

Richmond Dispatch.

THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

WEDNESDAY... NOVEMBER 15, 1876.

WEATHER REPORT.

PROBABILITIES TO-DAY. Washington, November 14.—For the South Atlantic States, warmer southeast to southwest winds, falling barometer, increasing cloudiness, and possibly rain will prevail, attending a storm-center to the northward.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear and warm during the day. At night it was rainy.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: G. A. M., 50; 9 A. M., 60; noon, 70; 3 P. M., 77; 6 P. M., 74; midnight, 69.

The Exposure of Spiritual Jugglery

At Music Hall last Saturday evening was on many accounts a remarkable occasion. The new and formidable pressure that has recently been exerted against so-called spiritual mediums, was made in New York, and the effect was thus brought home to the inquirers and believers and half-believers in Boston, where it may safely be said there are as many of such among the thoughtful and enlightened classes as in any other centre of intelligence.

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LOCAL MATTERS.

THE METHODIST CONFERENCE.

EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OF THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH—SKETCH OF THE ORGANIZATION—DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS PRESENT—AN UNUSUALLY INTERESTING SESSION ANTICIPATED—OPENING SERMON.

The eighty-second session of the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church opens its deliberations in the Broad-Street Church of this city at 9 o'clock this morning. A large number of the ministers and laymen are expected to be present.

The Conference is composed of 182 ministers and 40 laymen, making 222 in all. Besides these a larger number than usual of candidates for admission into the Conference will be in attendance.

To these will be added a number of local preachers coming for ordination. The general distinction of the members of the Conference is expected during the session.

The Virginia Conference occupies the front rank among the southern Conferences of the Methodist Church. Among its honored members there are some who have been engaged in the work of the ministry for more than half a century.

The Rev. James McAden, who is now past eighty years of age, is in attendance for the first time in several years. He entered what is called the itinerant ranks more than sixty years ago, and is to-day an active and vigorous man, and preaches with great eloquence and power.

The Rev. George W. Nolley has been in the Conference for more than fifty years. Rev. Leroy M. Lee, D. D., who for so long a time was editor of the Richmond Christian Advocate, has also a member of the Conference for nearly fifty years.

His health, which has been feeble for some time, is greatly improved, and he still preaches with unabated intellectual force and effectiveness. A large number of younger men occupy high positions in the Conference, and with the advance in scholarship and vigor in the ministry, they are showing themselves the worthy successors of the fathers who have gone before them.

The present session of the Conference will be presided over by the Rev. Bishop H. H. Kavanaugh, of Kentucky. This is his second visit to the Virginia Conference. He is now a vigorous man, and preaches with an eloquence rarely surpassed in the pulpit.

When a young man he was considered as scarcely inferior to the great Dr. Bascom, whom Henry Clay considered the greatest of living orators. He is a warm-hearted and cheerful man. Less than a year ago he returned from the Pacific coast, where he had spent more than seven months in active and incessant pulpit labors.

The Conference deliberations are open to the public. The first few days are occupied in mere routine business, but the session is of unusual interest both to the preachers and to the pastoral charges. Under this leadership of the pastorate the Rev. H. C. Cheatham, pastor of Union-Station; Rev. A. C. Bledsoe, pastor of Trinity; and the Rev. J. E. Edwards, D. D., pastor of Centenary church, will be rendered from their present charges.

As a matter of course this fact awakens concern and anxiety as to the appointments for another year. Changes also to be made in Lynchburg, Petersburg, Danville, Portsmouth, and Norfolk. The necessary changes may be completed by the present incumbents. The presence of so large a number of ministers in the city gives animation and life to our streets, and the church-going people are looking forward to the coming night with days as a season of more than ordinary religious interest.

Rev. N. S. Sled, D. D., of Petersburg, will preach the opening sermon before the Virginia Conference to-night at half-past 7 o'clock at Broad-Street Church. Centenary church will unite in the opening religious services of the Conference at Broad-Street. The sermon will be followed by the communion, administered to the ministers and members of the Conference.

THE VIRGINIA CONFERENCE—EXPLANATION.—The directory of the Conference, which we published yesterday morning, only gave the names of those who are properly members of the Conference—lay and clerical—and the homes to which they were severally assigned. In addition to these there is a large number who come up for the night, and who are not named in the directory.

CASES IN BANKRUPTCY.—Upon the petition of Philip J. Wright, of the city of Richmond, Charles P. Weston, of the city of Richmond, United States District Court, adjudging Philip J. Wright a bankrupt, and ordering the members of the firms of Lancaster & Co., Lancaster, Brown & Co., and Brown, Lancaster & Co., of which he was a partner, to appear before the Court in Richmond, on the 15th day of November, 1876, and show cause why they should not be declared bankrupts.

Michael Liechtenstein, J. F. Wingfield, and Daniel J. McCormick, of the city of Richmond, have been adjudicated bankrupts upon their own petitions.

NECROLOGICAL.—The city of Richmond, Virginia, has lost a citizen of high standing in the death of James K. Polk, who died at his residence in this city on the 14th of November, 1876, at the age of 74 years.

AN OPERATION OF GASTROSTOMY.—Surgical and physiological students will find in the last number of the Gazette des Hopitaux interesting details of an operation of gastrostomy, attended so far with successful results, which has been performed at the Hospital de la Pitié by Dr. Verneuil. The patient, a lad of seventeen, had inadvertently swallowed a quantity of the solution of caustic potash. This occurred in February, and in spite of the most skillful treatment the constriction of the upper orifice of the esophagus became so complete that death from inanition was inevitable had not an operation, which was successfully performed on the 26th of July. The results will be seen from medical bulletins of the 16th September, which states that the patient is in good health, remains up all night, and even helps the hospital assistants in their work. He has almost as much strength and energy as he had before the operation. His diet consisted of soups, friend and baker, Dr. William A. Hammond, a leading authority on the artificial diseases, is fully familiar with the artificial constriction of the esophagus, and by the "unconscious cerebration," perceivable in the wrist of the Professor, under the thumb of Mr. Bishop, and by no other process absolutely, was the result arrived at.

The explanation is simple as a pulley. The artificial constriction of the esophagus, which is the result of the operation, is a simple as a pulley. The artificial constriction of the esophagus, which is the result of the operation, is a simple as a pulley.

THE DEATH LIST.—The whole number of deaths in the city, exclusive of still-births, during the past week, was 22. Still-births: 1 white male, 1 white female, and 2 colored males—total, 4.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SOLDIERS.—The two companies of United States troops that have been stationed in Petersburg left that city yesterday morning for the North. They passed through Richmond, remaining here a few hours.

ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS.—Sergeants Gentry and Hannon arrived in the city yesterday from Washington, D. C., having in charge George Sheekles and J. N. Gordon, two men arrested in connection with the robbery of the St. James Hotel of a lot of valuable jewelry about twelve months ago.

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