Richmond Dispatch.

BY COWARDIN & HAMMERSLEY.

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Richmond Dispatch.

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MONDAY MORNING.....MARCH 25, 1861.

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION.

THIRTY-THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, March 23, 1861.

The Convention was called to order at half-past 10 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. HENRY J. VAN DYKE, (Presbyterian,) of Brooklyn, N. Y.

EVENING SESSIONS.

Mr. CONRAD, of Frederick, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That on and after Monday next, and until further ordered, this Convention shall be called to order at 10 o'clock A. M., at half-past 10 shall resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, upon the reports from the Committee on Federal Relations; at 2 o'clock said Committee of the Whole shall take a recess until 4 o'clock, when it shall resume its session.

Mr. PRICE, of Greenbrier, called the previous question, which was sustained, and the resolution was then adopted.

EQUALITY OF TAXATION.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of unfinished business, namely, the resolutions of Mr. WILLEY, of Monongalia, in regard to the subjects of taxation and representation.

Mr. HALL, of Marion, being entitled to the floor, addressed the Convention in favor of immediate action. He thought it due to those who desired a change in the organic law, that the committees contemplated by the resolutions should be appointed to make the necessary inquiries. His people demanded that the question should be settled before action was had upon matters of National interest. When they were thus placed upon an equality with the people of other sections, they would stand shoulder to shoulder in defence of all our rights.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

Mr. BOISSEAU, of Dinwiddie, asked and obtained leave to present a series of resolutions adopted by the people of that county, in favor of immediate secession.

Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. MORTON, of Orange, asked and obtained leave to present a series of resolutions of similar import, adopted by the people of Greene county, on their last Court-day.

Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. MARYE, of Spotsylvania, asked and obtained leave to present a series of resolutions adopted by a portion of the citizens of that county, urging the immediate secession of Virginia, and opposing an adjournment of the Convention until next fall.

Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. BARBOUR, of Culpeper, presented resolutions adopted by the people of that county, repudiating the Peace Conference propositions and instructing him to vote for an Ordinance of Secession. Mr. BARBOUR said he recognized the right of instruction, and was prepared to obey.

The resolutions were, on motion of Mr. BARBOUR, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY.

Mr. MONTAGUE, of Middlesex, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Convention inquire into, and report why the speeches of the Commissioners from South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi have not been printed, as ordered by the Convention.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The hour of 11 having arrived, the Convention went into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. SOUTHALL, of Albemarle, in the chair,) and proceeded to consider the reports from the Committee on Federal Relations.

Mr. BALDWIN, of Augusta, being entitled to the floor, proceeded to consider the Territorial question, to which he was alluding at the time of the adjournment on yesterday. He recapitulated the position that the present territory of the United States was unsuited to slave labor, while there was in the South such a deficiency as to lead to the serious contemplation of re-opening the African slave trade. With regard to the apprehension of the South becoming overrun with slaves, thus converting it into a second San Domingo, he argued that the tendency was the other way—that the demand always exceeded the supply. It had been urged by the gentleman from Albemarle, that in fifty years the South would become Africanized. His own opinion always had been that it would be hundreds of years before the South would require an outlet for the surplus of her slave population; and to sustain this view, he read from a speech in the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Hammond, of South Carolina, within the past year, in reply to a Republican Senator, (Mr. Doolittle, of Wisconsin,) in regard to this very apprehension. Mr. Hammond assumed the position that the South was capable, within its present limits, of sustaining a slave population of 200,000,000, and utterly repudiated the idea of a necessity for expansion in this respect, although he did not surrender any of the rights of the South to future acquisition.

He believed with Senator HAMMOND that the South was fully able to take care of itself, when the question arises. He conceived that it would be for the interest of Virginia to stop the drain of slaves to the cotton States, and by the employment of more slave labor in the West, secure a homogenousness of interest throughout the State. The cotton States were quite as dependent upon us for their supply of slave labor, as we were upon them for any market for a surplus of the productions of labor.

It was the duty of the North to speak out upon the subject; the time for settlement had come, and he thought it should be a comprehensive settlement—the Territorial question ought to be settled at once and forever. He was aware of the apprehension at the South that the doctrine of the Dred Scott decision could not prevail permanently. The true doctrine, he thought, was expressed in one section of the report of the Committee, that "the Territories of the United States constitute a trust, to be administered by the General Government, for the common benefit of the people of the United States, and any policy in respect to such Territories calculated to confer greater benefits on the people of one part of the United States than on the people of another part, is contrary to equality and prejudicial to the rights of some for whose equal benefit the trust was created. If the equal admission of slave labor and free labor into any Territory, excites unfriendly conflict between the systems, a fair partition of the Territories ought to be made between them, and each system ought to be protected within the limits assigned to it, by the laws necessary for its proper development."

He contended that no species of property in the United States should have more protection than the peculiar property of Virginia. He claimed full and perfect equality with the people of the North, and would consent to no restriction that was not applied to the property of citizens in every section. He would not consent that a wolf's head should be put upon the institution of slavery, to attract to it the opposition of mankind. These were his sentiments, and they were such as he had always entertained. He then went into an argument upon the amendments to the Federal Constitution, proposed by the Committee, which he considered a decided improvement upon the Crittenden propositions, in so far as they afforded a more certain protection to slavery in territory south of 36 30. Alluding to the protection of the common law, he declared as a lawyer that when the legal profession ceased to be a safe depository of private right, Republican liberty would no longer be worth preserving. Let fanaticism howl as it might, the rights of the people would be secure.—With regard to future acquisitions of territory, he laid down the position that constitutional amendments were utterly valueless, for treaties would have to be made with people living beyond the limits of our constitutional law. We had an example of this in the acquisition of Texas, during the Administration of the distinguished gentleman from Charles City. He (Mr. B.) was perfectly satisfied to trust all matters touching the acquisition of new territory to the hands of Southern Senators. For himself, he did not incline to any further expansion. The third section, in regard to the protection of slavery in the District of Columbia, and the inter-State slave trade, covered the whole subject completely. It refused to the Black Republican party the right ever to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States or in the District of Columbia. It proposed to engraft upon the Constitution a perpetual prohibition against the abolition of slavery anywhere, except by the unanimous consent of all the States.—This, he thought, would drive the last nail into the coffin of the "irrepressibe conflict." He then proceeded to argue the point relative to the tax on slaves, alluding to the position advanced by the gentleman from Princess Anne, (Mr. Wise.)

Mr. WISE rose to correct the gentleman, and in so doing made a severe thrust at the late Peace Conference, which called forth a demonstration of applause from the spectators.

The CHAIRMAN warned the spectators that if such a demonstration were repeated, the gallery and lobby would be cleared.

Mr. BALDWIN went on to show that the slave was not taxed as man for man, but according to the ratio of representation, and that there was no limitation in regard to that feature.

This led to another explanation from Mr. WISE, who argued that Congress was invested with the power of limitation. Taxation, direct or indirect, rested wholly with Congress, and when the North wished to lay a tax upon slaves, they could only lay it upon three-fifths of the slave population, while their own white heads were taxed *per capita*.

Mr. BALDWIN said he could not be expected to be as well posted as the gentleman from Princess Anne, who had written a book upon the subject.

Mr. WISE said he would be glad to take, as a pupil, one who had not yet learned the A, B, C, of the subject. [Laughter.]

Mr. BALDWIN supposed he would; and he apprehended that such a pupil was just the kind he would be fitted to teach. [Laughter.]

Mr. BALDWIN continued to argue upon the propositions, which, he believed, covered the entire scope in which the Constitution required amendment. As every point of objection urged to the Peace Conference propositions had been removed, in a spirit of deference to those who had criticised them, he thought they ought now to command the support of the distinguished gentleman from Charles City, and others who thought with him. He (Mr. B.) would not consent to a *final* settlement of the question by a Border Conference, or any other conference; but would reserve it for the ratification or rejection of the people. He thought when everything had been settled to the satisfaction of the Border States—when our Southern sisters saw that the question was settled in a manner satisfactory to Virginia, they would return and look the issue sternly in the face; and when they thought of the stars and stripes under which they had marched in a career of prosperity, they would hardly refuse to come back. But should they refuse, it would still be the duty of Virginia to look after her own rights, and take care of her own interests. He then argued that so far as the agricultural interests of Virginia were concerned, she would be infinitely better off to remain as she was, than to secede from the Union. The Cotton States raised neither breadstuffs nor live stock to any extent, but they must have them, and would purchase of Virginia. In laying their tariff, they had left these articles duty free.—They were bound to have them, and could not do without them. There would be a free access to their market, and he could see no reason for seceding in order to get to it. If Virginia were to secede, there would moreover be a line of custom-houses between her and the North, and a protective tariff would cut us off from all articles of material necessity that we wanted to buy. He knew but little about manufactures, in regard to which interest allusion had been made. He did not, however, wish to introduce the Yankee system into Virginia—those immense corporations of which we heard so much. He preferred the peaceful pursuits which at present characterized the inhabitants. He protested against breaking up this great theatre on which the experiment of free trade was in process of splendid development.

In conclusion, Mr. BALDWIN apologized for having so long detained the Committee in listening to an exposition of his views. When he looked along the line of his duty and saw the number of steps that were necessary to accomplish the object of his hope, his mind often quailed, and he trembled with apprehension. He believed, however, that it was his duty to walk in the path which he had marked out. If he performed well the patriotic duty which he had undertaken, he could safely leave the rest in the hands of the great Disposer of events. He would, therefore, turn neither to the right nor to the left, but would march straight on, in the line of duty and of right, and leave the result to God.

Mr. BRUCE, of Halifax, next addresed the Committee. He said if he had been told three months ago that he would be in this presence, and discussing these subjects, he would have listened with incredulity. For twenty-five years he had been buried among his own peaceful and quiet pursuits, but some, who thought they saw in him the elements which might be used in this crisis, had disinterred him, and sent him here. His people were lovers of peace, and he promised them that he would do all he could for the adjustment of our national difficulties without sacrificing the honor of Virginia. He had waited, and now he saw no ground for any such hope.—Years ago, in the General Assembly of Virginia, he stood with forty others, including the gentleman from Montgomery (Mr. Preston,) and the gentleman from Henry, (Mr. Gravely,) in doing all he could for the protection of South Carolina. He knew they would still be found on the side of State Rights. Others had cried out, crucify her! but he was glad that some of those most distinguished on that side were now covered with sackcloth and penitential ashes. In this connection he alluded to the gentleman from Orange, (Mr. Morton.) Then proceeding to to speak of the gentleman from Princess Anne,

Mr. WISE begged to assure him that he never cried out crucify South Carolina; but had there been an attack upon her he would have fought side by side with him in her defence.

Mr. BRUCE went on to pay his respects to Messrs. MOORE, of Rockbridge, and BALDWIN, of Augusta, of whom he had little hope, and made humorous allusions which excited the merriment of the members as well as the spectators. The argument of the gentleman from Albemarle (Mr. HOLCOMBE) as to the impossibility of turning back the tide of fanticism, he considered irresistible. The subject of slavery he said was not a question of dollars and cents—a question of raising and lowering the tariff. Referring to the first introduction of the institution here, he traced its growth to the point when it had become so intertwined with our social habits, that to break it up would be ruinous. He then adverted to the unconstitutional acts of the Northern States, and showed that hatred of slavery was so firmly engrafted upon the Northern mind, that to eradicate it would be impossible. He was of opinion it would go on, until it finally came to a war with the sword. He was willing to make one more effort, and that would be to put forth an ultimatum in the name of the people of Virginia, providing for the resumption of her sovereign powers in the event of its failure.

He proposed to enter into the delicate task of calculating the value of the Union. He asked what had this Confederacy done for us? He did not mean to say that good things had not been done, but he wanted to know what they were. It had been said that it secured us protection abroad; that one had only to say "I am an American citizen," to throw around himself a shield in any foreign land.—He knew that when a citizen of the South went abroad and said this, it secured him protection; it secured him from incarceration; but he was met by the sneering remark—"But you are a slaveholder." This had been the effect of the teaching of Northern prints, and such was not the kind of protection he wanted. We were told, too, that our commerce was protected by the stars and stripes. Alas, we had no commerce—commerce all belonged to the North. Those great staples, tobacco, cotton and rice, needed no protection. The South enjoyed a monopoly in that trade. We were told, however, that our sugar wanted protection; and in this connection he argued that this production would be better off without protection. The wool trade was also considered, the speaker assuming that in this, as well as in other respects, there was no protection except in so far as the North was obliged to protect it in order to protect its own interests. The advantages of protection to the South, as well as the dangers of a border war, in the event of secession, he thought had been greatly overrated.

At this point, Mr. MORTON, of Orange, moved that the Committee rise.

Mr. BRUCE felt some delicacy in regard to this proposal. His constituents would never forgive him for occupying two days in an exposition of his views.

Mr. MORTON insisted upon his motion, as it was apparent that the gentleman was physically unable to proceed.

The Committee then rose, and the Chairman reported progress.

TESTIMONIAL FROM THE LADIES.

Mr. PRICE, of Greenbrier, said that some ladies in the city proposed to bestow a compliment upon a member of the Convention, and he hoped that all would remain after the adjournment and witness the ceremony. He then submitted a motion for adjournment, but withdrew it at the request of Mr. DORMAN.

RETALITORY MEASURE.

Mr. DORMAN, of Rockbridge, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the General Assembly the passage of a law imposing a license tax on the sale by retail, within Virginia, of the products or manufactures of such Northern States as continue to retain offensive acts of the character known as Personal Liberty Bills amongst their statutes; guarding, however, in such law, against any infringement of the provisions of the Federal Constitution.

Resolved, That the President of the Convention cause copies of the foregoing resolution forthwith to be sent to the Houses of the General Assembly.

Mr. BROWN, of Preston, regarded this as a matter belonging exclusively to the General Assembly. He moved that the resolution be laid upon the table.

The motion was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. PRICE, the Convention adjourned, to meet again on Monday, at 10 o'clock A. M.

After the adjournment, a beautiful floral wreath was presented to Col. JOHN B. BALDWIN, of Augusta, by Mr. CRITCHER, of Westmoreland, on behalf of the "Union ladies of Virginia." Appropriate addresses were made on both sides, and a considerable degree of enthusiasm was manifested by the Union party.

DEATH BY DROWNING.—A young man named Thomas Nead, about eighteen years of age, was drowned off the steamer Lizzie Martin, on the 6th inst., near Parkersburg, Va. The deceased, who could not swim, accidentally walked overboard, and was carried by the current past the boat, and drowned before assistance could reach him. He was an orphan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

[EXTRA SESSION.]

SENATE.

SATURDAY, March 23, 1861.

The Senate met at the usual hour—Lt. Gov. MONTAGUE in the Chair.

Bill Reported.—A bill to amend the charter of the Southwestern Bank of Virginia.

Tax Bill.—On motion, the bill imposing taxes for the support of government was laid on the table.

Communication from the Auditor—Increased Taxes recommended.—The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate a communication from the Auditor of Public Accounts, in response to a resolution adopted on the 22d, requesting him to inform the Senate what increase, if any, will be necessary to defray the expense of the government, and discharge the present and prospective liabilities of the State. The concluding portion of the report is as follows:

"Of the $7,563,993 24 appropriations on the 1st of January, about $500,000 have been since that time funded, and doubtless the remainder will, in a short time, assume the same relation to the Treasury. When funded the annual charge on that account upon the Treasury will be $529,474 52, from which deduct the annual surplus of $225,884 57, estimated heretofore, and I find an annual, augmenting deficiency of $303,589 95, to be discharged by taxation. To this deficiency must be added the appropriation, if any, to the Covington and Ohio Railroad, and all the money released and refunded, by the acts and bills pending, (a list of which accompanies the communication.)—if it be the policy of the General Assembly to pay the appropriations of the present session, including the appropriation for the defence of the State, and including also one-fifth of the appropriation to the Covington and Ohio Railroad out of the present year's taxes, the rate should be increased the present year to a sum at least equal to 60 cents on every hundred dollars value of property, and on every other subject in the same proportion. It should be observed, however, that the appropriations heretofore made cannot, and will not, be funded at once, and to that fact we may look for a temporary respite from increased taxation, but this fact cannot allow of a less rate than indicated. That the taxes must in the end be increased, no one can doubt who will refer to our past history, and judge the future by reference to it. After the extraordinary expenses of the government before referred to shall have been discharged, the rate of taxation may be reduced to 45 or 46 cents on every hundred dollars' value. The rate here indicated will be necessary to meet the annual charges upon the public Treasury after all the appropriations heretofore made shall have been funded, and those for State defence and in aid of the Covington and Ohio Railroad shall have been discharged."

On motion, the communication was laid on the table, and 500 extra copies ordered to be printed.

Laid on the Table.—The bill to incorporate the Parkersburg Bridge Company was taken from the table, and after various amendments had been adopted, and some time consumed in consideration of the subject, on motion of Mr. NEAL, it was laid on the table.

Covington and Ohio Railroad.—The bill for the partial suspension of the sale of State bonds, and to provide for complying with contracts already made upon the Covington and Ohio Railroad, was taken from the table on motion of Mr. DOUGLASS, and made the order of the day for Wednesday next, at 11 o'clock.

Voluntary Enslavement.—The bill providing for the voluntary enslavement of free negroes, was made the order of the day for Monday next.

Bank Bills.—The various bills on the table providing for rechartering the Banks, &c., was made the order for Monday.

Joint Resolutions.—The following joint resolutions were laid over under the rules:

By Mr. AUGUST,

1. *Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That, in the opinion of the General Assembly, it is unnecessary and inexpedient for the General Government, whilst the Convention of this Commonwealth is deliberating upon the question whether Virginia shall resume the powers delegated by her to the General Government or not, to make any addition to the military forces in any of the forts, arsenals, or navy stations in Virginia, and that any such increase can only be regarded as a menace and threat to this Commonwealth.

2. *Resolved*, That the Governor be requested to adopt immediate measures for obtaining information as to the purpose of the Executive of the General Government with respect to strengthening the military force in the arsenals, docks and fortifications within the limits of this Commonwealth.

3. *Resolved*, That the Governor of this Commonwealth communicate the foregoing resolutions to the President of the United States.

By Mr. BRANNON,

Resolved, by the General Assembly, That the Governor, in order more effectualy to carry out the provisions of an act passed the 21st day of January, 1860, entitled an act making appropriations for the purchase and manufacture of arms and munitions of war, be and he is hereby authorized to contract with one or more persons for the manufacture and repair of arms at the Armory, if, in his opinion, it will best promote the interest of the Commonwealth; and if such contract should be so made by him, the same shall be subject to the ratification or rejection of the General Assembly.

By Mr. COGHILL,

Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia, That the appropriations to works of internal improvement, other than the Covington and Ohio Railroad, whether in the form of loans or subscriptions to the stock of companies made at the present or preceding sessions of the General Assembly, and not advanced or actually subscribed in the mode prescribed by law, be, and the same are hereby suspended until the General Assembly shall otherwise order.

Bills Passed.—House bill to incorporate the Virginia Lumber Company, in the counties of Augusta and Rockbridge; House bill amending and re-enacting the charter of the town of Guyandotte, in the county of Cabell; Senate bill establishing an inspection of leather in the county of Hampshire, with an amendment from the House; Senate bill releasing the State's claim to the fine imposed on the schr. Virginia, for an alleged violation of the inspection laws; Senate bill to amend the first section of chapter 149 of the Code of Virginia, relative to the limitation of suits, so as to limit the right to make an entry, or bring an action to recover land west of the Alleghany mountains; Senate bill for the relief of Thos. M. Hundley, Commissioner of the Revenue for Matthews county; House bill amending certain laws respecting the military of the Commonwealth, so as to render them more efficient.

On motion of Mr. EARLY, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

SATURDAY, March 23d, 1861.

Mr. TOMLIN, of King William, called the House to order at 10 o'clock A. M., in the absence of the Speaker.

Bills were reported allowing a pension to Amanda Higdon for five years, and for organizing the Metropolitan Guard of Richmond City.

Leave was given a committee to report a bill for the relief of Ellen B. Lane, widow and administratrix of A. C. Lane, late Second Lieutenant in the Public Guard.

Bills were passed amending the charter of the Bank of Richmond, and incorporating the town of Asbury.

State Penitentiary.—The following preamble and resolutions were offered by Mr. McCUE and adopted:

Whereas, The Penitentiary of Virginia, for years past, has rested as an incubus on the State Treasury, through improper management; and, whereas, through serious defects in the criminal code its inmates have increased so rapidly that the building is entirely inadequate to its uses, whether in regard to the security, comfort, or profitable employment; and, whereas, by the extension of the city in that direction, the property comprised within its limits is so much enhanced in value as to amply remunerate the State for its removal to some other appropriate site, as well as abate it as a nuisance, so far as its situation in the heart of the city is concerned; and, whereas, the labor of the inmates does come in injurious competition with worthy and industrious mechanics, an evil that demands a remedy; and, whereas, from a want of raw material, its inmates are now, and have been for weeks, not only without employment, but have been locked up, a half a dozen or more, in their cells, which, all know, are too small for the accommodation of one or two, even, endangering their lives and permanently injuring their health; and, whereas, it is notorious that the State is in great need of a new State House, as well as a new Penitentiary, which cannot, under any circumstances, be so economically applied as by the labor of these convicts: Therefore,

Be it Resolved, by the General Assembly, That it be referred to a special committee, to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the hiring to some responsible contractor or contractors the convict labor of the Penitentiary, who shall at once employ them in the quarrying and dressing of granite, for the erection, first, of a suitable Penitentiary house, and then for a State Capitol.

Resolved, That should this be deemed expedient, then said committee shall inquire into the expediency of disposing of the fabrics in the Penitentiary now on hand, and rent out the entire Penitentiary to responsible contractors.

The SPEAKER announced the following as the committee: Messrs. McCUE, FLEMING, BASSIL, GARRETT, and BOREMAN.

Aid to Defaulting Sheriffs.—On motion of Mr. PHELPS, the substitute "authorizing the Auditor of Public Accounts to release the sureties of defaulting Sheriffs from the payment of damages in certain cases," for special bill No. 146, was taken up and ordered to its engrossment.

Mr. DUCKWALL moved to put the bill upon its passage, and it was agreed to. The roll was then called and the bill passed—ayes 84; noes 3.

The following is a copy of the bill authorizing the Auditor of Public Accounts to release the sureties of defaulting Sheriffs from the payment of damages in certain cases, as submitted by Mr. DUCKWALL as a substitute for bill No. 146:

1. *Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That in all cases in which the Commonwealth has obtained, or may hereafter obtain, judgment against the sureties of any Sheriff or their personal representatives, upon satisfactory proof that such Sheriff is insolvent and unable to pay the whole or any part of such judgment, the Auditor of Public Accounts may, and he is hereby authorized to release, in behalf of the sureties or their personal representatives, the damages included in the judgment, or the damages on so much of the money as they may have paid: *Provided, however*, that in cases in which judgment has been obtained before the passage of this act, the damages aforesaid shall not be released, unless the residue of the judgment be paid and discharged on or before the first day of October next. And in cases in which judgment may be hereafter obtained, the damages shall not be released unless the residue of the judgment be paid within three months from the date of the judgment: and *provided, further*, that in no case shall the judgment against the Sheriff be affected by this act; nor shall any deputy Sheriff, whether he be surety for such Sheriff or not, be released from the payment of any damages which may be recovered against him.

2. This act shall be in force from its passage.

Appropriation Bill.—On motion of Mr. HAYMOND, the House proceeded to the consideration of the bill "making appropriations for deficiencies in former appropriations, and for defraying expenses of the General Assembly and Convention now in session."

The bill was variously amended, pending which the House adjourned.

Another Speech of Vice President Stephens.

Vice President Stephens addressed the citizens of Savannah, Ga., on Wednesday night. The Republican, in a sketch of his speech, says:

He contrasted the strength of the Confederate States with that of the Colonies at the time of their struggle for independence, and showed that we had more territory, more wealth, and more men than our fathers had when they asserted and maintained their independence. Our perfect system of government would attract the border slave States, and we would soon have more States, but even if they choose to stay where they are in the old Union, we still had territory enough for an empire—more than twice as much as some of the most powerful nations in Europe, with a soil and climate and productions superior to any in the world. With a good government and a brave, virtuous and intelligent people, we had nothing to fear. With less public debt than the Northern States, we have greater resources, and were better able to sustain an independent Government.—If we were true to ourselves, a brilliant future was before us—our Confederacy was destined to become the nucleus of a great controlling power on this continent. Our policy was peace with all nations—with our late confederates and the rest of the world. The olive branch was the emblem of peace. In lieu of it we presented the cotton plant. He had been frequently asked whether our revolution could be consummated without war.—He had thought at one time that war was inevitable. But, he would say, that of late the prospect was less threatening. The North had nothing to gain by war, and the adoption of a war, instead of a peace policy, on their part, could only be accounted for on the hypothesis that "those whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad." To talk of coercion was simply absurd—it was an impossibility. He thought when the Northern States come to count the cost of the attempt—for it could only be an attempt—they would, like the man who was practicing to fight a duel by shooting with a musket at the size of a man marked out on a barn door, and who, when he found he had put some fourteen shot in the mark, came to the conclusion that the weapon was too destructive, and that he would not fight. He thought the North when it came to contemplate the consequences would wisely conclude that coercion would be too *destructive*. There was no necessity for war. The old Union was a contract between the States, and it was a principle of law that civil contracts can be annulled by mutual consent of the parties. Therefore all the present United States Congress had to do was simply to consent that the contract with the seceded States be annulled and settle matters amicably. But while the prospect of collision was not so unfavorable as it had been, it was well for us to be prepared with stout hearts and strong arms to meet any emergency. Until our revolution is consummated and our new Government firmly established, it is proper that we should be well prepared. It was for this that in arranging the tariff higher duties had been assessed than would ordinarily be necessary for the support of the Government. We wanted armaments and men, and to provide the means higher duties had been laid. In time of peace an average of ten per cent. on our imports would give us fifteen millions of dollars, ample for all purposes of government. The future was before us; whether it was to be peace or war, depended on others. He would only say let us be prepared—let us keep our armor bright and our powder dry.

END OF THE YELVERTON CASE—*Verdict in Favor of the Lady.*—The remarkable trial of the Yelverton marriage suit has terminated in Dublin, before the Court of Common Pleas.—It is a cause brought to establish the validity of a secret marriage, celebrated by a Catholic priest in Ireland between the Hon. Major William Charles Yelverton, of the British Army, heir to the Avonmore peerage, and Miss Teresa Longworth, who was one of the French Sisters of Charity in the Crimea. In consequence of a disgraceful law, making it a penal offence in Ireland for a Catholic priest to perform a marriage ceremony between a Catholic and Protestant, unless first celebrated by a Protestant minister, the husband, whose family are Protestant, and whose own religious convictions sit loose upon him, treated the marriage as a sham, deserted his wife, and contracted another marriage with a wealthy widow. The trial now had has resulted in a verdict that his first marriage was valid. Miss Longworth is, therefore, the Hon. Mrs. Yelverton, and her husband stands in the power of the criminal law as a bigamist.

When Mrs. Yelverton's counsel, Mr. Whiteside, entered the room where she was waiting, his countenance and significant gestures, as well as the cheers which rang through the Court, told her that the verdict was in her favor. She sprang forward without saying a word, clasped him in her arms, pressed him convulsively to her breast, and, seizing his two hands, kissed them. Overcome by the violence of her emotions, after such a long and terrible tension of the nervous system, she sank down exhausted and found relief in a flood of tears. The excitement in the Court, when the verdict was announced, was quite unprecedented. The whole audience rose and cheered tumultuously, the ladies waving their handerchiefs, the gentlemen their hats, and the barristers their wigs. It was a delirium of joy. The contagion spread through the multitude outside, and the shouts of triumph passed along the whole line to the Gresham Hotel, in Sackville street. The crowd insisted on taking the horses from Mrs. Yelverton's carriage and drawing it to the hotel, where she was obliged to appear on the balcony to gratify her admirers. She said: "My noble-hearted friends, you have, by your verdict this day, made me an Irishwoman. You will forever live in my heart, as I do in yours this day." Her being an English woman had no effect in dampening the ardor of the most bigoted Milesian or Ultramontanist; her having been a Sister of Charity and a convert to the Church of Rome did not check the sympathy of the most intolerant Orangemen.—The speech of Mr. Sergeant Armstrong, who, in his zeal for his client, did all he could to make her seem vile in the eyes of her own sex, did not diminish the interest in her of the ladies of Dublin, whose carriages were drawn up along the quay in a long line.

PHENOMENON.—The Scottsville (Va.) Register notices a very pretty phenomenon witnessed there on Wednesday morning last. It was nothing less than three suns, which are thus described:

In addition to the regular rising of the "glorious orb of day," two distinct suns accompanied the main body; one of which moved in a Northerly course, whilst the other bore along in a southerly direction—both equi-distant from the main body, which latter orbit pursued its wonted westerly route. After this trio of suns had reached an hour's height, the two (forming an escort as it were to the grand light to all earth,) gradually retired, when a beautiful rainbow, an emblem of peace, arched the heavens, a sight too grand for words to speak or minds to contemplate.—Thus closed the phenomenon, and our good people again went to work with some assurance that the world (if not the Union,) would still be saved, and "move on and keep moving" till the dawn of another day at least.

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS.—A dispatch from Atchison, Kansas, dated the 21st, says the Methodist Annual Conference met there that day, Bishop Morris presiding:

Joseph Hapromboise, the head Chief of the Pottowattomies, with a number of the leading men in the tribe, came in, yesterday, with 17 teams, for supplies from the Relief Society. They were supplied with corn, flour, beans, meat and clothing, and with wheat for seed. They claim the $600,000 due them from the Government, and for which they have recently instituted a suit. The tribe numbers 2,700, and the head men estimate that over one thousand are in want of assistance.

Over 30,000 bushels of seed wheat have been received and distributed from this point, together with large amounts of garden and other seed. Nearly three hundred teams, loaded with supplies of different descriptions, left to-day.

MARRYING COUSINS.—A wretched result of intermarriage between blood relations exists at Schenectady, New York. An estimable couple (cousins,) have eleven children, six of whom were born blind.

A Railroad Train Plunged Through a Drawbridge.

The Hackensack and New York train, which left Jersey City on Wednesday, with twenty passengers, plunged through a drawbridge about seven miles from Jersey City. The light was exhibited to show the draw was up, but the engineer in charge had never seen the bridge in that condition, and either did not understand or did not see it.

As soon as he discovered the peril he gave the signal whistle to have the brakes put on, reversed the engine, but saw that it was all over. Off the brink of the draw down plunged the engine and tender, with a roar and crash that were heard more than two miles away.—The engine divided the waters, went some thirty feet below the surface, and was followed by the car, which probably turned partially over in its descent, but was again righted by striking upon the bowsprit of a schooner that was just on the point of passing through, the collision tearing open a long strip in the roof of the car. All this, of course, happened in almost as short a space as it can be thought of; indeed the car had rested its forward end upon the sunken engine before the parted waters had returned to their place. The car, which was a very long one, was left with its forward end, up to about the first ventilator, immersed in water, and the rear end resting upon the edge of the draw, and at an angle of about forty-five degrees.

Some of the passengers clung to their seats, and others were thrown about. The conductor was at the time standing in the centre of the car, when the shock and descending motion of the car sent him nearly twenty-five feet forward through the door of the smoking saloon, an apartment taking up seven feet of the length of the car. The water which was rushing in through the outside door, shut this inner door behind him, and he, with the brakesman, were nearly up to their chins in an icy element, and cooped up within this limited compartment. The conductor secured a hold upon the ring through which the bell rope passes against the roof. It is said that quite an earnest struggle took place between them as to who should have possession of this bit of iron—now the brakesman, and then the conductor secured it for alternate moments.

A bystander says that as the car fell into the chasm, cries and shrieks arose, mingled with and continued after the noises of the water and the crash of the falling train.

The passengers, consisting of three ladies and fourteen men, who had been more or less jostled about, soon climbed up the ascent and emerged through the rear door, having sustained little injury beside the fright, save that in one case a lady had one or two teeth knocked out. Meanwhile the three unfortunates in the little smoking-room were screaming for help and seizing by turns the anchor in the roof. A couple of axes had been brought from the schooner close by, and a hole cut through the top of the room, which gave the men a little air, or possibly they would have suffocated. One of the windows of the car, said to have been two or three feet under water, was broken open by the brakesman, and the three men successively passed down and crawled through it, being picked up at once. They are believed to have been in the water from fifteen to twenty minutes. One had become crazed, and it was with difficulty that he could be restrained from jumping back into the river.

The engineer, according to his own account, went down with the engine, one hand holding upon the "throttle-valve," and the other upon the "reverse lever." He rose to the surface about one hundred feet distant from the spot where he went down. He got hold of a rope, wound it about him, and finally succeeded in crawling up on a portion of the pier that jutted out and formed a little shelf. He was taken in nearly a frozen condition.—The engineer was injured more than any one else, but he is merely bruised a little about the hands, and received a flesh-wound on the outside of the left hip. The escape of all these passengers from death, or even serious injury, seems about as miraculous as anything on record. It is nearly 20 feet from the floor of the bridge to the surface of the water; the water is about 27 feet deep, with a soft, miry bottom, into which it is thought the engine has sunk from 10 to 15 feet. That the passengers were all saved is attributed to two causes: First, the material of which the car was made. Had it been a wooden car, it would probably have broken into two parts, spilling out nearly all, the splintering timbers, bruising and crushing a portion. Second, the large windows of the car, which allowed the egress of the three persons in the smoking car.

THE EVACUATION OF FORT SUMTER.—The Baltimore Exchange, of Saturday, publishes the following telegram, from one of the officers now in Fort Sumter:

Fort Sumter, March 18, 1861.—We are now making active preparations to leave, and there is, consequently, much bustle and confusion; some of the officers being busily engaged in making up the accounts, and others in getting everything ready. *We shall certainly leave here on Saturday.* Major Anderson is ordered to Newport Barracks, Ky., and Capt. Foster is directed to report himself to the Department in Washington.

The Charleston Courier, of Friday last, has the following:

Surgeon John L. Fox, United States Navy, a citizen of Massachusetts, arrived on Thursday, with orders from Washington to visit and report on the condition of Fort Sumter.

On presenting his credentials to the proper officers commanding intercourse with Fort Sumter, permission to visit was granted, on condition of being accompanied by an officer. Capt. H. J. Hartstein was requested to discharge this duty, and the two visitors were accordingly furnished with transport.

Whether this mission of Dr. Fox implies distrust of the reports of Major Anderson and his medical man, or is connected with some paltry subterfuge and pretext for delay, we shall not at present inquire. There is no need, however, for a long investigation as to the condition of Fort Sumter, as it has been decided on sufficient evidence that it cannot be longer a healthy and suitable residence for those who are now occupying it.

The same paper, commenting on the doubts existing about the evacuation, says:

It is time this game of procrastination and vacillation, and double-dealing jugglery, were stopped. Fort Sumter must and will be very soon devoted to its original and proper, and lawful objects and purposes, in and for the defence of the harbor of Charleston. The mode of effecting that necessary change has been, so far, left to the discretion of others; it is now time that we should quicken and stimulate that discretion. If the rulers that afflict the country subject to the sway of Lincoln, cannot appreciate the necessity and meet the responsibility of evacuation, we can and should give them, or their representatives usurping places in Fort Sumter, the alternative opportunity of capitulation. If soft words and grass will not effect our purpose, we can easily try stones. But, by some means or other, and very speedily, Fort Sumter must be ours.

SUICIDE OF AN ERRANT WIFE.—Mrs. Veronica Knauer, a German married woman, 25 years of age, committed suicide at New Orleans on Saturday afternoon, by hanging. The circumstances, as elicited before the Coroner, appeared to be that in the morning Mr. Knauer, who is a shoemaker, gave his wife a severe flogging with a leather strap, for truancy to her marriage vows; and that under the smart of this in particular, and a sense of humiliation and shame, she went up stairs to her bed-room and took a piece of rope and hung herself. So determined was the wretched woman in her desperate act, that she hung herself without getting off the floor. She rather strangled herself; for she was found with her feet on the floor and her knees bent nearly as low down.

SUICIDE OF A MURDERER.—The murderer Abson, under sentence of death for the murder of his wife by poison, was found dead in his cell in the jail at Hudson, New Jersey, Thursday morning. It appears that on the day previous the sheriff apprised Abson that the New Jersey Court of Pardons had refused to commute the sentence of death, and warned him to prepare for the execution on the 10th of April. The next morning on entering his cell, it was found that by some means he had secreted on his person a small knife blade, and with this he had cut the main arteries of his arm, and he died from loss of blood shortly after his situation was discovered.

DEATH OF A SURVIVOR OF THE GROTON MASSACRE.—Samuel Moxley died in Groton, Ct., on the 10th instant, at the age of 91 years.—The death of Mr. Moxley, so far as known, breaks the last link connecting us with the living witnesses of the massacre at Fort Griswold, unless we except a Mrs. Stoddard, of Noank, who had an uncle, Simon Morgan, killed at the massacre. Mr. Moxley was 12 years old at the time of the massacre, in which his father, aged 44, and his brother-in-law, Moses Jones, were killed, and his brother, aged 20, was wounded.—*New London Chron.*

FATAL AFFRAY IN TEXAS.—An affray occurred in Texana, Jackson county, on Wednesday, 6th inst., between Mr. Woolfolk on one side and Messrs. C. M. Flournoy and R. S. Flournoy on the other. Several shots were exchanged with effect, the first-named gentleman being killed, and the elder Flournoy severely wounded. The Grand Jury being in session at the time, a bill of indictment for murder was returned against the Flournoys.

LOCAL MATTERS.

The Meeting at Chester, on Saturday last, was well attended by the people of the county. Owing to the short notice, and the accumulation of business on Saturdays among people in cities, there were but few from either Richmond or Petersburg. The meeting, therefore, was purely a county meeting.

The meeting was called to order, and the Rev. Chas. W. Friend was appointed Chairman, and James L. Snead, Secretary. At 12 M., precisely, the flag was raised by Mr. Travers Daniel, of Petersburg, who, having some experience as an "old salt," fixed it "sailor fashion"—that is, all in a lump, and hauled it to the top of the pole. The cord securing it was then pulled by Mrs. Poindexter, and the breeze spread it out amid the rapturous cheering of the men and applause of the ladies. The flag had been prepared by Mr. B. F. Lniday, the proprietor of the hotel, and while it is in all respects after the model of the flag of the Southern Confederacy, yet, the hope that Virginia will soon be added to the constellation of the seven, he had another star placed in the bottom of the Union, with but two points showing, to represent the State as just emerging from the darkness.

After the raising of the flag, the Chairman introduced the Hon. D. C. Dejarnette, and after him Mr. Hall, of Wetzell. Both of these gentlemen spoke very well, and received the close attention of the audience, and renewed and loud applause. At 2 o'clock, dinner was announced, and the company sat down to an excellent bill of fare; among which we saw traces of Charley Hunt, and other worthies "of that ilk," united with the native cookery of a gentleman who presided at the end of a table, and *grave*ly insisted that everybody should eat roast pig. After dinner, the meeting re-assembled, and the ladies had again filled the long piazza of the hotel. Messrs. Pennybacker, of the Legislature, and H. Clay Pate, Esq., of the Petersburg *Bulletin*, delivered brief, but eloquent speeches, in favor of the secession of Virginia. At the close of Mr. Pate's address, the Chairman laid before the meeting the following preamble and resolutions, which were adopted by acclamation:

Whereas, we, a portion of the people of Chesterfield, in a public meeting assembled, deeming it a duty of a free people at all times, in their primary assemblies, to express their opinions upon all grave and important questions involving their interests and rights, and believing, from recent developments, that the time has now arrived when Virginians should resume all power heretofore delegated to the Federal Government: Therefore,

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that Virginia should, through the action of her Convention now sitting in Richmond, immediately pass an Ordinance of Secession from the Federal Union, and submit the same to the qualified voters of the State for ratification.

Mr. Henry Winfree then offered the following:

Resolved, as the sense of this meeting, that the State of Virginia ought at once to become a member of the Southern Confederacy, and that our representatives in the Convention be informed of their opinion.

This resolution was opposed by Captain James H. Cox, and a substitute offered in its place. The merits of the two resolutions were discussed by Capt. Cox, in favor of the substitute, and M. Burfoot, Esq., and Mr. Edwin Cox, in favor of the resolution, and Capt. Cox having withdrawn his substitute, the resolution was adopted with only one dissenting voice.

On motion of Mr. Gill, it was

Resolved, That our Senator and Delegate in the Legislature of Virginia be requested to offer, in their respective branches of the Legislature, a proposition providing that the sense of the people be taken at the spring election, as to whether Virginia shall go North or South.

W. B. Gates, Esq., offered the following resolution, prefacing it with the remark that, as he did not vote for Mr. Dejarnette, he took greater pleasure in expressing at this time and place his satisfaction at the course pursued by him, especially in regard to the great question of the day:

Resolved, That we approve of the course of the Hon. D. C. Dejarnette, our representative in the Congress of the late United States, especially in regard to all questions relating to the separation of our State from the Federal Union; and laying aside all the old distinction of parties, we fully endorse the sentiments which he has expressed on this occasion, and deeply regret that they are not fully acted up to by the Convention now in session in Richmond.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Edwin Williams, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the Hon. Mr. Hall, of Wetzel, for the able address delivered to-day, and that we offer him a cordial welcome to the hospitalities and friendship of the people of Chesterfield.

Short addresses were then made, in response to calls, by Messrs. Friend, Nash, Ruffin, and others, and, after adopting a resolution of thanks to the Chairman and Secretary, the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

The Armory Band enlivened the assemblage with good music.

Scenes at the Institute.—The "Union" ladies on Saturday inaugurated a system at the Convention which has heretofore been confined to theatrical circles, in the bestowal of a floral wreath upon Col. Baldwin, of Augusta, who had just closed his argument against secession. Mr. Critcher, of Westmoreland, who made the presentation speech, read a poetical tribute from the ladies, the point of which was that woman deems *Union* right, and that it is man's duty to support her. While Col. Baldwin was making an eloquent reply, somebody in the gallery trod on a dog's appendage, and the fierce "bow wow—ki yi," for a time completely eclipsed the oratorical peroration to the stripes and stars.

Another incident on Saturday transpired while Mr. Bruce, of Halifax, was making an argument in favor of secession. A troop of horsemen from Chesterfield passed by the building, the trumpeter blowing "Yankee Doodle" with all his might and main, which created some merriment on the Union side, but produced no visible effect elsewhere.

The ladies "never tire" of going to the Convention. They remain with remarkable patience throughout the long sessions, and if any of them happen to lose a veil, or any other article of apparel or adornment, a good excuse is furnished for going back next day to look for it. We predict that, as evening sessions are to be held hereafter, the fair daughters of Richmond will find it necessary to remain during the recess to hold their places secure; for what is a dinner in comparison with the great intellectual repast furnished at Mechanics' Hall?

Down the Chimney.—On Saturday last, a little fellow named Ellis Levy, was playing on a projecting roof in a yard between 17th and 18th streets, south of Main, and undertook to perform some extraordinary feat, *a la* Blondin, on the chimney top, when he lost his balance, and down he went into the flue. The space was very much contracted, hence his downward journey was accomplished something after the manner of a slide, and a landing effected at the bottom without personal injury. Here, however, the youngster found himself in a dilemma, the fire place having been bricked up, and he saw no method of extrication from his prison except through the agency of his lungs, which he used with good effect, making his situation known in a few minutes, and preparations were made for hauling him out, though some thought the better plan would be to knock down the masonry and take him through the wall. Messrs. Bibb and Blankinship, of the police, who were attracted to the place, procured a rope, and endeavored to pass a noose around the boy, but it was no go, for he was wedged in, and there was no room for an operation of this sort; but he finally seized the end of the rope with both hands, and held on with the tenacity of a hard-shell crab, while the patient anglers gently hauled away, and soon had him safely out, much more frightened than hurt.

Death of Old Citizens.—We learn that Mr. P. H. Taylor, for many years past known in this city as a musical connoisseur of fine taste, died in New Orleans, on Friday, of cancer of the face. Mr. Taylor was a man of peculiar and original views, in many respects. If his name was ever found on a musical instrument, it was considered a guarantee of its excellence. He first came to Richmond, nearly forty years ago, as assistant to Parnell, leader of the Orchestra to Gilfert, the modern theatrical champion, who raised the fortunes of the drama in Richmond, after the disastrous conflagration in 1811, and continued, up to the day of his death, respected by all. Mr. Taylor was an Irishman by birth, and leaves a family. He will long be remembered in musical circles as the pioneer in that class of entertainments. As a man, father and citizen, he descends to the grave without an enemy, and accompanied by the sincere regrets of many who knew and esteemed him for his unobtrusive virtues and modest merits. He was a member of the Masonic Order.

Another old citizen, in the person of Capt. Samuel Cary, yielded up his life, on Saturday, to the grim destroyer. Thus, one by one, is severed the few remaining links binding the present and the past.

Drowned.—Four valuable negro men were drowned a few days ago, at Quisenberry's Mill-pond, on the North Anna river, in Louisa county. In attempting to cross the river, which was swollen by a freshet, the boat in which they had embarked was swept over a dam, and the whole party drowned. One was owned by Robt. W. Goodwin, two by Overton Burruss, and one by Miss Blayde, of Spotsylvania county.

Mayor's Court—Saturday.—George Vaughn was brought up for beating his wife, and let off.—Joanna Sullivan was acquitted of getting drunk and behaving disorderly on the street. She was admonished, however.

Mr. Couldock, To-night.—We feel no little gratification in making the announcement that, after a somewhat protracted interregnum, the citizens of Richmond are to have an opportunity this week of seeing and hearing an excellent representative of the legitimate drama. We do not intimate that the young lady who has just left us was deficient in the agreeable qualities of an *actress*; her playing, on the contrary, was highly acceptable in the parts which she undertook. Yet it is the public desire to witness a portrayal of the standard drama by an *actor* of undoubted ability and experience, and hence we are glad that the managers have effected an engagement with Mr. Couldock. He is an actor of the old school, combining an easy and graceful manner with a thorough appreciation of his part. The play in which he appears to-night, the "Willow Copse," has always been popular here; and since it is admitted that no other man can play "Luke Fielding" half as well as Couldock plays the character, we confidently anticipate a brilliant and thronged auditory on this occasion. We have not seen the programme of the performance, but presume that the part of "Rose Fielding" will be entrusted to Mrs. Phillips, who has played it heretofore with splendid success. We can therefore give the assurance to visitors that the play to-night will afford an amount of recreation seldom to be enjoyed at a place of amusement. No one who attends will regret the investment of time or money. Before the close of his engagement, Mr. Couldock will probably play "Hamlet," and other great parts in which he has achieved a fine reputation.

New Railroad.—A new railroad is in contemplation for connecting the Deep Run and Springfield Coal Pits, located in the upper part of Henrico county, with the York River Railroad. A bill has already passed for incorporating the road, which, when finished, will be nineteen miles long. From careful surveys, it has been ascertained that the entire road will cost about $150,000. It will cross the Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad about Hungary Station, a distance about 3½ miles above Richmond. The road to that point is already completed. From thence to the connecting point on the York River Railroad, the distance is 16 miles—8 miles below Richmond, where a junction is effected. At the latter point the grade is 12½ feet below the Fredericksburg Railroad. The new railroad will pass down the valley of Brooke and Chickahominy Swamps. No doubt, as soon as the proper surveys are made, the road will be commenced, as the Pitts are a paying institution.

Marine.—The men who go down to the sea in ships report the weather as very bad on last Wednesday and Thursday outside the Capes. The schr. Manchester, (now in port,) while off Cape Hatteras, at the time mentioned, carried away her main boom, mainsail, stove monkey rail, and sustained other injuries. The bark Abigail, it is feared, has met with some accident, having been expected in for more than a week past, and not arriving. Landsmen who experience the force of the wind on *terra firma* can form but a faint conception of its power when created on the bosom of the "mighty deep."

The schr. Danville, Chester master, of Richmond, Va., arrived in New York on Saturday, 7 days from this port, with flour and tobacco consigned to C. H. Pierson & Co. Her captain reports that on the 18th inst., while off the capes of Delaware, in a heavy gale from N. E., a seaman called Louis, of Bremen, fell from the bowsprit overboard, and was drowned.

Religious.—Yesterday was a pretty fair day, and the several churches were well attended. The Second Presbyterian Church was filled to repletion by persons desirous of hearing Rev. H. J. Van Dyke, of Brooklyn, N. Y.—At St. Peter's (Catholic) Cathedral, High Mass was celebrated, the capacious building being crammed. Reverend Father Andrew preached an able and instructive discourse.—At the Universalist Church, Mayo street, the pulpit was supplied, in the absence of the pastor, by Rev. J. T. Goodrich, of New York, whose sermon was listened to with deep attention.

The Paper Mill.—Manufacturing operations at the paper mill, in this city, have been to some extent interrupted by the giving way of a foundation wall which supported a heavy shaft. The damage, however, is repaired, and the mill will be in full blast again in a day or two. The forethought of the company, in keeping a large supply of paper on hand has enabled them to fill orders from customers with their usual punctuality, since the accident happened.

Metropolitan Guard.—The bill for organizing the Metropolitan Guard was reported in the House of Delegates Saturday. By it they are allowed to equip themselves, as a permanent guard of the city, and are detached there from any regiment. The bill, in effect, carries into operation the provisions of the act concerning "Home Guards," who, it is stipulated, are to be composed of parties, "or any other man," not amenable to militia duty, aged 45 and upwards.

"Hard Times, and More a Coming."—It will be seen by a communication sent to the Senate on Saturday, by the First Auditor, that an increased rate of taxation is recommended to meet State liabilities. The Appropriation bill now being acted on by the House of Delegates, puts down the expenses of the General Assembly at $125,000, and the Convention at $75,000.

We have heard, though we were not present, that the beautiful flag of the Southern Confederacy, designed to be hoisted Saturday evening in Hanover county, at the head of the Mechanicsville turnpike, was flung to the breeze amidst the plaudits of an enthusiastic auditory; the act being followed by some able dissertations on Southern rights.

Arrest.—John, slave of the Messrs. Hardgrove, was put in the cage yesterday, for stealing a small box of tobacco belonging to those gentlemen. Several other unimportant arrests were made. The moral status of the city at the present time, judging from police operations, is good.

Operators on glass windows, whose business has been suspended for some weeks, commenced work again Friday night, by cutting out the glass of a window in M. Pike's store, south side of Main, between 17th and 18th streets, and helping themselves to about $15 worth of clothing.

The Appropriation Bill allows, to pay expenses of the General Assembly for the session commencing on the 7th day of January, 1861, the sum of $125,000; and to pay expenses of the Convention, assembled on the 13th of February, 1861, $75,000. The above items are but faint echoes of the "cost of government."

Not Appointed.—The Colonel of Ordnance, and other officers authorized to be appointed by the Governor, by the bill creating an Ordnance department, have not yet been nominated, though Col. Dimmock, and other parties, have been named in connection therewith.

The Captain of the Public Guard has not yet removed his command from the Armory, having been engaged for a week past in getting ready the brick row opposite the present quarters for their reception. He will move his men during the present week.

The Bill for the sale of the James River and Kanawha Canal is expected to be called up in the Senate this morning. The session terminates, by consent of both branches, next Monday.

Confirmation.—The rite of confirmation was administered yesterday, in some of the Protestant Episcopal Churches of this city, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Johns.

The Count Tascher de la Pagerie, Chamberlain to the Empress Eugenie, died at Paris on the 4th inst. He was a member of the Empress Josephine's family.

A Canada postmaster has absconded with £10,000 of the Government funds, besides committing other swindling transactions to a like amount.

There was nothing of importance done in the United States Senate on Saturday. Mr. Sherman, the new Senator from Ohio, took his seat.

Hon. Wm. L. Dayton, the new Minister to France, has appointed the Son of Mr. Speaker Pennington as his Secretary of Legation.

A man in Bridgeport has sold Barnum a Tom Thumb dog that weighs but three ounces. It was an English terrier, and sold for $100.

The census of the Sandwich Islands for 1860 shows a decrease of 3,955 native, and an increase of 598 foreign population since 1853.

Col. James Anderson, recently deceased, was appointed United States Pension Agent in Pittsburg on the very day of his death.

Lieut. Slemmer, the Commandant at Fort Pickens, it is said, is to be promoted for "courage, zeal and efficiency."

Dr. George Wilkins, a dentist, committed suicide in Boston, on Wednesday, by taking strychnine at Dooley's Hotel.

The dwelling of Mr. Wallace Cave, of Orange county, Va., was consumed by fire on the 15th. Loss $4,000.

The steamer Powhatan has arrived off Pensacola, making the fifth war vessel now stationed there.

Fast day in Maine, April 11th.