Richmond Dispatch.

TUESDAY.....DECEMBER 12, 1865.

From the time when the toiling and patient philosophy of induction and experiment, inaugurated by Lord BACON, came into favor, physics, arts, utility and progress have ruled the thoughts of men, and developed with amazing rapidity their producing powers. The barren disputations of the schoolmen and the absurdities of astrology and alchemy receded before the advance of natural science and mechanical construction, and the arrangement and adjustment of natural forces took their place. If the great master who taught the world to investigate, step by step, and process by process, the laws to govern them in their efforts to subdue matter and combine forces could view the gigantic results of enterprise, production and consumption which distinguish our modern civilization, his soul would swell with a triumph such as never thrilled the heart of the grandest and most successful of military conquerors.

Now that war has ended and peace resumed its sway; now that Virginia has entered upon a new era, we feel profoundly solicitous that the mechanical arts and manufactures should enlist the interest and energies of her people. The war itself bore striking testimony to their value and importance. The genius of the country was only quickened and invigorated by the excitations of the time, and the creative and constructive forces played a part as influential as the armies in the field. The development of mechanical skill in the South was among the most noticeable phenomena of that wonderful period. We had been a purely agricultural people; and, in the midst of an age and country of mechanism, had left to others the rich prizes of mechanical and manufacturing industry. The war having disclosed to us capacities which we did not know ourselves that we possessed, let us now apply them to the restoration of our fallen fortunes and the development of the wealth and greatness of our State. The influence of the mechanic arts upon political and social progress is conspicuously inscribed upon every page of modern history. It was among the most powerful agencies that undermined the institution of feudalism and paved the way for the triumph of liberal ideas and the fusion of social classes. The philosophical historian, HALLAM, in classifying the periods and the causes of the deliverance of Europe, has ascribed one of the first degrees of progress to the introduction of woolen manufactures into Flanders, nearly six hundred years ago. This new dispensation of industry made that little district one of the wonders of the world, and attracted to it merchants from all the kingdoms of the earth. Mechanical skill and production spread from Flanders to the free cities of Germany; and England's great EDWARD conferred upon her a boon, by introducing emigration from the manufactories of the continent, which has rarely been equalled by her most glorious military and naval victories. It has been justly observed that, aided by the practical arts, the democratical interest gained the first modern triumph: for while, in an earlier day, WAT TYLER's powerless rabble fell easily before the knights in their armor of steel, CROMWELL gathered from the houses of mechanics and merchants those steady soldiers whose backs were never seen by the foe. The progress of Great Britain since she emerged from the middle period exposed her to the taunt of NAPOLEON that she was a nation of shop-keepers; but she was, and is, equally a nation of mechanics; and it was the wealth which trade and manufactures produced that proved too strong in the end for even the genius of NAPOLEON. It has been said, and we dare say with truth, that ARKWRIGHT, who placed cotton spinning in the sisterhood of national powers, bore the English nation triumphantly through the wars of the French revolution; and that WATT, who organized the steam engine, was the conqueror of the conqueror of Europe. At a later period, when a plain Northumberland mechanic inaugurated the grand railroad experiment of the age, Dr. ARNOLD, of Rugby, looking from one of the bridges at the flashing train, exclaimed: "I "rejoice to see it, and to think that *feudality is* "*gone forever.*"

The development of the mechanic arts in the American colonies awakened, at an early period, the jealousy of the mother country, and gave rise to a repressive, and, occasionally, prohibitory policy of Great Britain, intended to impoverish the industrial resources of the colonists, and drawing from Mr. BURKE the remark that the English nation seemed to act upon the thought that America was becoming her rival in the department of handicraft. This legislation aroused a corresponding spirit in the colonies, so that, as has been justly remarked, when the time came for rupturing the tie of empire, the question of taxation was rather the occasion than the primary cause of the wars. The mechanical genius thus early and prominently displayed in this country has stamped itself indelibly upon the national character and progress. Even Great Britain, the workshop of the world, with her twenty thousand steam engines, driven with a power equal to two millions of men, trembles at the mechanical energies of a country which, in the very infancy of its existence, has reclaimed an empire larger than Europe from the wilds of barbarism, which has constructed thirty thousand miles of railroad, and twenty-five thousand miles of electric wire.

We invoke Virginia to embark with promptness and energy in those mechanic arts which are, in these modern days, the chief agencies of national wealth and power. We have neglected too long, in former days, this patent and practical highway to greatness. The undoubted energies of the Virginia character have been unmeritably expended in barren political fields, yielding only the thistle blossom of glory, but nothing that could afford sustenance to either man or beast. If the mechanical arts, with which manufactures may be considered synonymous, and the enterprises of commerce had engaged as much and as persistently the attention of our people as the prizes and harvests of political renown, she would now be the foremost State of the American Union. We have now an opportunity to retrieve our error and to lay the foundations of the most prosperous and powerful Commonwealth of the Western Hemisphere. We should rejoice to see some movement to that end inaugurated by the Legislature—the establishment, for example, of an institution similar in design to the late Mechanics' Institute of Richmond, but with a more comprehensive plan, and more enlarged capacities of usefulness.

Nations, as well as individuals, who have seen much of war are very sarely disposed to engage in it anew. It is the greatest of all human calamities, and can only be excused in cases of extreme emergency. The people of these Southern States have seen it in all its horrors; and had they their choice in future, we are confident that nothing could ever induce them to engage in it again. It is a calamity, let it result as it may: let it be crowned with victory or marked by defeat. "A great victory," said the Duke of WELLINGTON, "is the most terrible of all calamities except a great defeat." In the same spirit, General LEE is said to have expressed the hope that he should never see any more fighting. "War is only sweet to those who never tried it," says the old beggar in Scott's novel of the Antiquary, who had much cause during many years of his life. But to persons of that description it seems to be peculiarly and unnaturally sweet. The people of the South, for example, who have experienced all the horrors that war can bring in its train, pray day and night that they may never again be visited by it. The people of the North, on the other hand, who have but a very dim perception of what it actually is, seem always ready to plunge into it. We speak of the body of the people, not of the military class. Soldiers are always inclined to peace. Civilians are the men who, in nine cases out of ten, bring on war. As soon as it comes they get out of the way and leave the toil and danger to the soldiers, who never have anything to do with producing it, and whose duty is confined to fighting it out.

The people of the South, having had war at their doors for the last four years, are extremely desirous to pass the rest of their lives in peace. For that reason, without knowing anything further of the relations existing between France and this country than what can be gathered from the newspapers, they universally cherish the hope that they may be of such a nature as to permit the continuance of peace without a loss of honor. Besides the enormous sacrifice of life entailed upon them by the late war, they are literally ruined in fortune to such an extent that an exception to the general rule can scarcely be found. They wish leisure, to restore their shattered finances and support their beggared families; and they cannot hope for it if we are to have a foreign war so soon after that domestic war which has left them so desolate. Besides all this, there are few families in the South who have not lost some of their members in battle, and they all shudder at the chance of losing those that remain in the same way. The voice of the South, however, can no longer be heard, or, at least, if heard, it can no longer command attention. Unfortunately for us, the voice of that portion of the nation which has the power to order all things according to its will seems to be opposed to the wishes of the South. We judge so from the tone of the Northern papers and of the preachers who figured on Thanksgiving day.

The difference of tone in the two sections is easily accounted for on the principle we have laid down. A burnt child dreads the fire; a people who have just been suffering all the horrors of a bloody war cannot be expected to desire its immediate renewal. At least one generation must pass away, and be replaced by another that shall know nothing of what its predecessor suffered, before the South will ever be clamorous for another war. Six years ago, no doubt, it would have been as eager for it as the North appears to be now. But a mighty change has come over the spirit of all its dreams. However, if the alternative of war or national dishonor be clearly presented, there can, of course, be but one choice. In our view of the position of the two parties, the issue can hardly be doubted. The United States are here upon the same continent with Mexico, whose boundary is contermenous with theirs. It has just shown its power to send any number of men into that country that may be required to effect the expulsion of the French. They employed a million of men in the subjugation of the South: they can employ quite as many—nay, twice as many, if necessary—in the war with France. France, on the contrary, lies three thousand miles off, on the eastern side of the Atlantic. She must send here all the men on whom she can rely by means of ships. Now, all the ships of all the navies, military and commercial, cannot transport troops enough to resist one million of men. Her troops will fight gallantly, beyond a doubt—French troops always do—but they cannot resist the pressure of numbers, to say nothing of the possibility that their marine might be destroyed and the sources of supply entirely cut off. It is the idlest of fancies to imagine that France or any other power of Europe can sustain a colony in any part of North America if the Government of the United States do not wish it. England holds Canada, even, by sufferance, and the United States could drive off Russia if it were profitable or desirable.

Still we, as Southern men, do not desire to see a war at this time. It would be ruinous to us especially, and we believe it would bring great calamities on the country, let the result be as favorable as it might.

From the earliest period of its existence to the day of its temporary suspension, this paper was the earnest, strenuous and persistent advocate of a wise and extensive system of internal improvements, and of all enterprises having for their object the development of the immense natural resources which distinguish Virginia, not only above every other State of the Union, but, we are disposed to believe, above all the other regions of the earth. It will continue to occupy that ground, which has become, by the result of the late war, the most important it could possibly assume. In former times, Virginia devoted too much attention to Federal politics. In consequence, it, to a great extent, neglected her own internal concerns, thereby permitting other States, not comparable in point of natural advantages, to steal a march upon her, and to pass her in the grand march of national progress. This will be so no longer. Virginia will now direct all her energies to her own improvement and development. The prospect is, that she will have but little to do with Federal politics, at least for a long time to come. This seems to her a hardship, and is, no doubt, injustice. But it may all turn to her advantage if she only use the means to convert an apparent evil into a real good.

The future of Virginia is glorious, in spite of the clouds which overhang her at present. She has as fine lands as any on the continent: they must be cultivated. She has the largest mineral resources in the world; they must be developed. She has an inchoate system of internal improvements of stupendous magnitude and importance; it must be completed. She requires immigrants to fill up the deficiencies in her population; they must be introduced. All these things must be done, and each one of them might tax all the time and all the energies of a whole generation of statesmen (not politicians and politicators, but *statesmen*). Let our aspiring men be assured that they will find room enough for all the talents they may possess here in Virginia without sighing for the flesh-pots of Egypt; that is, for the offices and spoils of the General Government.

The renowned General SANTA ANNA is at this time enjoying his *otium cum dignitate* in one of the little isles of the Western Archipelago. He has played a conspicuous part in the history of his country, and is in many respects a remarkable man. Thirty years ago, the hero of Tampico destroyed the last army of Old Spain. Ten years afterwards he lost a leg in resisting the landing of the French in Mexico. At a still more recent period, he directed with consummate skill and energy the resistance of his degenerate countrymen to the conquering armies of the United States. He now finds himself an exile in St. Thomas, where he dwells on one of the lofty hills, occupying an elegant establishment, surrounded with extensive grounds and luxuriant shubbery. He is fond of sweeping the horizon with his glass, and discourses to his visitors with somewhat of the majestry and grace of a small NAPOLEON. St. Thomas is the Elba of the Mexican exile; only it is the French who have clipped the wings of this eagle, and banished him from his native eyrie. He is still erect, his eye has lost nothing of its former fire, and he handles his wooden leg with considerable ease and dexterity. He is said to look upon the Austro-French Empire as a very temporary affair. He says that the French are a very polite people indeed, and that when he was in Mexico, Marshal BAZAINE was so kind as to place a steamboat at his disposal, assuring him that a sea voyage would conduce to his health, and telling him he might go where he pleased, so that he did not return to Mexico. The old gentleman, however, does not reciprocate the courtesy with which Marshal BAZAINE "speeds the parting guest," and intimates pretty distinctly that he may yet have an opportunity to return from his Elba. It is certainly among the possibilities of the future that his expectation may be realized. The Mexicans are almost as fickle a race as the French, and SANTA ANNA has yet stamina enough in him to seize a favorable opportunity of putting himself at their head, and once more restoring the independence of their country. Whether Mexico would be a gainer by the experiment is a different question. Even if successful, it would only be exchanging a mild and beneficent despotism for a government equally absolute in fact, whatever it might be in name, and wielded by a man who never showed himself capable of establishing order and tranquillity, or making any higher use of power than the aggrandizement of his own personal fortunes.

We are pleased to observe the interest manifested by Virginians in the revival of their old institutions of learning. Considering the financial distress in which the people are involved, the patronage extended to their schools and colleges at this time is remarkable. The University has a large number of students, and bids fair not only to retain its ancient influence and reputation, but to widen and extend the sphere of its usefulness. There is no institution in the South which commands so much of the respect and confidence of its people. Its course of instruction is fully up in all its points to the demands of the age. Its professors are tried men, and are devoting their great faculties to the revival of their famous school with an energy that is above all praise. We believe that other colleges and schools throughout the State are also gradually recovering from the losses of the war. Certainly no State can boast of more competent teachers than those engaged in the business of both male and female instruction in Virginia. We trust they may be liberally sustained by the public, and that the interests of education will not much longer suffer from the temporary paralysis of the times.

Admission of Southern Representatives.

This, which is the absorbing topic of conversation, discussion, and even of strife, in Washington city, continues to occupy the attention of newspapers everywhere and of their correspondents in that city. We cull from papers of opposite political bearings the speculations which are indulged by the several parties. The Baltimore *Sun's* Washington correspondence says:

WASHINGTON, December 10.—The Republicans are in a very anxious condition. Men of conservative and radical views are seen much in conference, and the result, doubtless, will be a letting down gradually from the Colfax-Stevens-Sumner platform towards that of the President. In no other way can the Republican party be kept together. I believe Horace Greeley and Colonel Forney both are working to this end.

Stevens is pushed hard by the Radicals for the chairmanship of the leading House committee, and the Speaker may yield. Mr. Kasson is antagonizing Mr. Raymond for the chairmanship of the foreign affairs committee.

Speaker Colfax keeps his own counsels and consults with but few, if any, members as to the construction of the standing committees. The subject is one of much interest to those having legitimate business before the House, and also to an energetic class of men here known as the lobby.

To-morrow, if there is a quorum of members present, the House standing committees will be named. It is said that Thaddeus Stevens is chairman of the ways and means; Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, chairman of the committee on appropriations, and General Butler chairman of the committee on foreign relations. There is a great and just indignation over Stevens's appointment, and a pressure may change it.

The Republicans, it is said, do not intend to quarrel with the President, but that they will take their own time about admitting the Southern members, except those from Tennessee. They will yield on this point, it is represented, out of deference to the Executive, and especially for the reason that his son-in-law is one of the Senators.

Mr. Greeley says in his paper:

The President and the overwhelming majority of Congress are in intimate and friendly communication, and no arts will suffice to embitter or alienate them. They will frequently consult and compare views; they will respect each other's rights and convictions; they will consider well the many grounds of cordial agreement, the few points of difference, and will labor to emphasize the former and remove the latter. Time and daily intercourse will serve to clear up misapprehensions, to strengthen the ties that unite them, and heighten the mutual desire to act in concert, so far as worthily may be, and to remove impediments to concurrent action, which the arts of mutual adversaries have tended to aggravate. It is already certain that both President and Congress will earnestly endeavor to act in concert; and, in such matters, the will suggests and smoothes the way. The very cordial and hearty approval generally accorded to the President's message proves that the obstacles to such a concurrence are neither so many nor so formidable as the common adversaries of President and Congress have loudly, confidently, anticipated.

And the *National Intelligencer* of yesterday declares by authority:

We feel able to say with confidence that Mr. Horace Greeley, who is now in this city, has expressed himself substantially in accord with the President in his reconstruction policy as announced in his message, and earnestly deprecates any division of the majority of Congress.

The *Intelligencer*, in addition to the gratifying announcement above published in reference to Mr. Greeley, furnishes us with the following remarks addressed to Congress:

The South, now full of vitality, and alive in activity, yielding generally to the sway of civil law, expectant and hopeful, performing all its national functions except only that of representation in Congress, teeming with every proof of loyalty which the most exacting could have anticipated so soon after such a war,—this South, thus governed and fostered by the policy of the President, under *Radical* treatment, would have been—*what?* Under the Radical theory this South would have been kept down until now by the force of arms—by the military hand of the President. Its sons and daughters would have been held as a people subjected by war under the stern soldier, in trembling doubt and suspense about the future, without sympathy or well-grounded hope, looking on the old flag as aliens and exiles, almost as slaves, as the symbol of a power all pitiless toward them and their descendants, and from whom, at most, they might hope to be permitted to drink the cup of humiliation and degradation. This would have been the South of *to-day*, as it would have greeted Congress under the policy of the "Union" Radicals, who were amusing themselves with fanatical theories or party tricks, while an American President toiled day and night to bring the Union to the grand point which it has reached.

For our own part, we will not willingly believe that Congress can be made to assume a position so reactionary and discordant. There is but one class in the nation who demand extremes beyond those exacted by the President: they are those who insist that negro suffrage shall be thrust upon the South by the usurping hand of the Federal power. It remains to be seen whether or not *this* is all the hope for restoration that lies in the bottom of the Pandora-like box that Radicalism offers to the country.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.—Senor Romero, the Mexican Minister, yesterday received intelligence from Mexico to the effect that the French were retreating from Chihuahua upon Vera Cruz.—*National Intelligencer of yesterday.*

FLORIDA AND THE UNION.—Honorable S. R. Mallory, of Florida, the late rebel Secretary of the Navy, has written a letter from Fort Pulaski, where he is confined, urging the people of Florida to take such measures as shall insure full civil protection to the negroes and provide them such an education as shall render them an "enlightened class of free labor."

There was a snow storm in Baltimore last Saturday.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

SENATE.

MONDAY, December 11, 1865.

The Senate met at the usual hour, Lieutenant-Governor GOSTER in the chair. Prayer by Rev. G. S. Barten, of Christ Church, Norfolk.

A message was received from the House of Delegates, announcing that they concurred in the Senate amendment fixing the time for election of State officers, and in the joint resolution to consider that part of the Governor's message relating to oysters and the oyster trade.

A joint resolution was received from the House, asking the appointment of a select committee to consider contracts between express and transportation companies and railroad companies for purposes of transportation. Passed.

A message from the House, asking concurrence in an act to amend and re-enact an act to incorporate the Southern Express Company, passed March 22, 1861, and to incorporate the National Express Company. Read twice and referred to Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

A message from the House of Delegates, asking concurrence in relation to the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

Mr. DAVIS, of Washington, offered a bill to amend the road law so as to tax real estate for the purpose of keeping roads in repair. Referred.

A resolution was offered by Mr. BOLLING, of Petersburg, to appoint a committee of three to wait on the Governor, to ask if, in his opinion, the office of Second Auditor could be dispensed with at the present time.

Mr. BOYD, of Botetourt, offered a resolution ordering the Committee on Courts of Justice to inquire into the expediency of establishing, by law, such rules in regard to the scaling of debts contracted when Confederate States Treasury notes constituted the currency of the country as will secure uniformity of decision.

On motion, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House met at 12 o'clock M.

The CHAIR announced the following as the select joint committees on oysters, freedmen and emigration, in pursuance of Senate joint resolution:

Committee on Oysters.—Messrs. SEAWELL, GARNETT, BRAXTON, STRAUGHAN, PURDY, SMITH, BEKEM, THOMPSON, J. S. DAVISON, TOWNS, WYATT and LEE.

Committee on Emigration.—Messrs. HERNDON, CABELL, WADDELL, OWEN and STEARNS.

Committee to Confer with the Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau.—Messrs. ATKINSON, ENGLISH, BROWN, MOSBY, RIXEY, HOLMES, HARRIS, GRAVES, J. McD. TAYLOR and HARDY.

Mr. WALL, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, reported as follows:

Resolved, That J. H. C. Jones is entitled to a seat on the floor of the House of Delegates as the member elect from the district composed of the counties of King and Queen and King William, in the place of T. J. Christian, the sitting member.

After debate, in which both contestants were heard, the report of the committee was received and the resolution agreed to.

The House bill to amend and re-enact "an act to incorporate the Southern Express Company, passed March 22, 1861, and to incorporate the National Express and Transportation Company," was considered and passed.

House resolution relative to providing for having the public printing done by contract was referred to the Committee on Printing.

The House resolution relative to the payment of claims against the Eastern Lunatic Asylum was referred to the Committee on Lunatic Asylums.

By Mr. WADDELL, of Augusta.—A resolution that the Committee of Roads and Internal Navigation inquire into the expediency of providing by law—

1. For withdrawing all State proxies and directors from the control and management of the public improvements in which the State is interested, and leaving the interests of the State to be managed in common with those of the private stockholders.

2. For appointing inspectors and accountants to make annual examinations of the management and condition of such improvements.

3. For exchanging the stock of the State in any such improvement for stocks or bonds at par, whenever and by whomsoever presented for such exchange. Agreed to.

House bill to authorize the County Court of Fauquier to borrow money for county purposes was considered and passed.

By Mr. RIGGS, of Wise.—A resolution that the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation inquire what legislation, if any, is necessary to secure the completion of the Virginia and Kentucky railroad, and report by bill or otherwise. Agreed to.

Mr. ENGLISH, of Alexandria, introduced a bill to amend the charter of "The Fire Insurance Company of Alexandria." Referred to the Committee on Propositions and Grievances.

Mr. ROBERTSON, of Alexandria, offered the following resolution, prefaced with a long preamble, which space does not permit us to give:

Resolved by the General Assembly of Virginia, That the General Government, unlike the absolute systems of the earth, that recognize obe licence only, having given allowance to conflicting theories of sovereignty and allegiance that have existed from its formation, inviting opposing debates by the people, as shown in some degree by the preamble above, will, we earnestly hope, induce his Excellency the President of the United States to extend a general pardon to those persons now confined by the authority of the Government.

Resolved, That it is not the desire of the people of Virginia to obstruct or retard the restoration of the States to their constitutional position and functions in the General Government, but that, in common with all good men, North and South, it is their sincere and earnest wish, by all honorable means, to promote the same; that a firm re-union, with peace, prosperity and happiness, may everywhere prevail.

Resolved, That they pledge themselves, as far as they may have ability, to uphold and maintain the Executive of the United States in his arduous labor to restore order, stability and justice among the States, and peace and good will among the people. Sedition became hurtful to Rome when it gained power above the laws.

On motion, by Mr. HARDY, of Norfolk, the preamble and resolutions were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

By Mr. MANN.—A resolution that the Committee of Finance inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill staying the collection of all debts for two years, excepting fines, taxes, licenses, county levies and debts due the Commonwealth, and all debts due from sheriffs, constables and attorneys at law.

By Mr. BRANDON.—A resolution of inquiry relative to limiting the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Richmond city in the probate of wills and granting administrations. Agreed to.

By Mr. GRATTAN.—A resolution of inquiry relative to authorizing fiduciaries having management of real estate during the minority, coverture, or other disability of the owners thereof, to make leases which may continue for a longer period than said disability. Agreed to.

By Mr. MERRETT, of Brunswick.—A resolution of inquiry relative to amending second section of chapter one hundred and one of the Code of 1860 so as to provide more effectually against trespasses on the lands of others. Agreed to.

By Mr. PATE, of Bedford.—A resolution that a joint committee of five members on the part of the House and three on the part of the Senate be appointed to inquire into the expediency of fixing an early day to proceed to the election of two Senators to represent the State of Virginia in the Senate of the United States.

Mr. GARNETT, of Essex, offered as a substitute, which was accepted by Mr. PATE, a resolution that, the Senate concurring, this House will proceed, on the —— day of ——, to the election of two Senators to represent the State of Virginia in the Senate of the United States.

Mr. JOYNES moved to lay the resolution on the table. We had accepted the Alexandria Constitution, and must accept all its acts.—This Legislature had come here under the Constitution under which Mr. Segar and Judge Underwood were elected.

Mr. HERNDON thought the resolution had better go to a committee. It might be found expedient to request the present Senators to resign.

Mr. WILSON, of Lynchburg, concurred with Mr. JOYNES.—By every act of his he should recognize the constitutionality and legality of the Alexandria Government.

Mr. TURNER, of Rappahannock, inquired of Mr. JOYNES whether Judge Underwood's holding of the office of District Judge did not invalidate his office as United States Senator.

Mr. JOYNES thought that, until Judge Underwood was admitted by the United States Senate, the question just mentioned could not arise. But he had objected to the resolution, that it seemed to pre-suppose that the offices of Senators from Virginia were vacant.

Mr. GARNETT had a distinct recollection that, when Mr. Underwood presented his credentials to the United States Senate, Mr. Sumner said he would as soon think of admitting a Senator from the town council of Alexandria.

Mr. JOYNES withdrew his motion to lay on the table, at the request of Mr. GARNETT, who submitted the following:

Resolved, That the resolution proposing to go into the election of United States Senators be referred to a joint committee of five on the part of the House and three on the part of the Senate, with directions to inquire whether the elections of Messrs. Underwood and Segar was in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Virginia, and whether they hold said offices in accordance therewith, and whether said offices are now vacant.

On motion of Mr. PENDLETON, the resolution was laid upon the table.

On motion of Mr. BAYLOR, of Augusta, the House, at three o'clock, P. M., adjourned.

COTTON IN ABUNDANCE.—The following paragraph, from the Lynchburg *Republican*, will not only astonish many, but will be accepted as good news. Cotton and tobacco in abundance would soon restore to the South much of her former wealth and prosperity:

"We learn that the evening trains on the Orange and Alexandria railroad are to be discontinued after next Tuesday. The facilities for transportation have not been sufficient to accommodate the freight, and consequently an immense amount of cotton has accumulated at the depot, which they have been unable to forward to its destination. The discontinuance of the night passenger train will enable them to remove this important freight, and it is to be done for that purpose."

BLOWING DOWN OF A RAILROAD BRIDGE.—It appears that the accident on the Southside railroad, near Lynchburg (heretofore noticed by telegraph), was caused by the wind. The *Republican* says:

"On Thursday afternoon, about two o'clock, while the workmen engaged in putting up the railroad bridge at Robinson's mill, some six miles below the city, were at work upon it, a sudden and strong gust of wind struck and overturned two unfinished spans of the structure, involving men and timber in one common wreck. E. C. Garrison, road master, and Thomas Berry, carpenter, were instantly killed. Mr. Garrison, it is said, sprang off the bridge at the moment of the accident. His neck was dislocated and both arms broken. About twenty of the workmen were wounded, including Messrs. Hannah and Flippin, foremen. Two of the men had each a leg broken. The most of the others received only flesh cuts—some of them severe, but none dangerous. A number of physicians from this city promptly repaired to the scene of the disaster, and rendered all the assistance in their power to the unfortunate sufferers. The repairs on this bridge and the one nearer the city will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The Southside railroad is a necessity to this section and the country west and south of us, and we are glad to learn that the delay caused by the sad occurrence of Thursday will be but slight, and soon recovered."

CHEAP COAL—NEW RAILROAD.—The Petersburg *Index* is exercised as to the coal question, and flatters its readers that there is "a good time coming." It says:

"We are happy to be able to inform our readers that the hope expressed in the *Index*, some two months ago, respecting the extension of the Clover Hill railroad to the river, is about to be realized. The necessary point for the river terminus has, we learn, been secured, and the committee to whom the matter was referred are prepared to recommend the extension forthwith.

"A gentleman connected with the pits in the neighborhood of Danville was in the city last Saturday, endeavoring to make an arrangement whereby through transportation can be secured for his coal to this city. If this can be effected, we can promise the people of Petersburg cheaper fuel hereafter."

Under the head of "A Busy Day Shipping Goods," the Baltimore *American* notices the lading and departure of various vessels—among them the steamer State of Virginia, Captain Travers, and the steamer Agnes, Captain Bowen, both for Richmond.

BUSINESS CARDS.

HENRY KLEIN. GEORGE KLEIN.

H. KLEIN & BROTHER,
MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS
IN
TIN AND SHEET-IRON WARE, STOVES, RANGES, &c.,
No. 166 BROAD STREET.
RICHMOND, VA.
TIN and GRAVEL ROOFING done at shortest notice.
Constantly on hand, STOVES, RANGES and FURNACES. Also, READY ROOFING. de 12—2t

W. A. MOUNTCASTLE,
manufacturer of and dealer in
STOVES, BRITTANIAWARE, SHEET-IRON,
PLAIN AND JAPANNEDWARE,
HOLLOWWARE AND HOUSE-FURNISHING GOODS.
PRUMBING AND GAS FITTING.
NO. 186 BROAD STREET, RICHMOND, VA.
All kinds of out-door work done. de 11—2t

MITCHELL & TYLER,
Dealers in
WATCHES, JEWELRY, SILVERWARE,
PLATEDWARE,
CLOCKS, FINE CUTLERY,
SPECTACLES,
FANCY GOODS, &c., &c.
Our stock is entirely new, and embraces the most desirable goods in our line, Foreign and American.
WATCH REPAIRING done in the best manner.
Cash paid for old SILVER and GOLD.
Call at the old stand,
de 11—ts 108 MAIN STREET.

WM. G. DANDRIDGE. THOMAS B. ANDERSON, JR.
DANDRIDGE & ANDERSON,
GROCERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
No. 105 BROAD STREET, RICHMOND,
have in store, and for sale on the most reasonable terms, a large and varied assortment of FAMILY GROCERIES AND SUPPLIES, to which they would call the particular attention of families in the city and country. de 11—3m

IRON BUILDINGS,
STEAM ENGINES AND MACHINERY.
THE
UNION MANUFACTURING COMPANY
OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,
respectfully announce their readiness to erect Iron Buildings of all styles; to repair Steam Engines and Machinery of all kinds with promptness, and to do all work usually executed in a
GENERAL MACHINE SHOP,
at their works, on
CARY STREET, NEAR FIFTEENTH.
Orders from all parts of the country are solicited, and parties may rely upon fidelity and dispatch.
TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUMENTS
made, repaired, and constantly on hand, for sale as above. de 11—ts

SPECIAL NOTICE.—E. B. COOK respectfully notifies his friends and the public that he has REMOVED HIS OFFICE from No. 70 to No. 96 Main street, two doors above Fourteenth, adjoining the *Times* building, and renews the tender of his services as AUCTIONEER for the sale of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE at residences, STOCKS OF GOODS, &c., &c. He will also attend to the sale of REAL ESTATE, and promises to give his personal attention to all sales entrusted to his care.
He promises the same energy and assiduity to business which has secured to him so liberal a share of patronage. de 11—3m

THOMAS J. BAGBY, REAL ESTATE AGENT AND COMMISSION MERCHANT.—FOR SALE: Best RED and WHITE ASH ANTHRACITE and BITUMINOUS COALS.
Orders respectfully solicited and promptly filled. Thankful for past favors, he respectfully asks a continuance of the same.
Office No. 8 Wall (or Fifteenth) street, between Main and Franklin streets. de 11—2m

W. B. ROBINS, REAL ESTATE AGENT, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, (office, Iron Front Buildings, Governor street,) offers for sale FORTY-TWO EXCELLENT FARMS AND PLANTATIONS, large and small, lying in different sections of the State. Most of them are highly improved, and convenient either to water navigation or to railroads.
Prices low and terms reasonable. A call solicited. W. B. ROBINS,
de 11—ts Real Estate Agent, Box 415.

JOHN DOOLEY, 239 SPOTSWOOD HOTEL, RICHMOND, VA., has on hand, and is constantly receiving, the newest styles of HATS, CAPS, LADIES' FURS, HATTERS' GOODS, and every article connected with the HAT and FUR TRADE. His old friends from North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia are invited to visit and examine his stock. They will find it equal to any North or South. de 11—3m

JOHN GIBLIN, J. J. FRENCH.
MESSRS. FRENCH & CO., HOUSE, SIGN AND ORNAMENTAL PAINTERS, PAPER-HANGERS AND DECORATORS, are now prepared to attend to all orders in their line of business. Country orders promptly attended to. Sign writing done in the most approved style on moderate terms. Paint shop and office on Wall street, second door from Main. de 11—1m

JAMES W. HAMILTON, cheap HAT and CAP STORE, No. 43 Main street, opposite St. Charles Hotel, keeps constantly on hand a large assortment of HATS, CAPS and MILLINERY. de 11—3t

SPECIAL NOTICES.

FRANKLIN STREET, December 11, 1865.

☞ The Court of Hustings having this day declared the office of ATTORNEY OF THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND vacant, and directed that an election to fill the vacancy be held THURSDAY, 21st instant, I hereby announce myself a candidate for the place, and ask the votes of my fellow-citizens.
de 12—2t N. A. STURDIVANT.

☞ To the Voters of Richmond.—The undersigned, grateful for the many evidences of confidence shown him by his fellow-citizens, responds to the request made in the papers of the 4th instant by announcing himself a candidate for the HOUSE OF DELEGATES, and pledging himself, if elected, to devote his whole time and all his abilities to promote the best interests of his constituents.
Respectfully, THOMAS H. WYNNE.
de 11—tde

☞ Thomas J. Evans is a candidate for the seat in the HOUSE OF DELEGATES made vacant by the death of Littleton Tazewell, Esq.
de 11—tde

☞ John E. Doherty,
MERCHANT TAILOR,
MAIN STREET, BETWEEN EIGHTH AND NINTH,
diagonally opposite the Spotswood Hotel.

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!

MR. DOHERTY
calls attention to some beautiful FABRICS FOR GENT'S WINTER WEAR, received in the last few days, which will be made up in good style. He names:
SIMONI'S WAVED-FACED and TRICOT COATINGS,
ENGLISH WHITNEYS and BEAVERS, various colors;
ENGLISH MELTON'S, OXFORD and BROWN MIXTURES,
JOHANNY'S and SIMONI'S CLOTHS and DOESKINS,
CLARET, BROWN and BLACK BEAVERS, for suits.
This stock is excellent, and the prices shall suit the times.
de 11—ts J. E. DOHERTY.

☞ Three Dollars and Fifty Cents Per Dozen
FOR
CARD PHOTOGRAPHS.

Not surpassed by any in the world are those made by
REES & BROTHER,
OPPOSITE THE SPOTSWOOD HOTEL,
CORNER OF EIGHTH AND MAIN STREETS.

PHOTOGRAPHS ON PORCELAIN,
beautifully colored;
SURPRISE PICTURES,
REES'S AMBRO-IVORYTYPES,
and all the new styles taken and satisfaction guaranteed. de 11—3t

☞ Miller's Celebrated Patent Fire and Burglar-Proof Safes, Burglar-Proof Bank Safes, Vault Doors, Bank Locks, &c.—These safes are offered to the public with a record not to be found in any other make—that of never losing a dollar's worth of property either by fire or robbery, although frequently and severely tested. References without limit have been voluntarily given, and the SAFES command a preference in all markets where they are offered.
ROBERT A. PAINE, Agent,
over C. D. Yale & Co., Governor street.
de 11—eod6t

☞ Bidgood & Riley,
(FORMERLY GEORGE L. BIDGOOD,)
wholesale and retail
BOOKSELLERS, STATIONERS,
DEALERS IN
PIANO-FORTES
AND FANCY ARTICLES,
GOVERNOR STREET, RICHMOND, VA.
Messrs. Bidgood & Riley respectfully call attention to their very large stock of everything usually kept in a first-class
BOOK AND STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENT,
and at prices that will compare favorably with the Northern market.
MERCHANTS,
BANK OFFICERS,
CLERKS,
TEACHERS,
and the public, are invited to give them a call.
de 11—1w

☞ For Diseases which arise from the Stomach and Bowels, BAKER'S PREMIUM BITTERS are peculiarly adapted, while in the incipient stages of BILIOUSNESS, NERVOUSNESS, COUGHS and COLDS, they are superior to all other remedies. The fact that a single bottle has cured ague and fever of six months' standing, and relieved nervous headache which had resisted all sorts of remedies for years, are proof sufficient that they possess healing virtues rarely found in medicinal preparations. So simple and effectual are their operations, and yet so certain are their beneficial results, that all who try them once ever after adopt them as the great panacea for all ills.
These BITTERS can be had of all prominent Druggists in Richmond and elsewhere in Virginia: also of CANBY, GILPIN & CO., of Baltimore. For orders, address E. BAKER, Proprietor,
de 11—1w Richmond, Va.

☞ Noah Walker & Co.,
CLOTHIERS,
GOVERNOR STREET, RICHMOND, VA.,
will remove to their new building,
No. 117 MAIN STREET,
1ST JANUARY, 1866.
de 11—1w

J. E. BURRESS. J. L. POWERS. J. P. YANCEY.
☞ Burress, Powers & Yancey,
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
WHITE GOODS, HOSIERY, FANCY GOODS AND NOTIONS,
No. 112 MAIN STREET, (up stairs,)
RICHMOND, VA.
de 11—1m

☞ Cloak and Fur Depot.
A. SAMUELS,
over A. Pizzini's, Broad street, between Eighth and Ninth.
Always on hand a large and well-selected stock of CLOAKS AND FURS of the latest styles and at reasonable prices.
de 11—1m

GUNS AND PISTOLS.—We invite the attention of the public to our stock of
DOUBLE-BARREL SHOT GUNS,
BREACH-LOADING RIFLES,
Smith and Wesson's celebrated
BREACH-LOADING CARTRIDGE PISTOLS,
COLT'S AND OTHER REVOLVERS,
CARTRIDGES,
POWDER AND SHOT,
ELEY'S CAPS,
SHOT BELTS AND POUCHES,
POWDER FLASKS, &c.
Orders received for any kind of SPORTING ARMS OR PISTOLS.
MITCHELL & TYLER,
de 11—ts 108 Main street.

REID'S OYSTER AND GAME DEPOT; ALSO, STABLING FOR STOCK