DAILY DISPATCH.

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THE DISPATCH.

BY COWARDIN & ELLYSON.

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The WEEKLY DISPATCH at $2 per annum.

Richmond Dispatch.

SATURDAY.....DECEMBER 30, 1865.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION.—At the time the war commenced the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, located in this city, had about thirty-five Missionaries laboring among the heathen. This number has been greatly reduced in consequence of the difficulty of transmitting funds during the terrible conflicts of the country. The Board have not, however, abandoned their work, but have been able, to some extent, and in different ways, to forward remittances and to keep up their most important missions. They now begin a new series of endeavors in this line, and are hoping gradually to reinforce their stations in China and Africa.

The Domestic Mission Board, located in Marion, Ala., have kept in the field all through the war more than one hundred Missionaries, and now they propose with new vigor to prosecute their great work.

We have already referred to the fact that a called meeting of the Convention will be held at Russellville, Ky., on the Tuesday before the fourth Sunday in May next. The introductory sermon will be preached by Rev. WILLIAM T. BRANTLY, D. D., of Augusta, Ga.; alternate, Rev. J. T. TICHENOR, D. D., Alabama.

FRENCH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.—There is to be in Paris a "French Universal Exposition," which is intended to offer a complete development of the progress of arts, science, manufactures and mechanical improvements throughout the world. This Exposition differs from others in the fact that it is conducted by the representatives specially of the different National Governments; the United States, and not the States of which it is composed, being alone recognized. A space has been devoted to this country, which Congress will probably vote to accept, and then appropriate a sufficient sum to pay all expenses of transit from the United States to the Exposition. All the nations of Europe are aleady in the field with active commissions at work—that for Great Britain being composed of the most practical men in every department. It is to be hoped that the products of Southern industry will be represented at this great exhibition; and the occasion would seem to be a good one to bring before the world the unrivalled inducements to emigration which the South presents.

Interesting to Masons—Question of Invasion of Jurisdiction.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* gives the following interesting account of a friendly disagreement between the Grand Lodge of Masons of Virginia and the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. We could have furnished the same facts several weeks ago, but abstained from giving them publicity because we supposed it to be a "family affair," which would not be trumpeted to the world. As the *Sun* has disclosed them, there can be no impropriety in re-publishing them for the benefit of the numerous Masons within *our* "jurisdiction." The *Sun* neglects to state the point clearly. It was, that the Grand Lodge of the District granted a charter to a subordinate Lodge within the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Virginia—a proceeding which, so we are informed, is in direct violation of the usages and laws of Masonry. We quote from the *Sun*:

"The installation meeting of the Masonic Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia on Wednesday evening, being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, was numerously attended, and the proceedings quite interesting. It appears that, some time after the late war commenced, the District Grand Lodge granted a dispensation to certain brethren of Alexandria, Virginia, under the title of "Union Lodge," and for several months they worked harmoniously. During the past year a continuance of the charter was refused, and the affairs of the Union Lodge honorably closed. At the November communication of the District Grand Lodge, a committee, consisting of R. W. Brothers French, Donaldson and Stevens, was appointed to visit the Grand Lodge of Virginia, at a meeting which subsequently took place in Richmond, for the purpose of re-establishing fully all the fraternal relations which formerly existed between these two bodies. The committee proceeded to the Grand Lodge of Virginia, were cordially received, and in due form welcomed. A committee, consisting of Messrs. J. R. Purdy, L. B. Williams, H. W. Thomas, T. D. August and T. F. Owens, were appointed by the Virginia Grand Lodge to confer with the district committee. On every other point except Union Lodge, matters were cheerfully concurred in. Here was a difficulty. The Grand Lodge of Virginia appreciated the brotherly feeling of the visiting committee, the proffered settlement of moneys was satisfactory, but in recognizing the brethren of late 'Union Lodge' the words 'when properly healed' were inserted. This was objectionable to the District committee, and of course leaves the matter of final adjustment open. When the objectionable clause is removed, our Grand Officers are authorized to close up all minor matters as agreed upon."

G. A. Schwarzmann, Virginia, was appointed one of the Grand Representatives.

Paris as Seen by a Pacific Islander.

We translate from the French paper *La Renaissance Louisianaise*, of New Orleans, the following account of a visit to Paris, by Riho Riho, the Lord in waiting of Queen Emma, of the Sandwich Islands. It contains some droll hits at Paris civilization:

"There is now in England a personage who has caused the greatest sensation. She is a queen of natural bronze, who wears her earrings in her nose. It is Her Majesty EMMA, *Sovereign of the Sandwich Isles*—a queen of chocolate color, whose kingdom was discovered in 1778 by Captain Cook.

"Her ancestors were connoisseurs in the matter of men. They knew well how to judge good, tender and delicate people. They had a most particular fondness for strangers. The grandfathers of this gracious queen were anthropophagi.

"Her Majesty Emma has left Polynesia, Owhyhee, where perished the brave Cook; Ouahow, already so renowned for its beefsteaks of Europeans. She has been in London two months, during which time she has eaten daily thin slices of bacon laid between thin slices of buttered bread, called sandwiches in honor of her kingdom.

"The Queen Emma is about to visit Paris. She goes to figure as an imposing curiosity among the other queens. She does not wish to arrive in this satirical Paris with the air of a bewildered cannibal, who does not know how to carve even a human leg of mutton. She has therefore sent her two faithful servants, Riho Riho, and his wife, Riha Riha, to visit the great city and report their observations. They report as follows:

"'The great city that calls itself Paris has but two gates. The gate Saint Denis and the gate Saint Martin. They are called gates because they have neither bolts nor hinges.

"'The streets are traversed by carriages called *omnibus*; we asked the meaning of this Latin word, and were told that it meant *for all*. We presented ourselves to the conductor, who informed us that it meant *for all who have six sous*.

"'We have seen the Seine, and have crossed it at its widest place, on a bridge called New Bridge, because it was built two hundred and fifty years ago.

"'We have visited a benevolent institution called The Hospital of the Incurable. We were astonished at a nation that calls itself civilized. When, according to our time-honored customs, we prepared to eat an enemy fried with bananas, he was ignorant of his destiny. These poor people in the hospital have not the consolation of uncertainty—they have no hope of health if they can read the sign on their domicil.

"'We have been spoken to frequently concerning the religion of Christ, some of whose early missionaries our grand papas have digested. I asked to see the temple. They carried me to a place where they sell old breeches and waistcoats. [This was probably the old Temple prison.] If Christ drove the sellers of merchandise from the temple, they have not only returned, but have built themselves iron shops for the purpose of remaining a long time.

"'The citizens promenade on Sundays in the Garden of Plants, so-called because it contains chiefly animals. The street called Peace is the noisiest of all. The surprises of your Majesty will be infinite.'

"Her Majesty, with her ebony smiles and pearls in her nostrils, will be the lioness of the season. The handsome and witty men will flock around her to pay their court. It is to be hoped that she will not find some of them too much to her *taste*."

THE FARMERS' BANK.—Through an error in correcting proof, it was stated in this paper yesterday that the Farmers' Bank was paying *twenty* cents in coin for their notes. *Thirty* cents in the dollar is the amount. To such holders, however, as are willing to take chances for a rateable share of the fund remaining after the affairs of the bank are wound up, the bank will advance twenty cents in the dollar.

LOCAL MATTERS.

ANOTHER FIGHT IN AN AUCTION-HOUSE, &c. Yesterday morning, Isaac Cohen and Ezekiel Myers, Israelites, made their appearance before Mayor Saunders to answer the charge of fighting in Messrs. Digges & Apperson's auction-house.

From the evidence, it seems that a competition arose between the parties about who should have a lot of shoes that were put up for sale. Cohen led off and Myers followed, whereupon Cohen got angry and threatened Myers with castigation if he persisted in running up the goods. This admonition increased Myers's estimate of the value of the articles, and up went another bid; but hardly had he given the wink to the inimitable Digges before "down went his building," which demonstration was considered by the book-keeper as a "knock down and goner," and was so recorded on the ledger. Forthwith Myers procured a warrant and had Cohen arrested, in order that the whole matter might be referred to the arbitrament of his Honor. Cohen denied the assault upon Myers, and accounted for his measuring his length upon the floor of the auction-house by saying that he merely put his hands upon Myers's head, and down he "drapped."

The Mayor gave a patient hearing of the case, and after revolving the evidence in his mind, concluded to hold Cohen to bail for his good behavior for twelve months in the sum of two hundred dollars, which was readily given, and the party discharged.

The case of Peter Stagg, charged with having been drunk and disorderly, was called, and the accused not being present, it was continued until Saturday, with the understanding that if he he did not appear his bail would be forfeited.

At this point the Mayor stated that there were no more cases, and adjourned his Court.

PROVOST COURT—BREVET-COLONEL MCENTEE PRESIDING.—The following cases were disposed of in this Court yesterday:

Jane Gibson, negro, was charged with an assault and battery on Elias Charles, another negro. He was found guilty and sent to Castle Thunder for sixty days.

Joseph Barker was up on a charge of interfering with an officer in the discharge of his duty. He was released.

Jordan Winston, negro, was charged with carrying concealed weapons, found guilty and sent to Castle Thunder for sixty days.

John C. Fry, negro, charged with assaulting Rebecca Jones, was found not guilty and discharged.

Frank Hall, negro, was arraigned on a charge of petit larceny, found guilty and sent to Castle Thunder for thirty days.

James Washington, negro, was found guilty of resisting a policeman in the discharge of his duty, and sent to the Castle for fifteen days.

Jordan Winston, negro, was charged with carrying concealed weapons, and sent to Castle Thunder for sixty days.

George Washington was charged with being disorderly in the street, and was found not guilty and discharged.

John Lewis, negro, was charged with the same offence, found guilty and sent to Castle Thunder for ten days.

Samuel Pleasants, negro, was charged with stealing groceries from M. F. Burton. There being no evidence against him, he was released.

Harrison Banks, negro, was charged with petit larceny, found guilty and sent to Castle Thunder for sixty days.

Charles Read, negro, was also before the Court on the charge of petit larceny. He plead guilty and was sentenced to the Castle for sixty days.

Henrietta Johnson and Jane Johnson, colored, vagrants, thirty days each in Castle Thunder.

Isabella Banks, colored, entering the house of Mr. Simons and attempting to steal, thirty days in Castle Thunder.

Henry Woodson, colored, assault and battery on Mary Cooper, three months in Castle Thunder.

John Wilson, colored, stealing iron, sixty days in Castle Thunder.

BOLD HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—A few nights since, as two gentlemen, employed in the quartermaster's department at Rocketts, were returning home in a carriage, they were set upon by a party of garroters, (five in number,) who suddenly sprang from behind the old brick wall on Main street, near the York River railroad crossing-place, seized the horses' reins and compelled the driver to be still, while the carriage door was forced open, and, the ruffians, jumping inside, demanded, at the mouths of their pistols, all that the occupants had. Being unarmed, the quartermaster *attaches* submitted to be searched, and had taken from them two gold watches and a considerable amount of money. The ruffians then ordered the driver to go ahead, which he did till reaching the neighborhood of Port Mayo, where he was again stopped, and the garroters alighted, leaving the unfortunate occupants of the carriage and the driver to make their way home as best they could.

GARROTED.—Michael Hunt, a citizen, while returning home on Thursday night, about 11 o'clock, was set upon by two men, whose purpose it was to rob him; but before the rascals succeeded in their designs, policemen Rhodes and Morris, who happened to hear Mike's cries for help, ran to his assistance just in time to arrest the highwaymen as they were in the act of fleecing his pockets. The names of the robbers are John Carroll and Cyrus McConway, both members of the Twenty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry, Company "C." They were assigned quarters at Major Claiborne's Old Market Inn.

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY have heard with sorrow of the departure of Sister Blanche, directress of St. Joseph's Asylum, for Washington, where she has been called to take charge of a school.

It would be out of place to bring into notice a Sister of Charity who shrinks in her good deeds from anything like publicity, were it not that the part she has acted amongst us was of a nature something more than private. Sister Blanche has been for some years in charge of the Orphan Asylum, and has labored with fidelity and zeal in her good mission. In obedience to an order from her superior, she cheerfully leaves a charge which is so dear to her for a new field of charity.

BREAKING INTO A HOUSE.—On Thursday night, the residence of Mr. Bragg, on Union Hill, near the "Seven Chimneys," was forcibly entered by thieves; but before they succeeded in stealing anything, the occupants of the house, who had been aroused by the noise made in forcing the door open, proceeded to search the house, and frightened them off.

UNFOUNDED.—The rumor, current on the streets yesterday, that one of the National Banks of this city had "gone up," is without foundation, and originated with a report here in regard to some of the Northern banking institutions. The banks of Richmond are as sound and as strong as the rock of Gibraltar.

WE RETURN THANKS to Mr. M. O. Dove, Potomac mail agent, for late New York papers. Also, to Mr. M. G. Porter, of the National Express, for Norfolk papers in advance of the mail.

POLICE ARRESTS.—The following arrests were made by the police yesterday:

William Gordon and Daniel Barker, negroes, stealing pig iron.

John Wilson, negro, stealing iron from the Virginia Central railroad.

John Finge, soldier, disorderly, drunk and lying in a cellar.

Mike Redmond, soldier, stealing an overcoat from Anthony Fitzgerald, a negro.

Jordan Washington, a negro, insulting N. A. Myers and carrying concealed weapons.

Reuben Jackson, drunk and disorderly in the street.

Mrs. Goodman, selling liquor without a license.

Charles Harris, negro, stealing belting from L. L. Moore. Harris escaped from the policeman on his way to the cage, but was subsequently arrested.

THE SARATOGA.—This nymph of the waters gaily sailed up to her wharf at Rocketts yesterday morning, and attracted the admiration of a large crowd who were expecting her.—She is built after the model of the Niagara, and is about the same size. Both steamers belong to the New York and Virginia Steamship Line, and are admirably adapted to the trade for which they are intended. The officers of the Saratoga are skillful and accommodating, and passengers travelling on her will surely be courteously treated. We learn that on her voyage to this place the Saratoga broke some of her machinery, which will account for her delay in arriving here. She will return to New York this afternoon.

THE BLUE'S BIG BOWL.—We revert to this item again to-day for the purpose of correcting an error into which some persons were led by reading our article of yesterday.

The *bowl* is still safe, and is in the hands of one who knows how to take care of such precious relics of the olden time. It had merely temporarily passed from his hands to those of a gentleman who borrowed it, for a special occasion, to use it at his private residence during the holidays.

COMMISSIONER OF DEEDS.—Governor Arthur I. Boreman, of West Virginia, has appointed P. Cary Nicholas, Esq., Commissioner of Deeds for the State of West Virginia.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—DECEMBER 30, 1865.

Sun rises	7 17	Moon sets, morn	5 13
Sun sets	4 43	High water	2 58

PORT OF RICHMOND, DECEMBER 29, 1865.

ARRIVED.

Steamer Petersburg, Robert Travers, Baltimore, (twenty-six hours,) merchandise and passengers, D. & W. Currie.

Steamer Albemarle, Bourne, New York, merchandise and passengers, Samuel Ayres & Co.

Steamer Saratoga, King, (new and first trip, thirty-three hours,) New York, merchandise and passengers, G. F. Watson.

Steamer M. Martin, Livingston, Norfolk, United States mail, merchandise and passengers, Haskins & Bridgford.

Schooner Kedron, Port Deposit, lumber, A. A. McCulloch.

Schooner Susan, E. Brown, Fortress Monroe, Government ordnance.

Steamer City of Albany, Martin, Washington, Government ordnance.

Steamer Louis Francisco, City Point, Government ordnance

SAILED.

Steamer City of Richmond, Stranahan, Norfolk, United States mail, merchandise and passengers, Haskins & Bridgford.

MEMORANDA.

Steamer Claymont, from Philadelphia, reported below City Point by Pilot Barnes, of the steamer M. Martin.

The schooner Elliott, from Baltimore for Richmond, sprung a leak on Wednesday last, and was run ashore on Kent island.

CONSIGNEES OF CARGO OF STEAMSHIP SARATOGA, KING MASTER, FROM NEW YORK, CONSIGNED TO G. F. WATSON.—A. S. Lee, H. D. Whitcomb, W. S. Donnan, M. P. Frank & Co., Fleishman & Heller, Gregory Brothers, J. Kindewater & Bock, Jones & Griswold, Asa Snyder & Co., E. P. Townsend, R. L. Williams, A. West, West, Beardsley & Co., West & Andrews, C. D. Yale & Co., National Coal Mining Company, S. Rapp & Co., A. Brare, Harvey & Williams, H. Whitlock, William Taylor & Son, L. S. Moor & Co., R. & P. R. R. Co., Wallace & K., N. W. Nelson, E. S. Wortham & Co., H. L. Wigand, J. Jacobs, T. R. Price & Co., E. Mathews, Bridgford & Myers, A. Y. Stokes & Co., E. H. Hill, G. F. Watson, W. P. Cox, H. L. Pelouze & Co., Thomas Dodamead, J. Steenbock & Co., French & Crenshaw, Rev. G. L. Shearer, Angus, Byerly & Co., Beckham & Co., O. H. Chalkley & Co. W. B. Ellison & Co., John Enders, R. Edmund, John Freeland, William Gotze, G. I. Herring & Co., Johnson & Hunt, Hagar & Co., W. B. Jones & Co., W. T. King & Co., Mitchell & Tyler, Styll & Davis, William Ira Smith, Turner & Ehbets, W. H. Scott, D. K. Stewart, J. N. Van-Lew, Woodhouse & Parham, Zimmer & Co., Hall & Hutchison, S. Niggell, Miller & Jones, J. B. S., J. H., Tyler & Son, G. & A. Bargamin, W. S. Wood, Baldwin Brothers, Herring & Chalk, National Bank of Virginia, M. Sundberg, A. Lowe & Brother, E. M. Grant & Co., H. Miller, Collins & P.

SHIPPING.

FOR NEW YORK.—The new and elegant side-wheel steamship NIAGARA, Captain COUCH, will leave her berth at Rocketts on TUESDAY at 2 o'clock, P. M. Passengers requested to be on board prior to that hour.

Freight received up to 12 o'clock TUESDAY.

No transhipment by this line, as by others, which is so very injurious to cargo. Rates moderate.

de 30—3t GARRET F. WATSON.

FOR NEW YORK.—The new and elegant side-wheel steamship SARATOGA, Captain KING, will leave her berth at Rocketts on SATURDAY at 12 o'clock, M. Passengers are requested to be on board prior to that hour.

Freight received all day THURSDAY and FRIDAY.

No trans-shipment by this line, as by others, which is so very injurious to cargo.

Rates moderate. GARRET F. WATSON.

de 27—4t

FOR NEW YORK.—The new and elegant side-wheel steamship ALBEMARLE, Captain BOURNE, will leave her wharf at Rocketts on SATURDAY AFTERNOON at 1 o'clock. Passengers are requested to be on board prior to that hour.

de 27—4t SAMUEL AYRES & CO., Agents.

COAL AND WOOD.

R. J. WHITE, DEALER IN ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS COAL, confidently recommends the PHŒNIX RED ASH COAL as superior for cooking and warming. Try it. Coal kept dry under cover. Office at S. H. Owens & Son, No. 30 Main street. Yard, south side the dock. Orders left at Wagner's drug store, corner Sixth and Broad, promptly attended to.

de 23—ts

LORBERRY, RED ASH, EGG SIZE, ANTHRACITE COAL—the most superior Coal known for cooking and family use—will be delivered to buyers at the market price.

Coal yard, at Mayo's, corner Cary and Twenty-fifth streets. Office, Bosher's Hall, corner Ninth and Main streets.

de 16—2w J. P. GEORGE.

G. W. BOWEN. C. H. PAGE.

BOWEN & PAGE, dealers in ANTHRACITE COAL, Eighteenth street, south side Dock, Richmond, Va. Best quality of RED and WHITE ASH, LUMP, EGG and STOVE COAL always on hand, and sold by weight. de 11—ts

WILLIAM H. DAVIS, DEALER IN ANTHRACITE AND BITUMINOUS COALS AND WOOD, Basin Bank, between Ninth and Tenth streets. de 11—1m

NEW COAL AND WOOD YARD, CORNER OF SEVENTH AND CANAL STREETS.—ANTHRACITE and MIDLOTHIAN COAL and WOOD for sale by

BLOOD & PENDLETON.

N. B.—Orders promptly filled. de 11—ts

LOST, STRAYED AND FOUND.

STRAYED FROM THE OLD Market, one dark brown or brindle PUPPY; well-grown, long ears and tail, and black nose. A reward of FIVE DOLLARS will be paid and no questions asked if delivered to me.

WILLIAM J. HARWOOD,

de 28—3t* No. 7 Main street.

WANTS.

WANTED, a NURSE for a child three months old; one that can come well recommended. E. D. EACHO, Real Estate Agent,

de 29—2t* office on Fourteenth street.

LINSEED OIL, WHITE LEAD AND ZINC in oil, of superior quality, will be sold low to close. J. P. GEORGE,

Bosher's Hall, corner Ninth and Main streets.

de 16—3w

The Operations of the Freedmen's Bureau in Virginia.

Major-General Howard has just received the official report of Colonel Brown, Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for the State of Virginia, relative to the operations of the system in that State. The report is prefaced by a reference to the condition of society in the State when he assumed charge of his office:

The problem to be solved was how to provide for the protection, elevation and government of nearly half a million of people suddenly freed from the bonds of a rigorous control, acquainted with no law but that of force, ignorant of the elementary principles of civil government and of the first duties of citizenship, without any provision for the future wants of themselves and families, and entertaining many false and extravagant notions in respect to the intentions of the Government toward them.

The citizens generally afforded no assistance in meeting these difficulties. Stripped to a great extent of ready resources by the operations of the war, they were unable to allow these people their just dues, much less any charitable assistance. In some sections of the State public meetings had been held, and the citizens had entered into covenant not to pay more than five dollars ($5) per month to able-bodied men, not to rent lands to the freedmen, nor to give employment to any without a certificate from their former owners. Many of the citizens, under the control of tradition, habit and education, only sullenly acquiesced in the freedom of their former slaves. They regarded the colored population as necessarily and appropriately servile and unfit for freedom; and stimulated by the feeling that the late slaves were in some way responsible for the failure of their cause, they were wholly disqualified from co-operating in the work of the bureau.

Another class, numerically small, but of the best talent, culture, and influence, not only accepted the situation, but with a wise foresight and noble patriotism were ready to cooperate with the Government for the speediest restoration of tranquillity and law, and to assist the bureau in its endeavor to bring the highest good to all classes out of present evils. A third, and more numerous class, because forced to acknowledge the freedom of their former slaves, wished either to effect their entire removal from the State or bind them by such contracts as would allow them but little more freedom than they formerly possessed.

The superintendents were further instructed to protect the negroes in their rights as freemen, to see that they were not in any way oppressed by their former masters, and to cultivate friendly relations between the two classes; to assist in the organization and maintenance of schools; to discourage as far as possible the disposition of the freedmen to remove from one locality to another, except so far as it might be necessary for uniting members of separated families, or to find profitable employment. To urge upon them the importance of making contracts for their labor, and to fullfil the same when made; to aid them by their advice when necessary to prevent their being defrauded; but in all other cases to leave them free to make their own bargains.

To furnish rations, medicine and medical attendance for the helpless and destitute not provided for by their former owners; but not to issue rations to persons able to work, for whom employment could be found.

The late slaves have been fully protected in their rights as freedmen, and the exceptional instances where their rights were for a time denied are no longer heard of. It is believed that there is not within the State a person who does not understand and successfully assert his rights to freedom. The extraordinary eagerness of the freedmen for the advantages of schools has been met as far as the resources of the bureau and the charitable zeal of its friends abroad would allow. There are about eleven thousand five hundred pupils receiving instruction from one hundred and ninety-five teachers. Numerous and urgent appeals come from remote and isolated localities for teachers and books, to which it has been impossible to respond for want of school-rooms and suitable quarters for teachers. Their progress in learning is such as would warrant a much larger expenditure of money and effort.—Many citizens, adhering to the ideas and customs of the past, strongly oppose these movements, while others endorse and encourage them. The sentiment of the community is gradually changing in favor of educating the freedmen. The irritation existing between the whites and the freedmen immediately after the cessation of hostilities has greatly abated, and instances of personal violence are becoming rare.

Referring to the disposition of the freedmen to improve their condition, the commissioner says:

The capacity of the freedmen of Virginia to take care of themselves, even under adverse circumstances, is best shown in the southeastern part of the State. During the war nearly seventy thousand were gathered here, on a limited territory, in extreme destitution, and yet at this time only four thousand four hundred and twelve are receiving Government aid, and about one-half of this number are of the families of soldiers. Many have rented or purchased comfortable homes, some have saved considerable sums of money, and nearly five thousand of their children, decently clad and furnished with books of their own purchasing, are attending schools.

During the month of October 235,786 rations were issued to 11,622 persons, or 7,606 rations per day, the number of persons receiving rations being reduced from the previous month thirty per cent.

There are eight hospitals, at present occupied by 700 persons. The commissioner represents that he has charge of 56,000 acres, held as confiscated or abandoned lands.

The rights of the freedmen in the crops and improvements on the land restored have been secured. The result of the cultivation of these lands by the freedmen is not yet known, as the crops have not been fully harvested, but it is believed to be satisfactory.

The special courts organized for the freedmen are successfully accomplishing the ends aimed at in their establishment, and are giving general satisfaction. By them justice has been more generally received than could have been done by any other available means.

Notwithstanding the many embarrassments under which the bureau has labored, it is believed to have succeeded in promoting the welfare of the class in whose interest it was created, and to have afforded important aid in securing good order in the State.

THE FATAL SMOTHERING CASE.—The Chicago *Republican* contains the particulars of the case mentioned by telegraph of the smothering of six men by the gas escaping in the room in which they were sleeping. The sixth victim died on Monday. The *Republican* says:

"We have no disposition to indulge in comment upon this affair which shall cast censure where it does not belong, but we can scarcely help reflecting upon the gross negligence which left the gas pipes of an occupied house in such an insecure condition. The cap had fallen from the mouth of the pipe overhead, and was found upon the floor, near the partition. Whether forced off by the pressure of gas or the closing of a door, certain it is that it was insecurely and improperly fastened, having nothing to retain it in its place save a little wax commonly used by plumbers and gas-fitters. An aperture of an inch even over the window would have saved these lives and made the sad record we are compelled to write unnecessary.

THE PETERSBURG IRON WORKS.—The *Express* announces the organization of this company under its new charter. W. L. Watkins was elected president.

We understand that the subject of constructing a bridge between the cities of New York and Brooklyn is being seriously considered by persons who have the interests of both cities and their own in view. The details of the plan are not yet matured.

The Nashville and Chattanooga railroad has begun a suit against its late president for one million dollars damage for permitting the Confederate Government to use the road and its machinery during the war.

It is thought General Crittenden will be elected to the United States Senate from Kentucky as the successor of Mr. Davis.

A dispatch from Washington says the army will be reduced another thirty thousand early in January.

A large cargo of assorted goods has arrived in Savannah, direct from England.

Bishop Potter, of New York, denounces operatic singing in church.

The Prospect of a Large Crop of Cotton.

The National *Intelligencer* confirms, in the following paragraphs, the statement to which we, a day or two since, gave currency, to the effect that there was a probability of a good cotton crop. It says:

"We learn, on intelligent and reliable authority, that on the Mississippi river great preparations are being made for the cultivation of a large breadth of the most fertile cotton lands entirely with freedmen's labor.—Capitalists and enterprising business men of the Northwestern States are now making arrangements for cultivating cotton on a large scale in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, &c. They anticipate no difficulty as to obtaining labor, and have found none.

"Therefore we are led to believe that the estimate of the Comptroller of the Currency, Mr. Clarke, of two and a half millions of bales of cotton for the next year, is not an exaggeration, though half of that product would be of vast benefit to the financial condition of the country, and would afford some assurance of the ultimate success of the experiment of free black labor in the cotton fields."

Receipts of Cotton—Stock at the South.

CHARLESTON, December 25.—The receipts of cotton at New Orleans and Mobile were rather heavier last week, those at Mobile showing an increase of five thousand bales over the preceding week.

The total stock in Southern ports is estimated to-day at three hundred thousand bales. The stock at this port is only eleven thousand two hundred and fifty bales, and the whole of it is now going on shipboard for Liverpool.

There are over thirty-five vessels at New Orleans and Mobile loading cotton, chiefly for foreign markets. The exports to Northern ports are falling off, some of the steamers not carrying a bale.

A GREAT ENTERPRISE—FLOATING VESSELS AROUND NIAGARA FALLS.—Horace H. Day, Esq., of New York, laid before the Transportation Committee of the Board of Trade, on the 26th instant, his plan for a ship canal, with double inclined planes, the vessel always floating in water around the Falls of Niagara, whereby it is possible to take a ship of the largest tonnage adapted to the lake trade, and in half an hour pass it on the other side of the falls with her cargo undisturbed. The vast importance of this great invention to the commerce and prosperity of the whole country, but more especially to the development of the boundless West, which is the true seat of empire on this continent and the granary of the world, cannot be over-estimated.

Mr. Day explained his system with clearness and with convincing force. He has taken hold of the subject with all his energy, and will surely accomplish his purpose, for men who put their souls into great enterprises "know no such word as fail."

At the close of Mr. Day's exposition, a resolution was unanimously adopted thanking him for his able and interesting remarks, and declaring that the committee will give such consideration to the merits of the question as its great importance demands.—*Boston Courier.*

DEBASED GOLD COIN.—The fact that debased gold is on the market to a considerable amount has been discovered. Its withdrawal as circulation has given time to experts in counterfeiting to manufacture large quantities of filled coin, which are now found in circulation. The payment of customs duties in gold, in consequence of the scarcity of demand notes, keeps the false coin in company with the genuine, and the counterfeits are so well made that none but experts can detect them. Many of the banks in New York, and some in this city, have received and paid this false issue—brokers take and sell it, and it is sent to the custom-house to pay duties, without criminal knowledge or intent. The proportion of the filled coin now in use is not large, as compared with the genuine currency; but it is nevertheless true that few of the men handling it know whether the coin is genuine or not, and the uninitiated cannot possibly detect the work of the tamperers. At the New York custom-house almost every day the filled pieces are sent in for payment of duties. The discovery of these pieces is followed immediately by cutting them in halves with a chissel, when they are returned to their owners. The use of gold certificates, thus limiting the handling of the coin, will materially narrow the field of operations in the bogus article.—*Baltimore Sun.*

THE ALEXANDRIA RIOT AGAIN.—It appears to be almost needless to attempt to stop the circulation of the most exagerrated accounts of the disturbances in the streets here on Monday last in some of the papers published at the North. They will make the most of very bad conduct, and, it is probable, very bad and too much whisky. However, as the whole matter is to be investigated, the public will soon see more about it.

A negro man made an affidavit on Tuesday that a young gentleman, (Mr. N.,) employed in the post-office here, had knocked him down on Monday. Mr. N. proved an *alibi*, and, of course, the falsity of the accusation, and was immediately released by the military, by whom he had been arrested.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

General Augur has directed that no heed be given to the demands of the civil authorities for the persons of any arrested for participating in the riot at Alexandria, but that all such demands be referred to his department headquarters.

FALL IN THE PRICE OF COAL.—At the monthly sale of coal yesterday, prices declined from fifty cents to two dollars per ton. Speculators have held on to their stocks just as long as they were able, and now they are compelled to dispose of them for what they will bring. They supposed that long before this a brisk demand would have sprung up for fuel, but the open weather has disappointed them.

The general impression among buyers at the sale yesterday was that coal will certainly not be higher this winter, and may, perhaps, be lower. Stove coal is now selling at $9.37½ per 2,240 pounds. Retailers are selling the same coal at $11.37½ per 2,000 pounds.—*New York Times.*

We hope this fall will transmit its influence to Richmond, where coal is held and sold at much higher prices.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE IN BALTIMORE OF A VIRGINIA MERCHANT.—On the 13th instant, Mr. John P. Bledsoe, merchant, of Staunton, Va., registered at the Maltby House, having in his possession a large amount of money, intended for the purchase of goods, since which time nothing has been seen or heard of him. His partner in business, Mr. C. B. Wood, is now in this city endeavoring to learn something of him, but thus far without avail. His bed was not disturbed at the Maltby, and his baggage still remains there. There are speculations of course as to his disappearance, one of which is that he has been made away with for the money which is known to have been on his person.—*Sun.*

THE COUNTERFEIT FIFTY-DOLLAR GREENBACKS.—We were yesterday shown the most perfect of the fifty-dollar counterfeit greenback notes that we have yet met with. It is excellent in the engraving, the paper, the printing; and, indeed, in its whole appearance it is well calculated to deceive any but the most perfect of the experts in such matters. The only mark to which we can venture to direct public attention as a caution is that of the absence of the button mark on the lappel of the coat on the figure of Hamilton, in the body of the bill. In the genuine bills the buttons are rather indistinct, but in the counterfeit but one is to be seen.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

DISTURBANCE IN WARRENTON.—A disturbance occurred in Warrenton, on Christmas, between some of the troops stationed there and a portion of the citizens. Some of the former were severely hurt, and one of the latter, Andrew Withers, formerly a member of the Seventeenth Virginia, was shot in the leg. An additional military force has, we understand, been sent there.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

LIBERAL DONATION.—Daniel Drew has given two hundred and fifty thousand dollars towards the million dollars to be raised by the Methodists this year, and he also proposes to erect a theological seminary at his country seat, up the Hudson river, which is to cost not less than half a million, as a free donation to his denomination.—*New York Express.*

EDWIN FORREST.—The statement that Mr. Forrest has taken steps to be re-united to his "former wife," copied in the *Transcript* from a New York letter in the *Providence Journal*, we are informed upon the highest authority, is wholly incorrect.—*Boston Transcript.*

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TERMS OF ADVERTISING:

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C. W. THOMAS & BROTHER, DRUGGISTS AND PHARMACEUTISTS, southwest corner of Main and Twenty-first streets, Richmond, Va., have just opened with a full supply of DRUGS, MEDICINES, PERFUMERY, SOAPS and FANCY GOODS. The patronage of the public respectfully solicited. Physicians' prescriptions carefully compounded at all hours. de 16—1m

PURCELL, LADD & CO., DRUGGISTS AND DEALERS IN PAINTS, OILS, &c., have made arrangements favorable to purchasers, and are now prepared to take orders for POLISHED PLATE GLASS, from the largest factories in France and Belgium, which furnish glass of UNSURPASSED QUALITY. Also, FRENCH WINDOW GLASS, of single or double thickness; ORNAMENTED GLASS, ROUGH HAMMERED GLASS, for floors and skylights, and PATENT LIGHTS (Hyatt's), for sidewalks and vaults.

Orders for the above promptly executed.

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Samples of the different kinds of Glass can be seen on application.

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MEADE & BAKER, PRACTICAL PHARMACEUTISTS, offer for *cash only* the following:

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FOUGERA'S ICELAND MOSS PASTE, a very agreeable and effective preparation for coughs, colds, &c.

FOURNIER'S PAULLINIA POWDERS AND PILLS, for the cure of nervous and sick headache. Paullinia is imported into Paris from South America, and there prepared in the form of powders and pills, in the most careful and scientific manner. It is recognized as one of the most powerful and certain therapeutic agents in nervous affections, especially in cephalalgia, and has met with marked success in this city.

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REYNOLDS'S SPECIFIC, for Gout.

BLANCARD'S PILLS OF IODIDE OF IRON.

PURE CAFFEIN, ATROPIA, DIGITALIN, CANNABIS INDICA, and many other rare and *genuine* preparations and chemicals, for sale by

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