

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

WEATHER REPORT.  
INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—Washington, January 11.—For the South Atlantic and East Gulf States, falling barometer, warmer southerly winds, possibly rain areas, and followed by rising barometer and winds gradually shifting to colder northerly.

For the West Gulf States and the Ohio Valley, falling or stationary barometer, threatening high barometer, threatening rapidly-rising barometer, and generally turning into snow, succeeded by colder weather.

For the Middle States, rapidly-rising barometer after a temporary fall along the coast, warm, southerly winds suddenly shifting to decidedly colder, brisk, and high northerly, threatening weather and rain or snow, succeeded by clearing weather.

Stationary signals are ordered for the Texas coast and the Atlantic coast from North Carolina to Massachusetts.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear, mild, and pleasant.  
WINDS: Yesterday, 6 A. M., 26; 9 A. M., 30; noon, 45; 3 P. M., 49; 6 P. M., 45; midnight, 40.

FROM WASHINGTON.  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 10.

THE DEMOCRATIC PLAN TO SECURE THE ELECTION OF TILDEN.  
A gentleman who possesses exceptional advantages for observing the course of what is beneath the surface of events here, says this evening that it grows clearer and clearer to his mind that it is the fixed plan of the Democrats to insist on the right of the House to reject the vote of Louisiana, and then to proceed to elect Tilden, and that they are prepared to do this conviction that David Dudley Field is sent here to supply what the northern Democrats have hitherto lacked, and to push this plan through. The situation, he says, has never before looked so bright to prospects as now.—Special to Boston Advertiser.

SENATOR CONKING ON THE CRISIS.  
Mr. Conkling is preparing a speech on the topic of the hour which he will deliver in the Senate shortly. There is considerable anxiety to hear how he will treat the present crisis. Mr. Conkling's friends say that if the Democrats expect to gain any aid or consolation from which they may do or say they are very much mistaken.—Id.

REPUBLICAN DEMONSTRATION.  
A Republican meeting and torch-light procession is soon to be held in Washington, at which addresses will be made by prominent members of Congress.—Id.

A LEGACY TO UNCLE SAM.  
Some months ago an eccentric old man named Charles Foe died in New York city, leaving a will in which he provided liberally for all his living relatives, giving to a sister-in-law a bill of lading for a balance of property amounting, it is supposed, to between one hundred and one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the United States Government, to be applied toward the payment of the public debt. Senator Booth introduced a bill today providing for the payment of a trustee to look after the interest of the Government in the settlement of the estate.—Id.

THE LOUISIANA OUTLOOK.  
Lieutenant-General Sheridan, in company with General Sherman and the Secretary of War, had interviews with the President to-day on the Louisiana situation. In answer to a question put to him by General Sheridan, the President said that he had no objection to the interest of the Government in the settlement of the estate.—Id.

MUCH ANXIETY PREVAILS among the Republicans here concerning the report of the Florida investigation committee. It is admitted that if the committee should be unanimous in its report, it would provide a very bad show for Hayes. To prevent this the most intense pressure has been brought to bear upon Messrs. Dummell and Woodburn, the Republican members of the committee, to induce them to make a minority report.—Id.

THE MASSACHUSETTS CASE.  
Information from Massachusetts from a source friendly to the Federal States, says that the bill will probably lead on the first ballot for United States senator in the Legislature, circumstances may occur which will cause the choice of the Legislature to fall upon a new man.—Id.

THE NEW-ENGLAND TALK.  
The statements appearing in the Republican papers that Democratic members of Congress are favoring a new election of Hayes, and made for the purpose of bolstering up the cause of Hayes, all that Democratic members have said on the subject is that they are perfectly satisfied that in the event of a new election Tilden would be elected by a much greater majority than he was in November.—Id.

REPRESENTATIVE CHAIR ON THE LOUISIANA ELECTION.  
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 10.—Representative Crapo, of Massachusetts, one of the Republican members of the Louisiana committee, has returned to Washington. In conversation to-night Mr. Crapo said that he did not think that Tilden was legally entitled to the Louisiana seat, and that the Returning Board was justified in its findings on the testimony before it, but he does not think the Democrats had sufficient opportunity to put in all the rebutting testimony obtainable on account of the limited time at the disposal of the Board. His testimony has been taken by the House committee which the Returning Board did not have before, and this testimony makes it doubtful whether certain points thrown out by the Returning Board should have been excluded. In regard to the Pinkston case, he examined considerable testimony, and has examined the testimony of the Louisiana witnesses, and he expresses the opinion that the people of Louisiana have been afflicted with bad government, and he sympathizes with them. He was with the sub-committee which investigated Ouachita parish, and thinks that the charges of intimidation in that parish were entirely true, and that the most reasonable solution of the case is to be found in the testimony of the committee are unfounded.—Id.

THE SAME OLD GUESS.  
A prominent Democrat remarked to-night that the choice of Tilden as President by the House and that of Wheeler as Vice-President by the Senate, in the constitutional election, seemed to be the most reasonable solution of the case, and that the most reasonable solution of the case is to be found in the testimony of the committee are unfounded.—Id.

THE TREASURY TO-DAY issued the thirty-seventh call for the redemption of United States bonds. The call is for \$10,000,000 of 5-20's of 1865, May and November, of which \$7,000,000 are coupons and \$3,000,000 registered, principal and accrued interest to be paid on 10th April next. The bonds are numbered as follows: Coupons, \$100, No. 17,001 to 21,350; \$500, Nos. 22,101 to 26,700.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.—The regular monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held last evening. Messrs. E. O. Nolting (in the chair), Blankenship, J. B. Purcell, Childrey, Logan, Watkins, Ellett, Millhiser, Spotts, Capers, Grubbs, and Hawes.

The following communications were taken up and read:  
From Mr. Melvil Dewey, of Boston: Acknowledging receipt of papers from the Richmond Chamber of Commerce concerning the metric system.

From Mr. John Ott, chairman of Committee on Inland Trade: Asking to be relieved as chairman of said committee on account of the modicum of time at the disposal of the committee, was appointed in his place, Communication from Messrs. J. B. Ficklin & Sons, Fredericksburg, in reference to the present mail facilities. The secretary of the Chamber was instructed to write to Messrs. Ficklin & Sons, and say that the committee was not prepared to move in the matter for the present.

Monument to David L. Burr.—The following preamble and resolutions were adopted: Whereas the city of Richmond, in the death of David L. Burr, Esq., lost one of her most useful and public-spirited citizens; and whereas he was a member of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Treasury Department, and that information at hand that the same party operating in Baltimore—Special to Baltimore American.

THE HOUSE AND THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.  
With regard to the action thus far taken by the special committee appointed to inquire into the rights and privileges of the House in counting the electoral vote, it is learned that Mr. Tucker, of Virginia, presented a series of propositions, which were in effect, that the power conferred by the Constitution upon the president of the Senate, and conferred by the Constitution upon the Senate and House of Representatives; and that in the execution of the power to count the electoral vote, the Senate and House of Representatives are equal, and that in counting the electoral votes no vote can be counted against the judgment and assent of the House. These propositions led to much discussion in the committee. Two of the Republican members, Mr. McPherson and Mr. McPherson, and the president of the Senate, and the right to count the electoral vote. Mr. Seelye, of Massachusetts, argued that as the committee was appointed to consider the functions of the House in this matter it was not called upon to consider the right of the Senate to count the electoral vote. Mr. Seelye, of Massachusetts, argued that as the committee was appointed to consider the functions of the House in this matter it was not called upon to consider the right of the Senate to count the electoral vote.

Resolved, That the president of this Chamber appoint a committee of seven—three from the Board and four outsiders—who are authorized to receive subscriptions and to carry out the object of these resolutions.

Messrs. Blankenship, Polts, and Millhiser were appointed to consider the same on the part of the Board, and Messrs. John Purcell, T. W. McClane, Isaac Davenport, Jr., and B. C. Gray outside of the Board.

On motion, Mr. John H. Bryant was elected a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Adjourned.

THE ICE BLOCKADE—MOVEMENT OF STEAMERS.—The steamship Wyanoke, of the Old Dominion line, arrived here from New York at 4:30 P. M. yesterday. She reports the ice in the river still very heavy. The first ice met with at White Shoals, and from there the ice was very much broken up, navigation exceedingly difficult. From Hog Island to City Point and at Seven-Mile Reach the heaviest ice was met with, and in some of the sharp bends of the river the ship found it almost an impossibility to get through, and at one place the ice was so thick that it could force a passage was by backing off and then going forward with full speed, cutting the ice with her sharp prow.

The Wyanoke left Norfolk Wednesday night at 11 o'clock, thus taking fifteen and a half hours to make a trip which she usually makes in nine. She reports no vessels in the river, but a large number in Hampton Roads, among which are two bark, two brig, and a number of schooners, bound to Richmond. The Wyanoke will sail on her return trip to-day, and will receive freight up to 12 o'clock.

The Philadelphia steamer Alliance, which has been ice-bound here for a week, will probably follow in the wake of the Wyanoke.

The channel which has been thus made should by all means be kept open, and the city will probably put its trusts to work to do so. The ice embargo, which has to some extent paralyzed our business, has thrown hundreds out of employment, and the opening of navigation will be of incalculable benefit to the city.

INCENDIARY FIRE IN CHARLES CITY COUNTY.—The house of Mr. J. H. Hays, about three miles below Courthouse, was set on fire and burned down, together with several out-houses, Friday night or early Saturday morning. Only a few articles of furniture were saved, the family barely having time to leave the building. Mr. Hays estimates his loss at about \$1,300, of which there was no insurance. The fire was undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, the dwelling having been fired in four different places. A man named Baker, who lives in the neighborhood, is believed by Mr. Hays to be the party who did the burning. He and his wife were not on the premises, and since the fire it has transpired that Baker had made threats that he meant to do Hays some harm. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Baker by a magistrate of the county, but we were unable to learn whether or not he had been arrested.

UNION BANK.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of this bank took place yesterday at 12 M. The exhibit of its officers shows that it has had a prosperous year. The following gentlemen were elected directors for the present year: J. Davenport, Jr., John C. Shater, W. W. Crump, John A. H. M. Clarke, A. L. Ellett, George N. Woodbridge, W. D. Gibson, G. B. Davenport, W. H. Tyler, Julian Binford, James H. Blair, Moses Ellyson, James W. Archer, M. Rosenbaum, W. Hatcher, Jesse T. Hutcheson, T. William Pemberton, John W. Wright, R. E. Blankenship, John G. Spotts, B. H. Nash, Thomas W. Doswell, William E. Tanner, John J. Binford.

A GOOD COUNTERFEIT.—C. A. Hyslop, charged with passing a counterfeit \$10 note on the Bank of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., upon Martin Archer, was before United States Commissioner Atkins yesterday. The examination was postponed till to-day in order to secure the attendance of the counterfeiter as a witness for the defense. The counterfeit is a very good one. Nine out of ten men would have taken the note without question before its questionable character had been decided by the bank officers and the brand "counterfeit" put upon it.

THE MYERS DISTILLERY CASE—APPEAL DISMISSED.—The case of the United States vs. Myers's distillery, Petersburg, came before Judge Bond Wednesday on an appeal from the ruling of the lower court at Richmond. Judge Bond sustained the ruling of the lower court, and the appeal was dismissed. The effect of this is, it is said, is a substantial victory for Orms Adams, who had a lien on the property to the extent of \$10,000.

MILITARY CONVENTION.—There will be a military convention held in this city on the 10th day of January. All of the white volunteer companies of the State will be represented. The object of the convention is to advance the interest of volunteer soldiery of the State. The chairman of the delegations from the different city volunteer companies will meet at the regular meeting on January 12th, at 10 o'clock, to make arrangements for the meeting of the convention.

INQUIRY FOR FLOUR.—We have heard of an inquiry from a party in Tennessee, addressed to a commission house in this city, asking what price was paid for the best quality of No. 1,000 barrels of flour similar in quality to Tennessee extra and super.

A CHAPTER OF RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

A CAR FROM THE CHEESAPEAKE AND OHIO EXPRESS TRAIN THROWN DOWN AN EMBANKMENT INTO THE GREENBRIER RIVER—EIGHT PERSONS INJURED—A FREIGHT TRAIN WRECKED—ACCIDENT ON THE VIRGINIA MIDLAND ROAD—TWO SLEEPERS THROWN DOWN AN EMBANKMENT.

Wednesday night will be long remembered on the Chesapeake and Ohio and Washington City, Virginia Midland, and Great Southern railroads as a night of accidents; but the officers of the road may congratulate themselves that so few persons were injured, considering the serious character of the accidents.

The first accident was to the eastward-bound express train on the Chesapeake and Ohio road, due here at 6:30 o'clock yesterday morning. It occurred between Hancock and Caldwell stations, about six or seven miles west of the White Sulphur Springs, about 7:30 P. M. The entire train (except the baggage-master, the mail, baggage, and express-cars were thrown from the track while the train was going along through the Greenbrier Valley at its usual rate of speed. The rear first-class coach not only jumped the track, but rolled down the bank into the Greenbrier river, where the fragments lodged upon the ice, the river being frozen over to a considerable thickness.

THE PASSENGERS WHO WERE INJURED.  
There were twenty-five or thirty passengers on the train at the time of the accident. Those who were injured were Mr. and Miss Adair, of the Red Sulphur Springs; Mr. L. A. Soper, the baggage-master, at Gortonville; Mr. Goodman and wife, of Clifton Forge; Mrs. Hall, of the White Sulphur Springs; and Mr. J. G. Woodward, brakeman of the train.

The train ran more than a hundred yards after leaving the track, and was stopped by Mr. Alsop, the baggage-master, at Gortonville, and gave the note of warning to the engineer. It was discovered after the train was stopped that the rear coach—the first-class passenger-car—was missing; and when the train-hands looked down the bank, there lay the coach on the ice in the river, shattered almost to splinters, the mass of lumber looking very much like an old barn that had been destroyed by the wind.

As soon as the train was stopped the injured passengers and the train officers went to work to take out the injured.

REMOVED TO THE WHITE SULPHUR.  
The engine was now sent on to the White Sulphur, and soon returned with a sleeping-car, several of the injured were taken to the White Sulphur, where they were all cared for, and at last accounts were doing well. Mrs. Hall, who was more seriously injured than any of the others, had her leg broken and was injured at the hip. Mr. Alsop, the baggage-master, was taken to the road, arrived at the White Sulphur last night and rendered what aid he could to the sufferers. He will at once make an investigation into the cause of the accident, which is a mystery at present.

AN INCIDENT—THE TRAIN ON THE TRACK.  
A little girl about four years of age, believed to be the daughter of Mrs. Hall, was among those who went down in the car, and she was so much scratched, although she was literally pulled out from the very bottom of the wreck.

After the passengers had been sent on to the White Sulphur, the train was taken to the cars that had been thrown from the track, and at 3:30 P. M. yesterday the track was cleared, and the train moved on to the White. From that point it came on the time of No. 2 mail train, and reached Richmond last evening at 5:20 o'clock.

THE SECOND ACCIDENT.  
The eastward-bound through-freight train on the Chesapeake and Ohio road was thrown from the track about a mile and a half west of Fredericksburg depot night before last. The train, which was carrying a large number of passengers, was completely wrecked. The track was cleared in about two hours. No one was injured.

SLEEPING-CARS WRECKED.  
The third accident referred to was on the Washington City, Virginia Midland and Great Southern railroad, and occurred about 4 A. M. yesterday. The southward-bound night train, No. 63, ran off the track at near Kettle Run. One of the freight cars was wrecked, and another sleeper badly torn to pieces. Both of the sleeping-cars were thrown down an embankment thirty feet from the track. It is stated that there would have been more damage had not the "draw-head" to one of the sleepers been pulled out. Eight or ten persons were injured.

THE GRANGE MEETING TO-NIGHT.—Blanton Grange, of Richmond city, holds meetings every Friday night in the hall of the State Treasury, and providing a very interesting and profitable entertainment. The Grange will meet to-night at 7:30 P. M. General Johnson is expected to explain his bill at 8, at which hour non-grangers will be admitted.

THE TEMPERANCE MEETING.—The public meeting held last evening at Springfield Division, Sons of Temperance, at Leigh-Street Baptist church last night, was attended by a highly-intelligent and appreciative audience; and well were they rewarded for their presence in the utterances of the Rev. A. W. Weddell and Professor Moffatt. The latter gentleman, who has already won a celebrity in other States as an expounder of temperance principles, showed himself a pleasing orator.

Music was furnished by the Leigh-Street Church choir. It was excellent, and very appropriate to the occasion.

The meeting was presided over by H. A. Atkinson, Jr., Grand Worthy Patriarch of the State of Virginia.

Rev. Mr. Garlick, pastor of Leigh-Street church, made a few remarks, and promised to make a speech some other time.

After the meeting, the Division adjourned to their hall, where they initiated several new members.

GETTING WELL.—Mr. Vaughn, who was shot at his breakfast-table on the 31st day of December by Thomas McNamee, is now well enough to walk about his room a little.

Supreme Court of Appeals.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS YESTERDAY—TWO INTERESTING CONFISCATION CASES—JUDGE UNDERSTANDING REVIEW AGAIN—THE CONFEDERACY A DE FACTO GOVERNMENT.

In the Supreme Court of Appeals yesterday, in the case of Fairfax vs. The City of Alexandria, the decision of the lower court was reversed. In the year 1862 proceedings were instituted in the United States District Court in Alexandria to confiscate certain certificates of indebtedness issued by that city to Dr. Orlando Fairfax, a resident of the city of Richmond. Such proceedings were had that Judge Underwood rendered a decree confiscating the debt and directing the sale of the same. Thereupon the city of Alexandria issued certificates of indebtedness to the purchasers at this sale.

After the war was over Dr. Fairfax instituted his suit in the Circuit Court of Alexandria for the recovery of the amount due on the certificates. In its defense the city relied upon the decree of confiscation and the sale as divesting the title of Dr. Fairfax to the debt in question, and investing it in the purchaser. The Circuit Court rendered judgment in favor of the city against Dr. Fairfax. Upon an appeal by the latter to the Supreme Court, it was reversed, and that court reversed the judgment of the Circuit Court of Alexandria. The Supreme Court held that the decree of confiscation was null and void upon two grounds: 1st. That the proper preliminary proceedings had not been instituted and a proper seizure of the debt had not been made; second, that Dr. Fairfax was prohibited by the Judge of the District Court of the United States from appearing in that court and contesting his liability to any such decree, Judge Underwood's declaration that he was a "traitor" should be permitted to appear in his court. The Supreme Court held that a decree rendered under such circumstances was utterly null and void for any purpose. The amount in controversy was about \$15,000. Judge Moncure delivered the opinion of the court.

Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company vs. Leslie and others. In the year 1862 the District Court of the Confederate States rendered a decree confiscating 750 shares of stock in the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad Company belonging to residents of the northern States, and of alien enemies. Under that decree a sale was made, and the stock was purchased by various citizens of the city of Richmond and new certificates of stock issued to the purchasers by the railroad company. After the war was over the stockholders, whose stock had been confiscated, applied to the railroad company to be reinstated as such in the company, which request was complied with by the latter. In the year '71 or '72 the company filed its bill in the Circuit Court of Richmond against the northern States and the District Court of the Confederate States, alleging that they had acquired no title by their purchase, that the decree of confiscation was null and void, and by the results of the war all the laws of the Confederate States were abrogated, and rights acquired thereunder destroyed. There was no question as to the regularity of the proceedings under the decree of confiscation. The only question was, Whether a valid title could be acquired under any such decree? The Supreme Court decided—Judge Spiller dissenting—that the Government of the Confederate States was certainly a Government de facto, if not de jure, and while it was in force it exercised all the powers and attributes of a complete sovereignty, and titles and rights bona fide acquired under its laws and authority could not be impeached or invalidated because that Government had been since destroyed. Affirmed.

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