Richmond Dispatch.

The DISPATCH is published DAILY, Sundays excepted. Price for mailing $5 a year, or $2 for six months; none months $1; one month $1, in advance.

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THURSDAY MORNING.....JAN. 29, 1863

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXIV. RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 29, 1863. NO. 25

AN HONEST PEOPLE.

Harper's Weekly, of 17th January, contains the following advertisement:

"CONFEDERATE (REBEL) MONEY.—Fac simile Treasury Notes, exactly like the genuine, $500 in Confederate Notes of the denomination, sent by mail, postage paid, on the receipt of $5 00, by

"W. E. HILTON,

"11 Spruce street, N. Y."

Harper's Weekly calls itself the "Journal of Civilization"—Yankee civilization, of course. In no other country in the world could such an announcement appear in a newspaper. Such unblushing rascality may well defy the world for a parallel. A people who glory in the practice and avowal of Penitentiary crimes have been unknown till now in the history of mankind.

TRANSPORTATION ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT.

The Grand Jury of the U. S. Court at Mobile recently made a presentment on the subject of abuses by Government officers of the transportation facilities placed at their command, from the positions they hold. In the presentment it was charged that Mr. George B. Citherall, of Mobile, had obtained a permit from Maj. Ashe, Chief of Transportation, for the transportation of "public supplies," and perverted it to the carriage of private goods. It seems that no permit was given to Mr. C at all, but that he was acting as a salaried agent for J. E. Powell, of Montgomery, to whom Major A. had given a letter requesting the Quartermaster at New Orleans to permit Powell to ship goods when it did not interfere with the Government shipments. The following is an extract from a letter of Mr. Powell to Mr. Citherall explaining the whole communication of the latter with the affair:

"Your services as my agent commenced on the 1st of July, 1862, at a fixed salary, previously agreed upon by us; immediately, therefore, on the receipt of the above, (the permit of Major Ashe,) I telegraphed you to come here, and on your arrival placed this letter in your hands. It was the first knowledge you had of its existence, and you certainly had as little to do with *procuring* it as the Grand Jury itself. You arrived in this city on the same day; our interview was very short, and I remember that I did not explain to you the purposes to which any freight of mine were to be applied, but simply directed you, as my agent, to forward such articles as I might purchase in New Orleans to Mobile, using for that purpose the above letter of Major Ashe, and the power of attorney constituting you my agent."

Mr. Citherall in a card defending himself from the aspersions made by the presentment of the jury, publishes a letter from the President of the Mississippi railroad, showing that he had never represented himself as a Government agent, nor the shipments as being for the Government, but had expressly disclaimed both assumptions. During the period that this transportation was going on some of the goods were seized by Government officials, and the entire matter underwent a rigid investigation by the War Department, which resulted in the release of the goods, and the consequent exoneration of the parties from any improper action in the affair whatever.

Having published the presentment of the jury, we publish the above statement as a matter of justice to the gentlemen named in that document.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

A WINDING SHEET FOR THE UNION.

Since the Republican caucus at Washington the New York *World* thinks proofs rapidly thicken that the Radicals intend to close the war in the coming spring. There is only one more experiment they wish to try, and that is to arm the negroes in the densely populated slave districts, and send them marauding through the country, stirring up a wide-spread and bloody servile insurrection. In commenting on an article from the New York *Tribune*, the *World* says:

They think sixty or ninety days will suffice for this infernal experiment, if it fails, they are then ready to abandon the contest and dissolve the Union on the best terms attainable. This design is clearly shadowed forth in a remarkable article in yesterday's *Tribune*, from which we will quote enough to substantiate these charges. The head organ of the Radicals sets out with the postulate that the rebellion can be extinguished in ninety days, if ever. "*We believe that it may be virtually crushed out within the next ninety days and that it is far more likely to be within that term than ever afterward.*"

The fact that the Radicals are ready to give up if ninety days or less do not finish the business crops out all through the article, as will be seen in the further quotations we will introduce. The financial basis recommended to sustain these brief operations is stated as follows:

"Borrow temporarily, on the best possible terms, three or four hundred millions, to be paid in at the rate of five millions per day, with a clear understanding that we are to borrow no more—that the war is to be finished with this amount, and that speedily. It is the never-ending prospect of loans after loans that discourages lenders."

Three hundred millions paid in (and we suppose also paid out) at the rate of five millions a day would last sixty days; four hundred millions, eighty days. The capitalists who furnish this loan are to receive a distinct assurance "that we are to borrow no more—that the war is to be finished with this amount," or, in other words, the Government is to promise to recognize the Confederate States unless it brings them to terms within the brief period required for the expenditure of that sum. In order to spend the money as fast as possible, and to make the final blow as vigorous as possible, it is proposed "to call out the uniformed militia of the loyal States for three months, and employ them to garrison Washington, Baltimore, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Louisville, &c, and to hold the line of the Potomac and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, while every soldier new in the service is sent to the front and employed in the active work of the campaign."

All these arrangements are merely ancillary to the main purpose of arming all the negroes the Government can get hold of, and sending them roving in small bodies through the thickly-settled slave regions, instigating the blacks to rise against their masters, and convert the South into a bloody and flaming Pandemonium. This purpose is avowed in the following terms:

"Having thus massed our forces and filled our depots and colisseums, charge upon the rebels in every quarter—assailing their ports with iron-clads, their armies with stronger armies, fighting resolutely but warily with intent to capture their strongholds and exhaust their resources—while expeditions of light-armed black Unionists, carrying only arms and ammunition, traverse those portions of freedom most exposed and thickly peopled with slaves, carrying liberty to all who wish it, and arms wherewith to defend it, moving rapidly and evading all fortified points and overpowering forces, while breaking up railroads and telegraph lines, and making trouble generally."

The Union armies are to be used to concentrate the rebels in defence of their strongholds and important strategic positions, in order that squads of "light-armed black Unionists" may have a free field in roaming over the plantations, and inciting the slaves to insurrection. We charged, when the Radicals began to clamor for the emancipation proclamation, and to hound on the President to issue it, that this was the object at which they were aiming. But little more than twenty days have passed since the proclamation, and the truth of the charge is openly confessed. The intention to bring the war to an immediate close, if the projected servile insurrection does not shatter the strength of the rebellion, is acknowledged with almost equal frankness. "If three months more of earnest fighting," says the *Tribune*, "shall not serve to make a serious impression on the rebels—if the end of that term shall find us no further advanced than its beginning—if some malignant fate has decreed that the blood and treasure of the nation shall ever be squandered in fruitless efforts—*let us bow to our destiny, and make the best attainable peace.*"

In pursuance of this design to bring the war to a close within the ensuing ninety days, every encouragement is to be given to foreign powers to come forward with proffers of mediation, which, if made, are to be treated "with politeness and most distinguished consideration." The Radicals wish to have a pacificator at the door if their grand experiment of a gigantic slave insurrection turns out an abortion. Here is what the *Tribune* says on this point:

"If the great powers of Europe shall see fit to interpose, treat them with politeness and distinguished consideration. We cannot be required to arrest the war until we shall have substantially agreed on the conditions of peace; we cannot be expected to consider any proposals of mediation until they shall have first been accepted by the rebels. *It will thus be May or thereabout before we can be fairly asked to say yes or no to any such interposition.*"

In "May or thereabout," that is, at the expiration of the ninety days within which the Radicals wish either to emancipate the slaves or to close the war, they will be glad of a proposition of peace, presented by the foreign powers, to which they can "fairly say yes or no." They think this would open a handy and convenient way out of the scrape.

AN UNITED STATES VIEW OF AFFAIRS IN RICHMOND.

The best history of a modern people, it has been well said, is written in the advertisements of their daily newspapers. Had such a thing as a file of a Roman gazette come down to us from antiquity, Bekker's "Gallus" would have been an useless book to make and a better book when made. The New York *World* has been reading the advertisements of the *Dispatch*, and thus describes its contents:

The stories of reliable refugees and contrabands do not throw nearly so much light on the real state of things in Jeff. Davis's capital as the business columns of the newspapers. It is hard, for example, to credit that the Confederates are actually starving when we find Mr. R. Adam advertising for sale hams, and Mr. Antoni offering to turn out two thousand pounds of candy per day, unless we suppose that they are taking the sage advice of the Empress of France who innocently suggested from the peasantry were dying for lack of bread, that they should be supplied with macaroons. Fine Havana sugar and molasses are put up at auction in spite of Butler and of Banks, and "fine Cuba cigars" are still on hand to soothe the angry Southern mind. The "State of Virginia" suffers apparently under a surfeit of arms, and her "extensive department" open the public to purchase "pistols and guns, flinging birds, which are forbidden by statute to Richmond collegians, must still be heard in the groves of the sacred soil, for canary seed in barrels is advertised by Mr. Robinson. The luxury of opera seats is still attainable, notwithstanding the blockade which environs the bowels of the land. The Dispatch still believes that there is "nothing like leather," and an impertinent merchant boldly announces that he has just "run from Baltimore" a quantity of that incompressible material. The source of his pride may be with patriots who bestow on their brethren the kicks, cuffs, and stabs which a sense of duty to their country ought to make them reserve for the exclusive benefit of the "Hessian invader," and the Confederate States have much serious cause of grief against one Mr. Woolfolk that they do not treat their officers to all his pieces, not withstanding that the instrument is sheltered by the same roof which covers the "Hon. John H. Reagan, Postmaster-General."

As for sofas, bedsteads, carpets, mirrors, cows, hogs, and real estate, they fairly seem to glut the market; and it is painful to observe that in open defiance of the proclamation of January 1, negro men and women are sold and warranted just as coolly as they might be in Kentucky or New Orleans, or any other point in which the "peculiar institution" is protected by the loyalty of its supporters. People continue to be married and to be buried with exasperating regularity; and young ladies advertise for husbands as audaciously as if the conscription act were a dead letter. In this connection, it is noticeable that hoop skirts, cambric handkerchiefs, solid headed pins, and embroidered merinos can still be procured for bridal trousseaux. We had supposed Florida to be in the process of colonization by Mr. Bill Thayer, and we are therefore surprised to see that rebellious State still supplying the Confederate conspirators with oranges and lemons.

Two theatres make light of life's realities with "new characters, new songs, new dances, and new scenery." Mr. D'Orsay Ogden proposes to "sing all the beautiful music of the part of Bertram in 'Guy Mannering;'" Miss Partington exhibits her agility in a *pas seul*, and the "Arkansas Comedian" is so little affected by the victories of McClernand that he expects "servants" to pay fifty cents for the pleasure of listening to his most excellent mirth. Professor St. Maur Bingham, no doubt a member of the noble families of Somerset and Ashburton, flaunts his "fashionable dancing academy" on the verge of the volcano; directors declare dividends on railway stock; family schools are opened for young ladies; and, most wonderful of all, the Confederate States Treasurer begs his fellow-citizens to step up to the Treasury Department and "receive the interest on the public debt of the Confederate States"—*not* payable, we presume, in gold.

On the whole, it is tolerably plain, from a glance over these abstracts and brief chronicles of the time in Richmond that the capture of that city by our forces will be as great a surprise to the inhabitants as to Mr. Stanton or Gen. Halleck. We wish we could feel perfectly sure that the surprise would not be almost as disagreeable to either of the latter as to the former.

THE MOVEMENT IN ILLINOIS—STARTLING SPREAD OF DISAFFECTION TO LINCOLN'S GOVERNMENT—NOT A DOLLAR TO BE VOTED TO THE WAR.

The disaffection in the Northwest is most startling in its rapid progress. The splash of the proclamation in the public mind has extended its waves so far that there is hardly a foot of placid surface on which the Gorilla may sail his crazy wreck in safety. A few days since the largest Democratic meeting held in Illinois for two years assembled at Springfield in the Capitol of the State. The Hall of Representatives was crowded to suffocation, and the most enthusiastic applause greeted every expression of the speaker which denounced the President's proclamation, and a war carried on for the purpose of freeing the slaves of the South.

William A. Richardson was the first speaker.—He declared his determination to oppose the Executive usurpations of the national administration, and to give no aid to a war carried on to subvert the Constitution by freeing the negroes by a Presidential proclamation.

R. S. Morrick, of Chicago, said that he would suffer death before he would give one dollar or one man to the abolition war carried on under Lincoln's proclamation. The sentiment was received with tremendous applause.

Judge S. S. Marshall declared that no more citizens of Illinois should be illegally arrested and carried beyond the limits of this State and lodged in a Government bastile. He said that the Democratic party had made up its mind to resist the unlawful usurpations of this imbecile Administration, to protect their rights here on the soil of Illinois.

Tom. C. Gondy, of Chicago, spoke with great earnestness and eloquence, taking the ground that the proclamation was a violation of the Federal Constitution and the laws of civilized war; that while the army and navy of the U. States is used to re-establish the authority of the Government, maintain the Constitution, and enforce the laws, it is the duty of all good citizens to sustain the war; but when used to emancipate the negro the war must cease. As to the remedy for existing grievances, the voice of the people has already been heard through the ballot-box, and the Administration should also be warned by the authorities of the States and their Legislatures, as well as public meetings, that further usurpations would not be tolerated; and, after every other expedient had been resorted to, the only remaining right of the people to preserve their liberty and the Constitution as our fathers made it was the right of revolution. He said there was no danger of anarchy, because the State Governments would be untouched, and a Union could be made upon true republican principles by the States again; but, in order to do this, we must preserve the sovereignty of the States intact. If the courts are permitted to act, and the *habeas corpus* writ regarded, this affords a remedy; but when deprived of these, the only remedy is resistance to the usurpation of the Administration.—This war must not be prosecuted to maintain Abraham Lincoln in power or emancipate the slaves, but only to re-establish the Government.

The Committee on Resolutions submitted the following, which was unanimously adopted amid great applause:

Resolved, That the emancipation proclamation of the President of the United States is as unwarranted in military as in civil law—a gigantic usurpation, at once converting the war, professedly commenced by the Administration for the vindication of the authority of the Constitution throughout the Union, into a crusade for the sudden, unconstitutional, and violent emancipation of three millions of negro slaves—a result which would not only be a total subversion of the Federal Union, but a revolution in the social organization of the Southern States, the immediate and remote, the present and far-reaching consequences of which, to both races, cannot be contemplated without the most dismal forebodings of horror and dismay.

The proclamation invites a servile insurrection as an element in this emancipation crusade and usages of warfare, the humanity and diabolism of which are without example in civilized warfare, and which we denounce, and which the civilized world will denounce, as an ineffaceable disgrace to the American name.

Such determined and enthusiastic feeling, says a correspondent, as was exhibited at this meeting has not been exceeded since the war began.

In Huntingdon county, Indiana a large Democratic meeting was held, which passed a series of resolutions, among which are the following:

Resolved, That we regard the restoration of peace to the country, upon honorable adjustment of the issues involved in this calamitous civil war, as paramount to all other considerations; and that in considering the terms of such settlement we will look only to the welfare, peace and safety of the white race, without reference to the effect that settlement may have upon the condition of the African.

Resolved, That it is due to the tax-payers of Indiana that they should know to what purpose their hard earnings have been applied, and that we recommend to the Legislature now about to assemble, the propriety of instituting a strict inquiry, by appropriate committees, into the financial conduct of all our State officers, and more especially that of the Governor, with reference to the corrupt appropriations made by that silly and corrupt Legislature of 1861.

Resolved, That when we survey our present unhappy difficulties as a country, as well as their origin and accompaniments, the responsibility of their authors and the consequences to future generations, the extreme and temperate language of the subject begins with a conviction of the criminality of a deceitful or time-serving character, and I must of speak frankly and make the solemn declaration: That, had it not been for the treasonable and perfidious conduct of New England, our government would not have witnessed the ghastly spectre of disunion and were it not for the same cause, still potent for evil, those difficulties could readily be adjusted.

Therefore, we declare, that when we have exhausted every honorable effort for the preservation of the Union as it was, there remains no alternative in that event, but to accept the inevitable, and to make the best attainable peace.

[illegible]

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Mr. Gray, also, introduced a bill to be entitled an act to amend an act approved by the Judicial Council of Texas, on the twenty-fourth day of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, [illegible]

[illegible]

MR. SEWARD'S CREDIT IN EUROPE.

A Paris letter, in the New York *Tribune*, speaking of the Fredericksburg slaughter, says:

What bearing that defeat will have on the subterranean negotiations going on between the French and other continental Cabinets, you can conjecture, and your correspondent can only conjecture. Its influence on public opinion is most unfavorable to the Union cause. Southerners and their European advocates naturally make much of this third grand repulse of the attempt to take Richmond by the best appointed and most numerous of Northern armies. Unionists and their European advocates are depressed, not so much by this mere military defeat as by the permanent elements of defeat whose existence and activity it seems to disclose—dissension among Unionists, and practicable vigorous rally among disunionists—always the same sound policy of *Jefferson Davis* leading to a definite purpose *per fas et nefas*, and still a flabby, flexible policy in what should be the head of our Government, following a dawdling, indecisive purpose of perhaps and perhaps not. It is a lamentable truth that no one today of our best friends in Europe looks confident that yesterday was the New Year's day in America of a New Era of Our Lord who called all men brothers. So little faith in our Government and Northern people's words has been inspired by their work hitherto.

The words of our Government's spokesmen to foreign nations, published in the documents from the Secretary of State's office, are, I am sorry to state, not at all impressive to the European general reader—not more impressive to him than to the various European ministers and diplomats to whom they were originally addressed to be read. Henry Clay once claimed that he was the best-abused man in America. Our actual Secretary of State is the best laughed at of all American statesmen in Europe.

THE LONDON TIMES AND THE SCRIPTURAL VIEW OF SLAVERY.

In an editorial of the London *Times*, commenting on the share Messrs. Beecher, Chever, Tyng, and others, have taken in this war, the following paragraph occurs:

These gentlemen preach not for an infallible or an established church, for no such church has yet ventured to be as dogmatic and positive on this point they are. They preach with the Bible in their hands. In that book there is not one single text that can be perverted to prove slavery unlawful, though there is much which naturally tends to its mitigation, its elevation, and its final extinction. In the New Testament we have an epistle written by the man who represents the last revealed phase and development of the Gospel, sent by the hand of a runaway slave, who had sought a refuge with the writer, to his lawful master, to the purport that the master and his slave were to get on better and do their duty to one another more thoroughly for the future. The same writer tells his recent converts that if they are slaves they must make the best of that condition, and not try to escape it, at least by any means contrary to the laws of the country. The only possible doubt about the exact meaning of his advice is, whether the slaves are to refuse their liberty, even if it be offered, or whether they are merely to remain true to their masters, even if chance presents the opportunity of escape. The context, which says that a faithful and dutiful Christian slave becomes the freedman of his Heavenly Master, clearly proves that a slave who refuses the offer of freedom has a high Scriptural argument for his choice. If it be said that slavery is at variance with the spirit of the Gospel, so also are a good many things which are not yet laid under the ban of Abolition, or threatened with the "war power." Sumptuous fare, purple and fine linen, wealth, ecclesiastical titles, unmarried clergy, good clerical incomes, and many other things are contrary to the spirit of the Gospel, or, at least, can be proved so as easily as slavery. But the Russian Catholics have just as much to say for any one of their peculiar doctrines as the Abolitionists have for their one article of a standing or falling community. Whether the Confederates have done right to throw off the Union is a distinct question, but they cannot have a better defence than a proclamation of war to the knife, a solemn invocation of the "war power" against every slaveowner who still claims the duty of his slave.

This has raised a decided commotion among the Exeter Hall papers of England, and we give the following sample, shaving from the mass. It is from the Liverpool *Post*:

The *Times* has raised a lion in the path of the Southern Confederacy. For a long period it has supported the Southern cause by every argument ingenuity could suggest, and by every statement an easy and sanguine credulity could adopt. Southerners, themselves, have been startled by the vehemency of the *Times's* advocacy and the strength of its assertions. At length it has gone beyond bounds, and overreached itself.—King Public will suffer his royal ear to be abused a good deal, but there are things to which he will not hearken, and which he must resent. The *Times* has actually gone the length of advocating slavery, or at least of asserting that Christianity and the Bible say nothing against it; and this has proved too much for the mental stomach of the English people. On all sides indignant repudiations are heard. Nearly the whole press has raised its voice in denunciation of this godless and illiberal doctrine. Unless we greatly mistake the signs of the times, a reaction will set in from this point. Men will begin to ask themselves what amount of confidence need be placed in a journal which, at its clients's bidding, goes so far as to cast aside British prejudices in favor of freedom, and to justify slavery almost as boldly as Mr. Stephens, the Vice-President of the Southern Confederacy could do.

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Judiciary Committee inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the law of last session entitled an act to organize Military Courts to attend the army of the Confederate States in the field, and to define the powers of said Courts as invest said Courts with civil jurisdiction "in all offences defined as crimes by the laws of the Confederate States, or of the several States; and when beyond the territory of the Confederate States, to all cases of murder, manslaughter, arson, rape, robbery and larceny, as defined by the common law, when committed by any private or officer in the army of the Confederate States against any other private or officer in the army, or against the property or person of any citizen or other person not in the army." Agreed to.

Mr. Holcombe, of Va., offered a resolution, which was agreed to, that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of embracing money at interest among the subjects of taxation, and of so discriminating as to impose a heavier burden upon speculators who have refused to receive payment of their debts in Confederate Treasury notes.

Mr. Chambliss, of Va., introduced a bill "fixing the time for the election of members to the House of Representatives." The bill is as follows:

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That an election shall be held in the several States of this Confederacy on the first Monday in November, 1863, for members of the House of Representatives in the Congress of the Confederate States, which elections shall be conducted in all respects according to the Constitution of the Confederate States and the laws in force for that purpose in the several States. Referred to the Committee on Elections.

Mr. Boteler, of Virginia, offered a resolution that the Committee on Ordnance be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the appointment of a Superintendent of Laboratories. Agreed to.

Mr. Russell, of Va., offered a resolution that the Committee on the Judiciary inquire into the expediency of requiring debtors against whom judgments or decrees are rendered as garnishees under the sequestration laws to pay or secure the same without delay. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution that the same Committee inquire into the expediency of providing, by means of retaliation or otherwise, for the protection of unarmed citizens of the Confederate States from injuries committed by the enemy to enforce a claim of allegiance to the United States or otherwise in violation of the usages of war between independent nations. Agreed to.

Mr. Staples, of Va., offered a resolution that the Committee on Quartermaster and Commissary Departments inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill authorizing the settlement and payment of claims for property taken or purchased from citizens for the use of the Confederate armies, and for which receipts and vouchers were not given in the manner prescribed by the rules and regulations of the War Department. Agreed to.

Mr. Lyons, of Va., introduced a bill for the relief of the families of non-commissioned officers and privates of the Confederate army. Referred to the Military Committee and ordered to be printed.

Also, a bill to provide for funding the currency of the Confederate States. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Lyons also offered a resolution that the Committee on the Medical Department inquire into the expediency of allowing to sick and wounded officers hospital accommodations, as well as rations, without charge.

Mr. Boteler, of Va., introduced a bill to establish a mine and mining bureau. Referred to the Committee on Ordnance.

Mr. Goode, of Va., offered a resolution, that the Committee of Ways and Means be instructed to inquire and report whether the claims for arrearages of pay due to deceased soldiers are promptly audited and settled by the 2d Auditor of the Treasury Department; and if not, what are the causes of delay in the settlement and payment of the same; and that said committee also report what legislation, if any, is deemed necessary to secure the prompt and speedy settlement of said claims. Agreed to.

Also, a resolution, that the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the detection and punishment of persons habitually engaged as agents in hiring substitutes.

On motion of Mr. Jones, of Tenn., the House went into secret session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA:

WEDNESDAY, January 28th, 1863.

SENATE.—The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by Lieut Governor Montague, and opened with prayer.

The usual communication from the House, announcing the passage of a number of Senate and House bills, was read by the Clerk.

A communication was received from the Governor, enclosing a letter from M L Bonham, Governor of South Carolina, communicating the action of the Legislature of that State relative to the guaranty, by the several States, of the debt of the Confederate Government. Referred to Committee on Confederate Relations, and ordered to be printed.

A bill was reported increasing the salaries of certain officers of the Government (known as bassement officers, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Clerk, Adjutant-General, &c.) $300 to $500 per year, to continue till 1st January, 1864.

Bills were passed for the relief of Josiah Wynn, of Lee county; for the relief of James M Laidley, of Kanawha county; and amending the Code so as to allow of the election of but one Major to a regiment.

Bill authorizing the sale of the State's interest in the Hillsboro' and Cincinnati Railroad was laid on the table; also, bill amending certain sections of the fence law.

The bill for the relief of the Clerk of the Hustings Court of Richmond was taken up and advocated by Messrs Nash and Robertson, and passed. It provides that the Judge of said Court may make such allowance to the Clerk as he may deem proper in felony cases, not to exceed ten dollars in any one case which may be disposed of; the amount to be paid by the Council of the City of Richmond.

The bill authorizing the Governor, during the war, to appoint as many aids as he may deem proper, only three of whom shall receive pay, (as Lieutenant Colonels of Cavalry,) was ordered to its engrossment.

Resolutions of inquiry into expediency were offered—by Mr. Wiley, of so amending the 8th section of act of Oct. 31, 1862, as to provide that an agent or overseer shall be employed by the Confederate Government for 20 negroes furnished by those counties of the Commonwealth whose quota does not exceed that number, said agent to be selected by the owners of said slaves; by Mr. Nash, of amending 2d section of 22d chapter of the Code so as to exempt one Deputy Sheriff for every ten thousand inhabitants in each county, and providing for the exemption of one Deputy in every county, whether such county has 10,000 inhabitants or not.

On motion of Mr. Pennybacker, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.—The House met at 12 o'clock M. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Burrows.

A motion was made and carried, adding to the Committee on Privileges and Elections five members. The Speaker announced the following gentlemen as the addition: Messrs. Magruder, Greene, Robinson of Berkely, McKinney, and Sanders of Franklin.

Resolutions of Inquiry.—By Mr. Fleming, into the expediency of so revising and amending the election laws as to provide for future elections in counties which now are, or may hereafter be, overrun by the public enemy; by Mr. Staples, into the expediency of passing an act authorizing the County Court of Henry county to sell the district school-houses of said county, and apply the proceeds to the education of poor children.

The Speaker read a communication from Franklin Miner, of Albemarle, resigning his seat as a member of the House, owing to ill health. On motion of Mr. Magruder, the Speaker was authorized to issue a certificate of election to supply the above vacancy.

A communication was received from the Governor, covering a letter from the Governor of South Carolina, conveying an act passed by the Legislature of that State, guaranteeing the Confederate States bonds; also, a second communication from the Governor relative to the militia; both of which, with their accompanying documents, were ordered to be printed.

The bill authorizing the Bank of Rockingham to increase its capital stock was passed.

The bill authorizing the Exchange Bank of Richmond to declare a dividend was passed.

The Senate resolutions, declaring Lieut. R. S. Gay to be considered commandant of the Public Guard, with all the pay, emoluments, etc., pertaining to the same, from the 13th day of April, 1861, was reported to the House by the committee to whom it was referred.

While it was under consideration

Mr Hopkins called for the order of the day, but gave way to have read a resolution from Mr Wareham, calling upon the Governor to furnish to this House certain information in regard to the troops of the State Line.

The special order of the day—the bill for the suppression of extortion—was at 1 o'clock taken up and put upon its passage. Considerable time was consumed in its consideration, and various amendments proposed; pending which a motion was made by Mr Harrison to postpone the whole subject indefinitely. The motion was finally withdrawn, and the House proceeded to its further consideration until 3 o'clock, when it yielded to the motion of Mr Ward, and adjourned.

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD.—Deserted from Capt George W Wharmsley's company, 15th Va. Battalion, stationed at Danville, the Privates THOMAS HALSEY and SAMUEL CLARK. Private Halsey is 45 years of age, 6 feet 3 inches in height, fair complexion, dark hair and blue eyes. Private Clary is 42 years of age, 6 feet 3 inches in height, light hair, fair complexion, and blue eyes. The above men were employed as teamsters in the above company. The cash will be paid if delivered at Danville, or for either of the men.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Inquest.—Acting Coroner Richard D Sessoms yesterday held an inquest over the remains of the two Federal soldiers who were drowned by falling into the James River and Kanawha canal, on the morning of Tuesday, as they were journeying from the Libby Prison to the Petersburg Depot, in this city. The inquest was held at the headquarters of the City Battalion, on the south side of the Basin. It was proved by sundry witnesses that the bridge spanning the canal, and whose breaking caused the catastrophe, was fabricated by Hensley & Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, and had been in use for six years and upwards. Abundant evidence was on hand that it had been used on all occasions, without fear of the result, up to the late fatal accident.

In addition to the inquiry made by the Coroner into the death of Daniel LaRuke and George Ephart, of company K, 20th Indiana regiment, the two Federal soldiers who lost their lives on the occasion, an effort was made to find out how the "unknown stranger" came to his death. This latter, as was said on yesterday, resembled a Georgia soldier from his uniform, and had been in the water for several weeks.

The jury, so far as the Federal soldiers were concerned, came to the conclusion that their death was caused by the breaking of the bridge and their subsequent falling into the canal by reason thereof. As far as the "unknown stranger" was concerned, the jury could not exactly determine, but believed he accidentally fell into the canal and was drowned, and so returned a verdict to that effect.

While the inquest was progressing, another body was fished out of the canal, which proved to be that of F. Padiean, of the 10th Mississippi regiment. It was ordered to be buried without the formality of an inquest. The remains of the soldiers yet remain to be [illegible]

Prison Items.—Early yesterday morning 21 prisoners were brought from Lynchburg, by Detective F. A. New, and lodged in Castle Thunder, six of them being hanged. They were charged with various offences. On the same day were lodged in the Castle for desertion: Thomas Hunt, co F, 46th Va reg't; Thomas Wilkinson, co F, 53d Va; both sent from Halifax county. Five conscripts sent from Henrico county by Lieut Haines; Wm Funsell, soldier, deserter from hospital at Howard's Grove; Ro Clarke, John Higgins and Geo Appleby, all three deserters from co K, 18th Lou Jones's Loughridge, Richmond Light Artillery; Wm Clarke, 46th Va battalion; Horace Tramsom, co B, 53d N C; Jas Brown, co D, 19th N C. There were yesterday over 500 persons confined in this prison.

Fire.—The alarm of fire raised on Tuesday night, about 9 o'clock, was caused by the ignition of the wood work in the second story of the building occupied as a dry goods store by G & M Rosenbaum, on Broad, between 4th and 5th streets.—Rosenbaum's store was considerably damaged; but, by dint of great exertion on the part of the firemen, the flames were extinguished before the house was destroyed or the property adjoining materially injured. The upper part of Rosenbaum's dry goods store was occupied by tenants, who suffered some inconvenience by the removal of their furniture and the damage consequ