Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.....JAN. 1, 1862

A BRIGHT IDEA.—Nothing seems to give our good friends, the Yankees, so much trouble as the "contraband"—or, in other words, the negroes they have stolen from Southern plantations. They are utterly at a loss what to do with them. They cannot send them to Liberia, for Liberia has set up for herself and will soon have an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of her own at the Court of the White House, and her consent must be obtained before so many lazy, ignorant vagabonds can be packed upon her. They cannot turn them loose in Central or South America, for they own no land there, and John Bull, backed by France and Spain, is determined that the "area of freedom" shall not be enlarged in that direction. They will not let them settle in Yankeedom, for of all things in nature, a negro is most detestable to a Yankee. In this dilemma, "certain prominent members of Congress," as we are assured by that mirror of truth, the Washington *Star*, are coming forward to solve the difficulty. "They are considering," says the *Star*, "a new proposition for the solution of the 'contraband' question in order to *avoid the expense of supporting crowds of slaves in idleness, and to furnish the American mills with cotton.*"

The latter part of the sentence is the key to all Yankee movements. They have found out that cotton is king after all. They are mad for cotton. Put a bale in their sight and they fall into convulsions, as a rabid dog when he sees a vessel of water. They can't get cotton, and they are prepared to go all lengths for it. Their present scheme is a very wise one. "They take the ground," says the *Star*, "that the *Indian territory* west of Louisiana and Arkansas was ceded to the United States by treaty, and on certain conditions." The Indians having violated the treaties and spurned the obligations, it is proposed by these long-headed Congressmen to occupy their territory and put the contrabands in possession of it. The plantations of the Choctaws and Chickasaws alone, the *Star* tells us, could fully supply the American mills the first year, and, as Cuff is famous for making cotton only when he is compelled, a system of apprenticeship is to be established, to take the labor that is in him out of him. "The country is approached," it seems, "from St. Louis through Springfield, a distance of three hundred miles." "The remainder of the railroad from Rolla to Fort Smith can be completed in twelve months." "The country thus reverting to the Government embraces the vallies of the Red, Arkansas, and other rivers, and contains 20,000,000 acres of unsurpassed fertility, capable of producing 15,000,000 bales of cotton per annum."

This is certainly a grand scheme, and does credit to the "prominent members of Congress" who concocted it. As there will be some difficulties in carrying it out, we venture to point them out to the "prominent members of Congress," that being forewarned they may be forearmed: 1st, There is a man named Sterling Price living out in Missouri, on the line of this railroad, who will be sure to object to it, and, if not summarily dealt with, will be very apt to thwart it. He is a man whom it will not do to despise. Some time ago a body of Federal troops were attempting to get to Arkansas through this very Springfield, when this fellow Price fell in with them there, and cut them into ribands. We are not sure that what were left of them are done running yet.—Nay, he followed them up, and took a whole army of them prisoners within a week afterwards. It is not altogether so certain that he will not have St. Louis in possession before the "prominent members" can start the first cargo to the promised land of cotton and glory. Now it is certain that Price will raise his back against this scheme, wise as it is; and as he has something like fifty thousand men at his beck and call, and is a desperate fighter, there is a chance that he may cause trouble. In the second place, after disposing of Price, it is but too probable that the Choctaws and Chickasaws may not be willing to give up their lands at the bidding of "prominent members." They number some eight or ten thousand warriors, and would have at their back all Arkansas, all Western Louisiana, and all Eastern Texas.

This scheme will not do. We can put the "prominent members" on a better. Let them drive out the whites from Louisiana and Mississippi, and plant the "contrabands" there. They will only have to walk over the bodies of some hundred and fifty thousand men, and, to a bloodthirsty Ball Trotter this would hardly furnish food for a breakfast. If they object to this as an enterprise too easy of accomplishment, let them take in Georgia and Alabama, or Arkansas and Texas, or all of them together.

If Yankees were not so notoriously bloodthirsty, we have yet a scheme in reserve, which we would submit to the "prominent members." In doing so, we betray confidence, but we feel justified by the occasion.—A great English astronomer has made discoveries through the great telescope of the Earl of Ross, which throw all others—even those revealed by Lock twenty-five years ago—into the shade. He has found that there are magnificent cotton lands in the moon, and not a Choctaw or a Chickasaw anywhere near. Let the "prominent members" forthwith seize them for the benefit of the "contrabands."—It will be much easier than it is to take the lands of the Chickasaws and Choctaws. Professor Lowe can furnish them with transportation. Let them apply at once. They will give him an opportunity of doing something really useful.

THE YANKEE BACK DOWN—MESSRS. MASON AND SLIDELL RELEASED.—As will be seen by a telegraphic dispatch, the Yankee Government, which has been threatening at the most furious rate to "humble John Bull," has dropped down on its knees at the first roar of the British Lion, and released Messrs. Mason and Slidell. They have swallowed the lock without a murmur, and made themselves the scorn, contempt and laughing stock of all Christendom. Never did a nation before, with arms in its hands, make so pitiful, contemptible, and ignominious a surrender. It has signed and sealed the death warrant of its eternal disgrace and degradation.—If John Bull had bombarded all its towns and overrun its whole territory, he could not have inflicted such incurable damage on its national honor as it has visited upon itself with its own unclean and pusillanimous hands. What military prestige it may have had in the old Union is lost forever, and its own people must now despise their government, and the government its people. Nor need they expect exemption from the hostility of England by this tame and cowardly truckling to its power. Henceforth she will despise us well as execrate them, and feel no hesitation in breaking the blockade as soon as it suits her convenience.

A NOBLE ACT.—We learn, says the Charleston *Courier*, that a driver who arrived at Charlotte, N. C., with one hundred [illegible] cattle for another destination, upon hearing of the conflagration at Charleston, immediately obtained the consent of the [illegible] company to transport [illegible] free of charge. The whole drove arrived in this city yesterday.

DECEMBER AND ITS RESULTS.—The developments of the last four weeks of the war have been the most remarkable that have occurred during its entire progress. The beginning of December saw the Yankees in full force, apparently ready for decisive battle, at all the important points of the frontier. On the Potomac they had the best appointed army on the Continent, stated by their own authorities to be two hundred thousand strong. In Kentucky they had massed together two immense forces, of thirty to fifty thousand each, which menaced Columbus and Bowling Green; and all the indications pointed with certainty to an immediate advance upon our lines; at a time when we were weak, and were poorly able to withstand assault from heavy columns. Zollicoffer was pressed before Cumberland Gap by a force more than double his own; Pound Gap was at the mercy of Nelson, having only a thousand men to oppose against ten thousand; Rosencranz was on the Gauley with an army which he now confesses to have been fifteen thousand strong, against Floyd, having only twenty-three hundred; Reynolds was on Cheat Mountain with five thousand, opposed by Johnson with only twelve or fourteen hundred; and Sherman had succeeded in landing fifteen or twenty thousand men at Beaufort, while we had in that region at the time but a few thousand forces, little better than militia, poorly provided with arms and ammunition. And to crown all, the splendid weather invited them to the charge.

Then was presented the golden opportunity to strike at every one of these points. Bold, effective blows, stricken then simultaneously by all their armies, could not have failed to crush our strength in several quarters, and put a gloomy face upon our affairs. Success at Columbus and Bowling Green would have been almost annihilating to our fortunes in the West. Success at Cumberland and Pound Gaps would have cut our connections with Tennessee and Kentucky irretrievably. Success in capturing our army in the Kanawha would have laid open all middle Western Virginia next spring to the easy invasion of the enemy. A vigorous push from Beaufort upon the Charleston and Savannah Railroad would have separated those two cities, and cut our army of the seaboard in two.

But the enemy have let the golden opportunity slip through their fingers. They have allowed us time to make good our defences in every threatened quarter. The energy of the Southern people has been aroused by the imminent danger, and we are now safe in every point where before we were so vulnerable. Our danger is passed, and we are now at liberty to speculate upon the blindness or imbecility which prevented the enemy from using an opportunity which will never return to him.

To what cause is the enemy's failure everywhere to advance attributable? It clearly was not due to the want of men, to the want of supplies, or to the want of preparation in facilities of every character. No troops were ever better armed, better clothed, or better furnished with provisions and ammunition. This was not the case with particular corps, but was the case with all. And yet, though fully prepared for effective operations though the whole world was expecting heavy blows to be struck and decisive results to be achieved, their armies everywhere either remained stock still, or ignominiously and most strangely and suddenly stampeded from an imaginary and non-pursuing foe.

There can be but one solution for this most strange phenomenon. The Yankees do not enlist to fight; they enlist only to draw pay. The cessation of Southern trade having put a stop to their factories and mechanical trades, the operatives have had no other means of livelihood than enlistment; the clerks and foremen have, under the same necessity, taken lieutenancies and captaincies; and the bosses are forced to play colonels. They have all gone into the army as a means of livelihood and without any sort of intention to throw away their lives. They took to the army to keep body and soul together, and without the remotest thought of employing that method for separating the two. Accordingly, when McClellan orders an advance from the Potomac, as he is said to have done repeatedly, these well fed, well clothed, well paid and salaried men of war persistently do not march. So in Kentucky, where they had every opportunity for a victory; and so at Beaufort, when the panic created by their landing invited an advance. All around the frontier they exhibit this same frugal regard for life and comfort, and the same stolid immobility under orders for an advance. We regard the last four weeks as decisive of the war, not merely by its results, or rather barrenness of results favorable to the enemy, but by its clear development of the fact that the Yankees have enlisted in the army for a living and with a fixed objection to hard fighting.

NEW PUBLICATION.—"Cause and Contrast. An Essay on the American Crisis. By T. W. McMahon, Richmond. West & Johnston."

We have read with great pleasure this able and brilliant vindication of the Southern cause. Although the subject has been often discussed, the author's style and mode of treatment give it new attractions. The historical statement in the concluding pages of the conduct of the North, since the beginning of the sectional troubles, and especially of the Federal Administration, towards the South, is masterly. It is a simple record of facts, and less ornate than any other part of the publication, but he must be a man of ice whose blood that unvarnished story does not cause to boil in every vein.

There are portions of the work we do not agree with, and which will have few disciples in our old-fashioned, Bible-believing Southern community. We refer to the advocacy of the theory that man was created in distinct and specific groups, during certain intervals of creation. The author disclaims infidelity to the Mosaic account of creation, and says "It other men choose to misinterpret Moses, it is neither his fault nor the fault of Moses." The whole Christian world and the whole infidel world have never been able to put but one interpretation upon the plain language of Scripture, and have agreed in ascribing to it the statement that all mankind are descended from Adam and Eve. For our own part, we prefer the evidence of the Word of God on this subject to the humbug discoveries of certain modern men of science. The late work of Dr. Cabell, of the University, upon the origin of the races has completely shelled to death the theory of mankind being created in distinct and specific groups, &c., and has also shown that such an argument, instead of being essential to the Southern cause, can only weaken it in the opinions of sound thinkers and of the Christian world.

With this exception, the work is one to be commended for its research and eloquence.—It is gotten up in a style that does infinite credit to the Richmond publishers, of whose enterprise, courtesy, and generosity to himself, the author, in his preface, makes especial mention.

NORTH MISSOURI.—The Memphis Avalanche, of the 31st ult., says:

"We have just been informed by a gentleman directly from North Missouri that nearly the entire population north of the Missouri river are Southern Confederates. [illegible] are determined to [illegible] [illegible] Union rule. It is time to make the fight interesting.

REALITIES AND PRETENCES.—Mrs. Stowe, in a late communication to the press, says she has given up writing novels for the present; that, "in the presence of so many terrible realities, this is no time for fiction." Her Yankee contemporaries of the press seem to be of an entirely different opinion. From the beginning of the war, they have not told a solitary truth except by accident. Taking their cue from the Premier, who began by conveying an assurance to the Southern Commissioners that the Federal forces would be withdrawn from Fort Sumter, they have lied in one unbroken stream, never drawing one truthful, honest breath since the first gun in Charleston harbor was fired. They have lied about their enemies and about their friends; about their numbers and about our own; about their many defeats and few successes; about everything under Heaven connected with the present contest. If Mrs. Stowe has retired from the field of fiction, it is from sheer jealousy of the superiority of the Northern newspapers, in her own favorite department.

THE SERMON OF THE REV. DR. MOORE, delivered before the congregations of the First and Second Presbyterian Churches in this city, on the National Fast Day, November 15, has been published by request, and is for sale at the bookstore of W. H. White. We have read this admirable production, as we read everything from the gifted pen of its eminent and excellent author, with the most sincere satisfaction. The leading points of the discourse are that "War is a part of the agency by which God disciplines nations." 2. "The proper resort of a people in time of war is to God." 3. "We should then gird ourselves for this conflict, in the hope that God will maintain our cause." These positions are sustained and illustrated with the power, brilliancy, eloquence, and pathos, characteristic of Dr. Moore's remarkable pulpit ability. No patriot can read it without being nerved to do, to dare, and to die for his country; no Christian, without feeling to his heart's inmost core that "the Lord of Hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

FROM SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA.

Destination of the 56th Regiment—Interesting Incidents of Female Devotion to the Southern Cause.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.]

CAMP ROBERTSON, near Abingdon, Va., December 29th, 1861.

Great is the activity in camp to-day. The doubts entertained and expressed so long as to the destination of the 56th regiment are now fully resolved, and Pound Gap is already *gaping* to receive us. It is sixty-two miles from Abingdon. The road is represented to be the worst on the continent, and the streams to be crossed are moderately estimated at five hundred! This statement may seem incredible to an Eastern Virginian; but when he is informed that Camp Robertson is only a mile and a half from Abingdon, and that seven creeks have to be traugressed before reaching the latter, his ideas may probably be quickened. But the Pound is not the end of the journey. Far beyond, to Prestonsburg and to Paintville, over a hundred miles, will the 56th have to trudge through rain, cold, mud and snow. They are going! The inexorable fiat has gone forth, and, like the children of Israel, the brave boys of the regiment will take up the line of march through the wilderness in the fond hope of reaching the rich Canaan of the Kentucky Blue Grass! The rigors of the campaign and the severities of the march are forgotten in the eager expectation of soon obtaining a land "flowing with milk and honey." They gladly exchange a mountainous life of comparative ease for the field of glory. They go as did the

"Youth who bore mid snow and ice
A banner with the strange device,
Excelsior!

And if amid the hardships of the march—the snow and ice of the campaign—any brave fellow shall fall, he will still further illustrate the character of the heroic "Youth"—

"There, in the twilight cold and gray,
Lifeless but beautiful he lay,
Still grasping in his hand of ice
That banner with the strange device—
Excelsior!"

Let me now tell the story of a Kentucky lady. It was related to me by one in whom implicit confidence can be placed. Some few weeks ago the hirelings of Lincoln went to Cynthiana, Ky., in search of "arms" and "Secessionists." A gentleman, whom I will call Smith, was a strong Southern man, and feeling that he would be among the first to be arrested, hastened away at dead of night. He was a man of wealth and influence, but such was the precipitancy with which he left his house and his all that he could carry nothing with him. He hurriedly escaped in his shirt-sleeves to a widow's house in the neighborhood, with whom he was well acquainted, and stated his condition. The lady, who was herself wealthy, instantly and intuitively conceived a plan to relieve him. And what does the reader suppose that plan was? She ordered a horse to be saddled, took a servant behind her, went to Cynthiana, six miles distant, procured money for her friend, bought cloth, returned home, had the cloth cut and made into garments by the next morning, and started Smith off bright and early! Can any Virginia lady surpass this devotion to the Southern cause? Such an act deserves to be held in everlasting remembrance; and the historian who fails to chronicle the heroic and daring deed of this Kentucky woman will fail far short of his trust.

Another. Gen. Marshall sent his Quartermaster here for the artillery destined for his command. There was not a sufficient number of horses to be bought in the ordinary way, and the Quartermaster was empowered to *impress*. He met with a lady on a splendid gray horse. She was visiting some of her friends during the Christmas, and was twenty miles from home. She was asked the price at which she would sell her horses. She replied it was the only horse she had, and she had refused two hundred dollars for him frequently. The Quartermaster informed her that one hundred and fifty was as much as the Government could give, and he thought that the horse was necessary to aid in the defence of this section of the country. Her reply was characteristic of the ladies in this country, "Kentuckian, take him."

A battery composed of six pieces and six caissons left here this afternoon for a point in Kentucky, commanded by Capt. Camen Patteson, of the Buckingham Yancey Guards. It required forty-eight horses, and presented a fine appearance as it moved off. OCCASIONAL.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

The Appearance of Things in Prince William—Preparing for Winter Quarters—How the Time is Occupied in Camp, &c.

CAMP AT DAVIS'S FORD, Prince William Co., Va., Dec. 28.

This is a lovely place, despite the desolate and dreary surroundings of cold winter and bloody war. The country is mostly wood land—long, slim pines, medium-sized oaks, tall poplars, spotted sycamores, smooth-barked black hickories, glossy twigged gums, scrubby dogwoods, and nearly every kind of wild growth, all densely crowded upon the slopes of the rolling hills, and in the narrow gorges on each side of the gentle Occoquon, present a landscape that, to an admirer of nature's beauties, cannot be otherwise than lovely.

This forest, for the last four weeks, has been musical with the sounds of axes, saws, and rumbling wagons, the result of the energetic exertions of the men under General Rhodes's command to get their winter quarters completed before severe weather sets in. Quite a change has been produced. Where there was nothing but woods, the hills are now thickly studded with pine-pole cabins, the cracks stopped with mud, and the chimneys built of the same material, with the assistance of sticks to hold it together. The encampment of each regiment presents the appearance of a smart little village of the backwoods.

Twould make you feel as if our young men of the South were not forgetting the exercise and culture of their intellect if you could pass by their huts after supper every night, take a peep in there, and see how intently many of them are engaged in the perusal of some useful book. 'Tis not uncommon to see them poring over the pages of Shakspeare, Byron, Mrs. Hemans, Longfellow, and other literary works. I saw a soldier to-day very attentively reading Pope's Iliad, and another with a life of Napoleon, bearing it away to his quarters. I have been thinking that the friends of the volunteers could not furnish a more valuable contribution to them, just at this time, than a good assortment of books, and smaller ones would do better. Such nights are entirely too long to sleep all the night. The Christmas holidays go quietly. Some few instances of youth forgetting a jolly influence are [illegible] USA.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

LOCAL MATTERS.

Found Drowned.—On Monday afternoon, about 4 o'clock, the Captain of a schooner in the Dock observed a dead body floating in the water, and as soon as possible had it taken out and placed upon the wharf. It was soon afterwards identified as the body of Mr. Robert H. Holdsworth, whose mysterious disappearance, some four weeks ago, has been noticed in this paper. A silk handkerchief was found grasped in one of the hands of the deceased, and his watch and some twenty-five dollars in money were in the pockets. There is every reason to suppose that his death was the result of accident. Acting Coroner Sanxay was notified, but deemed it unnecessary to hold an inquest. Mr. Holdsworth was a resident of Church Hill, a carpenter by occupation, and for some time previous to his death had been employed upon work for the Government. He leaves a family.

Matrimonial.—We cannot see that the peculiar condition of affairs at the present day has any depressing effect upon the connubial market. So many of the young men of the city have gone off to the wars, that a careless observer of events would have counted upon a considerable diminution in the number of matches; but the result shows that our fair maidens do not sigh in vain for lovers, nor find much difficulty in persuading them that matrimony possesses unspeakable advantages over a state of "single" existence. "Some, Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps;" but whether traps or arrows, to this complexion it must come at last: the stronger yields to the weaker sex, the old folks give their consent, the parson hitches them together, and off they go over a new course, which at first seems strewn with nothing but roses, though many experienced persons tell us that thorns begin to stick out after a while. Strange as it may seem, however, few men are satisfied with one trial. The wife, often delicate and always fading, is overcome by the cares and anxieties of life, and her pure spirit takes its flight to the God who gave it; but ere the spring flowers have bloomed upon her grave, the widower appears in garments finer than he ever wore, and among all he is the most gay and sprightly. It is easy to woo and easier to get a second wife; and we have known some to go as high as the third or fourth, before a kind Providence interposed to save other fair damsels from the clutches of such remorseless Bluebeards. We did not commence this paragraph with the purpose of writing an essay, and so we will close with the announcement of a fact in confirmation of what is stated in the outset. During the month of December, just passed, the Clerk of the Hustings Court issued 18 marriage certificates, which, if memory serves us, is fully up to the average. The State of Virginia seceded from the old Confederation in April last, but new unions, which we hope will prove indissoluble, have given encouragement to hopes of a new and numerous population. Since April, 133 marriage licenses have been issued in this city; and with the expression of the hope that the coming year may prove fruitful and blessed, we take leave of the interesting subject of matrimony.

Mayor's Court.—A man whose name we understand to be Wilkins, was arrested on Monday evening for shooting a pistol at Lomax Smith's barber shop while under the control of fiery spirits. He had a large number of religious tracts, entitled "The Last Enemy," in his pocket, which he could not have read to much purpose, or he would have kept an enemy from getting in his mouth to steal away his brains. The Mayor yesterday required him to give security to keep the peace.

Edward W. Kelly, the man charged with drawing a pistol upon B. Catogni and demanding his money, was to have been examined yesterday, but the Mayor further continued the case to give him a chance to procure witnesses.

Maria S. Turpin charges James H. and Caroline Phillips and Ann Overty, white persons, and Patsy and China, slaves, with assaulting and beating her; but with a view to ascertaining all the facts of such a remarkable case, the Mayor postponed the investigation until to-day.

A fine of $5 was imposed upon Edward Walls for keeping his bar-room open on Sunday.

James, slave of Francis Price, was convicted of stealing a comfort, a pair of boots and a pair of shoes from J. H. Walker, and sent down for the usual punishment.

The Drama.—The new rules now in force for the preservation of order at the theatre will, we predict, be instrumental in the establishment of a quiet and pleasant place of amusement, to which ladies and gentlemen may safely resort without becoming witnesses of spectacles not set down in the bills. The closing of the bars and the means of communication between the lower and upper portions of the building, and the presence of a new and efficient police, are the measures taken to secure this desirable result, which must surely meet the approval of every one who would wish to see the drama in the South placed upon a respectable footing. A very large audience was present on Monday night to witness the first representation of Mr. Hewitt's new piece, "The Log Fort," which brings into view a variety of scenes and incidents of the Revolution of 1861. While there is no very remarkable ingenuity of combination or depth of plot, it develops much patriotic sentiment, and illustrates the capacity of Southern soldiers to outwit, as well as outfight the Yankees. The leading characters were well sustained by Mrs. Dalton, and Messrs. Morton and Ogden, though the latter was laboring under the fashionable disadvantage of a severe cold. The piece, however, like all plays of this character, is more indebted to its sentiment than to any special effort of the actors for its success. We presume it will be repeated.

A New Army Ambulance.—We saw yesterday at the furniture warehouse of R. C. Howe, on Governor street, a newly-invented ambulance, which we do not hesitate to commend, as combining all the requisites for the proper care of the wounded soldier on the field of battle. It consists of a large pack-saddle, constructed in the most substantial manner, with a pannier, or, more properly, a litter on each side, fastened to the saddle by strong leather straps and iron hooks. The whole contrivance may be placed upon the back of a mule, and when a wounded man is found a litter can be instantly detached, and the sufferer placed upon it, when it is again hooked without trouble or inconvenience to the saddle and gently carried away to the hospital or other place of reception. The saddle is well provided with haversacks, within reach of the wounded man, where provisions or other articles necessary for his comfort may be placed. One mule will thus carry away two men, without any jolting over rough roads, and one driver can perhaps take charge of a dozen mules. Had a number of these admirable contrivances been at hand on the battle-field of Manassas, an immense amount of human suffering might have been prevented. The saddle may also be used for packing bulky articles, when an army is on the move. This remarkable specimen of ingenuity is the invention of D. B. Williams, who had it made by C. W. White & Co., on Governor street. We hope it will be carefully examined by the military authorities, for its adoption by the army would prove a positive blessing in the event of a battle.

The Dredging Machine.—The steam dredge boat and tug, rock-breaker, three lighters and two small boats belonging to parties at the North who had the contract for removing obstructions from the channel of this river, were sold at auction on Monday last, by Jas. M. Taylor & Son, under a decree of the District Court. A portion of the property was bought by the City of Richmond, and the remainder by private parties at a military low, there being but little disposition to invest in that sort of floating stock just now.

Steel Pens, usually considered a modern invention, were in use many ages ago. Probably their origin had a date as far back as the Pyramids, thus affording another evidence of the truth of the saying, "there is nothing new under the sun." In the 1st verse of the 17th chapter of the Prophecy of Jeremiah, we have the evidence in the following words: "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond."

Complimentary.—The young ladies employed in the army bid manufactory of the Government, have presented to Mrs. A. D. Carter, the lady editor of the establishment, a pair of gold spectacles, as a token of their personal regard, and in return for the kind manner in which she discharges the duties of her trusted position.

The "Welcome Home" to the L. I. Blues.—Desiring to testify their appreciation of the services of a gallant company, as well as their respect for the officers and men individually, the honorary members of the Light Infantry Blues made suitable preparations yesterday to carry their wishes into effect. The invitation having been extended to the company, at their camp, near the reservoir, they marched into the city in the morning, with the Armory Band, passed through Capitol Square, saluted the Washington Monument, and paid their respects to the Governor; after which they received the honorary members and proceeded with them to the hall on 13th street, where the entertainment awaited them. Lieut. Fred. Carter, who was in command of the company, having arranged his men around the well-spread tables, ordered a charge upon the "enemy" in the corner, which happened to be capacious bowls of egg-nogg and apple toddy, and we need not say that the order was executed in a spirited fashion. This over, the company was cordially welcomed to the festive board by Col. G. W. Munford, the oldest ex-Captain present, in a speech replete with retrospective allusions and patriotic sentiment. This was followed by "Auld Lang Syne" and "Dixie," by the band, and then ample justice was done to the substantial repast. It was altogether a pleasant affair; and nothing would have been more gratifying to the young Blues now enlisted in their country's service than such a mark of attachment bestowed by the gray-headed veterans who shouldered the musket in years gone by. Much credit is due to Mr. John D. Smith, one of the honorary members, for his active efforts on the occasion, and to Charley Hunt, of "Our House," who prepared the dinner. May the next "welcome home" be as pleasant, and may all be there to enjoy it.

The New Year.—There will be many heart-felt greetings of "happy new year" to-day, and those who can see rays of sunshine through the dense clouds that overspread the political sky will revel in fancies of bliss to come. We belong to that class. There are some who would reply, "if wishes made horses, beggars might ride;" but, with all sincerity, and believing that twelve months hence the South will be one among the nations of the earth, we wish every body and family *a happy new year.*

The President's Reception takes place to-day between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock.

☞ THE FRIENDS OF MR SLEIGHT may find him hereafter at SAMUEL M. PRICE & CO.'S. ja 1—3t*

☞ POCAHONTAS TRIBE, NO. 14, I. O. R. M.—CHIEFS AND BROTHERS: Meet at your Wigwam TO-NIGHT, the 1st, at 7 o'clock, for the election of Chiefs, and other business of vast importance. Wigwam over Goode's Printing office, corner of Main and 10th streets.
By order of the Sachem:
ROBERT PETTIGREW, Chief of Records.
ja 1—1t*

☞ NOTICE.—From and after this date, and until further notice, our sales will be EXCLUSIVELY FOR CASH. Those indebted to us for purchases during the past year will please settle their accounts as soon as possible.
JOHN N. GORDON & SON.
ja 1—d1w&cw4w

☞ MONROE BUILDING FUND ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Stockholders of this Association will be held at saunders's Hall, on next THURSDAY EVENING, January 2nd, at 7½ o'clock.—The Stockholders are earnestly requested to be present in person or by proxy.
ja 1—2t E. McCARTHY, Sec'y.

☞ NOTICE—The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Home Savings Bank will be held at the office of the Secretary on WEDNESDAY, January 1, 1862, at 5 o'clock P. M. A full attendance is desired, for the election of officers and other important business.
THOS. J. BAGBY, Secretary,
No. 8 Wall street,
de 31—2t Under St. Charles Hotel.

LOST, STRAYED, &c.

LOST—On the 19th December—
A stiff brown Morocco PORTE-MONNAIE,
Containing the sum of $25 75,
And a card with various addresses.
A suitable reward will be given for its delivery at the Dispatch office. ja 1—3t*

LOST—On Tuesday, my FREE PAPERS. When lost they were in a tin box; afterwards the box was found, and the papers gone; they were lost near the Central Railroad ONE DOLLAR reward will be paid on their return to this office. LIZZIE ANN SMITHER,
ja 1—1t* A free woman of color.

TEN DOLLARS REWARD.—The above reward will be given for return of a Colt's FIVE-SHOOTER to me, at the Old Market. I lost it somewhere in Richmond, Christmas.
ja 1—2t* WILLIAM J. BROWN.

STRAYED—$10 REWARD—From my house, corner Main and Jefferson streets, a RED COW, with a white streak down her back, two white feet, horns bent slightly inward, and a star in the forehead. The above reward will be given if she is delivered to me at my house, or information given so that I get her again.
ja 1—3t* S. R. RHODES.

SERVANTS FOR HIRE.

FOR HIRE—
A first rate COOK, WASHER AND IRONER,
Without incumbrance.
Apply to JOHN CLENDINING,
ja 1—1t* Cary, below 14th street.

FOR HIRE THE ENSUING YEAR—I have several MEN, WOMEN and BOYS for hire. Apply at the office of Peters, Martin & Co., on 12th street, near Warwick & Barksdale's Mill.
ja 1—3t* WILSON PETERS.

PERSONAL.

INFORMATION IS WANTED of the family of WM. EATON. A negro girl, HENRIETTA, left Richmond 15 years ago; her mother, CLARISSA, remaining with the Eatons. The desire is to know if the family still lives here. Address Mrs. L. D. JOHNSON, care of A. K. Parker, Grace st., opposite Centenary Church. ja 1—2t*

RANAWAY—$10 REWARD—From the subscriber, about the 10th of November, 1861, my negro man, ROBERT HEWLETT. The said negro is about 37 or 38 years of age, five feet nine or ten inches high, weighing about one hundred and fifty pounds; carries his head a little forward, and very broad across the shoulders; dark, ginger-bread color, with a very long, thin, prominent nose, and, when spoken to, very polite. He has frequently been seen about the packet boats within the past week, and says he has been employed on some canal boat.
EDWIN A SMITH,
ja 1—3t* 21st and Main street.

BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE RESIDENCE IN SYDNEY, on the South-side of Grove st., containing TWO ACRES—FOR SALE.—At the request of Mr. Jas. S. Stevenson, we are authorized to sell his beautiful cottage residence, located as above, with two acres of land attached. The dwelling is remarkably well built, having six rooms with fire places to each, with kitchen of four rooms, besides stable, carriage house, &c. This is a most attractive place; and, as the owner is anxious to sell, a bargain will be given, if immediate application is made to us.
GODDIN & APPERSON,
ja 1—6t Auctioneers.

25 BAGS SOFT SHELL ALMONDS.
40 boxes RAISINS.
60 casks ALE and PORTER, in bottles.
50 bbls. Halifax Cut HERRINGS.
100 half bbls. Family Roe do.
50 bbls. Powdered SUGAR.
100 boxes Adamantine CANDLES.
25 eighth-casks fine Cognac BRANDY.
100 cases and baskets finest quality CHAMPAGNE.
200 bbls. WHISKEY, BRANDY, and GIN.
For sale by WM. B. JONES & CO.,
ja 1—3t 16th st., bet. Main and Cary.

FINE GREEN TEA and FRENCH BRANDY.
We have on consignment—
12 chests fine Green TEA.
11 quarter-casks 4th proof French BRANDY.
20 eighth-casks do. do.
All of which we are instructed to sell at market prices. JOHNSON, YOUNGER & OTEY,
ja 1—4t 13 Pearl street.

NOTICE.—In consequence of the advanced price of all kinds of materials used in my business, I shall be compelled, until further notice to charge—
For HORSE SHOEING.....$1 50
For STEEL TOES.....2 00
Other kinds of work, such as REPAIRING, will be charged in like proportion. Returning thanks to my customers and friends for their patronage for the last year, I solicit a continuance of the same. My old establishment, corner of Main street, near the Danville Depot, opposite A. Trumbo & Son's. C. BURNETT.
ja 1—3t*

GRAND FIRE [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[