THE DISPATCH.

BY JAS. A. COWARDIN.

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TUESDAY MORNING, ...OCTOBER 20, 1857.

Hon. Nathan Appleton on New York Banks.

The Boston Advertiser contains the following interesting letter from the Hon. Nathan Appleton in relation to the conduct of the New York banks in producing the financial panic:

Messrs. Editors—I have for many years been withdrawn from active business. I have been merely a looker on, but not unobservent of the course of trade, and especially of our banking operations.

Our system of currency is a delicate one. It is founded on bank credits, resting on a very moderate basis of coin. When perfectly balanced, it works very well, but a slight derangement may produce a great deal of mischief. The great disturbing cause is a demand for specie for export, which can only be checked by a contraction of the bank credits. During the present year we have been going on very smoothly, under full sail, when, about the middle of August, a sudden squall strikes us, which continues to increase to a terrific hurricane, threatening even to swamp the ship itself. The question arises, How comes all this about—what is the cause?

New York is the great central banking power.—She sets the key-note to the whole country. If she expand the whole country expands. If she contract it is felt to the remotest extremities. It is a tremendous power, that of increasing or diminishing the circulating medium of the whole country. It is a deep responsibility and demands sound discretion and much wisdom in its regulation. Unfortunately there appears to be no unity of action, no controlling principle in the management of this power. It is divided between fifty-five banks, each acting its own separate part, under the influence of different opinions and different interests. Banks are public institutions; they are founded for the public good, and the duty of consulting the good of the community in the use of their great power is as sacred as that of providing for their own safety. There is apparently no individual of sufficient influence to bring this heterogeneous mass to unity of action in a crisis like the present, as was Albert Gallatin, whilst he lived.

The circulating medium of the city of New York consists in the liabilities of her banks in the form of deposits and circulation. Their daily loans and discounts increase or diminish these liabilities.—As these liabilities are greater or less is money plenty or scarce. They constitute the fund out of which all operations must be performed.

Hunt's Merchant's Magazine contains tables of the weekly returns of the banks of the city of New York for the years 1856 and 1857, which furnish a complete view of their operations. They throw a flood of light on the present state of things. The return for January 3, 1857, shows $104,000,000 of liabilities, with $11,172,000 in specie.

This varied very little from the returns of the preceding six months, and this state of things continued with little change, but with a slight tendency to increased expansion up to the 15th of August. The greatest expansion was on the 2d of May when the liabilities were $108,000,000, with 12,000,000 of specie. The return of 15th of August shows $101,000,000 of liabilities and $11,300,000 of specie. From this a rapid contraction commenced, the liabilities being reduced on the 5th of September to $8,000,000, with $10,227,000 of specie. Here the contraction ought to have ceased. The object was to stop the export of specie. That had been done. Exchange on London had fallen below the point at which specie could be shipped without loss.

Can any mortal man give me a reason or apology why contraction should continue a day after this point had been reached? The banks were then stronger than they had been for two years. But contraction did continue until, on the 3d of October, the liabilities had been reduced to $76,000,000—thus reducing the circulating medium of New York city, from July $32,000,000, or upwards of 30 per cent. Tremendous! Was the like ever known in the history of banking? I have no hesitation in saying it is the continued contraction of the New York banks since the 5th of September, without the slightest necessity, which has brought about the present disastrous crisis.

There was no decided over-trade. There was no speculation, except by a few houses in sugar. There was no denial, an excess of imports, but no great one for the last year. What the effect of these was wholly cured on the 5th September, by the rate of exchange on London. Why continue contraction further? Was not eighty-eight millions, with ten and a quarter millions of specie, being 11½ per cent., as safe a proportion as one hundred and four millions in January, with eleven millions of specie, or 11 per cent on their liabilities?

There is but one answer. The New York banks have been acting under a panic, and that panic they have communicated to others, until there is almost a total loss of confidence. The consequences are before us, in the paralysis of all trade from Bangor to New Orleans, the stoppage of banks through a great part of the United States; the stoppage of factories; the discharge of thousands of laborers; the inability to bring our large crops of produce to market; the ruinous rate of two or three per cent. a month on the strongest paper; a ruinous depreciation in the price of all stocks, and even on exchange on London. In my whole experience I have never known a crisis as severe as the present, and, I must say, so wholly uncalled for.

I was a bank director in 1814, when New York and all the states South and West suspended specie payments. Boston had ample means and stood firm while many croakers thought it madness for Boston to hold on, when all the rest of the country suspended. She did so, however, and all New England with her, and thus saved them the losses which accompanied the resumption in other States in the terrible revulsion of 1819.

In 1834, Mr. Biddle was flagitiously endeavoring to force Congress to grant him a charter, through the distress he had it in his power to inflict on the country. In March of that year a committee of the merchants and bankers of New York informed him that unless he changed his course, and would agree to their terms, which were that the United States Bank should cease to call on the other banks for thirty days, his course would be denounced at the adjourned meeting of the Exchange.

Mr. Biddle, at the last moment, agreed to their terms, in consequence of which the country was immediately relieved. But Mr. Biddle was reckless enough, when the thirty days expired, without the slightest necessity, to call for those balances, and give the screw another turn.

This produced an intense and unexpected pressure, for it was the New York understanding that Mr. Biddle should not again press them without some show of necessity. This pressure he continued until the adjournment of Congress in July, when he gave up the chase, and soon after extended the loans of the bank from 47 to 63 millions.

There was nothing in that pressure to be compared in severity to the present. It was wholly owing to the unprincipled action of Mr. Biddle.

The pressure of 1836 was wholly unlike the present. During a period of great overtrade, a few London houses imprudently created an American debt of fifty or sixty millions of dollars, by giving out their acceptances, to be met by other equally fictitious bills as they fell due. These houses fell into discredit, and informed their correspondents in America that the whole debt must be liquidated at once, or they must become bankrupt.—This was in March, when no remittances could be made except in specie, which the banks were called upon to furnish. The New York banks went on for something over a month, when they found it impossible to continue. They then suspended, and with them the whole country. There is nothing like it now, as there is no foreign demand for specie.

The question now arises, what is the remedy?—what is to be done? Nothing can be plainer. The New York banks must retrace their steps, and speedily, or it will be too late. They should at once increase the circulating medium by expanding their discounts some ten or fifteen millions of dollars. No other course will set the wheels in motion.

NATHAN APPLETON.

BOSTON, October 12, 1857.

P. S.—Since the above was written, we have the returns of the banks of New York for another week, showing a further contraction of four millions. The further persistance in a wrong course has produced its natural result. It has frightened the community until the banks are driven to the desperate remedy of suspension.

EFFECTS OF THE PANIC ON EMIGRANTS.—The prospect of hard times for the coming winter has largely increased the number of passengers going to England. Every ship going from New York to Liverpool has, it is stated, all the passengers she can carry, and multitudes apply for opportunities to work their way across the Atlantic. It is supposed that as soon as the news of the financial revulsion reaches the other side there will be a decided check to emigration from the old world.

FINANCES OF MISSOURI.—It appears by statistics published in the St. Louis Republican that the whole amount of State bonds issued to this date for railroad purposes is $15,730,000. The State revenue for the year ending the 1st instant amounts to $995,252 73, in addition to special funds amounting to $146,852 91—total $752,115 24—which will leave about $452,115 to be applied to the payment of interest on State bonds.

VACANCY FILLED.—An election for Congress-man, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Montgomery, dem., took place in the 12th district of Pennsylvania, composed of Columbia, Montour, Luzerne and Wyoming counties, on Tuesday last. Paul Leidy, democrat, is elected by a very large majority over Smith B. Thompson, opposition.

NEW BRUNSWICK COLLEGE.—Rev. Dr. Woodbridge, of the Second Church, New Brunswick, N. J., has been chosen to the Ecclesiastical professorship in the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, in place of Dr. Ludlow, deceased. Rev. Dr. Bethune had previously been elected to the position, but declined.

DISTRESSING.—Mr. George Southall, of Wilmington, N. C., on Wednesday night last prepared a small vial of a chemical composition, of which nitric acid was the principal ingredient, and while conversing with a friend this vial exploded, scattering the corrosive fluid into the face of Mr. S., a portion entering one of his eyes, instantly depriving it of sight.

LAFAYETTE.—The birth-day of Lafayette was celebrated with great enthusiasm at San Francisco.—The citizens turned out in procession, and the Hon. M. S. Latham delivered an appropriate oration.

DESPERATE DUEL.—The recent duel between Mr C. M. Blair and Col. Casey, at Stockton, Cal., resulting in the death of the latter, has been noticed. We quote from the Stockton Argus the following particulars, which show this to be about the bloodiest and most desperate duel on record:

A duel came off at an early hour on Tuesday morning, a few miles from this city, between Mr. C. M. Blair and Col. Casey, both of Mercer co. A bitter animosity has for some time past existed between the parties, growing out of a rivalry in the effort to obtain the hand of a Miss L——, a young lady of prepossing personal appearance and accomplishments, at present residing with her father on the Stanislaus. Mr. Blair and Col. Casey met in the bar-room of the Weber House, on Monday morning, each accompanied by friends, where a conversation ensued between them, at first, apparently in a friendly manner; but Blair, becoming vexed at the indifference which his rival assumed, made some severe charges which Casey denounced as false, and at the same time, rising from his seat, struck Blair a severe blow with his fist. Casey drew his revolver, but was prevented from using it by persons present. Blair, being unarmed, stepped back, but was pursued by Casey, who dealt him another severe blow upon the face.

The friends of the parties, however, succeeded in preventing blood-shed, and restoring order, shortly after which, arrangements were made for a settlement of the difficulty by other means. Yesterday morninting was fixed as the time of meeting, at a place three miles from the city, where the parties met at about day-light, accompanied by a few spectators. The ground was measured, a distance of ten paces, and the word being given, shots were exchanged. On the first fire, each party missed aim. The second shot took effect upon Casey, causing a slight flesh wound. Upon attempting the third shot, the cylinder on Casey's pistol refused to revolve in consequence of an exploded caplodging upon the tube. Firing was then discontinued for about ten minutes, during which time the weapons, Colt's six shooters, were reloaded in every chamber, and firing was again resumed. Each party exchanged six shots in quick succession, without the "word," three of which took effect upon Casey, while Blair escaped without injury.

The most dangerous wound received by Casey, was a shot which entered the *peritoneum* or abdominal lining. A ball also passed through the abdominal muscles. Notwithstanding the wounds received by Colonel Casey, it is said that he exhibited an apparent unconcern throughout the firing. He was brought into the city by his friends, and is at present at the Magnolia House. Blair, as might have been expected, has made his escape, probably to await the result of Casey's wounds.

We have known Col. Casey for a number of years as one of the earliest settlers upon the farming lands along the Tuolumne river. He is known and esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintance, as a gentleman worthy of all confidence; and we trust that the unfortunate affair in which he has become involved, may not terminate fatally. The duel is, undoubtedly, one of the most desperate on record, and we only regret the necessity that compelled a resort to such hazardous means of adjusting a personal difficulty.

The San Joaquin Republican says, that badly wounded as Colonel Casey was, he insisted upon having another round of six shots each, which his friends, of course, prohibited.

THE IMPERIAL INTERVIEWS.—A Letter from Paris' dated Oct., 2d, says:

The Emperor returned to Paris last evening from his German visit, but left again to-day for the camp of Chalons, in company with the Empress. These rapid imperial movements occupy a good deal of the public attention, and we are overdone to-day with hypotheses that are hardly worth mentioning. On the one hand a report is in circulation that the Czar intends to come to Paris; on the other that Napoleon is going to meet the King of Prussia. This latter event is much more probable than the former. But some persons unite the two visits thus: Alexander, after his conference with the Emperor of Austria at Weimar, and a short visit to the court at Dresden, will return toward France, and, with the Empress of Russia, meet the Emperor and Empress of France at Chalons. After a grand review there the imperial party will come to Paris, and from here Napoleon will conduct Alexander as far on his way home as the Prussian Territory, where they will meet the King of Prussia. Napoleon will then have met the present year, the Queen of England, the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, the King of Bavaria, the King of Belgium, the King of Wurtomburg, the Queen of Greece, (who is the throne behind the throne,) the Prince of Nassau, the Grand Duke of Baden Baden, and the Grand Duke of Saxe Cobourg; and perhaps at the meeting of Alexander and Francis Joseph at Austria, the way may be opened for a meeting between the latter and Napoleon.

Since writing the foregoing the telegraph brings us news of the imperial interview at Weimar. The Czar stopped at the Belvedere hotel, the Emperor of Austria at the Royal Palace. The latter, obeying the law of etiquette, which is based on seniority, paid the initiatory visit. The Emperor of Austria was dressed in Russian uniform, and Alexander descended to the foot of the stairs, where the two on meeting embraced. To quote the telegraph, "peace is re-established." As an evidence that Russia is seeking to be at peace with her late enemies, the journals of St. Petersburg have been instructed by the Government to moderate their language toward England and Austria, and a leading paper of the Russian capital has an article deeply sympathizing with the English in their Indian disasters.

MISS MADELINE SMITH—STARTLING DISCLOSURES.—Miss Madeline Smith is again brought before the public, in the following paragraph from the Belfast Mercury:

The public may be prepared to hear an astounding disclosure in a few days, in connection with the case of Miss Madeline Smith. We have been informed, by a most reliable authority, that one of the servants, in the house at Blythwood square, in March last, had died rather suddenly; and that on her death-bed, seized with remorse, she made a confession of the important fact, that arsenic was mixed with the coffee given to l'Angelier on the night of his last visit to Miss Smith. On the trial it failed to be proved that l'Angelier was at the house of his betrothed on the night in question at all, although the servant, who has now made this disclosure, was examined for the prosecution at the trial. We trust to be enabled to lay further particulars before our readers shortly.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM'S TRIAL—*A Scene in New York.*—Mrs. Cunningham appeared in court in New York, on Saturday, when it was determined to remove her trial to Newburg, and to permit her to go at large temporarily on her present bail, although it was decided that Judge Peabody had no authority to admit her to bail. After this decision, Mrs. C. left the court-room and crossed the Park with the largest crowd following her, hooting and shouting, that ever was seen to congregate on the development of any of the phases of the Burdell drama.—Some scores of persons seeing the gathering move towards the third avenue railroad, emerged from Nassau street and as far down as Park place. The bell bell began to strike 12 o'clock, and folks thought there was a fire, but the excitement subsided when Mrs. Cunningham entered the car excepting among those who were lucky enough to hang on to the platform to get a sight of her.

THE REVULSION AND THE GOVERNMENT.—The U. S. Government is taking measures to ascertain the effect of the revulsion upon the foreign commerce of the country, and upon the consumption of imported goods. With this end in view, the Collectors of the Customs have been instructed to get the opinions of intelligent merchants upon the probable amount of importations for the next twelve or eighteen months; the probable change in the price of the more important articles of import; and also the probable amount of goods now in warehouse that will be withdrawn for consumption during the residue of the current fiscal year, with any other information that may bear upon the subject. The Secretary of the Treasury wishes this information in order to aid him in the preparation of the usual estimates to Congress.

ARREST FOR MURDER.—Dr. D. T. Smith, who killed a Dr. Blackburn in Cairo, Ill, last March, was arrested on yesterday, six miles east of Bolivar, Hardeman county, by officers Arter and Lynch, of Cairo, and brought down to this city on the cars last night. It is supposed that he has added the crime of bigamy to that of murder. He brought to this city, when he fled from Cairo, a woman whom he called his wife, who soon after left him, and on last Sunday week he was married to a young lady in Hardeman county. Soon after he was arrested, he attempted to destroy his life by taking a large quantity of morphine, but his purpose being discovered, an antidote was administered which prevented its accomplishment. On being nabbed, he drew a pistol and attempted to shoot one of the officers, but the weapon was wrested from him.—*Memphis Bulletin, 14th.*

FATE OF LUCKNOW.—The *Pays*, a semi-official journal of Paris, publishes the following intelligence, professing to have been got from Lucknow:—Nena Sahib arrived at Lucknow on the 1st day of August. He was made governor of the town and commander-in-chief of the army of Oude. He has cut off the canals which supplied the citadel with water, and the English shut up in the fortress, are besieged by Nena Sahib in person.

"The last mail brings us the following note from a correspondent:—"There can be no question that Nena Sahib's intended point of attack is Calcutta. The force now in rebellion cannot be less than 100,000. Part of them will be appointed to keep our troops in check in the upper provinces; the others will approach Lower Bengal, and make their point of attack Calcutta."

A BROKER CHARGED WITH FRAUD.—James O'Conner banker and broker, of the firm of O'Conner & Bros., of Pittsburg, was arrested on Wednesday last, on the charge of obtaining $185,000 from the Merchants and Manufacturers' Bank, of Pittsburg, by fraud. A preliminary hearing took place and the accused gave bail in $200,000 for a further hearing before Judge Hampton. He was immediately after again arrested on a charge of conspiracy with Wilson Blakeney, late a book-keeper in the bank, in obtaining $310,000 from the same bank, upon which charge he also gave bail. The allegation is that Mr. O'Conner overdrew his amount to the extent of $310,000, and that the book-keeper concealed the fact from the Directors.

The Future of India.

The Liverpool Times, received per steamer Asia, takes the following position with regard to affairs in India:

Affairs in India are evidently progressing from bad to worse. The news by the last overland mail is decidedly the least favorable which has come to hand since the commencement of the outbreak, and we must be prepared for weeks to come to receive intelligence of additional disasters. The probability, almost the certainty is, that before the great bulk of the troops which have been sent from this country have arrived out, the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras will be in the same flame of rebellion which is now sweeping over Bengal.—There is no use in concealing the fact that without the greatest possible exertions which England can make in this crisis of her fate we shall be driven ignominiously out of India, and lose thereby the prestige which we have so long and so nobly maintained amongst the natives. As a proof that the danger is imminent, read the following description, by no unfavorable hand, of the perilous position to which the brave Havelock is now reduced:—

On the 7th of July, when he marched out of Allahabad, this heroic band numbered some 2,000 men of all arms. When Neill effected the junction at Cawnpore it was slightly reinforced. On the 17th of August, it had been reduced to 900 survivors, thoroughly worn down by sickness and disease. It is probable that no soldiers have ever gone through the same amount of arduous work in the same space of time. In the course of these five weeks this infantry brigade—for except a few volunteer it has throughout been deprived of horse—has fought at least eight different actions with as many armies of well disciplined troops, plentifully supplied with cavalry and artillery, and generally outnumbering it in the proportion, at the lowest calculation, of six to one. It has done this in the worst season in the year for military operations. Its victorious marches have been made through land of rice swamps, in the midst of a hostile population, without a commissariat, without tent.

From the moment they crossed the Ganges, on their way to Lucknow, these men had to bivouac at night under deluges of rain, to fight frequently up their middles in water, and more than once to snatch a hasty meal in the face of the foe, on broad, unsheltered plains, with the noonday sun blazing down on them with vertical glare. It was on the 30th July that Havelock first crossed the Ganges; on the 4th of August he was compelled by sickness to fall back; on the 5th he advanced again, and fought two more actions, with the usual result. His further advance was checked by an obstacle which it would have been madness to attempt surmounting. 50,000 men, entrenched in a position of great strength, on the other side of a deep and rapid river, rendered the relief of Lucknow impossible, and made instant retreat imperative.—The retreat was conducted in perfect order, and on the 13th Havelock re-crossed the Ganges. But the labors of this indefatigable band were not yet over. Bithoor had been re-occupied by the enemy, and on the 16th Havelock attacked it, carried the position, and captured two guns."

MURDER OF A PRIEST.—The murder of Nicholas Savelli, a Catholic priest, at Point a-la-Hache, La., on the 3d inst., has been noticed. From an affidavit of Dominique Ormea, one of the murderers, published in the N. O. Delta, it appears that the priest received twenty-eight stabs, twenty-six of which were mortal, and Ormea confesses that he inflicted four of the wounds and gives the following names of persons implicated in the murder: Isidore Cassi, Manual Ragas, Hypolitic Ragas, Pierre Cassi, Narbert Martin, Nicholas Cartin, Jourdain Martin, Maximilian Martin, F. Caso, (who formerly was in the employ of Mr. Marciacq,) Rigobert Baylas, Villere Doleze, Giacomini Doleze and Etienne Doleze, and many others whose names he could not remember. From the statement of Ormea, it further appears that the inciting cause of the murder was the alleged improper conduct of the priest in connection with certain females. The Delta adds:

The affair, we learn, has created the profoundest feeling in Plaquemines; not so much from feeling for Savilli, as from the fiendishness of his murder, and the respectability of some of the parties implicated—they being old residents of the parish, and deemed incapable of having taken part in an assassination so appalling. At the funeral of the murdered priest, the highest excitement was manifested, and one man, a wealthy and respectable planter of the parish, offered a resolution for lynching the murderers, should they escape the penalties of the law.

After the murder of Savilli, the body was rifled of a pistol, gold watch and pocket-book containing money. Whether the robbery was perpetrated by the murderers or not, was not known.

SUSPENDED RAILROADS.—Within the last thirty days the following railroad companies are reported as having either gone to protest or made an assignment of their property:

Names.	Total Liabilities.
New York and Erie	$38,000,000
Illinois Central	24,000,000
Philadelphia and Reading	20,000,000
Michigan Central	14,000,000
Michigan Southern	18,000,000
Cleveland and Toledo	7,500,000
Milwaukee and Mississippi	7,000,000
La Crosse and Milwaukee	14,000,000
Cleveland and Pittsburg	6,000,000
D. Iaware, Lackawanna and Western	10,000,000
Chicago, St. Paul and Fond du Lac	5,000,000
North Pennsylvania	6,000,000
Cumberland Coal Company	6,050,000
Hunting and Broad Top	1,200,000
Steubenville and Indiana, estimated	5,000,000
Total	$181,700,000

WOMAN'S DEVOTION.—Out of the dark scenes of murder and outrage that attended the massacre of the English residents at Cawnpore, there comes one of those incidents which through all ages have proved the heroism of women and their devotion to those who have secured their love. When the unfortunate Englishmen were led out to death, their wives followed and clinging to them asked only that they might die with them. History has recorded no more touching scene than must have presented itself in the Cawnpore slaughter house, when these women with their arms around their husbands claimed the privilege of suffering with them. But the ferocity of their captors denied to them so much of mercy. The pinioned minister who prayed with and for those who with himself so soon were shot, hewn and hacked to pieces, is also a grand feature in the terrible drama.

A MURDERER ATTENDS THE FUNERAL OF HIS VICTIM.—The Kinderhook Rough Notes, alluding to the funeral of the late Mrs. Tanner, who was murdered by her husband in that village, last Monday, says that the murderer was present among the mourners, and that the only time he evinced any feeling, was just before the funeral, when a grandchild went up to him sobbing as if her heart would break and kissed him. This seemed to touch his heart, and he gave vent to a flow of tears. At the grave the same child approached and asked him if he was not sorry. He replied that he was, but it was now too late. This is the only instance on record where the murderer attended the funeral of his victim as one of the mourners.

THE NATIONAL CHESS CONGRESS in New York, continues to excite great interest. A grand consultation match will shortly come off between the Northern and Southern players. The following gentlemen will represent each section, and the affair will cause much interest and excitement, as the various champions are picked men.

North.—Colonel Mead, New York; H. P. Montgomery, Esq, Philadelphia; Louis Paulsen, Esq., Iowa.

South.—Hon. A. B. Meek, Alabama; Paul Morphy, Esq., New Orleans; Dr. Raphael, Kentucky.

Before the Congress adjourns, Mr. Paulsen will play five games blindfold simultaneously. There seems to be no limit to this gentleman's powers of memory and imagination.

PETRIFYING WATERS.—The Hamilton Spectator states that within a few miles of that city, near Lancaster, is a cascade, falling down a ledge of rocks one hundred feet, the waters of which have petrifying power, which is exhibited in the conversion of mosses and ferns, growing upon and near the rocks. Wherever the influence of the waters reaches the moss, its tips get green, is found turned to rock, and the ferns, drooping their leaves upon the rocks, and wet with the spray, are converted to stone. Not far from this spot are sulphur springs of peculiar excellence.

THE WESTERN MERCHANTS.—The merchants of the far West are acting in a body, and great difficulty is apprehended in the collection of debts, especially as they seem to have formed a defensive alliance with lawyers. The merchants of St. Anthony and Minneapolis met in convention and resolved to ask a general extension. St. Paul merchants have done likewise; lawyers have agreed not to prosecute or levy any attachments for the same period.

INDIANA ELECTION.—Judge Niblack, (dem.) has been elected to Congress from the Evansville district without opposition. He fills the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Lockhart, dem. Hon. John Pettit, dem., has been defeated for judge by C. H. Test, rep.

FATAL MISTAKE.—Mrs. Burton Despard died at Clarksburg, Va., last Tuesday from the effects of taking a prescription of belladonna, or deadly night-shade, compounded by mistake for confection of senna.

HEAVY CALVES.—Mr. James H. Renick, of Frankford, Va., is the owner of two calves, one of which, four months old, weighs 475 pounds, and the other, four months and twenty-two days old, 590 pounds.

THE SON OF PRESIDENT TAYLOR.—Richard Taylor, Esq., only son of the late President Taylor, is the democratic candidate for the Senate of Louisiana in the St. Charles district.

U. S. SOLDIERS VOTING.—Governor Walker defends the voting of soldiers at Kickapoo, Kansas, at the late election, on the ground that being six months enrolled in the service they were constituted citizens.

MOUNT VESUVIUS.—According to letters from Naples, Mount Vesuvius, which, after a long eruption of not less than 35 days, had ceased to send forth lava, recommenced on the 24th, and the flames, rising high in the air, presented at night a magnificent spectable. Mount Etna is also in eruption.

LOCAL MATTERS.

NARROW ESCAPE.—Col. C. Q. Tompkins, formerly of this place, with his family, made a very narrow escape from death while descending the Greenbrier mountain, last Thursday, on his way to the Virginia Central Railroad. He was in a buggy in which were himself, wife and two children, when by some means one of the shafts got under the horse's collar when the animal was moving at a brisk trot down the mountain. This frightened the animal and he commenced backing, and finally, despite all efforts made to restrain him, carried the buggy and contents (with the exception of one little boy, who jumped out,) over a steep precipice, turning the vehicle and himself over and rolling down some distance. The result of this untoward episode was a considerable accumulation of bruises and contusions, but luckily no bones were broken. The parties are still suffering from the effects of the mountain ride, but will soon be well.

THE TOURNAMENT.—A large number of ladies and gentlemen graced the enclosure within the Fair Grounds yesterday on the occasion of the third annual Tournament of the Henrico Light Dragoons. The gay uniforms of the soldiers present were considered a fair set off to the bright looks of hundreds of the gentler sex, who were thickly seated on the benches and in numerous carriages within the grounds. At the appointed hour Lawrence Marye, Esq., proceeded to deliver the Knights charge at the conclusion of which, after considerable delay, the tilting commenced.—The following Knights were entered for the contest, viz: Knight of the Black Steed; White Rose; Richmond; Troop; Henrico; Windsor; Forest; Darkness; Edgewood; Cleveland; 179th.

The Knight of the Troop (Nelson Gardner, Esq.) having taken the ring three times in succession, was declared entitled to choose the Queen of Love and Beauty.

The Knight of the White Rose (W. G. Miller) chosing the 1st Maid of Honor. The Knight of Darkness (T. O. Burton, Esq.) the 2nd Maid of Honor. The Knight of Edgewood (C. C. Harris) the 3d Maid of Honor.

After the contest Col. Sherwin McRae came forward and announced in an appropriate manner the names of the victorious Knights in the order of their success; and stated that the Queen of Love and Beauty and attendant Maids of Honor would be named at the Ball last night, which would conclude the festivities of the day.

THE 179TH REGIMENT AND THE 19TH OF OCTOBER.—The members of the "Young Guard Battalion" and the friends of the above regiment, has just reason to be proud of the very creditable display made by them on yesterday. The members of the Guard especially have reason to congratulate themselves on making such an imposing demonstration, under very disadvantageous circumstances; the public, who always reward with a due meed of praise earnest endeavor, will not lo behind hereafter in wishing them God speed. The Guard had announced their intention of taking part with the Troop in the exercises of the tournament, at the Fair Grounds, and though they could not muster more than two-thirds of their force, (for they could not obtain uniforms for them,) they yet turned out sixty-one men, rank and file. Col. John H. Richardson, with his staff, commanded the force, companies A and B being respectively in charge of Capts. H. W. Fry and S. P. Mitchell.—Capt. Dimmock, with that love for real soldiery which is a characteristic of the man, obligingly proffered an escort with his veterans, and the latter were joined by the Guard of the Metropolis, the whole being led by the Henrico Light Dragoons, under Col. J. Lucius Davis. The 179th then, for the time being, consisted of four companies of infantry and one of cavalry, and truly the display made by them as they passed up the street was military and soldier-like in the highest degree.—After participating with the Troop in the pleasures of the tournament, they were escorted back in the evening to their armory, on 13th street, by the Light Horsemen. The Public Guard was necessitated to leave shortly after reaching the Fair Grounds, but the Guard of the Metropolis staid until the ceremonies were over. After seeing the 179th home, the Troopers were dismissed, to prepare for the ball last night. The Young Guard seem determined that the motto of the past, "upward and onward," shall also be their's in future. The 19th of October was worthily and spiritedly celebrated by them.

FIRST REGIMENT VA. VOLUNTEERS.—This Regiment formed in line on Broad street at half past 2 o'clock yesterday, according to orders. For some reason the Fayette Artillery did not appear on the ground. Capt. Charles Dimmock's command, Public Guard, joined with the Regiment, and their soldierlike bearing was the theme of general remark. The Regiment was under the immediate command of Col. August, assisted by his staff officers. The turn out was an average one, and the several volunteer companies presented a very creditable appearance. The following is a list of the companies with the amount of force each had present, viz: Public Guard, Capt. Dimmock, 50; Greys, Capt. Elliott, 41; National Guard, Capt. Bayly, 15; Blues, Lieut. Dickinson, 36; Montgomery Guard, Capt. Moore, 43; Virginia Rifles, Capt. Lybrock, 62; Rifle in all 246. After marching through several of the streets and performing a number of evolutions the Regiment was dismissed on Broad street, each company repairing to its rendezvous from that point.

A GOOD IDEA.—It is proposed to incorporate in the ordinances now undergoing revision, a proviso, making it obligatory on owners where it is necessary for wheels to cross the pavement to put instead of round cobble stones, which are very uneven and bad to walk upon, blocks of granite which become smoother by wear and tear. It may cost a little more at first, but in the end the granite would be found the cheapest. It is certainly more ornamental and at least as useful as the cobble stones introduced into brick pavements at crossings.

FIRE.—The alarm of fire about 12 o'clock Sunday night was caused by the burning of a stable, cow house and lot of feed, on a place owned by Col. Thomas B. Bigger, situated on the right hand side of Clay street, at its extreme western termination, near Buchanan's Spring. It is not known how the fire originated, but it is thought to have been the work of an incendiary.

FIREMEN'S PARADE.—Acting Chief Engineer Barns has selected the 29th as the day on which the Department will parade and have their semi-annual washing. As the time indicated is within the Fair time, it will afford many visiting here an opportunity to see the fire boys in gala dress.

HABEAS CORPUS.—The habeas corpus case, wherein Mr. A. M. Perkins sought to regain possession of his child by order from Judge Meredith, was called on Saturday, but postponed until Thursday of this week.

THREATS.—Jno. Diskill threatened to assault and beat Mary Donohoe for which she had him arrested yesterday but the matter was compromised. Pat McGowan will be brought up to-day for assault and battery committed on Thomas Karl on the 12th inst. The latter won't compromise.

OBSTRUCTION REMOVED.—Thomas N. Falkes has been sent to the jail of this city, for getting drunk, behaving disorderly and lying down in the street. The Mayor disposed of him yesterday.

OUT OF THE GROUND.—Henry Mole was carried before the Mayor on yesterday charged with drunkenness; gathering a crowd around him and having no where to stay. Mole was let off to root somewhere else.

UNFOUNDED CHARGE.—Sterling Logan was arraigned yesterday before the Mayor for stealing two coats (one of them unfinished) from John Pandergrass. The proof of the alledged theft being minus, the accused was discharged.

DISPOSED OF.—John Jones and John Smith were carried before the Mayor yesterday for getting drunk in the street. The former behaved disorderly, while the latter retired to a market bench. Jones was sent to jail for want of security, and Smith discharged.

STEALING MONEY.—Judy Meekins, slave of A. Thomas, and Jesse, slave to Miles Tunstall, have been put in jail by the Mayor to undergo an examination for stealing $63, belonging to a slave of Mr. J. A. Meredith.

JANE COUSINS was sent to jail yesterday for want of free papers.

THE RAILROAD CONVENTION AT CLEVELAND.—This convention has adopted the following resolution:—

Resolved, That an increase on all the rates of freight is required, and expedient at this time; that the rates be made uniform between competing points by all lines; that the shortest line between such competing points shall fix the rates, provided that the same shall not be less than 1¾ cents per ton per mile on the lowest class of freights; that the classification now in use be continued. No line shall employ more than one man as freight agent, or solicitor of freight, at New York, Boston, Philadelphia or Baltimore, or at the principal lake and river ports in the West, or make any arrangement for the use of cars or otherwise by which less than full rates shall be received. No line shall allow any drawback or commission for procuring freight. An addition not less than ten per cent. on regular or all rail rates shall be charged by all Express companies giving time receipts over any line, or by any railroad company giving or accepting time receipts independent of such express companies.

Resolutions were also adopted in favor of limiting free passes to drovers and certain railroad officers, and declaring that the rates of passenger fare on competing lines to all common points shall be uniform, and shall be reduced only by consent of all the parties thereto; and baggage may be checked between the termini of the four great eastern lines and the termini of their western connections on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Eighty pounds of baggage shall be allowed to each first class passenger. All extra baggage shall be charged double first class freight rates.

EDUCATION.

NIGHT SCHOOL OF THE VIRGINIA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—On WEDNESDAY NIGHT, the 14th Oct., two PRIMARY SCHOOLS will be opened by the Committee of the Institute, one in SAUNDERS' HALL, on Foushee street, between Grace and Broad, under the management of Mr. W. A. RENNIE, and the other in the PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL HOUSE, on Franklin street, at its intersection with 23d street, Rev. THOMAS H. JONES being the principal teacher. These schools will be opened every other night, and FREE OF CHARGE to all boys who are members of the Institute. Persons wishing to obtain certificates of membership and tickets to the Schools, can do so by calling on the Secretary, at the Hall of the Institute, or on either of the following persons:

WILLIAM MACFARLANE, Law Building,
SAMUEL S. COTTRELL, Main st., betw. 13th and 14th,
A. BARGAMIN, Jr., 10th and Main sts.,
Com. on Night Schools, V. M. I.

oc 1—ts

MRS. PELLET'S SCHOOL.—The next session commences October 1st, 1857. The primary feature of this school, is the thorough and systematic instruction in the French language, given to all the pupils, without extra charge; but they are not required to study the language, without the approval of their parents.

The French is taught by Professor and Madame EMION, of Paris, and peculiar facilities are afforded for learning to speak the language.

Mrs. PELLET guarantees that the Elementary and advanced studies in English, shall be THOROUGHLY taught.

Information, relative to the school, terms, &c., may be had, on application at her residence, on Broad st., Richmond. jy 22—d3m

L. S. SQUIRE'S SELECT CLASSICAL AND ENGLISH SCHOOL, CORNER OF MAIN AND 1ST STREETS, RICHMOND, VA.—The eleventh session of this Institution, will commence on MONDAY, the 28th of September, 1857.

TERMS PER SESSION, HALF SESSION IN ADVANCE:

Junior English	$40 00
Senior do or beginners in Latin	50 00
Latin, Greek and higher Mathematics	60 00
Modern Languages, (by Prof. Emion) each	20 00
Drawing, (by John A. Calyo,) per quarter	5 00
The Principal may be seen at his School Rooms Saturdays, from 5 to 7 o'clock P. M., or addressed through the Richmond Post Office. jy 25—dts	

MISS PEGRAM'S BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL, FOR YOUNG LADIES.—Miss PEGRAM will re-open her School on the 1st day of October.

She will, as heretofore, have entire supervision of the English Classes, aided by competent assistants in each Department.

Latin, Mathematics, the Physical Sciences and Moral Philosophy will be taught by Mr. PACE, a gentleman of successful experience as a teacher.

The FRENCH LANGUAGE will be under the charge of Madame A. BERAUD, a Parisian lady of the highest qualifications.

The BELLES-LETTRES CLASS will be continued. se 15—dts

Whig and Enquirer copy, daily and country.

MRS. AND MISS MINOR'S BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL, ON 4TH STREET, BETWEEN BROAD AND MARSHALL.—The third session of this institution will commence on the 1st of October next.

In this school will be taught all the branches of a finished education, including the Latin and Modern languages, together with Music upon the Piano, Harp and Guitar. Instruction in Vocal Music will also be given.

The services of competent instructors have been procured.

Attention will be paid to the proper training and advancement of the young ladies entrusted to their charge, and their moral and social improvement promoted by every means in their power.

This school has been in successful operation in Richmond for nearly two years, and the subscribers refer, with confidence, to its patrons, for any information which may be desired in reference to its merits.

TERMS—About the same as heretofore. For them and other particulars, refer to

MRS. JEFFERSON MINOR,
MISS ADA B. MINOR.

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PRIVATE INSTRUCTION