Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY.....JANUARY 19, 1876.

[For the Dispatch.]

Some Reminiscences of Stonewall Jackson as a Professor.

Stonewall Jackson as a lieutenant during the Mexican war, and as a "Benedick the bridegroom" in Confederate times, is reasonably well known to the world. The "Life" by Dr. Dabney is in many respects worthy of the illustrious subject and of the able and accomplished author. But this "Life," and all the other "lives," are mainly devoted to the task of depicting the Christian warrior, and as this is the character in which Jackson figured most conspicuously, and in which he was most fully himself, it was natural and proper that the biographers should concern themselves most especially with this manifestation of the man.

Still, as a matter of fact, it is known that Jackson spent a considerable portion of his life in the position of "Professor of Natural Philosophy and Artillery" in the Virginia Military Institute at Lexington; and it must be manifest to the observant reader that this portion of his life has been but scantily treated by the biographers.

This, however, is not due to any neglect on the part of those writers, for they well knew that all intelligent readers would desire to know how *Professor* Jackson lived; how he taught his classes; what was his method of instruction; what he said and did in the lecture-room; indeed, almost anything which would throw any light upon the character and conduct of the man who said so little and did so much.

But the truth is that there was precious little to tell about this period of General Jackson's life. A biography of a great literary man is apt to be little more than a review of his works; the biography of a thinker must often be simply an account of his thinking and its results; and the biography of a teacher, even though he be a prince in his profession, will not often present much that is very new or very striking to the non-professional reader.

But Jackson's life as a teacher was singularly and exceptionally monotonous. He had his text-books, and he prescribed the lessons, and at the appointed time he "heard" them; and this this was about all of it. Discussions in the class-room were almost unknown, and even "explanations" were very infrequent. The text was the one great thing which *he* came to "hear," and *see* came to "say"—if we could; and most of us commonly couldn't when the said text was Bartlett's course of Natural Philosophy.

Poor Allen. He was my room-mate the first year, and with Williams, and Patton, and Slaughter, and myself made up "Room No. 13." Where are they now? Allen, Patton, and Williams all fell at Gettysburg—all young lawyers, all colonels of Virginia regiments, all of the same class (1855)—and Slaughter had been disabled for life before the sad day on which our room-mates fell.

When I was in the "third class" I used to see Allen tugging over "Old Jack's" terrible lesson in Bartlett's Optics; and one day I opened the book, and on the fly-leaf found the following stanza, which I suspect was Allen's own:

"'Tis said that Optics treats of light,
But, oh! believe it not, my lark;
I've studied it with all my might,
And still it's left me in the dark."

Major Jackson seemed to be perfectly at home in the long and intricate equations and other mathematical formulæ which make up so large a proportion of Bartlett's "Mechanics," "Optics and Acoustics," and "Spherical Astronomy"; and many of his pupils often wondered if there was in the three volumes an equation or a formula which "Old Jack" could not repeat by heart.

And yet, with all his accurate and minute knowledge of the course, there was very little teaching done in that department, unless "teaching" be made to mean the prescribing and hearing of lessons. The truth is, that teaching, in the modern sense of the term, was not Jackson's forte. He was a man of marvellously few words; had no turn for explanation; seemed to have no talent for putting things in various points of view so as to adapt them to the various mental conditions of his pupils.

Though I drilled under him for some three years, and recited to him daily for a year and a half, I never saw him laugh outright. A very quiet, subdued sort of smile was the nearest thing to laughter that I ever saw him indulge in; and these smiles were very infrequent, and generally occurred when uncommonly ludicrous things took place in his immediate presence.

If Fulkerson put on a collar made to order out of about three-quarters of a yard of linen, and then convulsed the class with laughter at the grave but outrageously ludicrous way in which he wore that collar in the class-room, Major Jackson would smile, knowing as he did that the *collar* was the single visible article of a cadet's wearing apparel of which the regulations did not rigidly prescribe the "form and substance."

If Davidson Penn put on an uncommonly serious face and asked (apparently in good faith), "Major, can a cannon be so bent as to make it shoot around a corner?" the professor of artillery would show not the slightest sign of merriment or of impatience, but would, after a moment of apparently sober reflection, reply, "Mr. Penn, I reckon hardly."

We could never decide whether his gravity on such an occasion was real or assumed. I have often wondered if Jackson managed to preserve his gravity when he read a certain "excuse" handed in by Hambrick.

We had been at artillery drill, and Hambrick, along with the rest of us third-class men and "Plebes," had to perform the rather troublesome duty of pulling the cannon. Jackson had given the command (a favorite one with him), "Limbers and caissons, pass your pieces, trot, march!" Hambrick had failed to trot at command, and was reported by Jackson. The next morning the following excuse was handed in: "Report Cadet Hambrick not trotting at artillery drill. Excuse: I am a natural pacer." If Major Jackson *did* laugh when he read this none of us ever found it out, for the document was probably read privately.

Greenville, S. C. J. C. H.

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ja 14-2tw2w Real Estate Auctioneer.

DESIRABLE UNIMPROVED SPRINGS PROPERTY FOR SALE PRIVATELY.—I offer for sale privately a bold, free-flowing SPRING which by qualitative analysis proves to be similar to the Healing Springs of Virginia. The spring has been known to consist of medical virtue, curing diseases of inflammatory nature, for many years, but had not been until recently analyzed. There is connected with this spring about TEN ACRES OF LAND, beautifully located, about one hundred yards distant from Bell's Valley depot, on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, Rockbridge county, Va., distant one hundred and fifty miles from Richmond, Va., twelve miles from Rockbridge and Jordan Alum Springs, and sixty miles from the celebrated White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.
Owing to the location, being immediately on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, the great thoroughfare from the ocean to the great West, situated in the most beautiful region in the State, this property can be made in a few years second to none other in the State of Virginia.
The old settlers of the county in which the springs are located can abundantly testify to the curative qualities of this water. Upon the same land is also a bold-flowing spring of freestone water.
The whole property has been recently enclosed with an excellent plank fence, and is so located with a fine grove of timber as to admit of any kind of improvement that may be desired.
The supply of water is abundant, being derived from a large, bold spring. The water is beautifully bright and chrystalline, and the ever-bursting bubbles of gas impart to it a peculiar, sparkling appearance.
The little place of "Bell's Valley Depot" is rapidly improving, a number of lots having been sold recently, and the demand still increasing, which in a short time will make it an important point on the line of the railroad.
For further information in regard to terms and analysis of water address the undersigned at Craigsville, Augusta county, Va.
ja 13-eod1m* JAMES M. DAVIDSON.

WOOD AND COAL.

DON'T MEAN TO BE UNDERSOLD. Good, sound OAK WOOD delivered anywhere in the city at $5 a cord, or $2.50 a cart load of half a cord. No. 811 and 813 Basin bank, between Eighth and Ninth streets.
ja 18-2t C. C. JOHNSON.

$4.90. THE BEST CLOVER HILL LUMP COAL $3.90.
at $4.90 per ton, or $3.90 for 1,500 pounds, delivered. Best SPLINT, LUMP, and BLACK HEATH at very low rates. ANTHRACITE, all sizes, weighed and screened, cheap. Best COOKING COKE and my unrivalled machine-prepared KINDLING, COOKING, and CORD WOOD. All best fuel and lowest rates at Ninth and Cary and Basin bank. [ja 18] J. B. WATKINS.

COAL AND WOOD AT REDUCED PRICES, C. O. D.—ANTHRACITE COAL, $6.50 and $7 for 2,000 pounds SOFT LUMP COAL, $3.75 to $4.25 per load of 1,550 or 1,600 pounds, and $4.90 to $5.50 for 2,000 pounds. No. 1 ENGINE COAL, $3.25 to $4.25 per ton of 2,000 pounds. CUMBERLAND and other engine coals at lowest prices. SOFT COKE, $5 to $5.75 per load. OAK and PINE WOOD, $4.50 to $5.50 and $6—long or sawed. Nineteenth and Cary streets. [ja 18] C. H. PAGE.

COALBURGH SPLINT COAL—
the best coal for bright and enduring fires.
S. H. HAWES, Sole Agent.
ja 17 Eighteenth and Cary streets.

NUTTALBURG AND CUMBERLAND COAL, for steam. S. H. HAWES,
ja 17 Eighteenth and Cary streets.

ANTHRACITE COAL—
all sizes.
S. H. HAWES.
ja 17 Eighteenth and Cary streets.

BEST CLOVER HILL LUMP COAL will be delivered to consumers in any part of the city, and WEIGHTS GUARANTEED, per ton of 2,000 pounds, at $4.90; or for 1,500 pounds (an honest West Virginia load), at $3.90; or for 1,375 pounds (another West Virginia load), at $3.60. Please send in your orders to office Eleventh and Main streets, or to branch office, First street between Grace and Broad. Encourage a home enterprise that spends annually in Richmond over $150,000. ja 17-3m

CHEAP WOOD.—FIFTY CORDS OF GOOD OAK WOOD for sale, delivered in any part of the city, at $5 per cord.
R. O. GARY, No. 118 Eighth street,
ja 14-1w near Packet Landing.

GRAY SPLINT COAL
HAS NO SUPERIOR AS A GRATE COAL.
Kindling, sawed, and long WOOD;
SOFT COKE—engine and smiths'—of the best;
ANTHRACITE, all sizes, at lowest prices.
P. R. CARRINGTON,
ja 14 corner Seventeenth and Cary streets.

QUINNIMONT AND CUMBERLAND—the best STEAM COALS on the market.
CANNELTON SEMI-CANNEL—the peerless COAL for open grates.
ANTHRACITE COAL, all sizes—first quality at lowest prices. S. P. LATHROP,
ja 13 Seventeenth street at drawbridge.

FUEL FOR 1876.
FOREST PINE, for kindling and cooking;
SOFT COKE, for stoves and grates;
ANTHRACITE and CLOVER HILL COAL;
SPLINT and NORWOOD COAL;
OAK and PINE WOOD—long, sawed, and kindling.
W. S. PILCHER,
ja 8 Eighth and Main streets.

WILLIAM C. BRAZEAL
AGAIN IN THE WOOD AND COAL TRADE.
Will keep on hand CLOVER HILL LUMP, HAIL, and ENGINE COAL; SPLINT—Lump and Hail; all grades of ANTHRACITE COAL—Egg, Stove, and Nut. Also, COKE—the best in the market; WOOD—Long, Sawed, and Split; and all sold at lowest market rates. A call from my old customers and the public is earnestly solicited. Office (for the present) at Clover Hill yard, near Petersburg depot. ja 7-2w

CADMUS C. JOHNSON, 811 AND 813 BASIN BANK, BETWEEN EIGHTH AND NINTH STREETS. WOOD- AND COAL-DEALER.—OAK and PINE WOOD—Long, sawed, and kindling. ANTHRACITE COAL—Egg, stove, and nut. CLOVER HILL and MIDLOTHIAN LUMP and HAIL COAL; SPLINT COAL; LUMP and HAIL COKE. A call is solicited. Orders promptly filled. de 20-1m

LYKEN'S VALLEY COAL.—Four hundred tons of this celebrated coal for sale. Also, Reliance and Burnside Egg and Stove; West Virginia Splint of all kinds; George's Creek Cumberland, for steam and smiths' use; Clover Hill and Midlothian Lump; Soft Lump and Hail Coke; Oak and Pine Wood. WM. T. ROBERTS,
oc 24 corner Seventeenth and Cary streets.

AUCTION SALES—Future Days.

By Cook & Laughton, Auctioneers,
No. 10 Governor street.

ELEVEN STORE-COUNTERS, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FEET OF SHELVING, DOORS, WINDOWS, &c., &c., AT AUCTION.—On FRIDAY the 21st instant, at 12 o'clock, we will sell at the store recently occupied by Mr. J. C. Courtney, No. 415 Broad street,
11 STORE-COUNTERS,
120 feet of SHELVING,
The DOORS, FRONT WINDOWS, BLINDS,
WINDOW GAS-FIXTURES and REFLECTORS, &c., &c.
COOK & LAUGHTON,
ja 19 Auctioneers.

By Robert B. Lyne
(successor to Lyne & Brother),
Real Estate Agent and Auctioneer,
1212 Main street.

TRUSTEES' SALE OF TWO NEAT FRAME DWELLINGS WITH GOOD LOTS, &c., ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF TWENTY-SIXTH AND O STREETS, FOR SALE BY AUCTION.—In pursuance of the provisions of a deed of trust recorded in the Chancery Court of the city of Richmond from T. E. West and wife to secure certain moneys to the East End Building Fund Company, we, the trustees of said Company, having been so instructed, will proceed to sell, upon the premises, on MONDAY the 31st day of January, 1876, at 4 o'clock P. M., those two small and neat TENEMENTS as above described, containing four rooms; and kitchens to each, and good lots.
TERMS: Cash as to $703.41, interest, cost, and expenses of sale; residue upon such terms as will be given at hour of sale. Arrangements may be made so as to give more liberal terms than those named. JOHN A. MEANLEY,
S. W. FARRAR,
CHARLES SPENCER,
Trustees of East End Building Fund Company.
ja 18

By Cook & Laughton, Auctioneers,
No. 10 Governor street.

FANCY GOODS, NOTIONS, &c., AT AUCTION.—On TUESDAY the 18th instant, at 11 o'clock, we will sell at our auction-rooms an invoice of FANCY GOODS, NOTIONS, &c., consisting of
DUST-BRUSHES, HAIR-BRUSHES,
MATCH-SAFES, BASKETS,
TRAVELLING-SATCHELS, LOOKING-GLASSES,
PERFUMERY, PIPES,
COMBS, CIGAR-HOLDERS, &c., &c.
Sold for account of whom it may concern.
COOK & LAUGHTON,
Auctioneers.

POSTPONEMENT.
The above sale is postponed to TUESDAY the 21st instant at 11 o'clock.
COOK & LAUGHTON,
ja 18 Auctioneers.

SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of an execution in my hands in favor