Richmond Dispatch.

FRIDAY.....JANUARY 23, 1874.

The Mails.

It is stated that the abolition of the franking privilege has already effected a considerable saving to the Government. We are agreeably surprised to learn this fact; for since contracts for carrying the mails are made only once in four years, and as almost all the present contracts were entered into under the belief that the contractors would have to carry tons upon tons of free mail matter, we had not expected any great saving to be manifest until after the next letting of contracts. It will take at least four years to make plain the advantages that are to result from the abolition of this outrageous privilege.

But the postal system needs other changes. It is defective as to newspapers. Already the law requires the postage upon all letters to be prepaid. So as to transient newspapers and all other mailable matter except newspapers regularly sent through the mails. Stamps pay the postage upon letters, or upon a pair of spectacles, or upon any mail matter of the class which includes everything but manuscripts and letters and regular newspapers and periodicals. All this is well enough. The man who wishes to send a transient newspaper, or a letter, or a grape-vine, or anything else, through the mails has only to put stamps enough upon his package to insure its transmission to the person for whom it is designed. Neither the postmaster at the office of transmission nor the postmaster at the office of delivery has any trouble worth mentioning. The thing is put into a bag, and when it reaches its destination, is taken out and delivered. No account of the transaction is kept at either end of the line. No clerks are employed to charge a man with a quarter's postage or to credit him with having paid it. The business is done with the minimum expenditure of time and trouble.

And how many clerks are there employed in the United States in keeping the accounts we have just alluded to? How much of the compensation allowed to country postmasters is allowed because they have so many small accounts to keep? And how many thousands of dollars are lost to the Department because of the impossibility of collecting all these little accounts and of keeping out of the mails transient newspapers which pass as if sent to subscribers? How much trouble and vexation, too, do these little accounts not cause? In a word, the credit system ought to be abolished. Everything that passes through the mails should pay its way. And the presence of mail matter in the mail-bags should be conclusive evidence that all the postage is paid upon it, and that when it arrives at its destination it may be delivered immediately. The postmaster ought not to have to hold on to a newspaper until he can open an account and charge the postage and then credit the same before he can deliver it. Nor ought he to be compelled either to refuse to send a paper by a messenger because the postage is not paid, or to violate the law by sending it.

What is the remedy for all this trouble, expense, and labor? *Simply a law requiring postage upon all newspapers to be paid by the pound at the office whence sent.* Each editor would send his wheelbarrow load or wagon load or wagon loads of packages to the office, and, causing the whole to be weighed, pay the postage in a lump each day, or weekly, or monthly, if the Department chose to allow it so to be done—as it might safely do, seeing that if the editor failed to pay at the appointed time his paper would be excluded from the mails. The postage is now one dollar and twenty cents per annum upon the *Daily Dispatch*, and in exact proportion upon papers published semi-weekly or weekly. It is easy to ascertain how much 312 sheets of a newspaper of average size weigh. Let us suppose that they weigh twenty pounds. Then, if the rates of postage are to remain as high as they now are, the editor will have to pay six cents a pound, or six dollars a hundred pounds, postage upon his packages of newspapers. No stamps will be required for these papers. Scarcely any time or trouble will be required at the post-office. The wagon drives up. The bags are weighed. The postage is paid. The entire lot is at once ready without any further ado, not only to be sent away, but when it reaches its thousands of destinations will be ready for immediate delivery. The postage paid now by thousands will then be paid by a single person or firm. The revenues of the Department will be increased. A large number of employés may be dismissed. And nobody will be injured. What says Mr. CRESWELL?

And to that Ohio editor who has furnished the only argument why newspapers should be sent free within the counties where published, we would say that our law would require the double sheets of New York and other cities to pay postage in proportion to size.

No man who parted his name in the middle or owned three front names was ever elected President of the United States. In fact, all the Presidents but four had each but one front name. Moral: Don't use front names recklessly in naming your babies.—*Memphis Avalanche.*

Yet HORACE GREELEY was beaten by U. S. GRANT. The truth is that when GEORGE WASHINGTON, JAMES MADISON, and the rest, were born, the custom was to give but one Christian name. So of course no person otherwise named could be elected President. But now that the custom has changed, the fact will probably be that hereafter no man who has less than two Christian names will be elected President.

The Farmville *Mercury* "corrects" one of our sentences, and makes it read as follows:

"Really, this case is one of the most unique that has occurred in the history of the Government."

We wrote "have." Suppose we change the sequence of the words:

"Of the most unique cases that have occurred in the history of the Government, this is one."

CORRECTION.—There were two errors in the *Dispatch* of yesterday which demand correction; not that they were unusually bad ones, but the one because it occurred in the article of a learned professor in a university, and the other because it occurred in the article of a learned pharmaceutist. The one error was the substitution of "*visitors*" for "*victor's*" wreath, &c. The other was the substitution of "*I am*" for "*Jam.*"

P. S.—Since the above was written PHARMACEUTIST has sent us the following modest note:

"*Jam satis populis plumbi.*"

Printed "I am," &c. PHARMACEUTIST.

Surely no other man could ask for less room.

The Power of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

We do not wish to engage in a controversy with our friend Dr. RUFFNER, and so we shall not comment at length upon the following letter. Since the object of the letter seems to be to produce the impression that the Superintendent of Public Instruction has few or no powers, we might content ourselves with replying that an officer who has no power cannot possibly fear that he will lose any.

Dr. RUFFNER seems to anticipate our argument. He knows well that he is, and in the nature of things must be, the Board of Education. The Attorney-General has enough to do to fill his own office, and so has the Governor. They *might*, in a case where gross favoritism or a great wrong was apparent, overrule the Superintendent of Public Instruction; but in almost all cases they will, as to the working of the public-school system, allow him to have his own way. The place of meeting is *his* office; not the Governor's nor the Attorney-General's. Meetings may be called whenever he (or they) pleases. He has to call them, of course. So the Senate nominally supervises appointments and removals; but who does not know that in nine cases out of ten his will is not even called in question?

The Board of Education appoints three school trustees *in each school district in the State.* Dr. RUFFNER does that, we imagine. There can be no teacher of a public school in Virginia who does not hold a certificate of his fitness for teaching from the county superintendent; and this county superintendent is appointed by the Board.

But we will not argue the question now. See Acts of Assembly 1869–'70, pages 402–417. If the law there appearing does not show that the Superintendent of Public Instruction is the most influential man in Virginia, we are greatly mistaken.

RICHMOND, January 22, 1874.

Mr. Editor,—In yesterday's *Dispatch* you quote something from the Richmond correspondent of the Alexandria *Sentinel*, and then say:

"We avail ourselves of the appearance of the above paragraph to express our opinion that Dr. Ruffner is capable, faithful, and efficient, and will probably retain his office as long as he desires to do so if he will consent to deprive himself of what members doubtless consider too much power. We regard him as a model Superintendent of Public Instruction; but neither to him nor to any other man would we be willing to entrust the wielding for many successive years of such influence as now belongs to his office. In ten years he would be able to rule the Virginia Legislature as Tom Scott is said to have ruled that of Pennsylvania."

In reading these remarks on my poor self I cannot say whether I felt the more flattered or alarmed. I have never thought much of myself as an officer, and it never occurred to me that I was a dangerous character. If I be the latter, I ought to be shorn; but perhaps there is some mistake on this point. A great deal more power has been ascribed to my office than I ever discovered. I have no patronage to bestow—not a particle. I appoint nobody—not even my own two hard-worked and poorly-paid clerks. And in this respect I have less power than any other head of department, and less than the clerks of the Senate and House of Delegates.

I handle no public money, appropriate no money, and draw no drafts on the Treasury for any purpose whatever. I occasion no expenditure that is not allowed by the Board of Education.

I have no power of command except in the way of general interpretations of the law, and of practical instructions as to carrying out the school laws and regulations, all of which are published before the eyes of the world. Beyond this I cannot control the action of any one connected with the school system. Cases may be brought to me by way of appeal; but any decision which I may render is liable to reversal by the Board of Education.

Then, if I appoint and remove nobody, control nobody, and handle no money, wherein do I threaten the public liberties?

But some say that I control the Board of Education! I am only one of three members, and if it could be proved that I am more than a match for the Governor and the Attorney-General combined, then I ought to have a higher office, or at least get a better salary!

As you have the law on your table, Mr. Editor, and are recognized authority in legal interpretations, (which remark I make sincerely,) I respectfully ask that you will point out the section or clause which confers on the Superintendent of Public Instruction any dangerous grant of power, and I will unite with you in laboring to have it changed.

That the Superintendent occupies an influential position no one would attempt to deny, and I should hope that no one would have it otherwise; but the character of his influence is chiefly moral and educational. There is immense power *in the school system*—power for good in good hands, and power for evil in evil hands. But I submit that the centre of this power is not in the superintendency. And a careful study of the law will exhibit the fact that whilst a world of important duty is laid upon the Superintendent he is sufficiently strapped in the matter of power.

It is very likely, Mr. Editor, you could quote instances in which I exhibited unbecoming forwardness in pushing the education cause and in defending it from deadly perils, but I beg that my sins be not laid to the charge of the school system.

W. H. RUFFNER.

THE WEATHER AND THE MOON.—With the aid of "Old Probabilities" we hope yet to drive all believers in the theory that the changes in the moon affect the weather out of Virginia. Last Sunday there was a new moon at all of the places named in the following list; but it will be observed that the weather was of different kinds at different places:

Breckinridge, Mich., clear; Buffalo, light rain; Chicago, Ill., light rain; Cleaveland, O., light rain; Detroit, Mich., light rain; Duluth, Minn., clear; Escanaba, Mich., light snow; Fort Sully, D. T., clear; Indianapolis, Ind., light rain; Kingston, Can., cloudy; La Crosse, Wis., heavy snow; Louisville, Ky., cloudy; Marquette, Mich., light snow; Memphis, Tenn., cloudy; Milwaukie, Wis., light snow; Nashville, cloudy; New Orleans, La., fair; Oswego, N. Y., cloudy; Pittsburgh, threatening; Port Dover, light rain; Port Stanley, Can., light rain; Quebec, Can., clear; Rochester, N. Y., cloudy; Saugeen, Can., light rain; St. Louis, Mo., cloudy; St. Paul, Minn., threatening; Toledo, light rain; Toronto, Can., cloudy; Yankton, D. T., fair; Farther Point, fair.

And now the old hero General EARLY tells his story. Well, we shall be careful hereafter how we express any opinions on the subject he discusses. Nevertheless, we are in search of the truth, and shall welcome all such contributions as General EARLY's. Send them on.

The Georgia State Grange met at Atlanta on Wednesday. Two hundred and seventy-five granges were represented by over five hundred members. Some of the Georgians who used to be so much afraid of the granges are doubtless now amongst those who claim to be the originators thereof.

Golden Grain. By B. L. FARJEON, author of "Blade-o'-Grass," "Bread-and-Cheese and Kisses," &c. New York: HARPER BROTHERS.

FARJEON has gained a great fame by his passionate stories. This *Golden Grain* is a worthy companion of its predecessors.

For sale by STARKE & RYLAND.

General Assembly of Virginia.

THURSDAY, January 22, 1874.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order at 12 o'clock by Mr. THOMAS, the president *pro tem.* Prayer by Rev. Mr. Garlick.

Several House bills were twice read and referred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Mr. HERNDON, from the Committee for Courts of Justice, reported with an amendment House bill to amend section 6 of chapter 201 of the Code of 1873, with reference to larceny.

He, from the same committee, presented a report declaring it inexpedient to legislate on the subject of a resolution as to allowing further time to sheriffs who were in office in 1859 and 1860 to collect taxes, fee-bills, and county levies which were due in those years and still remain unpaid.

And from the same committee a report declaring it inexpedient to legislate on the subject of a resolution as to amending the Code so as to require only two terms of the circuit court in counties where, in the opinion of the judge, two terms are sufficient.

Mr. PRIDEMORE, from the Committee on General Laws, reported without amendment House bill incorporating the Rich Valley Tanning and Leather Manufacturing Company, in the county of Washington.

Also, Senate bill to incorporate the town of Banister, in the county of Halifax, without amendment.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. MEEM: Bill to amend and reënact the charter of the town of Woodstock, in the county of Shenandoah.

By Mr. NOWLIN: Bill to amend section 12 of chapter 78 of the Code of 1873, as to the terms of county superintendents of schools.

By Mr. TAYLOR: Bill to incorporate the Piedmont Farmers' Association.

By Mr. WARD: Bill to pay the Buck Creek Valley Turnpike Company balance on account of subscription due by the State.

By Mr. THOMAS: Bill to reënact and amend 27th section of chapter 118 of the Code of 1873, in reference to proof of wills, &c.

By same: Bill declaring a portion of Chappawamsic creek a lawful fence.

By Mr. LAWSON: Bill amending section 5 of chapter 84 of the Code of 1873, entitled an act establishing a State Board of Health.

By Mr. HOLLADAY: Bill for the governing of warehouses and the issuing of warehouse receipts.

TERM OF OFFICE OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.

Mr. NOWLIN offered the following preamble and resolution; which were adopted:

"Whereas the late Board of Education have decided that appointments to fill vacancies in the office of county superintendent of schools are made for the term of three years from the first day of January next succeeding the appointments; and whereas a doubt exists in the minds of many persons as to the legality of said decision,

"*Resolved*, That the Board of Education be respectfully requested to inform the Senate what interpretation they place upon the first section of article vii. of the Constitution of Virginia, and section 12 of chapter 78 of the Code of Virginia, edition of 1873, as to the term of office of county superintendent of schools appointed to fill vacancies in that office."

NEW CODE.

Mr. WYNNE, from the Committee on the Library, reported with an amendment Senate joint resolution to amend and reënact joint resolution directing a distribution of the new Code when published, approved April 2, 1873.

After considerable discussion, Mr. KIRKPATRICK offered the following substitute:

"*Resolved by the General Assembly*, That the Superintendent of Public Printing shall deliver a copy of the new Code to the Hampton Normal Institute and to each supervisor of the several townships, to be by him turned over to his successor; and that in the sale of the copies not ordered to be distributed a discount not exceeding ten per centum on the retail price shall be allowed to wholesale purchasers thereof."

Mr. HUNDLEY offered an amendment, to go at the end of Mr. KIRKPATRICK's substitute, providing "that no officer or member of the General Assembly or other person who has heretofore received a copy of said Code shall again receive a copy thereof."

This was agreed to, and Mr. KIRKPATRICK's substitute thus amended was passed in lieu of the resolution of the committee.

CHARTER FOR PETERSBURG.

Mr. PRIDEMORE, from the Committee on General Laws, reported with amendments Senate bill No. 5, to provide a charter for the city of Petersburg. [Goes on the calendar.]

OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY.

Senate bill to amend and reënact section 9 of chapter 192 of the Code of 1860, in relation to offences against property, was taken up and read the third time and passed—ayes, 20; noes, 12.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Senate bill No. 62 authorizing the Governor to take charge of and control the public grounds and buildings within the corporate limits of the city of Richmond not specially entrusted by law to the control of other authorities, and to employ such person or persons to take care of, perform such work, and make such repairs as may be necessary in his judgment to the proper care and preservation thereof; to pay for the same out of the contingent fund, and to abolish the office of superintendent of public buildings, &c., was taken up for consideration.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK, chairman of the Committee on Public Institutions, from which the bill was reported, said that he was not in favor of the bill, and believed it would be better and cheaper for the Commonwealth to continue the office.

Messrs. MOFFETT and PRIDEMORE, of the same committee, explained the reasons which caused the committee to recommend this action, and argued that the office was unnecessary and expensive, and the Governor could very well discharge its duties, and was willing to undertake them.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK replied that the bill was, in his opinion, a blow at true economy.

Mr. PATTERSON had no doubt Governor Kemper would be able to discharge the duties very well and very satisfactorily, and he was therefore in favor of the passage of the bill.

Mr. THOMAS expressed his approval of the proposed measure, and could see no necessity whatever for the longer continuance of the office.

Mr. STEVENS (colored) was very glad that thus early in the session he could be able to cast his vote in accordance with the desires of the Executive of the State. He would cheerfully vote to abolish the office, as a measure of economy and because he believed it was no benefit to the State.

Mr. TAYLOR wanted the bill so amended as to prevent the Governor from expending more in having the duties of the office performed than is now paid the Superintendent.

Pending the consideration of this amendment the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

House met at 12 M.—Speaker HANGER in the chair. Prayer by Rev. Dr. Woodbridge.

BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, &C., INTRODUCED.

By Mr. LEE: Bill to provide for the payment to the county of Alleghany of the amount of the judgments against said county for damages to landholders arising from the construction of the Covington and Ohio railroad.

By Mr. COGHILL: Bill to amend and reenact section 4 of chapter 6 of the Code of 1873, in relation to vacancies in the offices of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor.

By Mr. STROTHER: An act to amend the charter of the town of Culpeper.

By Mr. ALEXANDER: Petition of citizens of Newbern, Pulaski county, asking amendment of charter.

By Mr. BLAIR: Bill to incorporate the town of Big Lick.

By Mr. MAGRUDER: Bill to authorize the county of Albemarle to borrow money to improve the roads of that county.

By Mr. OULD: An act to authorize the Richmond, York River and Chesapeake Railroad Company to subscribe to the stock of the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Richmond Steamboat Company.

By Mr. McMULLAN: Resolution inquiring into the expediency of amending the law in relation to the duties of assessors of the Commonwealth.

Petition of the trustees and faculty of Roanoke College asking for an appropriation to assist them in conducting its normal department.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

was granted to Mr. HALL for four days.

PASSED.

Senate bill to amend and reënact section 1 of an act entitled "an act to incorporate the Thornton's Gap Turnpike Company, passed January 19, 1848.

THE CEMETERY BILL.

House bill 27, giving consent of this State to the purchase by the United States of a tract of land in the county of Henrico, and of two parcels of land in the town of Danville, to be used for military cemeteries, came up on its passage, and, on motion of Mr. RIDDLEBARGER, was recommitted to the Committee on Courts of Justice.

INSURANCE ON PLANTERS' TOBACCO.

The following answers from inspectors of tobacco in reply to a resolution of inquiry by the House were laid before the House and referred to Committee on Propositions and Grievances:

Messrs. Bain and Jones, inspectors at Oaks warehouse, Petersburg, report that as soon as the act requiring it was passed the owners of that warehouse effected an insurance of $15,000 upon it, and that they believe that amount to be sufficient to cover any loss that planters having tobacco stored there might suffer.

Messrs. Mosby and Weisiger, inspectors at Anderson's warehouse, Richmond, report $5,000 insurance covering planters' tobacco, and say that in their opinion that is a sufficient amount.

Messrs. Christian and Jeter, inspectors at Seabrook's warehouse, report a policy of insurance for $30,000 covering planters' tobacco, and that said policy is ample to cover loss by fire on planters' tobacco.

REPORTED AND PLACED ON THE CALENDAR.

House bill to amend and reënact section 48 of chapter 52 of the Code of 1873, in relation to county roads.

House bill for the relief of sheriffs in the service of civil processes of other counties than the one in which they reside.

House bill to prevent obstruction to highways.

PAY AND MILEAGE.

House bill No. 43, making the pay of members $4 per day and of the Speaker $8 per day, was, on motion of Mr. RIDDLEBARGER, laid on the table.

DISMISSED.

House bill for the relief of the incorporators of the Woodstock and Wardensville Turnpike Company (proposing to refund to that company $60 paid by it as a charter-tax) was dismissed by a large vote.

House bill to amend and reënact section 14 of chapter 188 of the Code of 1873, in relation to larceny.

House bill to correct an erroneous assessment of a certain tenement in the town of Lexington.

Adjourned at 2:30 P. M.

A Letter from General Early.

GENERAL LEE AND THE "COMMITTEE OF NINE."

EXCHANGE HOTEL,
RICHMOND, January 22, 1874.

To the Editors of the Dispatch:

I feel no interest whatever in the controversy now going on in regard to the question as to who was the originator of the "Committee-of-Nine" movement except so far as the name of General Lee is sought to be connected with it. As notwithstanding the disclaimer by the Hon. A. H. H. Stuart (whose name was more prominently identified, in the public estimation at the time, with that movement than that of any other man) of all knowledge of General Lee's having had anything to do with its origin, or having approved it, you still say "It must be admitted, too, that General Lee had suggested the idea to some persons, though not to Mr. Stuart," I deem it not improper to state what I know on that subject. I returned to Virginia the 1st of April, 1869, arriving in Lynchburg on the 2d. In a very few days thereafter I went to Lexington for the purpose of paying my respects to General Lee and having some conversation with him about a work which he had informed me he had in contemplation—the preparation of a history of the campaigns of the Army of Northern Virginia—as he had called on me for all the information in my possession. At that time the movement of the "Committee of Nine" was generally considered a failure, though its friends claimed that it had done "a great deal of good," and that phrase was adopted by its opponents for the purpose of ridiculing the movement. The Walker movement, however, was then looming into importance as a supplement to, or rather substitute for, the propositions of the "Committee of Nine." I arrived in Lexington about the 10th day of April, and in a day or two afterwards the Circuit Court for the county began, and Colonel Baldwin came to attend it. I feel very confident that this was Colonel Baldwin's first visit to Lexington after the "new movement" had been started; for directly after his arrival he met with and became engaged in an earnest discussion about the Committee of Nine with a gentleman who was in daily official and private intercourse with General Lee, and I saw that it was the first time they had met after the question had been mooted. It had before been intimated that General Lee approved the movement, and Governor Letcher had written and published a letter, in which he said that the information was news to the people of Lexington, who were in constant intercourse with General Lee. I visited General Lee several times on that occasion, and in our conversations the political condition of the State was referred to, and he mentioned to me the fact that it had been stated in some of the papers that he had suggested or approved the movement of the Committee of Nine, but said that such was not the fact. He said that, in conversation with some one, and I think it was probably Colonel Baldwin, he had said that the negroes were freed without any fault or agency of their own; that they were amongst us, and we could not get rid of them; that under these circumstances we ought to do the best we could with them; that in order to encourage them to become industrious and useful members of the community he thought it would be wise to give them qualified suffrage, based on education and a property qualification; and he remarked this would permit only about one out of every ten to vote, which could do no harm. He further said that he had no idea of suggesting anything like universal suffrage for them, "for," said he, "I never thought that all the white men were qualified to vote"; and he added, "This is all I have ever suggested on that subject, and my idea was that it should be a voluntary concession by the people of Virginia themselves; but I never dreamed of asking Congress to put even that, much less universal negro suffrage, on us." This, if not the exact language of General Lee, is the substance of it, and I think I have used almost literally his own words. My understanding was that this suggestion had been made some time in advance of the Committee-of-Nine movement, and had no reference to it whatever. I will further state that General Lee was very anxious to have something done to relieve the people of military rule, and enable them to attend to their private affairs in peace; but he stated he was no politician, and said that he wished Colonel Baldwin, myself, and some gentlemen in Lexington, and in attendance on the court, would get together and talk the subject over, and see if we could not agree upon something for the relief of our people. In order to initiate some such conference, he said he would invite Colonel Baldwin, myself, and two or three other gentlemen to dinner next day, which he did; but Colonel Baldwin did not attend, because a case of his was on trial in court at the time; therefore nothing came of it. I had somewhat of an animated though entirely friendly controversy with Colonel Baldwin about the Committee of Nine at that time, which a number of gentlemen present will recollect, and when, every now and then, my old friend Mr. Thomas J. Michie, who was in the movement, would observe, in that quaint way of his, "But I think the Committee of Nine has done a great deal of good"; but Colonel Baldwin did not then, or at any other time in my presence, claim the sanction of General Lee's name for the movement, which he would have done promptly if the fact had existed. I will further say that I can very readily give credence to Mr. Stuart's statement about Colonel Baldwin's reluctance to go into the movement, not only on account of my respect for the source from which it comes, but on account of some facts within my own knowledge. I saw Colonel Baldwin in July, 1868, at Niagara Falls, just after the adjournment of the Convention which nominated Seymour and Blair, and I was a little surprised and gratified to find his political sentiments so much in accord with my own. We agreed very well about the action of the Convention as to the principles laid down in the platform, but I did not like the candidates, especially the candidate for Vice-President, expressing a want of confidence in his standing up to the propositions of his celebrated letter. Colonel Baldwin, however, assured me that he thought Blair would stand, and said he was nominated in accordance with the wishes of the southern delegates. I have a letter from Colonel Baldwin now among my papers in Lynchburg, written in December, 1868,—just about the time of the inauguration of the movement that led to the appointment of the Committee of Nine—which any friend of his can see; and those who are claiming that he was "the author and master spirit of the new movement" would be surprised to see how much he was in accord with an "old Bourbon" at that time. It was the sentiments expressed to me at Niagara and in the letter mentioned that caused me to be surprised at Colonel Baldwin's connection with the Committee of Nine, and to take him to task about it on our first meeting.

I will now say to those who are desirous of giving to General Lee the credit for the "new movement" that he won enough glory on other fields to satisfy his warmest admirers, and that it is needless to claim for him the equivocal honors of modern statesmanship.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. EARLY.

[For the Dispatch.]

Judges—Courts—Speedy Justice, &c.

It is to be hoped that the present Legislature will so amend the hasty legislation of the last session as to remove the objections to the present imperfect county-court system.

It is a mistaken notion that judges should be poorly paid. The better plan would be to give good pay to the judge; a sufficient salary to dignify his exalted office, and then have the courts so arranged that he would have plenty to do to earn his salary, and at the same time give *speedy* justice to litigants.

Since the negroes have been made citizens and freed from the restraints of the wholesome discipline of their former condition their crimes have become so numerous that in many counties the court's whole time is taken up in trying them, and consequently the litigated business of the county is deferred from court to court, and few or no cases ever reached; which is a great inconvenience to the bar and to the people generally. The business of the profession languishes, and the expenses of continuances and other costs accumulate to the detriment of the parties to the suits.

I think there are many objections to the old county-court system, judging from the frequency of appeals and the manifest injustice often done in important cases requiring an extensive knowledge of the law to do justice to the contending parties.

My professional experience in other States satisfies me that the extension of the jurisdiction of magistrates to $250 or even to $500 in litigated cases, with the right of appeal by either party to the circuit court, and the investigation of the charges against the accused in all criminal cases, and where there is manifest guilt his committal to jail to be tried by the circuit court, and the establishment of circuit courts with two or three counties, according to population, in each circuit, and quarterly terms to be held in each county, with a competent man as judge—a man not only competent in knowledge and good sense, but one who would push the business of his court, and give equal and speedy justice to the parties to the suits before him.

I am now only interested in this matter as a citizen, for I have retired from the bar; but as a plain farmer-citizen, I, in common with all, feel deeply interested in the administration of justice, and I merely make these suggestions, believing that their adoption would facilitate the business of the country.

All probate and police business, of course, to remain in the county court of magistrates.

FIDES.

MARRIAGES.

Married, in Craig county, Va., on Sunday the 28th of December, 1873, at the residence of Alexder Hanner, Esq., by the Rev. T. C. C. Drewry, Mr. MICHAEL H. HAYMAKER, of Botetourt county, to Miss MARY S. BRUGH, of Craig county, Va. *

Married, in Craig county, Va., on the 1st day of January, 1874, by the same, Mr. THOMAS VIA to Miss AGNES A. BIGGS; both of Craig county. *

DEATHS.

Died, in Powhatan county, Va., on the 15th instant, at the residence of her son, the late Edward Wooldridge, Mrs. LAVINIA WOOLDRIDGE, in the eightieth year of her age. She leaves four children, one sister, and many grandchildren and friends to mourn their loss but her eternal gain.

Who will weep for me, now life is o'er,
And I lie numbered with the dead?
Who o'er my grave, with heart sincere,—
Over my tomb,—will drop a tear?

We will weep for thee, our mother dear,
And o'er your grave will drop a tear;
The sorrows of life together seen,
The river of death now lies between.

We will weep for thee, our grandmother dear,
We miss thee now within our home;
And to thy grave we will often go,
And there our tears will freely flow.

* *****.

Died, at the University of Virginia, on the morning of the 15th of January, 1874, in the thirty-eighth year of her age, CANTEY McDOWELL VENABLE, wife of Colonel Charles S. Venable.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Died, in this city, on the 22d instant, a few minutes after 9 o'clock A. M., ROBERT A. PAYNE, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

His funeral will take place THIS AFTERNOON at 3½ o'clock from the second Presbyterian church (Dr. Hoge's). *

In memory of Miss BRIDGET BURKE, who died in Manchester on the 16th of January, 1874:

Farewell, sister, thou art gone to rest;
Thy sins are all forgiven,
And saints in light have welcom'd thee
To share the joys of heaven.
She left us all behind her, in sorrow to deplore;
May her soul be crowned with glory in heaven
Forever more.

Died, in Manchester, on Tuesday, January 20th, 1874, after a long illness, Mrs. MARIA BINNS, in the seventy-first year of her age.

Her funeral will take place TO-DAY at 2 o'clock from the Episcopal church, Manchester, where her acquaintances and those of her son, John S. Binns, and daughter, Mrs. Joseph Traylor, are respectfully invited to attend.

New York and Paterson, N. J., papers please copy. *

Died, at his residence, in Hanover county, on the 21st instant, after a short illness, WILLIAM N. WALDROP, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. *

TOILET ARTICLES.

JOHN H. FREEMAN'S TOILET SOAP is for sale at
LEVY BROTHERS', THOMAS R. PRICE & CO.'S,
CARDOZO, FOURQUREAN & CO.'S,
WILLIAM H. SCOTT'S,
HUDGINS, GORDON & CO.'S,
ROBERT LECKY'S,
WALTER D. BLAIR & CO.'S,
Dr. RICHARDSON'S. ja 23-1t*

OFFICE OF CLERK OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
RICHMOND, January 22, 1874.

BY AUTHORITY OF AN ACT OF ASSEMBLY approved April 2, 1873, it is lawful for the Circuit Court Judges of this Commonwealth, until the times for holding the terms of their courts shall be prescribed by law, to fix the time for holding such terms. The terms of the Eighth Judicial Circuit have been fixed as follows:

Accomac county.—March 1st, June 1st, and October 1st.

Northampton county.—March 12th, June 9th, and October 12th.

Elizabeth City county.—March 20th, June 15th, and October 20th.

Warwick county.—March 27th, June 20th, and October 27th.

York county.—April 1st, June 25th, and November 1st.

Williamsburg and James City county.—April 20th, July 8th, and November 20th.

Charles City county.—April 30th, July 17th, and November 30th.

New Kent county.—May 6th, July 22d, and December 6th.

J. BELL, BIGGER,
ja 23-2aw1m Clerk House of Delegates.

SHAD, SHAD.—We have received a fine lot of FRESH SHAD, the first of the season. Also, HADDOCK, SMELT, COD, and LOBSTER, with a general assortment of FRESH-WATER FISH, which we would respectfully call attention of our patrons and public to, at Stall No. 2 Second Market.
ja 23 1t HUGLER & JONES.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

GO TO LEVY BROTHERS' for your BLANKETS and COMFORTABLES. ja 20

DON'T FAIL TO EXAMINE LEVY BROTHERS' stock of LADIES' DRESS GOODS. ja 20

IF YOU WANT CARPETS, RUGS, OIL-CLOTHS, MATS, WINDOW-SHADES, or CURTAINS, go to LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

5,000 YARDS OF HAMBURG EDGINGS and INSERTINGS are now offered at extraordinary bargains at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

ALL KINDS OF LACES AND EMBROIDERIES at LEVY BROTHERS'.

BLACK ALPACAS in all qualities at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

IRISH LINENS, from the coarsest to the finest qualities, at LEVY BROTHERS'.

WHITE SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, now so fashionable, can be had at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

CLOAKS AT $3—just a little out of date, but good and comfortable garments—at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

BALMORAL,
BOULEVARD,
LAMBS'-WOOL, and
HOOP-SKIRTS
in great variety and at great bargains at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

DOUBLE-FACED WATER-PROOF CLOTH at 75c. per yard—the regular price is $1.25; also, WATER-PROOF at $1, $1.25, $1.50, and $1.75, at [ja 20] LEVY BROTHERS'.

LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS at 75c. per dozen;
LINEN HEMSTITCHED HANDKERCHIEFS at $2 per dozen, at
ja 20 LEVY BROTHERS'.

PRIDE OF THE WEST, NEW YORK MILLS, DAVOL, WAMSUTTA, ANDROSCOGGIN, FRUIT-OF-THE-LOOM, AUBURN, GEM-OF-THE-SPINDLE, FRANKLIN, BALLOU, BLACKBURN, and GREAT FALLS SHIRTING, BLEACHED and UNBLEACHED SHEETING and PILLOW-CASE COTTON of all makes, at [ja 20] LEVY BROTHERS'.

SEINE THREAD of the best quality at [ja 20] LEVY BROTHERS'.

REMNANTS OF DELAINES, ALPACAS, POPLINS, REPS, and other DRESS GOODS at [ja 20] LEVY BROTHERS'.

HAMBURG LACE COLLARS, new style RUFFLES, new styles of LINEN COLLARS, at [ja 20] LEVY BROTHERS'.

BUCKSKIN MITTS, extra heavy and well made—just the article for laborers and stone-cutters—at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

CARDIGAN JACKETS.—A full assortment on hand. Will be sold much below regular prices at [ja 20] LEVY BROTHERS'.

LINEN COLLARS.
GENTLEMEN'S DICKENS LINEN COLLARS at 60c. per dozen;
CROMWELL LINEN COLLARS at 60c. per dozen—the usual price of these collars is $2.50 per dozen;
RECHERCHE COLLARS at 50c. per dozen worth $2;
RECHERCHE CUFFS at $1 per dozen worth $4;
LINEN CUFFS at $8 worth $5 per dozen;
BARGAINS IN DRESS-SHIRTS, UNDERSHIRTS, and DRAWERS,
GLOVES, SOCKS, SUSPENDERS,
SILK, LINEN, and COTTON HANDKERCHIEFS,
COTTON NIGHT-CAPS,
SILK and WOOL SCARFS,
UMBRELLAS, and gentlemen's furnishing goods in general, at LEVY BROTHERS'.
ja 20

NEW SHIRTING PRINTS and CALICOES in great variety at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

THE LARGEST AND BEST-ASSORTED STOCK OF SHAWLS at the lowest prices can now be had at LEVY BROTHERS'. ja 20

JANUARY 16, 1874.—T. R. PRICE & CO. have just opened
LINEN AND COTTON SHEETINGS,
BLEACHED AND BROWN COTTONS,
PILLOW LINENS and DAMASKS,
TOWELS and NAPKINS,
NECK RUFFLINGS,
LINEN COLLARS and CUFFS,
KID GLOVES,
BLACK VELOUR for trimming,
BLACK WATERED SILK,
FANCY TABLETANS for parties,
HOSIERY, CORSETS, CRAVATS.
Also, expected hourly, a beautiful line of new-style CALICO and SHIRTING PRINTS. Attention is called to these new goods. ja 16

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS' WORTH of
WINTER and SPRING POPLINS, PIQUES,
LINEN LAWNS,
FANCY CHECKED and STRIPED SILKS,
on their back counter, to be sold at a great sacrifice within the next few weeks.
T. R. PRICE & CO. will offer for a few days, at great bargains, a choice lot of
COLORED SILKS,
FANCY POPLINS,
LINEN LAWNS and PIQUES,
COLORED and WHITE CAMBRICS,
FRENCH PRINTS, JACONETS, &c.,
left from the previous season, at a great job in price to afford room for other goods. ja 16

THE BEST TOOTH-POWDER.
MEADE & BAKER'S
SAPONINE DENTIFRICE
the most efficacious and elegant preparation known for whitening and preserving the teeth.
Used and recommended by our best dentists.
Prepared only by
MEADE & BAKER, Pharmacists,
919 Main street.
Sold by druggists generally.
Price, 50 cents a box. no 29

PRATT'S ASTRAL OIL.
Absolutely safe. Perfectly odorless. Always uniform. Illuminating qualities superior to gas. Burns in any lamp without danger of exploding or taking fire. Manufactured expressly to displace the use of volatile and dangerous oils. Its safety under every possible test, and its perfect burning qualities, are proved by its continued use in over 300,000 families. Millions of gallons have been sold and no accident—directly or indirectly—has ever occurred from burning, storing, or handling it.
The insurance companies and fire commissioners throughout the country recommend the ASTRAL as the best safeguard when lamps are used. Send for circular.
For sale at retail by the trade generally, and at wholesale by the proprietors, CHARLES PRATT & CO., 108 Fulton street, New York.
oc 17-d&w6m

RESTAURANTS.

ZETELLE,
CORNER OF
ELEVENTH AND BANK STREETS,
offers to his friends and the public every seasonable article for the table and all the luxuries of sea and land and every latitude, from the lakes to the tropics—all served on his tables to order, and furnished to parties and families.
His BAR is still supplied with the very best LIQUORS and BREWED DRINKS.
His arrangements for OYSTERS are the best. Such Oysters as are served at his restaurant cannot be found elsewhere.
Come, friends, and test my assertions. And to all, the compliments of the season.
de 23 ZETELLE.

DENTISTRY.

JOHN G. WAYT, D. D. S. GEO. G. WAYT, D. D. S., M. D.
WAYT & SON, DENTISTS,
No. 104 NINTH STREET,
no 15 RICHMOND, VA.

JULIUS SYCLE offers for the next thirty days
CASSIMERES AND DRESS GO