DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. LI. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 28, 1877. NO.

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.

MEETINGS.

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF HENDERSON LODGE, No. 103, I. O. O. F., are requested to assemble at their lodge-room THIS (Wednesday) MORNING at 10 o'clock, to pay the last sad tribute of respect to our deceased brother A. W. BROCKWELL. Members of other lodges are fraternally invited to unite with us.
By order of the N. G.
JOHN R. COGBILL, Secretary.
fe 28-1t*

JEFFERSON LODGE, No. 23, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.—Attend a stated convention of your Lodge THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, February 28th, at 7 o'clock, at your Castle Hall, corner of Mayo and Franklin streets. Candidates for degrees will be prompt in attendance. Members of sister lodges fraternally invited to attend.
J. R. LAMKIN,
By order of the C. C. Keeper of Records and Seal.
fe 28-1t*

ST. PATRICK'S-DAY CELEBRATION. The convention which assembled on the night of the 22d of February at Cathedral Hall for the purpose of making arrangements for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day will reassemble at the same place on THURSDAY NIGHT NEXT, March 1st. Every delegate is earnestly requested to be present, as business of the utmost importance will be transacted.
ROBERT E. ENGLISH, President.
JUAN A. PIZZINI, Secretary. fe 27-3t*

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA.
The Annual Commencement of this Institution will be held on WEDNESDAY NIGHT at 8 o'clock, at the Richmond Theatre. The Valedictory will be delivered by Hon. J. W. DANIEL.
The friends of the College and the public are respectfully invited to attend.
J. B. MCCAW,
Dean of the Faculty.
fe 28-1t

AMUSEMENTS.

RICHMOND THEATRE.
A SEASON OF STANDARD ENGLISH COMEDY.
Engagement of the most distinguished comedian MR. JOHN E. OWENS, commencing THURSDAY EVENING, March 1st. Sheridan's witty comedy of
THE RIVALS; OR, THE DUEL AT BATH.
MR. OWENS AS FIGHTING BOB ACRES.
FRIDAY—Morton's glorious comedy of
THE HEIR AT LAW.
DR. PETER PANGLOSS, LL D. and A. S. S., MR. OWENS.
SATURDAY MATINEE—Byron's "OUR BOYS."
SATURDAY NIGHT—
VICTIMS AND SOLON SHINGLE.
Admission-tickets, 75 and 50c., to be had at the Theatre. Secured seats, $1, to be had in advance at C. F. JOHNSTON'S book-store, 918 Main street.
fe 26-4t

EXCURSIONS.

RICHMOND, FREDERICKSBURG AND POTOMAC RAILROAD COMPANY, OFFICE OF GENERAL TICKET AGENT.
EXCURSION TO WASHINGTON.
The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad will run a
SPECIAL EXCURSION TRAIN
to Washington on SUNDAY, March 4th.
Train will leave Elba Park (head of Broad street) at 6 P. M. on Sunday, arriving in Washington about 11 P. M. Returning will leave Washington about 6:30 P. M. on Monday, and arrive at Richmond the same night.
Fare for the round-trip, $5 (by this train only).
Excursionists can spend the whole of Monday in Washington, and lose only one day from business.
Tickets on sale at A. W. Garber's, No. 826 Main street, and at the company's office, corner of Eighth and Broad streets.
C. A. TAYLOR,
fe 28-4t General Ticket Agent.

DRY GOODS.

OUR BUYER GOES NORTH ABOUT the 20th of March, and to reduce stock and raise money, we will offer
CASSIMERES and DRESS GOODS
at remarkably low prices until that time. See our 4-4 BLEACHED COTTONS at 10 and 7c.; new CALICOES cheap, and new HAMBURGH HOSIERY and RIBBONS very low; CHILDREN'S HOSE at 5, 8, and 10c.; Ladies' Silk Ties, 10c.; Red-Bordered Collars, 8c., or 2 for 15c., 3 for 20c., or 4 for 25c.
fe 26 J. G. WHITLOCK & CO., 1709 Main street.

AT COST! AT COST!
Having determined to discontinue the dry-good business, I shall from this day offer my entire stock of
SEASONABLE AND WELL-ASSORTED GOODS
AT COST FOR CASH.
And in order more speedily to dispose of the entire stock, there are many GOODS which will be sold
WITHOUT REGARD TO COST OR VALUE,
as the store will be vacated as soon as another tenant can be had.
CHARLES HUTZLER,
fe 23-2m 611 Broad street.

SYCLE BROTHERS
are still selling
ANDROSCOGGIN and FRUIT-OF-THE-LOOM
at 10 and 11c.,
and all the other brands at old prices.
We have just opened a new line of
SPRING DRESS GOODS.
CAMBRIC EDGING and INSERTINGS.
2,000 yards REMNANTS of IRISH LINEN at 50c. per yard worth 75c. and $1.
You can find a complete line in every department such as
TOWELS, NAPKINS,
TABLE- and FRUIT-CLOTHS,
CASSIMERES for men's and boys' wear.
We are determined to close out a great many goods on account of moving to our new store—No. 319 Broad street, between Third and Fourth streets—on the 1st of May.
Call and examine our bargains before purchasing elsewhere.
SYCLE BROTHERS,
429 Broad street,
fe 15-1m between Fourth and Fifth streets.

BOOKS, STATIONERY, &c.

BOOKS.
RANDOLPH & ENGLISH,
intending to move to 1302 and 1304 Main street (1318 is for rent), will offer until
MARCH 10TH
many thousand books in all the departments of literature at reduced prices, many of them below cost for net cash, C. O. D.
The following are a few of the most prominent:
HOGARTH. $15; cost $30. Same, 3 v., $6; price, $11.
NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY. 2 v. $15; cost $30.
FAITHS OF THE WORLD; OR, DICTIONARY OF ALL RELIGIONS. 2 v. $10; cost $18.
MOORE, MILTON, SCOTT, BURNS, CHAUCER, ROGERS, HOOD, WORDSWORTH, and other POETS. Fine editions at 80c.; price, $1.50.
IRVING'S WORKS. 26 v. $20; price, $32.
WAVERLY. 23 v. $18; price, $29. Same, 6 v., $15; price, $25. Same, 12 v., $25; price, $39. Same, 13 v., $13; price, $19.
DICKENS. 6 v., $15; price, $25. Same, 14 v., $10; price, $14. Same, 15 v., $12; price, $19 Same, 15 v., $25; price, $45.
BRITISH POETS. 3 v. $15; price, $24.
TENNYSON. 1 v. or 10 v. $4; price, $10.
LEVER'S NOVELS. 27 v. $20; price, $35.
HAWTHORN. 9 v. $12; price, $20.
COOPER'S NOVELS. 32 v. $25; price, $48.
MACAULAY. 5 v. $3.50 and $10; price, $5 and $15.
BYRON. 2 v. $5; price, $10. Same, 17 v., $10; price, $25.
SHAKSPEARE. 6 v. $3; price, $12. Same, 4 v., $8; price, $12.
FLETCHER'S DEVOTIONAL BIBLE. $20; price, $40.
WASHINGTON'S WRITINGS. 12 v. $12; price, $36.
BENTON'S DEBATES. 16 v. $30; price, $80.
AMERICAN STATE PAPERS. 21 v. $25; cost $63.
If book-buyers will call early they will save money and help us to move.
fe 24-d6t&w1t

W. E. SIMONS & BROTHER,
BLANK-BOOK MANUFACTURERS,
BOOK-BINDERS and PAPER-RULERS.
Account-Books of all kinds made to order.
CORNER TWELFTH AND MAIN STREETS.
fe 1-1m RICHMOND, VA.

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.,
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J. S. LEITCH & CO.
fe 3-1m*

Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY....FEBRUARY 28, 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.—For the South Atlantic and Gulf States, falling barometer, northeast to southeast winds, warmer, partly cloudy, or hazy weather, and in the southwest light rains will prevail.

For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, northeast winds, stationary or falling barometer, warmer and partly cloudy weather.

For the Middle States, northeast to southeast winds, stationary or falling barometer, slightly higher temperature, and clear or partly cloudy weather.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear, cool, and pleasant.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 33; 9 A. M., 40; noon, 54; 3 P. M., 54; 6 P. M., 48; midnight, 38.

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE COMMON COUNCIL.

SITE SELECTED FOR THE CLAY-WARD MARKET-HOUSE—THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE ADOPTED—APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE YEAR MADE, &c., &c.

Pursuant to adjournment, a meeting of the Common Council was held yesterday afternoon to consider the ordinance concerning the annual appropriations and for other purposes—President Anderson in the chair. Present at roll-call: Messrs. Christian, Curtis, Davis, Ellett, English, Foster, Gregory, Hargrove, Hayes, Higgins, Lauer, Manson, Starke, Straus, Talbott, Taylor, Whitlock, and Wood.

The proceedings having been read, the Chair announced that the meeting had been called specially to consider the appropriation ordinance from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Christian informed the Chair that there was not a sufficient number of members present [20] to pass the ordinance.

The Chair said there would no doubt be a constitutional majority in a short time.

The clerk was about to read the ordinance when Mr. Christian moved to postpone the consideration of the ordinance for the present, and to take up the report of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings concerning the proposed

MARKET-HOUSE FOR CLAY WARD.

The motion was agreed to.

The report of the committee proposing to purchase a lot at the corner of Cary and Pine streets for said market-house, at a cost of $9,458, was read.

Mr. Christian said that he thought that the number of feet of land proposed to be purchased—viz., 248 feet on Cary street and 199 feet on Pine street—was too large. He therefore moved that the report be amended so as to read "155 feet at the corner of Cary and Pine streets," &c.

Mr. Christian then urged the adoption of the report, so as to fix the location of the market-house.

Mr. Straus moved to lay the whole subject on the table. Lost—ayes, 10; noes, 10.

Mr. Christian's joint resolution fixing the location of the market-house at the corner of Cary and Pine streets was read.

Mr. Davis said we had gotten into a snap of this kind once before when we fixed the site for the free bridge, and had to spend about $84,000. He hoped the whole matter would be defeated.

Mr. Christain said that it looked to him as if Mr. Davis was riding on both sides of the saddle. He was opposed to the sesaw arrangement. He thought it due to the Council to pass the resolution.

Mr. Whitlock agreed with Mr. Davis.

Mr. Talbott moved to lay the resolution on the table. Lost—ayes, 10; noes, 11.

The resolution was then adopted.

A motion to take up the joint resolution from the Board of Aldermen to appropriate all unexpended balances in the city treasury at the close of the fiscal year just ended to aid in the erection of Clay Ward market-house was rejected.

THE APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE.

The appropriation ordinance was next taken up and read.

Mr. Curtis presented the following resolution as a substitute:

Whereas from an examination of the apportionment of appropriations to the various committees of the Council recommended for the present fiscal year it appears that, owing to necessity for reducing the amounts appropriated to conform to the recent change in the rate of tax, instead of making an equitable and ratable reduction upon every committee alike, that the amount of $17,849 has been taken from the Committee on Streets Generally, a sum equal to twenty and one quarter per cent. of the entire amount expended by them last year, and $19,000 less than their total appropriation last year (although these expenditures were less by $5,000 than for any year since 1872), and that only $3,873, or three per centum, has been taken from the Committee on Light, and only $1,549, or three and five eighths per centum, has been taken from the Committee on Water (not taking into consideration the voluntary reduction in pay-rolls, recently adopted by the committee), whilst the Committees for *Relief of Poor, Board of Health, Improvement of James River,* (excepting an extraordinary appropriation or transfer to that committee last summer to maintain their operations pending the usual Government appropriation), *Fire-Alarm Telegraph, Police, Schools, Discount and Interest, and Contingent Fund,* have allowances equal to and in some instances greater than their actual expenditures during the past year—the committees on *Grounds and Buildings* and on *Fire Department* are not taken into comparison from the fact that both were subjected to annual and very heavy expenditure during the year, but the latter committees are allowed what is deemed by them a sufficient sum for their necessities during the present year; and whereas this apportionment is very illiberal and unfair to the Committee on Streets Generally, and injurious to the best interests of the city by contracting the operations of this very important department of city work to an extent about one fifth of its usual expenditures, whilst from the natural wear and tear upon our business streets and the unprecedented growth and improvement of our city in all directions the annual appropriations should be *increased* each year; and whereas no other single committee of the Council is similarly treated or similarly inconvenienced in its operations; therefore be it

Resolved, That said appropriation ordinance be, and the same is hereby, recommitted to the Committee on Finance, with instructions to divide or distribute the amount of deficit in the revenue so as to fall in ratable proportion upon all the leading committees of the Council in every case in which they are not prohibited from doing so by reason of existing ordinances or contracts.

Mr. Custis said the Committee on Streets were not satisfied with their appropriation, and he hoped it would be the pleasure of the Council to recommit the ordinance.

Mr. Higgins said that he did not see how the Committee on Light could get along with their appropriation; it was nearly $11,000 less than it was last year.

Mr. Straus said if the ordinance did not suit the Council they could amend it. They could take from the committees that might have too much and give to others that did not have enough. He was not interested in any particular committee. He hoped the subject would not be recommitted to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Anderson (Mr. Taylor being in the chair) urged the Council not to throw back on the committee their report. If the appropriations are too large, let us take from some and give to others.

Mr. Ellett spoke of various portions of the city that needed attention at this time. He said that it would be impossible for the Street Committee to get along with a reduction of twenty per cent.

Mr. Whitlock and Mr. Taylor spoke of the importance of keeping the thoroughfares of the city in good order.

Mr. English said that as yet not one tenth of the amount due to the East End had been expended in his ward for the improvement of the streets. He said that the Finance Committee ought to give at least one half of the $20,000 to the contingent fund for the benefit of the improvement of streets. He hoped the report would go back.

Mr. Talbott could not see the necessity of making a large appropriation to streets when attempts had been made to curtail the expenses in the other departments.

The resolution to recommit was lost by the following vote:

AYES—Messrs. Braselman, Curtis, Ellett, English, Foster, Gregory, Johnson, Lauer, Metzger, Oliver, Starke, and Taylor—12.

NOES—Messrs. Babcock, Christian, Davis, Hargrove, Haxall, Hayes, Higgins, Manson, Pulliam, Straus, Talbott, Whitlock, Wood, and Anderson—14.

Mr. Curtis moved to vote upon the ordinance as a whole.

Mr. Christian said that he hoped the motion would not prevail, as it was evident that it would result in the defeat of the ordinance. He referred to the "dead-lock" in the city affairs last year, and hoped such would not be the case again.

The motion to vote on the ordinance as a whole was lost.

The ordinance was then considered item by item.

Mr. Curtis moved to strike out the item of $4,000 for discount and interest. Lost.

Mr. Whitlock moved to reduce the appropriation ten per cent. Lost.

Mr. Whitlock moved to transfer $5,000 from Roller and Crusher to Streets Generally. Agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Straus the sum of $477.91 was added to Grounds and Buildings pay-rolls,

Mr. Manson moved to increase the appropriation to the Board of Health $1,573 from the Contingent Fund. Lost.

Mr. Taylor moved to lay the appropriation to First Virginia regiment ($1,600) on the table for the present. Agreed to.

Mr. Starke moved to strike out $900 to Friends' Colored Orphan Asylum, $900 to Male Orphan Asylum, $900 to St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, $450 to St. Paul's Church Home, $450 to Female Humane Association, and $400 to Spring-Street Home.

Mr. Straus made a very touching and forcible address in opposition to the motion. He said that not a single one of the institutions named belonged to his creed, but there was enough of Christian charity in his blood to feed and care for these eight hundred little orphan children. He spoke very warmly in their defence, and hoped the motion would not prevail.

Mr. English and Mr. Taylor endorsed what Mr. Straus had said.

Mr. Starke said that the institutions ought to be supported by the public at large.

Mr. Curtis asked Mr. Starke to withdraw the motion, as it was probable that he would be the only gentleman who would vote against it.

The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Taylor now presented an ordinance to reduce the appropriation to the First Virginia regiment to $1,400 from $1,600, so as to amend the appropriation ordinance and give $200 to the Richmond City Guard.

Mr. Taylor spoke at some length in advocacy of his scheme. He declared that his company was required to report to the First Virginia regiment, but was not attached to it. He thought that as two of the companies of the regiment had been disbanded—the Lee Guard and the Blues—that his company ought to have $200; that the uniform of his company was blue, and hence the reason why they could not parade with the regiment, but in case of war they would serve with the regiment.

Mr. Christian opposed the ordinance.

The ordinance was then put upon its passage, the vote resulting—ayes, 18; noes, 8. The question was raised that it required a two-thirds vote. The Chair decided that it was necessary. The ordinance was lost.

Mr. Taylor moved to take $200 from City Police fund and appropriate it to the Richmond City Guard. Agreed to.

The ordinance was then passed—ayes, 26; noes, none.

Adjourned.

A CHILD HIT WITH A BRICK.—Yesterday evening as George Anthony was passing up Locust alley from Main street to his boarding-house, corner Fourteenth and Franklin streets, he was interfered with by a colored woman. Becoming much exasperated, he seized a piece of brick and threw it at her. The missile hit a framed house and rebounded, striking a little child of James Giblin, who was in the alley at the time. Dr. Jackson, who was called in, stated that the wound was not dangerous, though the cut, which is upon the forehead, would be likely to disfigure it for life. Mr. Anthony was arrested. There was clearly no intention on his part to hurt the child.

ACCIDENT TO A CHILD.—Henry Jackson, a youth of seven years of age, yesterday, while visiting his brother-in-law, Mr. O'Dwyer, at the latter's residence, on Broad street between Eighth and Ninth, fell over the banisters and was very severely injured.

THREE FIRKINS OF BUTTER STOLEN.—Three firkins of butter were stolen from P. G. Harrison, commission merchant, Monday night. Albert Jones was arrested by Sergeant Hall and Policeman Depriest, charged with the theft. Two parties, supposed to be his accomplices, are still at large. Charles Johnson, the keeper of a store on Byrd island, and Margaret Donohue (white) were arrested, charged with receiving the stolen property, part of which was recovered.

ROBBERY OF MILL MACHINERY.—Sergeant Jeter and Policeman Keegan yesterday arrested John Koots (colored boatman), charged with stealing one pump, brass-plunger with connections, and various other articles of machinery—all of the value of $100—the property of the Dover Company, of Henrico. The property was not recovered.

ROBBERS IN A HOUSE.—Last night about 10:30 o'clock a great commotion was occasioned in Lumpkin's alley by the screams of daughters of William Taylor (colored), who announced that two robbers were concealed in the house. Taylor was absent at his lodge. The premises were searched by Policemen Poitiaux and Warren, but the robbers were gone.

STOLEN COTTON.—George Thompson (colored) was sent to jail yesterday for six months and sentenced to receive fifteen stripes for stealing a lot of cotton cloth from some person unknown, but from the Danville depôt, it is supposed.

INAUGURATION EXCURSION.—The Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad company have arranged that those who desire to see the inauguration of Hayes as President may do so at a cost, for railroad fare, of $5 for the round trip.

PERSONAL.—Professor Minor has removed his popular dancing-academy from Monticello Hall to the Virginia Opera-House, where he will have more ample facilities for his rapidly-increasing school.

MORTUARY.—Number of deaths last week, 32—whites, 16; blacks, 16; male, 14; female, 18.

A JUST JUDGE—HOW VIRGINIA GOT A THOUSAND DOLLARS IN GOLD.—In April, 1865, on the eve of the evacuation of Richmond, by order of Governor Smith the sum of $1,000 in gold was paid from the State Treasury to Major (now Judge) E. H. Fitzhugh, Quartermaster-General of the State. About $175 were used by Judge Fitzhugh's family, who were left in Richmond. It was partly to provide for them that the money was obtained. No portion of the money was used in the public service, and Judge Fitzhugh only claimed as due him for his services $200 inclusive of the $175 spent. The remainder ($800) he offered to turn over to Governor Pierpoint in 1865, but objections were raised. Judge Fitzhugh having kept the money till, by the statute of limitations, he was exempt from liability to any claimant (in 1874 or 1875), turned into the State Treasury $1,000 in gold. Recently the authorities at Washington instructed District-Attorney Lewis to demand that the $1,000 should be delivered to the United States Government. Mr. Lewis performed his duty, but the Governor declined to accede to the cool proposition. Yesterday Governor Kemper sent a brief message to the General Assembly calling their attention to the matter. The message was referred to the Committee for Courts of Justice.

THE UNLIMITED SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE (LIMITED).—For several days it was understood, as well as solemn expressions of opinion can make anybody understand anything, that the two houses had agreed, each for itself, that this is the first session under the constitutional amendments recently adopted. That is the firm position of the House now. The Senate, however, is on record as follows: (1) That the session ought not to extend beyond 28th February, to-day; (2) that this is the first session under the recent amendments, and consequently unlimited as to duration, and (3) yesterday it rejected the House resolution affirming the latter proposition.

It is stated that the *per-diem* question worries the colored brethren very much. They hold—and perhaps others do—that we are under the constitutional amendments as to having an unlimited session, but not as to having a salary fixed. The salary generally agreed upon is $600, and if that becomes fixed for this session members will have only a margin of about $80 for the remainder of the time they may choose to stay here.

A colored gemman who was persuaded to see the senators of his color and urge them to vote for the salary bill mournfully reported progress yesterday. Said he: "Boss, 'tain no use. Them niggers won't stand no nonsense."

WEST VIRGINIA COAL-FIELDS AND RICHMOND MANUFACTORIES.—Our West Virginia coal-fields, which rightfully belong to the Old Dominion, are beginning to be developed in a manner that certainly must be gratifying to the owners thereof, and ought to be beneficial to the Commonwealth. The Coal Valley Coal Company, which has for some time furnished our city with its coal for the manufacture of its gas, has recently leased for a term of fifteen years a portion of the lands of Colonel H. Coalter Cabell, of our city. They have opened new mines near Cannelton, W. Va., and are having new machinery made here by Messrs. Joseph Hall & Co. Among other things being manufactured is a mammoth drum for the new mine and thirty coal-cars for the new tramway being built to the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. The coal from these new mines will be ready for shipment about the middle of March, when their capacity will be increased to about 450 tons per day. The business of the company has recently been transferred to the management of Fred. Faulkner, Esq., a young English gentleman who has settled in our midst, and who is as much a favorite as though he were "native and to the manner born."

THE SATTER CONCERT.—Dr. Gustave Satter gave his third concert last night, and Assembly Hall was well filled with an appreciative audience.

It is indeed a great pleasure to hear such a performer—one that can never be forgotten. Yet we are at a loss for fitting words to express our high opinion of such well-deserved merit, for the Doctor is a musician who enhances our enjoyment with each successive piece.

The programme presented last night was a most excellent one, and the strict attention of the audience showed how completely they felt the interpretation of the composers. "Illustration du Prophete de Myerbeer;" "Le Carnival de Venise, Bravonra variations;" "Deux Etudes, E flat and F major;" "Chopin and Etude, B minor No. 5;" "Thalberg," were exquisitely rendered; but "The Tront," song by Schubert, second version, Liszt, was to our ears the gem of the evening. It may be our partiality for Schubert's music and arrangement by Liszt, but Dr. Satter gave us an entirely new conception of this production, and we hope to hear him play it again.

The performance closed with "La Valse du Valses" and "Saltarello," by request, and the audience went away delighted with their evening's entertainment.

The amateurs who assisted Dr. Satter are well known to the Richmond audience, and received evidence of their satisfaction in frequent applause.

CATAWBA'S LECTURE.—Mr. Cowardin will in all probability lecture in the Theatre on Tuesday, March 8th, for the benefit of the K. K. K's. They have recently moved into into a new klub-room, and Catawba wants to lend his aid in the way of fitting it up nicely.

PROFESSOR READE AT ASSOCIATION HALL. A brilliant and appreciative audience assembled at the above place to hear the great English elocutionist. His rendition of "Surly Tim" was superb, and made the eyes of many in the audience glitter and sparkle with tears. His recitation of "Virginia," one of the lays of ancient Rome, by Macaulay, challenged the admiration of all present. His humorous selections, as usual, were unsurpassable.

DR. TAYLOR'S NEXT ENTERTAINMENT.—Dr. Taylor's charming entertainments continue to grow in popularity. Already he has urgent appeals to visit Danville, Petersburg, Fredericksburg, Ashland, and Staunton to give a series of exhibitions and lectures, and to some of these appeals he may give an affirmative response.

On Friday night he will give a new and beautiful series of scenes in the lecture-room of Dr. Hoge's church for the benefit of that church.

A GREAT JEWISH FESTIVAL.—The Jewish people all over the world are to-day celebrating the joyous Purim festival, which was instituted by Mordecai at the suggestion of Esther, in the reign of Ahasuerus, King of Persia, to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews from the designs of Haaman. Here they have permission of the authorities to appear on the streets at night in masks and grotesque costumes. Many so disguised were out visiting last night, and at one or more residences large companies were assembled and entertained.

PURIM BALL.—Rimmon Lodge, No. 68, I. O. B. B., will have a grand ball at the Virginia Opera-House to-night. Messrs. Abraham Gunst, William Lovenstein, Joseph Strause, N. Ezekiel, and Isaac Hirsch constitute the Committee of Arrangements.

EXHIBITION OF ART.—We understand that some photographs of the works of Mr. Ezekiel, the celebrated sculptor of Rome, Italy, who is now sojourning in Richmond, will be on exhibition at the store of Messrs. John H. Tyler & Co. to-day. Our people will thus have an opportunity of forming some idea of the works, of this gentleman, and as he is a native of Richmond they must feel a pride in his success.

CHANCERY COURT, YESTERDAY.—Orders in the following cases: Duvall *vs.* Exall; Anderson *vs.* Anderson; Tamlin *vs.* Winston; Walker, &c., *vs.* Bailey; Gray's executors, &c., *vs.* Gray; Jones's executors *vs.* Jones; Morriss's executors *vs.* Barrett; Frank & Adler *vs.* Silcenfeld; Charters, &c., *vs.* Charters; DeWitt *vs.* DeWitt; Davis *vs.* Davis; Mills, executor, *vs.* Glazebrook; English and wife *vs.* Watkins; Wilcox, &c., *vs.* Hibble; Brown, &c., *vs.* Partington.

POLICE COURT.—The cases at the Police Court yesterday were all trifling. One man was fined $2 for violating the ordinance about buying produce at the markets to sell again.

CLEARED.—The following vessels were cleared at the custom-house yesterday: American brig Leonor Myers, Captain Hicks, for Santos, Brazil, with 1,000 cases refined petroleum, valued at $3,100; 2,810 barrels flour, valued at $22,210, and two boxes clothing valued at $110—total value of cargo, $25,420. Shipped by Haxall-Crenshaw Company. British brig Rapid, Captain Morrisey, for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with 3,650 barrels flour, valued at $30,471, shipped by Haxall-Crenshaw Company. Total value of both cargoes, $55,891.

MEDICAL-COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.—The annual commencement-exercises of the Medical College of Virginia will be held to-night, at the Richmond Theatre, at 8 o'clock. Hon. John W. Daniel, of Lynchburg, will deliver the valedictory address. The friends of the institution and the public generally are invited to attend. The Committee of Reception are Messrs. J. D. Baker, C. M. Shields, Thomas Carroll, Jr., M. H. Lewis, M. C. Kemper, D. C. Dickenson, J. R. Kincaid, and C. L. Henry.

AMPUTATION.—Mr. Leander N. Jude, watchman at the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad coach-house, who was injured Saturday night, and who was removed to his residence in the country, had his leg amputated on Sunday.

Remarks of Mr. Williams in the Board of Aldermen on the Proposition to Award the City Advertising to the Lowest Bidder.

Mr. President,—In the resolution from the Common Council there is not set forth any point in which we have committed an error, so far as the ordinance of the city is concerned. Nor have they stated that we have violated any of the principles usually observed by deliberative bodies in committee legislation. We advertised for bids, and we guarded our right to reject any or all bids. We have told you in our report to this body and to the Common Council that the award was first made to the lowest bidder. We told you also that upon more mature consideration that vote was reconsidered. No one has yet questioned our right to reconsider our action. It is one of the principles in legislation recognized and practiced by all deliberative bodies.

The rules governing this body expressly declare that an ordinance cannot be reconsidered at any future meeting of the body unless said motion be made *prior to the time* of the ordinance going into operation, showing beyond a doubt that a motion is open for reconsideration until all the acts necessary for its completion are completed.

In this case a motion is made to award. At a subsequent meeting, in the absence of any authorized communication with the second party, that motion is reconsidered. The contract had not been finished. It was an open matter, and hence there was a perfect right for reconsideration.

Believing as we did that we had committed an error, and had not put the advertising in the best channel of communication with the people, we certainly would have done wrong not to have reconsidered the action. Our next step was to reject *all* bids, and just here hinges the whole matter. The question is simply this, Did we have a right to reject any or all bids?

If we had no right to reject, then we were in error when we did so reject them. If we had the right to reject, then our action was not in error, and we protest against any course looking to the rendering of our contract with Cowardin & Ellyson null and void. We claim that we had the right to reject—

1st. Because in our advertisement we expressly made known that such a right was reserved, and did so in language which admitted of but one construction. With this offer for bids it was the privilege of any one to bid or not bid. So long as they withheld their bids we had no control over them; but so soon as they accepted our offer for a bid, they accepted also the terms upon which their bid was considered; which terms secured to the committee the right to judge the merits of their bid in connection with the object which was proposed to be accomplished—to wit, the most effectual channel of communicating with those who are under habilities to the city; with this understanding, we claim that we had the right to reject.

2d. We claim that we had the power to exercise that right because it is a right exercised by other committees in the city, by private citizens and companies, in order to protect themselves against numerous contingencies which may arise to their damage in letting out contracts.

I think I am rightly informed, and will state that on one occasion the Street Committee received and opened bids for certain stone-work, &c. The committee, concluding that the prices were too high, rejected all bids, referred the matter to a sub-committee, and, after a verbal communication with bidders, received written and verbal bids, and awarded their contracts.

On another occasion we find the same committee acting for the city as they would have acted for themselves. They received bids for feed-stuff, &c., and after opening the bids, rejected the bids for hay, and went upon the market because they had reason to suppose the price of hay was downward in tendency.

On another occasion the Committee on Water received bids for bricks. The bids were all rejected because the committee concluded that there was reason to believe that there was a combination among the bidders.

Thus you see these committees exercised this right, and no one will pretend to question their wisdom; for without this right the city would be placed at the mercy of those who might combine to force her to purchase at figures beyond the market.

But, sir, we are not dependent on the action of committees to sustain us in our claims to exercise this right. This subject has been before the Council of the city in a case involving far more extensive appropriation of dollars and cents than the case before us—a case in which a committee rejected the lowest bid and accepted the highest, which was, say, about $10,000 over the lowest. I refer to the bids for the gasometer at Rocketts. In this case bids were put in by residents and non-residents. The first exercise of this right was made in rejecting all non-resident bidders, not because they were not able to complete their contract according to plans and specifications, but simply because they were non-residents. In the second place, they rejected the lowest bids because the facilities offered in their plans for strength, &c., were not, in the judgment of the committee, equal to those offered by the highest bidder. In this case the lowest bidder, a gentlemen of known intelligence and influence in this city, protested against the decision of the committee, but the committee having concluded that the facilities offered in the plan of the highest bidder were better calculated to serve the purposes of the city, so reported to the Council. The Council, after hearing a protest carefully prepared by the complainant, did sustain the committee. But, mark you, they did not sustain the committee upon any grounds of inability to perform the contract as set forth in plans and specifications offered by the lowest bidder; but simply upon the grou[illegible] that the committee had adjudged the [illegible]opted plan as the best. So far as we know the city has never had cause to regret the action of the committee and the Council on this subject.

And further, if I am correctly informed, and if my memory does not fail me—and I am sure it does not—this same committee gave out the brick-work to the *highest* bidder, upon the ground that as one of the bidders had done work for the Gas Department before, and had done it well and faithfully, and as the work was of such a character as to require it to be done in the most substantial manner, it was in their judgment best to give it to him who had given a higher bid, and take no risk of having it done in an inferior manner by another at a lower bid; in all of which the contracts made by the committee were sustained, and the moneys paid to those contracting.

These are only a few instances that might be adduced from private and public contracting to demonstrate that committees when they advertise for bids should reserve and exercise the right to reject. Sir, I have never heard this right questioned before.

But it happens that a State officer is about to put out a printing job, and he takes time by the forelock in order to protect that department against similar difficulties. After giving in detail what is required by the State, he states distinctly that he reserves the right to reject any or all bids. He then gives to bidders the information received from the highest legal authority of the State—that the lowest responsible bidder does not simply mean the party who submits the lowest bid, and is able to give a satisfactory bond, but the Superintendent is to be the judge, not only of the practical skill and experience of the person doing that particular kind of work, but his facilities for doing that work, *and all other matters affecting the prompt and correct execution of the work.*

Now, sir, you, Mr. President, and the gentlemen of this Board, will readily perceive that had your committee waited on the law officer of the State, his decision would have been handed to us with one simple alteration: he would have said the committee, instead of the superintendent. Sir, what is the particular work we wish to accomplish? It is to secure the best, most expeditious, and thorough communication with the property-holders of the city, and all other persons enjoying the privileges of the city. In the judgment of the committee the *Daily Dispatch* is the channel through which this information should be conveyed, and, as we have previously stated in our report giving our reasons for our action, we repeat, the business community, being the jurors, their practice confirms our decision.

Thus, Mr. President, we are able to give precedents in committees, in private contracts if necessary, in the formal action of your City Council, and the interpretation of the principles of contracting under bids by the highest legal authority of the State, and approved by our own legal adviser of the city, to prove to you that we, as your committee, had the right to reject according to our judgment in the premises.

And now, sir, in the absence of even an intimation of fraud, bargain, or any undue influence over the committee, I ask you and this body, By what principle in law or in equity do the Council undertake to say that this committee shall not exercise that right in the discharge of the duties assigned to them? By what right conferred by charter, ordinance, law, or usage, does the Council leave its established custom to interfere with the work of this committee, so far as to attempt to revoke its action, and render void its contracts without giving, or pretending to give, any evidence of a violation of law or usage, or the existence of a shadow of corruption?

Sir, we have rights coequal with the responsibilities you have put upon us by our assignment to this committee. The duty resting on us—to disburse to the best advantage the funds placed at our disposal—is one that no other committee or person is responsible for. You and the city look to us to exercise our judgment in this matter, and who is to shield us if this fund fails to meet demands if you interfere with our workings?

Have this committee in the past given any evidence that we are managing your funds wastefully? This body may not know that when this committee took charge of this department of the city service that the annual appropriation had been generally so *completely consumed* that the Committee on Finance had no grounds to induce them to attempt to cut down that appropriation, and that since this committee has had it in charge, notwithstanding the lowest bid for job-work last year was largely in advance of that of the previous year, and notwithstanding your committee did give the advertising to the highest bidder last year, yet, with all this, they paid out of their appropriation the wages of a clerk who acts for three committees, and turned over to the Fire Committee in their time of need to purchase hose $1,000; also, to the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, at a later period, $500. This, too, after running two branches of the Council, when all was consumed previously with one branch.

If you need further evidence of the judicious management of this fund, look to the budget of appropriations for the coming year, as prepared by the Finance Committee. They have so far complimented the action of this committee as to appropriate only $2,500 instead of the $4,500 as formerly. We do not bring this matter before you in way of boasting; we bring it because this committee has been grossly assailed. We claim to have acted in the past according to our best judgment. We can present a clear record, and we must insist that if any action is taken to interfere with our work, that there must be a record of the facts upon which our error exists.

If we have violated any law or usage, and it is shown, there will be none more prompt to reconsider the wrong-doing than we; but in the absence of such showing we do most solemnly protest against such indefinite action, carrying as it does censure on our committee.

But, Mr. President, suppose for a moment you should adopt the action of the lower branch? You thereby say that when a bid is made and the bidder is able to furnish the material and labor that is proposed, and can back up his bid with bond and security that the same will be furnished, and thus take from the committee the right to exercise their judgment as to their ultimate designs in the city service, where do you place yourselves? Our Committee on Streets will be compelled to accept the lowest bidder for the article mentioned, for they have no right to reject. Your Committee on Gas, in proposing for coal, will be compelled to accept the lowest bid, though the yield in gas might not come within fifty per cent. of another bid a few cents in the ton above; and so with all other committees. So you see, sir, unless you are prepared to make an unmerited sacrifice of the Committee on Accounts and Printing, you must accord to this committee the rights you accord to other committees, and vote this resolution down. If the Council feel obliged to give the