of Tenn., was on a visit to Harrisburg, Pa., last week.

Booth, the tragedian, is playing in Augusta, Ga.

The Jewish Society in New Haven, Conn., is about to erect a house of worship at a cost of $6,000 to $8 000.

The Charleston Mercury seems to favor the nomination of Buchanan for President and Douglas for Vice President.

The Union men of Augusta, Geo., have resolved not to send delegates to the Baltimore Convention.

Shells of galvanized iron are beginning to be adopted exclusively in the English artillery service.

Anthracite coal has lately been discovered on the farm of Col. J. Marshall McCue, of Augusta county, Va.

A little daughter of Col. Woods Poage, of Pocahontas county, Va., was burnt to death on the 30th ult., by her clothes taking fire.

Louis Napoleon issues his public documents in his own name, as President of the Republic, and no longer in the name of the people.

The assessed value of all species of property in New Orleans, last year, was $74,315,865; which is a decline on the assessment of the year previous.

The Massachusetts Senate on Wednesday passed resolves providing for the appointment of a Joint Committee to make arrangements for the reception of Kossuth, in the name and behalf of the State.

On the 2d inst. the trunk of Mr. J. Withrow, of Lewisburg Va., who was on his way to Baltimore, was cut from the stage near Harrisburg, and robbed of all its contents except $50 in gold.

BOSIERS MAGIQUE.—Maccallister will give another of his brilliant and successful exhibitions this evening, at the theatre. Among other extraordinary experiments, he will produce 22 different kinds of liquor from one bottle.

LOCAL MATTERS.

CELEBRATION OF THE I. O. O. F.—Yesterday, notwithstanding the fluctuating nature of April weather, proved an auspicious day for the Odd Fellows' procession and celebration. The number of members in the procession was not so large as was anticipated; nevertheless it was one in every way creditable to that benevolent and praiseworthy order. At 11 o'clock, the line which had been formed on Broad street, its right resting on the point intersected by Mayo street, commenced moving in the following order:

1st Division.

Henderson Lodge, No. 105, Manchester.
Powhatan Lodge, No. 12, Richmond.

2d Division.

Friendship Lodge, No. 10, Richmond.
Union Lodge, No. 7, Richmond.

3d Division.

Jefferson Lodge, No. 4, Richmond.
Appomattox Lodge of Petersburg.
Monroe Lodge of Petersburg.

4th Division.

Excelsior Encampment No. 22, Richmond.
Visiting Encampments in order of Seniority.
Nelson Encampment, No. 2, Richmond.

5th Division.

R. W. G. Lodge of Virginia.

Fitzhugh Lodge was not out formally, but many of its members were in the procession. The regalia of the several orders was exceedingly rich and tasteful, as were the beautiful banners carried by the several Lodges. Our attention was attracted in particular by the very handsome and costly silk banner of Powhatan Lodge of this city, carried at the head of the procession. On the front was a splendid painting of the Indian chief, Powhatan, surrounded by elegant scroll work. On the reverse in neatly executed gilt letters, the words "Powhatan Lodge, No. 12, I. O. O. F., Richmond, Va."—This banner, we understand, was recently manufactured by Messrs. T. McDonald & Lyons of this city, and certainly reflects great credit upon their taste and skill in such matters. Under the superintendence of Grand Marshal M. Segers, and assistant Marshals P. Gs. William L. Holt, Christopher Johnson, James H. Pecor; and P. C. P. George W. Toler, the procession proceeded down Broad st. to 19th, along 19th to Franklin, down Franklin to 25th, along 25th to Main, up Main to Foushee, along Foushee to Broad, and down Broad to the African Church.

The different Lodges then took seats in the main body of the Church, filling it completely; the east and west galleries being occupied by a large number of ladies, and the front gallery by the band.—The exercises of the meeting commenced with music from the band, and prayer.

Mr. Edward Y. Cannon, the orator of the day, then delivered a clear and practical address upon the position, benefits and duties of the order. After referring to the necessity and usefulness of association in order to the accomplishment of the highest good, he reviewed the past and present condition of the order. In the month of April, some 33 years ago, five men in Baltimore opened the first Lodge in the U. S.; now there were nearly 3000 Lodges, with a membership of 220,000. Mr. C. next referred to the operative causes which produced these results. These were many; and they were found in the noble and beneficial purposes of the institution—in the wise manner in which these purposes were carried out—and in the direct operation upon themselves and the world around them of the principles of friendship, love and truth which were at once the rule of their conduct and the test of their sincere attachment to the order.—The orator proceeded to allude to the prejudices and obstacles with which the order in its incipiency and expansion had to contend—and expatiated at length upon its social, charitable, intellectual and moral benefits. He closed his interesting address with an earnest appeal to the members of the order, old and young, to carry out and advance its just and pure principles. Music from the band and a benediction from the Rev. Mr. Kepler, closed the proceedings at the church. The procession then re-formed and proceeded up Broad street to 9th, along 9th to Grace, along Grace to 7th, down 7th to Byrd, along Byrd to 8th, along 8th to the place of dining, near the packet station, by the canal. We understand the several lodges here partook of a very sumptuous dinner, and after escorting their guests from Petersburg to the cars, returned to their respective homes, well pleased with the harmonious celebration of the day.

KOSSUTH.—This distinguished Hungarian arrived in our city, yesterday morning, and moved in solitary procession in a coach from the Petersburg to the Fredericksburg depot. He then took the cars for Washington. We are happy to state that the cars did not give way or the locomotive burst its boiler because of the addition of freight to the train, in the shape of his Excellency's person. The select Kossuth-feather body-guard must have taken an extra nap on the reception day of their Patron Saint—for not even a solitary goose-quill fluttered him a welcome or a farewell.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Mr. George Taylor, who resided on 14th street, near Mayo's bridge, died very suddenly, yesterday noon, of enlargement of the heart. Mr. T. had a severe attack of sickness in July last, and ever since his health has been very feeble. In addition he has been subject to spasmodic action of the heart. Yesterday morning he expressed himself as feeling unusually well until within some five minutes of his death; at which time, while conversing with a friend, he suddenly placed his hands upon his breast as if in great pain, and, notwithstanding restoratives were immediately applied, expired shortly after without uttering a word. He leaves a wife and several children to mourn his loss. He will probably be buried by the Tailor's Beneficial Society, of which he was a highly respected member, from his residence this afternoon.

HUSTINGS COURT.—The registration of negroes and civil business generally, occupied this court on yesterday. The case of Miss Rix, charged with grand larceny, will come up for examination on Friday next. We observed in the rotunda the paintings of Washington and Lafayette, which have been restored to their primitive beauty and freshness by the skilful hands of the painter and varnisher. We trust that their frames will also be re-gilded, and they will then be an ornament to the hall.

DISCHARGED.—On Monday, after due examination, the Grand Jury of the United States District Court, discharged Nicholas Roldy, who was recently arrested by captain Moses, of the ship Astrea, on the charge of mutiny. Captain Moses, it will be remembered, some days since, finding that Richmond was getting too hot to hold him, made tracks for home, "away down East." The trial of the six mutineers of the ship Corsair, will take place today.

NEGRO MISCELLANY.—Elizabeth Patterson, a free negress, was committed to jail for one month, on yesterday, by his Honor, for drunkenness. William Mann, a free negro, arrested with Chesterfield papers, was on yesterday discharged by his Honor with a caution to remain at home; in Manchester.—Cornelius, slave to Bally & Vaughn, arrested out of track, in consideration of previous good conduct, was discharged on yesterday. Malvina Miller, a free negress, was sent to jail on yesterday, one month, for drunkenness.

THOMAS REED'S LETTER TO HIS FATHER.—In the Enquirer of yesterday we find the following letter written by Reed to his father in England, and which has been published at the particular request of several of Reed's friends. The statement to which he alludes is the one published by him last month, and to which he has firmly adhered from the commencement of his trial to the present time. As Reed is soon to pay the penalty of the violated law, we subjoin it as a matter of some interest to our readers. We are glad to see that Reed has made such, apparently, thorough preparation for that final doom which a jury of his peers and the highest tribunals of justice in the country have adjudged to be a righteous one. We were not among those who from motives of sympathy and pity, and perhaps of conscience, endeavored to secure the pardon of Reed and Clements; nor, in the few days yet allotted them to life, shall we aid in a similar effort, because we believe that the duty which we owe to our fellow beings—to society—to ourselves—and to a just God, demands at our hands a hearty co-operation in securing the fulfilment of those laws which are alike the safeguard and protector of every interest in the republic. When criminals after a fair and impartial trial, are found guilty, it becomes the lover of true liberty and impartial justice, to carry out unshrinkingly, and to the very letter, the promulgated sentence. No emotion or feeling should warp the judgment—no misconstruction of the testimony sway or influence the principle of action. Believing then, that Reed and Clements have been found guilty of the offence with which they stood charged upon clear and just grounds, though the duty be a painful one to nature—we yet yield our implicit concurrence with the verdict of the jury, the sentence of the judge, the decision of the Supreme Court, and the final arbitrament of the President of the United States.—Of what avail are laws, unless they are faithfully administered, and the penalties of their violation strictly enforced? Annexed is Reed's letter:

RICHMOND, VA., April 4th, 1852.

My dear and affectionate Father:—I now redeem my promise of sending you a true and accurate statement of the unfortunate affair for which I am to suffer death on the 9th of this month, which I shall enclose in this, my last and farewell letter to you. My kind and generous friend and schoolmate, M—— D——, has been to Washington and presented my petition, together with several letters of recommendation, to the President, for consideration, and has returned without a ray of hope for pardon. I must say he has acted most nobly and generously in my behalf, but without effect, and for his kindness he has my heart-felt thanks, and which I hope, my dear father and brothers, you will reward and remember. He comes here often to see me, and in grief goes away. Before you receive this, my final state will be determined by the Judge of all the earth. In a few days the almost inevitable sentence of death will be put into execution, that will either raise me to the heights of happiness or sink me to the depths of misery, and while you read these lines I will be groaning under the agonies of despair, or enjoying the peace of the blessed in another world. It is impossible for me to describe the present disposition of my soul; the great uncertainty I fear. No words can describe my apprehensions. Every fear would perfectly overwhelm me, but for God's declaration, which says: 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be made as white as snow," and in his great goodness and mercy in sending his only son Jesus Christ into this wicked world to be crucified as an atoning sacrifice for the redemption of lost mankind. I never rightly imagined my perilous situation until now. During my mis-spent life I always had wrong apprehensions of my nature; and, my good God, how have I employed myself, or what have I been doing, while the sun in its race and the stars in their courses have lent their beams, perhaps, to light me to the world of woe? Oh! in what folly have I spent my time since I have been here confined, and in what madness have I spent the years I have passed at sea. Truly, I have seen the wonderful works of the Lord on the mighty deep. Many a time have I been preserved from sudden death, in different shapes, which only served to make me the more hardened. I have often rejoiced to hear the sound from each mast-head, of "there she blows"—and would jump into the whale boat and laugh at all dangers; then rush furiously and fearlessly alongside of the monstrous whale, and, with undaunted courage, would dart the harpoon or lance, whilst his flukes would be foaming or dancing over my head, when almost one touch from him would have finished my existence.—Scenes like these I have often met, and with foolish courage, defied its terrors; nor had I thought of any state beyond the grave, nor the great tribunal to which I must have been summoned. It is this which makes death appear to me now so terrible, or I could still mock at fear. It is not giving up my breath at which I shrink, it is the terrible hereafter—the something beyond the grave—at which I recoil. I never had a just apprehension of the solemnity of death, until now, and the short space of time which I have now got to live, is I fear, far too short to make my peace with an offended God; but I cast myself on his absolute mercy, through the atoning sacrifice of the Redeemer of lost mankind. My dear father, you are already bent beneath the load of years and grief; the tears of anguish and sorrow for my dear departed mother, have not yet been dried in our family, and now must they again start afresh, by the announcement of the untimely and undeserved death of your prodigal son—but let my blood be on their skirts, which have falsely and cruelly sworn my life away. This I can say with a clear conscience at my dying hour; and I have done no more than any person would have done if placed in the same circumstances, which you can see for yourself by my statement. Brother James's and your joint letter of the 6th of March I answered forthwith. As yet I have received no letters from John or Nicholas. I shall answer them as soon as received. At present I do not rightly know their address or I would write them a farewell letter. I understand my friend M—— D—— intends getting my body from the proper authorities for safe interment; but I have had no conversation with him myself on the subject as yet; but I am fully satisfied he will do every thing that can be done for my safe interment, for which I hope you will well reward and remember. M—— D—— will write you in a day or two after my execution and let you know all particulars.—And now, my dear father, I must return my heart felt thanks for your goodness to me since my confinement. I must now bid you farewell, together with my sisters and brothers, from this world of falsehood and vanity, and may I be prepared to meet you and my dear departed mother, sisters and brothers, on the right hand of God on that great day of judgment, where an erring verdict cannot be given at that supreme tribunal; and I now cast all my dependance upon the mercy of God, through the merits of my Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ.

"Afflictions, though they seem severe,
In mercy oft are sent;
They stop the prodigal's career,
And force him to repent."

Adieu. I remain, my dear father, your unfortunate prodigal son, THOMAS REED.

I shall write James on the 7th or 8th.

P. S.—If either of my brothers or yourself, should wish an account of my trial, and the decision of the Court against granting a new trial, address a letter to M—— D——, and he will no doubt forward it—then you can compare my statement, which is and will be my confession—then compare it with the evidence against me in Court, and decide for yourselves of guilt or innocence.

Farewell, all my afflicted friends,
T. REED.

Captain MARK REED, Lewis Mines street Erth, near Hayle, Cornwall, England.

DEMOCRATIC DISTRICT CONVENTION.—The Democrats of Richmond have appointed delegates to a district Convention. This Convention meets in this city on the 20th of May next, for the purpose of choosing four representatives to the national Democratic Convention, which meets in Baltimore on Tuesday the 1st day of June.

WHIG STATE CONVENTION.—This body will assemble at the Universalist church, on Mayo street, this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

From present indications, there will be a very large number of delegates in attendance.

FREDERICKSBURG BAND.—This accomplished corps of musicians came to our city yesterday and paraded in the procession. Their gentlemanly appearance, together with the sweet harmonies they discoursed upon the occasion, attracted marked attention.

DIED,

On the 11th inst., at her residence, on the corner of Main and 16th streets, after an illness of but sixteen hours, Miss ANNE E. WILKERSON, late of Petersburg.

"With the Christian to die is gain."