THE DISPATCH.
BY COWARDIN & ELLYSON.
CASH—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.
The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers at FIFTEEN CENTS per week, payable to the carrier weekly. Mailed at $6 per annum; $3 for six months; 75c. per month for a shorter period.
The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH at $3 per annum, or $1.50 for six months.
The WEEKLY DISPATCH at $2 per annum.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. LI. RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1877. No. 12.

THE DISPATCH.
TERMS OF ADVERTISING
CASH—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

One square, one insertion	$0 75
One square, two insertions	1 00
One square, three insertions	1 75
One square, six insertions	3 50
One square, twelve insertions	5 00
One square, one month	10 00
One square, two months	18 00
One square, three months	25 00

LIST OF LETTERS.

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING IN THE POST-OFFICE AT RICHMOND, HENRICO COUNTY, VA., JANUARY 13, 1877.

LADIES' LIST.

Anderson, Lucy (colored), Baker, Emma E., Bayne, F. A., Beale, Maria, Bland, S. L., Bennett, A. P., Bright, Nettie, Brickhouse, C., Brown, J. A., Brown, Harriet, Coldmond, E., Coleman, A., Clay, Eliza, Crowder, O. M., Dalby, Willie A., Dabney, Mary, Easton, C., Folker, Va., Gail, Sallie M., Gordon, Sarah F., Gregory, M. A. (colored), Harris, Maria, Harris, E., Hart, Mrs. Geo., Holt, Sarah B., Hudgins, H. M., Hughes, Susan, Jefferson, E., Johnston, E., Johnson, P., Johnson, M. A., Johnson, Jennie, Johnson, N. B., Jones, Siny (colored), Larkins, M. J., Leonard, D. A., Madison, V. F., Meyers, Julia, Morris, Susan, McGilvray, Ida, McGinn, Fannie, Rex, Ellen, Roberson, H., Schutte, M., Taylor, M. G., Taswell, Lizzie, Thomas, M. W., Walker, Susan, Washington, L. (colored), Welch, Caroline, Weems, Julia E., White, Dina, White, Margaret, Woodley, Ellen

GENTLEMEN'S LIST.

Anderson, Grandy & Co., Baker, Charles, Barry, Jesse B., Beasley, Chas. H., Beckwith, T. S. & Co., Bollinger, W., Boore, Rev. Chas., Brown, N. T., Callahan, J. W., Carter, G. G., Campbell, J. H., Cole, Charley, Davis & Skidmore, Dickerson, Chester (colored), Eastham, Wm., Ewers, John S., Fawks, H., Green, C. B. (co'd), Green, Robert, Gwathmey, Geo., Harris, R. A., Henry, H. W., Irelan, John E., James, Henry, Jackson, Dodson (colored), Leath, Thos. S., Leftwich, E. C., Lively, E. B., Marburg Bros., Meltiuser, M., Miles, Lewis, Moore, W. A., Moseley, J. M., Morris, Jr., R. G., Moore, Thos. R., Morrison, H. S., McComber, V. D., Oliver, John B., Palman, Harris, Peer, Frank S., Perry, Wm. R., Quinn, Peter, Quinlan, Michael, Ranahin, John, Ricker, B. S., Renno, Lewis, Ross, Julius, Seldon, J. A., Smith, A. (col'd), Tetter, T. B. (2), Thomas, Jno. A., Thomas, Jr., W. C., Thompson, T. R., Trumball, T. H., Vaughan, Geo., Walker, A. (col'd), Wallace, J. S., Werdenham, A. F., Whitty, F. W., Williams, J. C. & Co., Witcher, W. A., Wormley, Wm.

VESSELS.

Brig Mary Collerton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Lieoming Insurance Company.

E. L. VAN LEW, Postmaster.

MEETINGS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS COMPANY will be held at the Exchange Hotel, Richmond, Va., on THURSDAY, January 25th, at 6 P. M. A. N. WELLFORD, President.
ja 11-2w

MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS SAVINGS BANK, RICHMOND, December 27, 1876.
THE REGULAR ANNUAL MEETING of the stockholders of this bank will take place on MONDAY the 15th of January next, at 5 o'clock P. M., at their office.
WILLIAM A. JENKINS, Cashier.
de 28-td

AMUSEMENTS.

RICHMOND THEATRE.
ONE NIGHT ONLY.
SATURDAY EVENING, JANUARY 13TH.
HAVERLY'S NEW ORLEANS MINSTRELS.
16 STAR ARTISTS. 16.
EVERYTHING NEW.
6 COMEDIANS. 6.
4 SONG AND DANCE-ARTISTS. 4.
AND
THE NEW ORLEANS QUINTETTE.
Box-sheet at Wyatt's. Admission: 25, 50, and 75c. No extra charge for reserved seats. ja 13-1t*

RICHMOND THEATRE.
Last appearance of
MME. JANAUSCHEK.
MATINEE AT 2 o'CLOCK—CHESNEY WOLD.
Admission, 25c., 50c., and 75c. Box-sheet at WYATT'S. ja 13-1t*

POROUS PLASTERS.

ALLCOCK'S POROUS-PLASTERS.
Ask for ALLCOCK'S, and obtain them, and avoid miserable imitations.
B. BRANDRETH, President.
Office, 294 Canal street, New York.
no 9-d3m&wcow3m

WANTS.

WANTED, TO PLACE SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS on good real-estate security, also on commercial business paper at short dates, at reasonable rates. Apply to SQUIRE & GODDIN, Real Estate Agents, No. 1115 Main street.
ja 13-1t*

WANTED, a WHITE WOMAN to do the housework for a small family. Must come well recommended. Apply at 710 east Franklin street. ja 13-1t*

WANTED, A WHITE WOMAN TO COOK and WASH. None need apply except they are willing to work. Best references required. Apply at No. 315 Broad street. ja 13-2t

WANTED, for applicants, THREE GRIST-MILLS—(1) first-class, for northern company;
(2) SMALL FARMS convenient to city;
(2) SMALL HOUSES in city.
Cash is offered. GEORGE E. CRAWFORD, 1005 Bank street.
ja 13-1w

WANTED, a FIRST-RATE COOK without incumbrance. Good wages given, and references required.
J. W. ANDERSON, 206 Jefferson street, between Byrd and Canal streets.
ja 13-1t*

WANTED, to purchase a FIVE- or SIX-ROOM HOUSE on Church Hill on the instalment plan. Address, giving particulars and terms, "S.," care of Post-office Carrier 11.
ja 13-S,M,W,S4t*

WANTED, PURCHASERS FOR SIXTY CORDS of SEASONED OAK WOOD at $4.50 per cord, at the Danville depot.
R. O. GARY, No. 118 south Eighth street, near packet-landing.
ja 12-2t

WANTED, a COOK and LAUNDRESS for a small family. Only those with recommendations need apply. Apply at 906 Broad street.
ja 12-2t*

TEACHER WANTED.—The Board of Trustees of Washington-Henry Academy, in the county of Hanover, desire a TEACHER for a free school at said institution. Applications addressed to J. H. TIMBERLAKE, Secretary, Atlee's post-office.
ja 11-eod3t

WANTED.—TWO YOUNG LADIES desire BOARD in a respectable boarding-house or private family. Board paid promptly, but must be low. References exchanged. Address, with full name and price, BOARDER, care of Carrier No. 3. ja 12-3t

WANTED, A SITUATION IN A GROCERY OR COMMISSION HOUSE AS SALESMAN, by a gentleman of experience. Willing to work for a small salary. Address "A. B. C.," *Dispatch* office. ja 10-3t*

HIDES WANTED—DRY, GREEN, and SALTED. Also, SHEEPSKINS and TALLOW; for which the highest cash prices will be paid by O. H. CHALKLEY & CO., Leather-Dealers, Thirteenth street.
no 3

MULES, HORSES, &c.

FOR SALE, ONE EXTRA-FINE YOUNG MULE, warranted sound, gentle, and well broke to all kinds of harness. Can be seen at 213 Sixth street, between Broad and Grace. ja 12-3t*

FOR SALE, PRIVATELY, a first-rate DOCTOR'S BUGGY, HARNESS, and HORSE. Also, a beautiful five-year-old ALDERNEY COW with calf of a few weeks old. A rare opportunity. Apply to J. L. APPERSON, Real Estate Agent.
ja 10-6t

FINANCIAL.

MONEY TO LEND, in sums of ONE HUNDRED TO FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS, on unincumbered Richmond city real estate. Rates and charges reasonable.
CHAFFIN, STAPLES & CO., Tenth and Main streets.
ja 12-4t

DEFAULTED RAILROAD BONDS AT VERY LOW FIGURES.
List and prices sent on receipt of stamp.
W. H. WEEKS, Banker, 178 Broadway, New York.
ja 11-eod13t

COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

W. A. SUBLETT, COMMISSION MERCHANT, No. 1015 Basin bank, offers his services for the SALE OF ALL COUNTRY PRODUCE, and in connection with his business will have four boats out and four in per week, carrying freight and passengers. de 27

CLOTHING.

JOHN LATOUCHE, MERCHANT TAILOR, No. 4 TENTH STREET.
Just received, a choice assortment of FOREIGN GOODS—
CHINCHILLAS, SUITING, and TROUSERINGS,
Still making numbers of those good, substantial Cassimere Suits—well made and well trimmed—for $33.
no 17

Richmond Dispatch.

SATURDAY.....JANUARY 13, 1877.

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

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—*Washington*, January 12.—For the South Atlantic and East Gulf States, falling followed by rising barometer, warm southerly winds, veering to decidedly colder westerly and northerly, and increasing cloudiness will prevail, with probably occasional light rains.

For the West Gulf States, rising and high barometer, brisk northerly winds, possibly high on the Texas coast to-night; occasional rains, and succeeded on Saturday by generally clear weather, diminishing winds, and in the northern portions shifting to southerly, with falling barometer.

For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, rising barometer, winds shifting to northwest and westerly, and decidedly colder, clear, or clearing weather, and succeeded in the latter by slowly-rising temperature.

For the Middle States, falling followed by rising barometer, easterly winds, shifting to west and northwest, frequent snow and rain, succeeded by colder, clearing weather.

Cautionary signals continue on the Texas coast, and are ordered from New Jersey to Massachusetts.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was partly cloudy and mild.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 38; 9 A. M., 43; noon, 50; 3 P. M., 51; 6 P. M., 46; midnight, 39.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, January 11, 1877.

THE OREGON CORRUPTION FUND.

Senator Mitchell to-day drove his pursuit of the Oregon eight thousand dollars still closer to Mr. Tilden's barrel of money. Runyon, the recusant witness, purged himself of his contempt by stating that his customer who brought the money to be transferred was Jordan, cashier of the Third National Bank of New York, for whom he was acting. He did not know that the man who suggested his seeing Burton Harrison, late secretary of Jefferson Davis, about his testimony was W. T. Pelton, confidential secretary of Samuel J. Tilden. Nothing was extracted from Dimond, who did not seem to know who paid the drafts given Cronin. It appears upon inquiry that Tilden is a director in the Third National Bank; that Jordan, its cashier, was evidently not acting for himself, and was then, as now, exceedingly anxious to conceal his principal. Jordan has been sent for, and it is not unlikely that Tilden himself will be asked to contribute a chapter on what he knows about money and votes, and about Oregon laws and morals.—*Special to the Baltimore American.*

NOT AGREED.

Two members of the Senate committee on counting the electoral vote, says a Washington dispatch, are authority for stating that the committee have not yet agreed upon a report.—*Ib.*

THE LOUISIANA CONFLICT.

WASHINGTON, January 11.—The situation in Louisiana is still viewed with solicitude on all hands. A rumor was put in circulation that Lieutenant-General Sheridan had suddenly changed front, and had urged the President to-day not to interfere. The authority for this statement was understood to be an ex-general officer of the Union army, and a personal friend of Sheridan. It found, however, but few believers. The Attorney-General said to a friend that it would not be long before the Louisiana question would be settled. Since Senator West received the news that he had been defeated for reëlection by Kellogg, his interest in the fortunes of Packard does not seem so intense as heretofore.—*Special to Baltimore Sun.*

Chief-Justice Ludeling.

THE MODEL JURIST OF THE PACKARD-CASEY CROWD.

To the Editor of the Philadelphia Evening Telegraph:

The names of Brother-in-Law Casey, Judge Durell, and other Louisiana worthies are tolerably well known throughout the country, but that of Chief-Justice Ludeling has been less conspicuous.

In order that your readers may know what sort of a person the Republican State government of Louisiana chooses to appoint to the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of that State, permit me to furnish you with a few extracts from the opinion of the Supreme Court of the United States, delivered by Mr. Justice Strong in the recent case of Jackson *vs.* Ludeling, in 21 Wallace, page 616.

The case was one in which the managers of an insolvent railroad obtained an order for the sale of the property and bought it in for themselves at much less than its value. The sale was conducted in a secret manner at a small village in the interior of the State, and in such a way as to enable the conspirators to secure the property at the lowest possible price.

This sale was carried out by an arrangement to which Ludeling was a party; and of the agreement made by him Judge Strong says:

"It is impossible to characterize this agreement as anything else than fraudulent. Its obvious purpose was to remove competition at the sale. It was a flagrant breach of trust on the part of Horne, and it was a fraud in Ludeling, with knowledge of the trust Horne had undertaken, to persuade him to violate his instructions and sacrifice the interests of his constituents, himself becoming a party to the violation. * * * * Thus directors of the company, owing duties to its stockholders and creditors, not only combined to obtain the company's property for themselves at a sacrifice through the formation of a judicial sale, but were active participants in successful efforts to defeat a sale for $550,000 in order that they might become the purchasers for $50,000.

"It is impossible to sustain such a transaction. Throughout it was grossly inequitable. That the property was sacrificed by means of an unlawful and widespread combination is abundantly proved, and that the directors who were parties to it, and who became the purchasers, were guilty of an inexcusable violation of confidence reposed in them, admits of no doubt. Ludeling, it is true, was not a director; but he was a leading member of the combination and its chief agent to carry out its plans. He knew its purposes. He knew its illegality. He had negotiated the surrender of Horne with full knowledge of Horne's breach of trust. He assumed the control of Gordon's executory process, and, as we have noticed when told that Gordon had consented to stay the sale, he declared that Gordon had no power to do it. Indeed, Ludeling appears to have had complete possession of the sheriff. He drew up the sheriff's return, carefully stating in it that all the requirements and formalities of the law had been complied with in the second offering, as they had been in the first; and he was, as the evidence shows, most active in defeating an adjudication to Brauner & Co. on their large bid. * * *

"The defendants can take nothing from such a sale thus made. Were we to sustain it we should sanction a great moral and legal wrong, give encouragement to faithlessness to trusts and confidence reposed, and countenance combinations to wrest by the forms of law from the uninformed and confiding their just rights."

This is the record which secures judicial appointment from the Republican party in the State of Louisiana, and it is the government of such men that Senator Sherman has the effrontery to defend upon the floor of the United States Senate. S. D.

The May-Bennett Duel.

AT THE SCENE OF THE DUEL—NOTES BY THE SPECIAL ARTIST OF THE GRAPHIC—A SUMMARY SKETCH OF THE MOVEMENTS OF THE DUELLISTS—WHAT THE NATIVES SAW AND SAID.

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH OFFICE OF THE GRAPHIC, January 10.—My investigations at Marydel, Del. and Md., result in placing certain questions and doubts at rest with which I observe various newspapers yet attach to the very mysterious Bennet-May duel. The parties were at the point named and at the time generally stated. They were arrayed upon the "field of honor" according to the rules of the code, and they shot away, under those conditions, six cartridges, but not at each other.

I visited the field of blood under a strong escort. On Monday the ground was soft. No one traversed the field that day except the parties in whom we are interested. Since Monday afternoon the ground has been as hard as stone. So we have imprints of the presence of the party, where they dashed through the snow, waded in the mud, and, with but little indecision, marked off the toe-lines with a stick. The distance by careful measurement with a pocket-rule from line to line is forty feet. They were placed north and south. The wind on Monday was southerly. The osseous fragments of a deceased mule led to conclusions as to a previous encounter upon this historic plot of ground.

I talked with Mr. Nathan McGinnis, upon whose farm the battle was fought. His house is the only one near the scene, and is upon the opposite side of the railroad. A rise in the ground hides the spot selected from view where Mr. McGinnis stood at his door. He says he saw five men coming up the track with blankets and small boxes in their arms. They struck over into the field—one big man being considerably in advance—and disappeared down the slope. Mr. McGinnis went in to dinner, filled with the belief that he had seen a party of railroad directors who were prospecting for a site for a new depôt, and his soul was filled with sunbeams of joy at the thought of increasing value for his acres. Alas! McGinnis. About the time he had ceased to feel interested in culinary matters six shots were heard in quick succession. None saw the shooting; none heard it save the men in the action and the family of McGinnis. All reports of the eye-witnesses given in the papers are a delusion and a snare. Shortly thereafter the five men filed solemnly out upon the track and betook themselves to the station. Here the Bennett group engaged Mr. John Walters to convey them to Clayton. Mr. Bennett sat with the driver. Mr. Walters, in common with others, regarded them as capitalists who were going to develop the resources of the country thereabout. The visitors were quick to note this suspicion, and encouraged it by talking "railroad" to the bystanders. Soon after leaving, Mr. Bennett appealed to his companions, asking if they did not regard his "proposition" as just and fair, and they assented. Thereafter they conversed at length in a foreign tongue.

Mr. May and his companion went down to Slaughter station, rejoined their friend (who had acted as a picket), and proceeded to Dover in a hired conveyance. Mr. May is reported by all who came in contact with him as showing great good nature and entire self-possession.

I have said that I would prove that the shots were not fired at either man. Let the reader measure off forty feet in any convenient place—the parlor, for instance. Then let him put his Ulster upon a bolster and set "his man" on end. Then let him pepper away with his little shooter to the extent of its six barrels, and see if he has found it possible to miss it more than twice out of the possible six. If so, he is only fit for a duellist. SKETCHIST.

THE BENNETT-MAY FIZZLE.

Interest in the Bennett-May fiasco is fizzling out as easy as the abortive effort at a duel was brought to a bungling termination. In the mean time the principals are keeping themselves out of the way of inquisitive people, especially evading the minions of the press and the law. The present feeling in the matter was well expressed yesterday by the gentleman who arranged the preliminaries in Baltimore. He said he moulded the balls, prepared the pistols, and set up till midnight to see the parties off; but now he feels disgusted at a party who, attracting the attention of a whole nation, should engage in a hostile meeting "and not mean business." He wishes now he had had nothing to do with it. "In California," where he had lived, "they did not extend a challenge for nothing." The pistols used there were five-shooters, and the parties blazed away at each other until one or the other fell, or until the five shots were spent.

The New York papers say that Bennett left that city immediately after the arrest of Dr. Phelps, and his whereabouts are unknown. If criminal proceedings continue he would take a trip abroad. It is also said that Dr. Frederick May, of Baltimore, who acted as second for his cousin, was in New York on Wednesday night, and that as many other relatives assembled at the May house it was presumed there was a family council over the unfortunate occurrences of the week and to decide on future action. There are satisfactory reasons for saying, however, that the circumstances are such as to preclude the possibility of any relation hereafter that would involve association or friendly interest, though there is no probability of any further hostilities.—*Baltimore Sun.*

[Special dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]

MORE ABOUT THE MAY-BENNETT DUEL—A MARYLAND AFFAIR—SENSATIONAL SUPPOSITIONS AMONG MEDICAL STUDENTS.

PHILADELPHIA, January 11.—Attorney-General Pennington, of Delaware, visited the battle-ground to-day, and satisfied himself that it was within the limits of Maryland, and that he had no need to bother himself about it.

Dr. William H. Pancoast, professor of anatomy in the Jefferson Medical College, returned home late on Wednesday night from what is said to have been a visit to Maryland to attend to the wounds of Frederick May, one of the missing principals in the late Bennett-May duel. The next day Dr. Joseph Pancoast, his father, held clinic in his son's place, and told the students that the latter had gone to Maryland to attend to a wounded man, and might not return for a number of days.

Dr. Pancoast returned on Wednesday night, and yesterday he was visited by scores of reporters, to all of whom he expressed his ignorance of May's wounds or his whereabouts, and said that he had merely gone to amputate the arm of a young man on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Yesterday afternoon, at clinic, he explained to the students how he had performed an excellent work. A man had been wounded in the left arm by a pistol-shot, which severed the artery. Mortification set in, and he had been obliged to amputate the arm.

A reporter visited the Jefferson Medical College to-night, and learned that most of the students firmly believed that Dr. Pancoast had been called to attend May, and that he was wounded three or four days ago, for mortification would not set in for a day or so after the wound had been made.

FAILURE.—*Louisville, Ky.*, January 12.—Steven & Cain, dry-goods merchants, have gone into liquidation. Liabilities, $162,000.

Mr. C. N. Griffin has arrived at San Francisco, bearing a commission from the native Government of Samoa as its Minister Plenipotentiary to negotiate a treaty with the United States, looking to a formal recognition, and the cultivation of closer commercial and general relations. Much complaint is made of the oppressive and tyrannical course of a German firm an Samoa, "backed by a German war vessel," which has prompted the native Government to seek the moral support of the United States.

LOCAL MATTERS.

GRANGE MEETING—RAILROAD FREIGHTS DISCUSSED.—Quite a number of the members of the order, legislators, and others, assembled in Grange Hall last night to attend the regular weekly meeting of Blanton Grange.

The meeting was called to order by the Master of the Grange, Mr. F. Stearns, who asked Dr. J. M. Blanton, worthy master of the State Grange, to preside.

"Legal restrictions upon freights and tolls" was announced as the subject for discussion.

The Chair stated that it was an open meeting, and that all were invited to participate. On motion of Colonel F. G. Ruffin, General Bradley T. Johnson was invited to address the meeting on the subject, with special reference to the bill introduced by him into the Legislature, of which we gave an abstract a few days since. The bill was read by the secretary.

General Johnson, in introducing his remarks, said that he did not expect that all would unite with him in what he was going to say, for during his investigation of the subject he had frequently to change old and preconceived notions; but that what we want is the truth, which can only be had by a full and free discussion. A part of the sovereign power of a State is parted with when she gives a corporation power to take private property for public uses, and endows it with perpetuity, and to this particular class of corporations gives the power of taxation—that is, receiving the money of others and applying it for the benefit of the public. In Virginia it extends through fifty-nine counties, with 1,320 miles of road, and takes from the public $2,500,000—a sum greater than all the taxes of all the counties of the State, including that paid to the State. These roads were created for the use of the public and for their good. The question everywhere that railroads are established is, "Whether the Government shall govern the roads or the roads govern the Government?" It is to see whether we can work out the problem that he was here to-night. Thirty years of experience in England has demonstrated that competition will not work out reasonable rates. The carrying trade in this country between the East and the West is done by five main trunk lines. In their case it has been shown that the law of competition is utterly inadequate.

When great masses of men combine in complaints be sure there are great evils somewhere. The railroad management in the country and the State is utterly ruinous. There are but two solvent roads in the State. Their property has passed to non-residents, and it is impossible for our people long to continue to submit to such a state of affairs. The State's management of the roads is inefficient.

First you had two-thirds interest in these roads. Now you have given that up, and ten years has demonstrated the fact that competition is of no value. General Johnson then cited numerous cases in which this had been proven. Competition is only of value at the precise points where it exists. Beyond these you are at the mercy of the corporations.

When railroads were introduced into Belgium a regular system was laid down and controlled by the State, and it has worked well to this day. Six companies control the whole railroad system of the kingdom of Great Britain.

In Massachusetts it had been demonstrated that the Government must take hold of it; that by an irresistible law these corporations soon degenerate into monopolists. The bill offered by him was a copy of the English and Massachusetts bills, with slight amendments to suit this State. It places us at once on a level with those Commonwealths. Under it all complaints are made to the commissioners, and they examine into the facts of the case and make their report. He cited from a lecture delivered by Hon. Charles Francis Adams, the head of the railroad commissioners in Massachusetts, and also a report of the commissioners, to show the benefits of the plan.

There is something in this matter, and sooner or later the problem will be solved. It affects every citizen of the Commonwealth. If by good management the roads can make your ten-dollars-per-acre farm worth fifty dollars per acre, is it not their bounden duty to do it? The great central plain of Europe is being gradually opened up, and when those rich lands throw their vast granaries open to the world, commerce will pass from our hands into theirs.

The railroad system in the southern States is utterly ruinous. It is the duty of the State to take care of the property of its citizens. No business transacted for the public good should be done in a private way. This answers the alleged inquisitorial part of the bill.

General Johnson answered the objections to the last section of the bill, which would require the roads to pay the expenses of the commissioners. In England and Massachusetts the expenses are borne by the State.

A colloquial conversation was had between the gentlemen present as to the merits of the bill. Before concluding the discussion it was resolved to continue it at the next meeting.

The thanks of the meeting were returned to General Johnston for his address, and a copy of it asked for presentation to the State Grange, which meets here in a few weeks.

The meeting then adjourned.

THE ICE IN THE HARBOR.—The city tugboats Frank Somers and William P. Craighill were busily engaged yesterday in breaking up the ice in the harbor, and by the evening between Rocketts and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad wharves enough of it had been broken up to admit the passage of vessels about the harbor.

If this mild weather continues a day or so longer, the harbor, as well as the river, will be comparatively free from the ice obstructions.

The tug Arctic yesterday towed the brig Mary Allerton and the schooner Jacob Birdsall across the river from the Danville wharf, where they have been ice-bound for some time, to the lock-gates, where the vessels were locked into the dock.

The steamship Wyanoke sailed yesterday afternoon for New York, followed by the Philadelphia steamer Alliance, which has been here fast in the ice since Wednesday week.

The dock is still covered with ice, but it is very rotten. It is probable that the vessels which have been there blockaded will get out to-day.

The agents for the Powhatan Line of steamers were expecting their steamer Roanoke, from Baltimore, last night or this morning. The steamer Shirley, of this line, arrived at West Point yesterday with freight for Richmond. Since navigation has been closed in the James the steamers of this line have been going up the York river to West Point, and their freight has been transferred from there to this city by railroad.

DEATH OF A RICHMOND LADY IN WILLIAMSBURG.—Information has been received in this city of the death of Mrs. Conrad, wife of Mr. J. M. Conrad, of Richmond, which occurred in Williamsburg on the 9th instant.

DISCHARGED.—The case of C. A. Hyslope, charged with passing counterfeit money, was again before United States Commissioner Atkins yesterday. There being no further testimony for the Government the accused was discharged.

PERSONAL.—The James T. Purcell mentioned in the report of the Hustings Court of yesterday was no relative of Mr. John Purcell, of this city.

HYMENEAL.—Mr. Theo. F. Taylor, a popular young commission merchant of this city, was married last week by Rev. John E. Edwards, D. D., to Miss Florence J. Goddin, daughter of Mr. John M. Goddin.

LEGISLATIVE WORK.

How Members are Earning Per Diem.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES—SALARIES OF THE PROFESSORS OF THE UNIVERSITY—THE SINKING FUND—REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—TAXABLE VALUES—A NEW RULE OF COURT PROCEDURE PROPOSED—CORRECTION OF ASSESSMENTS, &c.

The House Committee on Schools and Colleges met yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock in the hall of the House of Delegates—Colonel Gilman, of Richmond, presiding—when the question of the regulation of the salaries and compensation of the professors of the University was considered. Mr. Stuart's bill, which gives the power to the Board of Visitors to fix the pay of professors, having been read, letters from the different professors were also read, giving their views on the subject.

Professors Minor and Southall, of the law department, were opposed to the change, while Professors Cabell, Peters, Harrison, Mallett, Smith, Holmes, Noah Davis, J. S. Davis, Price, and Schele De Vere most earnestly favored it.

Mr. Stuart, rector of the institution, explained the matter fully to the committee, and said the passage of the bill was unanimously desired by members of the Board.

Hon. B. Johnson Barbour, a former rector of the institution, endorsed what Mr. Stuart said, and gave the committee the benefit of his interesting experience in connection with the management of the University.

All the members of the committee present voted to report the bill, and this will be done this morning.

TAXABLE VALUES.

The Auditor of Public Accounts, in his report yesterday made to the General Assembly, gives the following statement showing the comparative increase or decrease in the value of the personal property and real estate in Virginia, as assessed with taxes for the years 1875 and 1876:

Value of personal property in Virginia as assessed with taxes for the year 1876	$82,167,576 00
Value of personal property in Virginia as assessed with taxes for the year 1875	80,263,254 00
Difference—Increase in 1876	$1,904,322 00
Value of real estate in Virginia according to the returns of the reassessments made in 1875, pursuant to article X, chapter 32, section 6, Code of 1873, and the act of Assembly of March 31, 1875	$246,046,397 00
Value of real estate in Virgina as assessed with taxes for the year 1876	242,756,548 00
Difference—Decrease in value of real estate as ascertained in the revaluation of 1875 and the assessment for taxes in 1876	$3,289,849 00

THE SINKING FUND.

The Board of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund yesterday laid before the Senate a report of their operations, showing the whole amount of registered State bonds, second series, purchased between January 1, 1874, and the present time to be $482,800, and the amount paid therefor, including commissions, $217,525.79. The pay of the agent of the Board for brokerage is one half per centum upon the face value of the bonds. This sum nets about one quarter per centum after deducting the percentage paid by him to agents for the purchase of bonds in other markets and for all the expenses incident to the transportation and delivery of the same at the office of the Second Auditor. The report says that at least eight-tenths of the whole amount of the bonds were purchased outside of the city of Richmond.

The amount paid to Mr. Maury, the agent, for the purchase of the bonds amounts to $2,414; the amount of tax-receivable coupons received during the same period was $33,000; of which there have been sold $20,202, realizing the sum of $17,372.79, which was invested in the purchase of bonds aggregating $50,300. The amount of coupons remaining unsold is $12,798, which it is thought advisable to withdraw from the market for the present.

DOCKET OF CIRCUIT COURT.

The following is Mr. Dooley's bill "to regulate the docketing of causes in the Circuit Court of Richmond city," reported from the Committee for Courts of Justice:

"1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That whenever it shall appear to the Circuit Court of the city of Richmond that two rules have been taken in a suit or action at law pending therein the said court may, upon the motion of the plaintiff or defendant, after five days' notice of said motion, order such suit or action at law to be docketed for trial.

"2. This act shall be in force from its passage."

THE WHISKEY BILL.

On Monday at 10 o'clock A. M. the Finance Committees of the Senate and House in joint session will consider the subject of imposing a tax on whiskey. Among other proposions, that of Governor Smith to impose a tax of thirty cents upon the proof gallon, &c., will be waged. The old bill of Colonel W. P. Burwell will also be reintroduced. A majority of the House committee are known to favor the taxation of whiskey in some form, but not more than two or three are agreed upon any particular bill, and it is regarded as not unlikely that this contrariety of opinion will lead to the defeat of the scheme.

This year there will be a heavy fight made against the bill by merchants of the towns and small cities of the State, especially those doing business near the boundaries of other States, who claim that they would probably be most injuriously affected by the legislation proposed.

REASSESSMENTS—CITY OF RICHMOND.

The Senate yesterday passed a bill which permits corrections of assessments to be made by the courts at any time within two years after the assessments. This largely extends the time. From responses made by gentlemen to an inquiry of Senator Bland it seems that the change will apply as well to municipal as to State taxation, where the assessors are the same. They are not the same in Richmond city.

COLONEL STROTHER.

Unless the resignation of Colonel Strother is offered by Tuesday next (and it now seems not improbable) a sub-committee of the committee to whom was assigned the duty of examining into his condition of health will leave the city to-morrow to commence the examination. Senator (Dr.) Lawson is chairman of the sub-committee.

THE FIRE YESTERDAY MORNING.—At 8:16 o'clock yesterday morning a stove in the old freight office at the Richmond and Danville railroad depôt set fire to some of the wood-work, and an alarm of fire was given to the main office by means of the automatic telegraph line. The operator on duty at the central office promptly struck Box 34—the nearest fire-alarm station to the fire—and in four minutes' time a stream of water was playing upon the fire, which was promptly extinguished, and caused a trifling loss. Several thousand bales of cotton were stored in the main depôt, a short distance from where the fire originated.

BURNED TO DEATH.—Day before yesterday the clothing of a little negro child named Maggie Curtis took fire in one of the cabins on Mr. Walter Edmonds's farm, Strawberry Hill, and was so badly burned that it died early yesterday morning.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of this Association will be held at their hall Monday night. Messrs. George A. Hall and Thomas K. Cree, well-known Association workers, whose visit South last winter was attended with such good results, will be in attendance, and their presence will doubtless add much to the interest of the meeting.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—*Judge Hughes presiding.*—In the case of O. A. Francis. The bankrupt was ordered to show cause on the 17th instant why the laborers should not be paid the balance due them.

In the case of Philip J. Wright. The bankrupt was allowed to amend his schedules by making the schedules filed by Lancaster, Brown & Co. and Brown, Lancaster & Co. a part of his schedules.

In the matter of Samuel Wolf. The tenants of the house and lot belonging to the bankrupt's estate were ordered to pay the assignee the rent due by them for the month of December last.

In the case of T. J. Buchanan. The clerk was directed to check in favor of the Southern Mutual Insurance Company for $41.61, in full of their claim and costs.

In the case of The United States *vs.* Myers's distillery, &c. It was ordered that the libel be dismissed, and that the United States marshal deliver forthwith to Orson Adams, intervenor, the property, real and personal, named in the libel, without prejudice, however, to the mechanics'-lien creditors.

In the case of John B. Bell. The United States marshal was directed to put the purchaser of the bankrupt's land in possession of the premises.

In the cause of the Trustees of the Dollar Savings Bank *vs.* James Hunter, Jr., and others. The report of Special Comissioners Carter and Jackson was confirmed and the sale made by them to J. G. Tinsley approved. After paying costs, the commissioners are directed to pay half the cash payment to the complainant and the other half to the defendant, and make a deed to the purchaser after taking a deed of trust to secure the deferred payments.

In the case of Paine, Cabell & Co. Order to pay marshal's fees, amounting to $49.

In the matter of M. Lichtenstein. Order allowing assignee $32.70.

In the case of Samuel M. Simpson. Report of liens filed.

In the matter of D. A. Brown, Jr. Petition of wife for benefit of homestead filed, and order entered restraining the High-Constable and Sheriff from interfering with the bankrupt's property, and directing the marshal to sell the same after five days' notice.

In the case of D. E. Goodwyn. The assignee, trustee, and purchaser were ordered to show cause on the 18th instant why the property should not be resold.

In the matter of S. M. Archer. Order allowing special commissioner a fee of $25, and directing the assignee to file an account of his transactions, and deposit the funds in bank.

In the case of James E. Merritt. Order enjoining the sheriff of Amelia from interfering with the bankrupt's property, and directing the marshal to take possession of the same, and sell the tobacco part thereof at public or private sale and deposit the proceeds in bank.

Judge Hughes will be in the city again next Tuesday and open the United States District Court for regular business. Parties who obtained orders returnable at that time would do well to see that the necessary notices have been properly served.

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS, FRIDAY.—Sherman *vs.* Koogler's administrator. Writ of error refused to a judgment of the Circuit Court of Rockingham.

Avis and wife *vs.* Lee, &c. Appeal allowed from a decree of the Circuit Court of Lancaster county.

Andrews, Ordway & Green *vs.* Auditor, &c. Further argued by F. W. Christian, Esq., for the plaintiffs, and the Attorney-General for the Auditor.

HUSTINGS COURT.—This court will meet at 10 o'clock this morning to try Paul Jasper, charged with murder.

POLICE COURT, YESTERDAY—*Police-Justice Joseph J. White presiding.*—Fannie Pettis and Rosa Winston (colored) were charged with stealing a pair of shoes from H. C. Boschen. Fannie was acquitted. Rosa was sent to jail for ten days and ten lashes added.

Henry James (colored) was charged with committing perjury. James hails from North Carolina, and recently stopped at the house of George Jones, and accused Jones's wife and son of robbing him of a $2.50 gold-piece and some other money. It now turns out that the so-called gold-piece was nothing but a circular piece of glittering metal (brass), and that James afterwards endeavored to palm it off upon another woman with whom he stopped. James was sent to jail for thirty days in default of surety to be of good behavior.

In the case of Nannie Walker, a lunatic, a commission was ordered.

Samuel Miller, charged with abusing Emma Lee, was fined $1.

MONEY-DRAWER CAPTURED.—Patrick Fagan, who does business at the corner of Seventeenth and Clay streets, was robbed of about $100 on Thursday night. The money-box was taken from the store. George Wells and Henry Meade (colored) have been arrested, charged with the offence.

A DESPERATE LUNATIC.—Winnie Walker, a colored woman, residing with her husband on Twenty-sixth street between M and N streets, recently became violently insane. She was yesterday taken into custody by