Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

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MONDAY MORNING.....OCT'R 22, 1860.

DAILY DISPATCH.

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SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN ST. LOUIS—*A Young Lady Burned to Death.*—A shocking accident occurred at the residence of Mrs. Reilly, in St. Louis, on Sunday last, which resulted in the death of a young lady named Ann Ravell.—The St. Louis Republican says:

Miss Ravell had just returned home from church, and hurriedly approached the fire blazing on the hearth, to warm her hands.—Upon turning suddenly around, the skirt of her dress, which was greatly expanded by hoops, took fire, and instantly enveloped her in flames. Mrs. Reilly was the only person present at the time of the accident, and she became so panic-stricken on witnessing the agonizing situation of Miss Ravell, as to be almost unable to render any assistance, or even to give the alarm to the adjoining neighbors.

Miss Ravell, well nigh smothered by the flames and smoke, with her clothes nearly burned from her body, and suffering the most excruciating torture, rushed wildly from the room toward an alley leading to Tenth street. Her sudden movement fanned the flames that were consuming her, and consequently but increased the indescribable misery she endured. She had, however, scarcely reached the open air when a heavy blanket was thrown over her body by Mrs. Reilly. By this time the poor girl had lost her strength, and, bewildered by her intense pain, and almost suffocated by the deadly inhalation which it was impossible to avoid, she fell at the touch of the blanket. The groans and cries of the sufferer were heart-rending in the extreme; but the spectacle that was presented on removing the blanket was appalling. But a few shreds of the dress remained, and disclosed at once the terrible havoc made by the flames. The whole body, from the feet to the neck, was frightfully burned. She lived until the next morning.

THE PRINCE'S PROGRESS.—The Bostonians have given the Prince of Wales a reception very creditable to themselves. On his arrival, the buildings were decorated, the streets thronged, and he was conducted with all proper regard for his comfort to quarters at the Revere House. On Thursday morning, at the request of the Prince, Mr. Ralph Farnham, the last survivor of the soldiers who fought at the battle of Bunker Hill, was introduced to him. The interview is reported to have been quite interesting. Mr. Farnham was accompanied by one of his daughters, who is upwards of seventy years of age.—About 3,000 military, including artillery, cavalry and infantry, were afterwards reviewed on the Common by the Prince and suite, Gov. Banks, and a numerous staff. After the review, the military force marched through several of the principal streets, the Prince and suite, the Governor, and others, occupying carriages. The display is represented to have been the most imposing ever seen in New England, and was witnessed by thousands. A collation followed at the State House, given by Governor Banks, at which there was a social and entirely informal interchange of good feeling. At about 5 o'clock, the Prince and suite were escorted to the Music Hall, where he was welcomed by twelve hundred school children. The exercises consisted principally of singing, and seemed to afford the distinguished visitors much gratification.—The festivities of the occasion wound up with a grand ball at the Academy of Music, which was brilliant, crowded, and enjoyed by all parties. The Prince danced first with Mrs. Mayor Lincoln. In his set were Lord Hinchinbroke, Mr. Warre, of the English Legation, and Col. Chickering, of piano forte celebrity. The ladies were: Mrs. Chickering, Miss Fay, daughter of Richard S. Fay, Esq., and Miss Bigelow. Subsequently, the Prince danced with Mrs. Gov. Banks; Mrs. Lieut. Wise, daughter of Edward Everett; Miss Crowninshield; Miss Bigelow, a daughter of Chief Justice Bigelow, and Miss Emery, a niece of Lord Lindhurst. Several of the officers of the fleet at Portland were present.

ACCIDENT AT THE PARIS HIPPODROME.—A Paris correspondent, writing on the 4th inst., in speaking of the Paris Hippodrome, says: Yesterday, when performing what is termed "the Roman trip," in which the actors form a sort of pyramidal ascension one hundred feet above the level of the ground, the three performers—Mlle. Louise and M. M. Hypolite and Francois—were, by the breaking of one of the ropes, hurled to the ground, and now lay, if not actually dead, without hope of recovery. They were observed to turn over as they came down, and fall with fearful heaviness. The performance was instantly brought to a close.—Medical aid found them still breathing, but beyond all hopes of life. An agonizing shriek broke from the audience at the appalling accident, and many fainted. The manner of the performance is in this wise: two men take their stations on two ropes; while thus poised on the tight ropes, the girl stands above them, partly resting on the shoulder of one while balancing her foot on the balance pole of the other. In this manner the three ascend till they reach the climax, the altitude of one hundred feet above the level, and it was just there that one of the ropes snapped, and all three were violently precipitated to the earth.

TERRIBLE DEATH OF A LADY.—A terrible accident occurred at a flour mill, at Racine, Wisconsin, on the 18th inst., by which Mrs. Hill was instantly killed. In the afternoon Mrs. Hill, accompanied by several ladies, went to the mills to see their operation. After spending some time there, they were about to leave, when Mrs. H. found she had left her parasol up stairs, and started back to get it.—The machinery in the second story is driven by a vertical shaft, making about ninety revolutions per minute, which passed up close to the stairway. In passing this Mrs. H.'s dress became entangled with it, and before Mr. Wells, who was near, could relieve her, she was thrown down on the floor, and carried round at a fearful rate, her head coming in contact with the stairway and a post at each revolution of the shaft. The mill was instantly stopped, but not in time to save her life, as the first blow undoubtedly killed her. Mr. Wells was severely injured in his efforts to save Mrs. Hill, and had a narrow escape from becoming entangled in her dress and sharing her fate.

LEAD COFFINS.—The exterior of more than 2,000 coffins in the church vaults of London, and the contents of a very large number, were, nothing since, examined by Mr. Walker Lewis. The result of his researches leads him to recommend that the use of leaden burial cases be entirely discontinued. He says that nitrogen and carbonic acid holding animal matter in suspension, steadily but quietly make their way through the pores of the lead, and by the same process to the open air, so that at the end of fifty or a hundred years nothing remains but a few dry bones, although the coffins themselves are still uninjured. Another authority, Mr. R. V. Tuson, says the substance obtained from the lead coffins, owing to the gradual decomposition of the bodies within them, is carbonate of lead—that it is anhydrous, contains but a small oxyde, and hence differs in composition from other carbonates of lead. It was found during the search for the remains of the celebrated John Hunter, in 1855, in the vaults of the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, that many leaden coffins had been converted interiorly into this substance, leaving only a thin outer plate or foil of lead.

WELLINGTON NEVER LOST A GUN.—It is a singular fact in this man's history that he never lost a gun to the enemy. "Returning with him one day from the hunting field," says Lord Ellesmere, "I asked him if he could form any calculation of guns he had taken in the course of his career?" "No," he replied, "but with any accuracy; somewhere about 3,000 I should guess. At Oporto, after the passage of the Douro, I took the entire siege train of the enemy; at Vittoria and Waterloo I took every gun the enemy had in the field; and what, however, is more extraordinary, I don't think I ever lost a gun in the field. After the battle of Salamanca," he went on to explain, "three of my guns, attached to some Portuguese cavalry, were captured in a trifling affair near Madrid, but they were recovered the next day. In the Pyrenees, Lord Hill found himself obliged to throw eight or nine guns over a precipice, but these were all recovered, and none fell into the enemy's hands at all."—*Bridamont's Life of Wellington.*

DIRT.—Old Dr. Cooper, of South Carolina used to say to his students, "Don't be afraid of a little dirt, young gentlemen. What is dirt? Why, nothing at all offensive, when chemically viewed. Rub a little alkali upon that 'dirty grease spot' on your coat, and it undergoes a chemical change and becomes soap. Now rub it with a little water and it disappears; it is neither grease, soap, water, nor dirt. That is not a very odorous pile of dirt you observe there. Well, scatter a little gypsum over it, and it is no longer dirty. Everything you call dirt is worthy of your notice as students of chemistry. Analyze it! It will all separate very clean elements. Dirt makes corn, corn makes bread and meat, and that makes a very sweet young lady that I saw one of you kissing last night. So, after all, you were kissing dirt, particularly if she whitens her face with chalk or fuller's earth. There is no telling, young gentlemen, what is dirt."

AN ARMY OFFICER DROPPED FROM THE ROLLS.—The President has directed that the name of Lieutenant John Drysdale, of the third regiment of artillery, be dropped from the rolls of the army, he having repeatedly drawn his pay twice for the same months, and having failed to appear before a court-martial.

ACCIDENT TO A CITIZEN OF RICHMOND IN PARIS.—We find the following paragraph in the Paris correspondence of the New York Times. The letter is dated Paris, Oct. 5th:

"At the last Sunday's races, at the Bois de Boulogne, a young American, who was present on horseback, Mr. MAYO, of Richmond, Va., had the two bones of his leg broken and splintered by a fall of his horse. Mr. Mayo, who is the nephew of Mrs. General Winfield Scott, had taken passage with Mrs. Scott for the next trip of the Adriatic from Havre to New York, but this accident will, of course, prevent the voyage, so far as regards Mr. Mayo. Mrs. Scott will go home, under the protection of Col. Lay, of the U. S. A., who has just finished a European tour. Mrs. Scott, whose health is better in the climate of France, has lived in Paris many years, and has not made a visit home since 1856."

DESPERATE AND FATAL DUEL.—Two young gentlemen of St. Martinsville—Messrs. Alphonse Bienvenue, deputy sheriff, and Mr. Girard Fournet—fought a duel on Saturday, which resulted in the almost immediate death of Mr. Fournet. The particulars of the fight are enough to make us shudder, when we recollect that two gentlemen consented to go upon the field of honor with such conditions as made it necessary for one or both of them there to lose their lives. However, in the present instance death alone could end the rencounter. Each of the combatants went upon the field armed with two revolvers and a bowie-knife. They were stationed 20 paces apart, with instructions, at the word, to fire and advance at will, the fight to end with the death of one or both the parties. At the second fire Mr. Fournet, having been struck, staggered and fell, but not without retaining both strength and courage enough to fire twice more upon his adversary, but without effect. *Opelousas (La) Courier, 13th.*

NELSON WORSHIPPED AS A HEATHEN IDOL. A letter from Hayti says—"Among the Acul mountains there has been found, in an old house, a bust of Lord Nelson. It is of white marble, somewhat stained by time and neglect. Nelson is represented in his costume of admiral, and bears on his breast five decorations. One in commemoration of the battle of Aboukir, has the inscription: 'Rear Admiral Lord Nelson of the Nile.' Another medal bears the words: 'Almighty God has blessed his Majesty's glory!' This bust, interesting in its artistic and historical association, was found on an altar devoted to the *fetish* worship, where, for half a century, it has been reverenced as the Diety of the Mountain Sirenas. The names of the sculptors were, 'Coale and Lealy, of Lambeth.' Thus, for fifty years, a bust of an English admiral has been worshipped as a heathen idol."

THE EARTHQUAKE AT THE NORTH.—A gentleman of the Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., who sleeps in an upper room of the building, was awakened a few minutes before 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning, by an unusual noise, which he at once recognized as similar to that of the earthquake experienced in New England some twelve years ago. There was apparently a vibratory motion of the earth, lasting ten or fifteen seconds, which rattled the windows and blinds and shook the bed. The shock was also quite sensibly felt in Arnold street, Boston, at the South-end, at Jamaica Plains, at Charlestown, and at Newburyport. In the latter city, a gentleman who was shaving, was obliged to desist, the unusual motion causing a sensible shaking of his hands. At Charlestown, the rattling of windows and blinds was quite perceptible. At Arnold street, a lady imagined that some one was under the bed shaking it.

MAN SHOT BY A WOMAN.—On last Saturday night, several persons went to the widow Hatfield's, some four or five miles from this place, and attempted to break into the house. Mrs. Hatfield and two girls were in the house, and became very much alarmed. After telling them to leave, and threatening to shoot if they did not, Mrs. Hatfield took down her gun, and does not know whether she fired it or not, but there was a "deaf and dumb" man shot, who died but a short distance from the house. When the neighbors heard the disturbance, they came in and found the dead man. The widow and the two girls had left the house in their fright, and taken refuge in the woods. There have been several efforts to break into the house in the past year, as it is understood that Mrs. H. has a considerable amount of money.—*Bloomfield (Ind.) Times.*

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION IN BOSTON.—The friends of Bell and Everett had a magnificent torchlight procession in Boston on Wednesday night. The number in the ranks is estimated at from 5,000 to 6,000. The scene on the common is said to have been indescribably grand, while a number of houses along the route were brilliantly illuminated. When the procession was passing the Revere House, the Prince of Wales stood at a window commanding a full view of the square, and seemed to take a profound interest in the pageant which was passing below. He made full inquiries as to the nature of the display, and was much interested at witnessing such an outbreak of American political enthusiasm. The square was crowded with people, and each section of the line loudly cheered him as they passed.

KEEPING HORSES' FEET AND LEGS IN ORDER.—If I were asked to account for my horses' legs and feet being in better order than those of my neighbor, I should attribute it to the four following circumstances: First, they are all shod with few nails, so placed in the shoe as to permit the foot to expand every time they move; second, that they all live in boxes instead of stalls, and can move whenever they please; third, that they have two hours' daily walking exercise when they are not at work; and fourth, that I have not a head-stall or track-chain in my stall. These four circumstances comprehend the whole mystery of keeping horses' legs fine, and their feet in sound working condition up to a good old age.—*Miles.*

PRINCE OF WALES.—The Prince of Wales visited Cambridge University, near Boston, Friday, and Harvard also. At the former he was shown a British account of the battle of Bunker Hill! After leaving Harvard and Cambridge the party were driven rapidly to Charlestown to visit Bunker Hill. About two thousand people were gathered there, and cheered the Prince as he entered and left the monument, which was decorated with English and American flags. The party were shown Warren's statue, and the spot where he fell, and also the remnant of the redoubt behind which the Americans fought. The future king of the country against whom they battled stood upon the very ground which was once denied with the muskets of the patriots.

IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA.—Hon. Grantley F. Berkley, the "distinguished English sportsman," who visited the United States in August and went West, buffalo hunting, stopping in no town over a week, has just detailed his experience before the Acclimatization Society of London. The spitting habit was largely aired, and the hon. gent. said in the railroad cars he saw ladies with "their dresses stained *five feet* deep in tobacco juice." As to the political condition of America, it showed the greatest state of confusion and tyranny he had ever seen, and he thought the ballot a curse.—Great respect was shown to titled persons in America, and he, the speaker, was awaited for by crowds at the depots of the different towns through which he passed!

THE PRINCE A MILLIONAIRE.—Quite independent of his fine prospect of a throne, the Prince of Wales, it appears, is a very rich young man—worth seven hundred thousand pounds sterling! This vast sum has arisen from the surplus revenues from the estates of the Duchy of Cornwall, to which he became entitled immediately after he was born, and which have been accumulating with interest from that time, and this fund will go on increasing until he, as other subjects of the Queen, attain the age of twenty-one, so that by that time the amount of money he will stand possessed of will be nearly one million pounds in hard cash.—*Home Journal.*

SENTENCED TO THE STATE PRISON.—Wm. E. Johnson, alias McNaire, convicted of bigamy in Nansemond county, Va., has been sentenced to four years in the State Prison.—It appears that the career of McNaire has been various. He had served two years in the same institution before his last conviction, for grand larceny in Lynchburg. He was set free fifteen months ago, since which time he has married two wives, stolen two horses in Bertie, N. C., attempted to commit a rape at Gatesville, in the same State, and received a lynching from the citizens; served a term in jail for assault and battery, and perpetrated various other offences of a minor nature.

FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA.—The Franklin Buildings, five stories in height, in the rear of Franklin Hall, in Philadelphia, were burned Friday morning. They were occupied by Duncan White, bookbinder, whose loss is $2,500; Wm. S Young, job-printer, in whose premises several weekly and monthly paper forms were destroyed, including those of the Presbyterian, Quarterly Review, and Christian Instructor, loss unestimated; Smith & Peters, stereotype printers, loss $3,000. The building was owned by Hulings Cowperthwaite. The total loss is $15,000, and is covered by insurance. The fire was the result of accident.

David Sparrow has been arrested at New Orleans, charged with a burglary at Fairmount, Va.

A REMINISCENCE.—The Portland Argus of the 17th inst., in noticing the arrival of the British Naval Squadron in that harbor, says:

"It is just eighty-five years ago to-day that a British fleet entered our harbor, but for how different a purpose from that of the present one. Then they came to Bank and destroy.—Now they come to convey back to his native land their future Sovereign, who, in his journey through the Union, has received ovations from the descendants of those with whom his country was, at that time, at war."

ENGLISH CHAPELS ON THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT.—English chapels are being multiplied on the continent. One has just been consecrated at Chamonni, in Savoy, by the Bishop of Winchester—built under the direction of the Continental Committee of the Colonial Church and School Society, out of the funds contributed by English visitors to the Alps, and by English Churchmen at home; and another has just had its foundation stone laid at Kissingen, a watering place in Germany, much resorted to by the English and also by Americans.

DEAR OBSTINACY.—The British Government never insures anything in the shape of property or treasure. It sometimes has to pay well for its perseverance in this respect. Over $500,000 went down to Davy Jones' locker in the Malabar in the Indian Ocean; and now the Connaught has disposed of $200,000 belonging to the National Treasury of Britain. Thus has an "idea" cost Mr. Bull $700,000 within a few months. Napoleon's "ideas" are generally profitable ones—Bull's quite the contrary.

NARROW ESCAPE.—On the night of the 10th inst., as Judge Larrabee was going in a wagon from Wrightstown to Depere, Wisconsin, in company with W. Field, Jr., in crossing a bridge the horses stopped, and could not be forced to proceed. On examining the bridge, it was found that more than a dozen planks had been taken away, leaving an open space over a gulf of 18 or 20 feet deep. Had it not been for the sagacity of the horses, the party would have been killed or maimed.

PAINFUL OCCURRENCE.—Thomas Richardson, an old and respected merchant of Philadelphia, died suddenly on Thursday, under circumstances exceedingly painful. It was the fiftieth anniversary of his marriage, and preparations had been made to celebrate a golden wedding. A daughter of Mr. Richardson was to be married at the same time. In the midst of the gaieties incident to the approaching festivities, he was taken sick and suddenly expired. He was in his eighty-first year.

THE WAGS have found out the way to settle the "irrepressible conflict" without coming to blows. One asserts that the best way to "fire a Southern heart" is to make love to a Southern belle, and another says the "cotton region" may "be precipitated into a revolution" by marrying her.—*Louisville Journal.*

The foregoing theories read very well, but it would be impossible to reduce them to practice without a resort to arms.

NO MORE ELECTIONS TILL NOVEMBER.—Many people suppose that elections were held on Tuesday last in Iowa and Minnesota, and are anxiously looking for the returns. Several newspapers have stated that such elections were to take place; but such was not the case. In Presidential years, their State elections are postponed to November. There will be no more elections till the decisive one on the first Tuesday of November.—*Cleveland Democrat.*

A REPORTING MACHINE IN PROSPECT.—The Abbe Laborde has invented an apparatus for registering sounds, much less costly than any hitherto made. The invention is interesting, since it is a step towards the invention of machines which shall gradually advance from registering sounds to registering syllables and words. As soon as the wit of man has invented a machine as delicate as the human ear we shall have reporting machines.

FUNERAL OF HERBERT INGRAM, M. P.—The funeral of Herbert Ingram, M. P., proprietor of the London Illustrated News, who was lost on the Lady Elgin, in Lake Michigan, took place at Boston, England, on the 5th instant. The stores of the town were closed, and the burial was attended by the local officers, military and civic society. An assemblage of 15,000 persons, nearly all of whom wore mourning rosettes, witnessed the sad ceremonies.

SOMETHING OF A CHANGE.—At the ball given to Lord Renfrew at the New York Academy of Music, the Prince opened the dance with the lady of Gov. Morgan. She was the exemplar of American life, progress, industry. In her youth she was a poor girl, earning her livelihood as a milliner's apprentice. Her upward growth is but a common specimen of the strange but goodly incidents of republican life.

THERE IS A YOUNG MAN, named Mark Ralfe, at Bent's Fort, who was recently stabbed in three places, and shot three times, scalped, and left for dead by the Kiowa Indians, but who afterwards regained his consciousness and walked thirty-five miles to a place of safety and succor. He has now nearly recovered, but has only two locks of hair left upon his head, as all the rest was taken with the scalp.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT TO ROYALTY.—Prince Albert narrowly escaped with his life from a collision on the railroad, while accompanying Queen Victoria to Coburg. After arriving there, while driving out one morning, his carriage was run into by a road wagon, and the Prince, leaping out to save himself, was badly cut and bruised.

A JOURNEYMAN PRINTER STRIKES OIL.—A journeyman printer in an Erie printing office, as we are reliably informed, put on a "sub" last week, went to the Meadville oil district, bought an oil claim on time, struck oil, and has been offered $20,000 for his chance. He had better take it. It is "a fat take." The lucky printer's name is George Simonton.—*Cleveland Plaindealer.*

MURDER OF A MISSIONARY BY INDIANS.—Judge Greenwood, commissioner of Indian Affairs, has inclosed to the Secretary of the interior a letter from Mr. Robinson, superintendent of Indians, giving information of the murder of Rev. Morris Brangnier, a missionary to the Crow Indians, by a party of Oncpapa Sioux.

CONVICTION.—The trial of the late Treasurer of the People's Savings Bank, Boston, for the embezzlement of $200 from the funds of said institution, is finished. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty on the first count of the indictment, charging embezzlement, but guilty on the second count, charging secretion of the money, with intent to cheat and defraud.

DEAD.—Albert Roscher, the celebrated African traveller, was killed by natives in March last. According to the tale of his servant Raschid, who has returned to Zaqibar, Dr. Roscher had reached the Lake of Nyassa at the end of October. His murderers have been seized.

CONDITION OF THE U. S. TREASURY.—The receipts into the U. S. Treasury the first quarter of the present fiscal year, commencing with July, are about $18,000,000; those during the present week, $877,000; subject to draft, $4,193,000.

THE OLDEST POSTMASTER.—The oldest postmaster in the United States, who has never been out of office since the date of his appointment, is John Billing, at Trenton, Oneida county, N. Y. His appointment was made on June 16, 1805.

INEBRIATE ASYLUM.—The walls of the Asylum for Inebriates, at Binghampton, New York, are about half completed, and the work is proceeding rapidly. There are nearly four thousand applicants for admission mainly from the better classes.

ACQUITTED.—Richard S. Baber, tried in Albemarle county, Va., upon the charge of poisoning his wife with arsenic put into milk, has been acquitted. The parties are quite respectable.

A PATENT was issued last week to Joseph Foster, of Richmond, Va., for improvement in gas regulators, and a re-issue was made to H. R. Burger, of the same place, for improved machine for grinding saws.

Christian August Lobeck, an eminent German philologist and archæologist, born in Wamburg, June 5, 1781, for half a century Professor at Konigsberg, died in the latter city Aug. 25, 1860.

Madame La Grange, the celebrated opera singer, arrived at Southampton, England, *en route* to Paris, from Rio Janeiro, on the 2d inst.

Gen. Leslie Coombs, of Ky., delivered a political address in New York Friday night, before the Union Club.

Dickens offers Tavistock House, his town residence, for sale, and will go down into the country to live.

Major Stiles W. Hawley, late of the U. S. Army, died suddenly at Goldsboro', N. C., last Saturday.

T. P. Wilson was stabbed and killed in New Orleans on the 15th inst., by R. Swan, his stepson.

Hurkamp's bark mill at Fredericksburg, Va., was destroyed by fire on the 18th inst. Loss, $3,000.

Hon. Geo. W. Summers addressed the citizens of Lynchburg Friday night.

LOCAL MATTERS.

The Agricultural Fair.—The United Agricultural Fair and Cattle Show of the Virginia State and Central Societies, which commences to-day, will impart to our city during the present week an aspect of liveliness and gaiety observed at no other period of the year. The annual festival of the farmers and stock-raisers is anticipated by our people as an occasion when all should put their houses in order, assume their best attire, and brush up with more than ordinary care; for strangers come among us by thousands, and Richmond is never so anxious as then to produce favorable impressions. This feeling extends to all classes. Not only do the merchants and the hotel-keepers indulge in large expectations, but everybody, old and young, rich and poor, makes most extensive calculations upon having a gay time during the Fair. With this assurance, we may safely state that the metropolis of Virginia was never so well prepared as at the present time to receive and entertain her friends from the country.

As this is the first Fair under the auspices of the two great Agricultural Societies of the State combined, it is quite natural to expect a show of unusual interest; and to this end, the gentlemen who have the general supervision of matters have industriously and perseveringly exerted themselves. The extensive and beautiful grounds of the Central Society, west of the city, have been improved in various respects, and in the general arrangement nothing whatever is lacking. The new building in the centre of the grounds affords all the necessary accommodations for the miscellaneous department of the exhibition, and visitors will find it a most agreeable place of resort. A general appearance of neatness pervades the entire locality. The avenues are in excellent order, the grass plats and groves are inviting, and the buildings all in good repair. Notwithstanding the prevalence of unfavorable weather last week, the trotting track seems in good condition, and the fast horses may whirl around the course without any danger of breaking the necks of their drivers. A view of the grounds will satisfy every one that the managers of the exhibition have faithfully discharged the duties assigned to them. All that remains to be desired is good weather, which is the requisite of success; but that, it is unnecessary to say, is beyond human control.

A visit to the Fair Grounds yesterday led us to expect a large and interesting exhibition.—True, a large amount of material is to be conveyed thither to-day, but we speak only of what we saw. In the way of agricultural implements, machinery, &c., we entertain no doubt that the display will be varied and attractive; for our manufacturers know better than to lose such a favorable opportunity for exhibiting the evidences of their superior skill and ingenuity. They will be there, in imposing array. So, also, with regard to the farmers and gardeners, with their wonderful and beautiful vegetable and floral productions. We hope and expect to see a vast number of rare and charming roses, mammoth turnips, magnificent dahlias, capital cabbages, variegated verbenas and practical potatoes and pumpkins. The ladies, too, will exhibit specimens of skill in housewifery and needlework, which have heretofore constituted an important feature in the annual Fairs.

We observed several coops of fowls, of the popular varieties, whose names are not as familiar as household words to us. The cattle department is very creditably filled. Many of the quadrupeds to be seen there are of remarkable size, and all will interest the admirers of good and profitable stock. But in the horse department the greatest excellence is found.—It will give the reader an idea of its extent, to learn that there were not stalls enough, by a hundred, to accommodate all that have been entered, although nearly two hundred were prepared for them. We were informed that more stalls would be constructed this morning. Among the horses are a good many famous for speed and endurance; one from Baltimore that has "done" a mile in 2:28; and most of the favorites that have successfully contested for prizes here and elsewhere. We can assure the public that this part of the exhibition will exceed any of former years. The grand trotting match will take place on Thursday or Friday; though there will be trials of speed throughout the week that will interest and gratify the spectators.

The gates will be opened for the admission of members, this morning at 9 o'clock. To-morrow the public generally will have an opportunity of visiting the Fair. Arrangements have been made by the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad Company to convey visitors to the grounds and back, cheaply and expeditiously. We devoutly hope that the weather may prove favorable, that nobody may meet with accidents or have their pockets picked, and that every visitor may have a full share of enjoyment during the week of the Fair.

State Arms—Gunpowder.—A good deal having been said about an alleged sale, by the Commissioners, of all the muskets in the State Arsenals, and of a large purchase of powder, when there were no arms left with which it could be issued, we have inquired into the matter, and from those who know, learn the facts to be as follows:

The Commissioners, in making their examination, soon after their appointment, found in the Arsenal at Lexington and in the Armory at Richmond, some fifty or sixty thousand smooth-bore, flint-lock muskets, most of them made in Virginia during the war of 1812, or about that period. Upon experiment in the Government works at Harper's Ferry, with the Virginia-made musket, it was deemed advisable not to issue them to the volunteers.—Moreover, all the smooth-bore, flint-lock muskets were virtually condemned by an act of the last Legislature, requiring the issue of none but the *best arms* to the militia of the State.

Under these circumstances, the Commissioners advised the Governor to authorize them to dispose of the old muskets in part payment for the machinery required to put the Armory in operation, and to manufacture the improved rifle musket. A strong motive for adopting this suggestion was the discovery that without such aid to the appropriation, it would not be sufficient to organize the Armory, and to operate it as intended until 10,000 of the improved muskets should be manufactured.

In fact, the option was prevented of suspending all preparation for the manufacture of arms, or going into it with inadequate funds, or, on the other hand, of selling the muskets which could not be used, and appropriating the proceeds to the purchase of machinery.

The Governor adopted the wise alternative of authorizing the Commissioners to sell them, and they required the contractor to take them in part pay for machinery.

To avoid, however, the supposed danger of stripping the State even of this weak defence, the Commissioners stipulated in the contract that ten housand of the old muskets should be reserved until five thousand of the new ones were finished. These ten thousand have been set apart for this purpose, and may possibly be converted, by the Commissioners, into percussion muskets, if they find it practicable. One of their number is now at the North, charged, in part, with the duty of making the necessary inquiry on this head.

With reference to the purchase of powder, which has been the subject of some censure, the facts are simply these: When John Brown invaded the State, there were twelve hundred musket cartridges at Lexington and Richmond, but no cannon powder in the State.—With all the efforts made to supply the military sent to Harper's Ferry and Charlestown, they never had more than ten rounds, and in some companies, by the day of execution, this allowance had dwindled to four or five rounds.

To save the State from a condition of things so dangerous, the Commissioners purchased powder enough to furnish a force of 5,000 men with the means of entering upon an ordinary campaign. The purchase included powder for the batteries of Artillery suitable to arm a force. Two small magazines, costing together less than $2,000, were built at Lexington and Richmond, for the powder of the State. Heretofore she has had no place of deposit for powder. The Military Academy and the Public Guard will of course use this powder, and it will probably be served out for target firing to the volunteers. If it should not, however, there is no danger of loss, with proper care, for powder may be kept from ten to fifteen years without injury.

We have said thus much in regard to the State arms and the powder, as an act of justice to the Commissioners, who wish to let the people know what they have done and are now doing. Their report will be made and published in a short time, when all can read and understand for themselves. If they get the machinery ready, and the State Armory in operation by the last of November, 1861, the volunteers will then be rapidly supplied with first-rate arms, and the militia of the State will then be made an efficient army of citizen soldiers. In the meantime weapons will be procured from other sources as rapidly as possible, and the Commander-in-Chief will have them distributed without delay.

The Great Match Race, three mile heats, for $10,000, that was to have come off at Ashland last Saturday, was postponed by consent of parties, until Friday next, when it will take place at Fairfield. Both Leisure and Exchequer are now looking very fine, and the friends of each are sanguine of the result.—Last spring Leisure beat Annette Hall, Exchequer's stable companion, in a four mile heat race at Ashland, and many think she will be able to dispose of his competitor in the same way. About that, however, judges differ, as will be seen on the day of the race. The fall meeting at Fairfield commences next Wednesday, when good sport is anticipated for the remainder of the week.

Extensive Haul.—A negro fellow named Richard Smith, the property of Mr. Thomas W. Wooldridge, was examined before the Mayor on Saturday last, for stealing $300 in bank notes and gold coin, and $700 worth of bonds from Pleasant Hill, a free negro, lately resident of Albemarle county. The robbery was committed on the night of the 18th inst.—It appears that soon after Hill's arrival in this city, he scraped an acquaintance with Dick Smith, and on the evening in question, being together, Hill became intoxicated, and was assisted to his lodgings by his companion. Both laid down together with their clothes on. Soon after, Smith complained of sundry aches and pains, which could only be relieved by a visit to the doctor's. Hill being in a drunken stupor, fell asleep and did not wake till the next morning, when the absence of all his funds made him aware of the nature of the pains that had afflicted his sooty companion the night before. Complaint being made, the officers visited the factory where Smith was at work, and, on searching, found $155 under his bench. He refused to tell where the balance of the money was, but said that he had thrown the bonds in the street. Sure enough, they were found at the place indicated by him, but very much the worse by reason of contact with rain and mud. If convicted, the prisoner can be punished either with stripes, or transportation out of the State. The above is the most extensive robbery that has been committed here for many months past, considering the position of the parties.

Asylum for Inebriates.—The Medical Society of Virginia have constituted Drs. Broocks, Trent and Bolton, a committee to apply to the next Legislature for a charter for a house of refuge for inebriates. They have already or will soon prepare the proper memorial for presentation to that body. When it is remembered how many drunkards there are in this city, who are hopelessly wedded to the pleasures of the bowl, it will be seen that the institution must be well patronized. The establishment will be called the Virginia Washingtonian Home. There are only three similar institutions in the United States, despite the fact that drunkenness is so prevalent amongst those of high and low degree all over the country. One of these is located in Boston, and has been in operation for three years past; one in Baltimore, not yet started, and one now building in Binghampton, New York, towards the completion of which the Legislature of that State gave $150,000. We hope to see the Virginia Washingtonian Home established, believing it will be efficacious for good.

Encampment.—The most extensive preparations are being made for the grand military encampment to be held in this city on the 8th of November, and from present indications, the Troop of this section of the State will make a beautiful display. Already fifteen companies of Cavalry—Hanover, Henrico, Richmond City, New Kent, Charles City, King William, King & Queen, Essex, Gloucester, Surry, Chesterfield A, Chesterfield B, Goochland, Powhatan and Amelia—have given formal notice of their intention to join the encampment, and there are several other companies expected, who have not yet been heard from definitely.

A meeting of the Committee "on the plan of encampment" will be held at Dr. O A Crenshaw's office, near the Spotswood House, to-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M., to consider the best plan for provisioning the troops. All the commissioned officers of companies interested are invited to attend and participate.

Falling of a Wall.—A portion of the west wall of the large three-story brick building, now in process of erection by Mr. Jos. G. Watts, for Mr. Thomas Bradford, on Franklin street, opposite the office of Hector Davis, Esq., fell down on Friday night, with a crash which alarmed the whole neighborhood, the foundation having been undermined by recent rains. On Saturday morning when the extent of the injury became apparent, it was found necessary to prop the house to keep it from falling down. The eastern wall is considerably lowered, and the western is out of perpendicular at least six inches, so that the building will have to be taken down and rebuilt. A number of buildings have fallen down in this city during the present year, but luckily, so far, no loss of life has accrued.

Slick Operation.—Adroit as is Prof. Wyman in his feats of legerdemain, he was made the subject of a slight-of-hand operation, on Thursday last, that he neither understands nor appreciates. While his baggage was in transitu between Lynchburg and Richmond, the lock of his trunk was skillfully opened, and wearing apparel and other articles to the value of $20 were taken therefrom. The sly rogue, however, in his hurry to conclude his job overlooked $75 in money which was in one corner of the trunk at the time. The Professor is now giving a series of entertainments at Metropolitan Hall, where he is showing many remarkable feats to his audience.

Visitors to the City will find the hall of the Mechanics' Institute, on 9th street, a most delightful place at which to spend an idle hour, and witness the many beautiful specimens of manufactures, mechanism, fine arts, curiosities, minerals, inventions, glass blowing, type making, and thousands of other articles that cannot fail to interest and instruct. In addition to the steam and caloric engines, the steam fire engine, Kenish's motor, De Bow's brick-maker, Sims' jig saw, and a variety of agricultural implements, Smith's famous First Regiment Band discourses delightful music each evening.

Providing for Cold Weather.—The lager beer saloon of A. Myers, on Broad street, was entered at an early hour yesterday morning by a nocturnal prowler, who proceeded to help himself to a dress coat belonging to the proprietor, and then decamped, considerately forgetting to visit the till and relieve it of the proceeds of one or two days' business. Some men are satisfied with little, and the above thief must have been one of that kind.

Theatre.—The attractions at this place of amusement, during the week, will be kept up by the production of a variety of sensation pieces, which will be placed upon the stage with all the telling effects of scenery and costume. The new arrangement of the house will be very pleasing to strangers who visit it, and few will depart without seeing the dramatic novelties in preparation. The play to-night is "Glendower, or the North Sea Rover."

Recovery of a Lot of Bacon.—In going around his beat, on 17th and Main streets, last Monday night, watchman Adams discovered two negroes in possession of a lot of bacon, whom he hailed, when the parties fled, each taking a different direction, and finally escaping, left on the ground, besides six hams and two shoulders of bacon, a good bowie-knife and coat. The property was gathered up and conveyed to the cage.

Dismissed on One Charge and Held on Another. The charge made against James Riley, some days since, of burglariously entering Mary Clarron's house and stealing a lot of wearing apparel, was again examined into on Saturday by the Mayor, who dismissed the charge of burglary and larceny, but held the defendent to bail for drunkenness and disorderly conduct at the time spoken of. The accused could not give the required surety.

Runaway.—At an early hour yesterday morning, the horses attached to the St. Charles Hotel omnibus, started from the Fredericksburg depot for a run down Broad street. The driver fell off and was considerably injured, and the horses, with no one to control them, kept on at a killing rate, until they passed the African Church, when they dashed the coach against a lamp-post, breaking it midway as if it had been a pipestem, smashed the coach to some extent, and finally stopped.

Cage Cases.—Besides the two negroes mentioned elsewhere, as under arrest for entering Darracott, Harris & Co.'s clothing store, the police yesterday caged Mathew Doran, for wandering about the streets in a drunken condition; and Meredith Roach, for an assault on his wife. The police, in fishing in the pool of city life, have often hooked Roach and drawn him to the surface.

Meeting of the Farmers' Assembly.—Delegates to this body will bear in mind that the Assembly holds a meeting to-night in the Hall of the House of Delegates. A full attendance is desirable, as a good deal of business having an important bearing on the agricultural interests of the State, is to be disposed of during the session of the Union Fair,