DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. LI. RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 2, 1877. NO. 79.

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.

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

DRY GOODS.

L. STERN & CO., 523 BROAD STREET, take great pleasure to inform their customers and the public in general that they have just received a very large stock of
SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS,
which they offer at very low prices. Most of these goods having been bought at the very latest New York auctions, where goods were sold regardless of value, enables them to sell most of their goods at a reduction of from 20 to 25 per cent. of their regular value.
We call special attention to our large stock of
DRESS GOODS, CAMBRICS,
PERCALES, PRINTS.
EMBROIDERIES at less than one-half of importers' prices;
KID GLOVES—some great bargains;
A large assortment of SILK PARASOLS and UMBRELLAS;
WHITE PQUE at such low figures as to astonish every buyer;
CASSIMERES for men and boys' wear—from the lowest up to the very best Imported Cassimeres;
A large lot of HOSIERY for ladies, misses, and children;
CORSETS a specialty.
We invite every buyer of DRY GOODS to call and examine our stock and prices before buying elsewhere, guaranteeing you can save from 20 to 25 per cent by doing so.
L. STERN & CO., 523 Broad street, between Fifth and Sixth.
ap 2

ATTENTION, ALL YE DRY GOODS BUYERS.—Our buyer is North attending the large sales of DRY GOODS, and is sending home large lots of goods bought at the lowest cash figures. A new lot of those beautiful BLACK ALPACAS, from 25c. to 75c.; a nice article at 35c. Also, another lot of DRESS GOODS in small patterns. Will be sold at one third of their real value, at
J. G. WHITLOCK'S,
mh 31 1709 Main street.

CYCLE BROTHERS
HAVE JUST OPENED A FULL ASSORTMENT
OF
SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS.
Beautiful STRIPED SILKS at 80c., never sold less than $1 per yard;
BLACK SILKS from $1 to $3 per yard—a large assortment;
COLORED DRESS GOODS—such as PONGEE SILKS and all the numerous styles of CASSIMERES for gentlemen's and boys' wear, from 50c. to $2.50 per yard;
5,000 yards more of those LINEN REMNANTS, at 50c. worth from 75c. to $1 per yard;
A complete assortment of WHITE GOODS—Cambrics, Swiss Muslins, Checks, Nainsook, and Victoria Lawns;
A large assortment of CAMBRIC EDGES;
CORSETS from 50c. to $3;
50 pieces of WASH-POPLINS at 8c. per yard.
A great many of these goods have been purchased within the last ten days in New York at panic prices, and will be sold accordingly.
It will pay you to examine our stock before buying elsewhere.
We offer special inducements on account of removing to our new store, No. 319 Broad street, between Third and Fourth.
CYCLE BROTHERS,
429 Broad street,
mh 27-1m between Fourth and Fifth streets.

CARDOZO, FOURQUREAN & CO.
ARE RECEIVING
by every steamer the latest styles and novelties in
SPRING GOODS,
which they guarantee cannot be bought cheaper at retail in the United States. In
SILKS
they defy competition in this market, their stock being handsomer and larger than ever before, embracing all of the new shades. In
BLACK GOODS
they are keeping a larger and finer stock than they have ever done, and call especial attention to this line of their business. A very large assortment of
SUN-SHADES AND PARASOLS,
latest styles and shades. A full line of
LADIES' UNDERWEAR.
NOVELTIES IN NECK-TIES, &c.
LACE FISCHUS,
very handsome. A large stock of
CASSIMERES.
[mh 24]

SPECIAL ATTRACTION.
SPRING OPENING.
We take pleasure in announcing to our customers and the public generally that we have now in store the
LARGEST AND HANDSOMEST STOCK
that we have ever displayed. With the determination not to be undersold, we have marked our whole stock at figures so reasonable as to recommend them to everybody. Please notice the following:
BLACK SILKS from 85c. to $3.50 per yard;
FANCY SILKS at 90c., $1, $1.25 per yard;
COLORED WORSTED GOODS of every description;
BLACK ALPACAS from 25c. to $1.25 per yard;
MOURNING GOODS made a specialty;
DOLMANS at all prices—
DOLMANS at $4,
DOLMANS at $5,
DOLMANS at $6;
DOLMAN CLOTHS in new shades, very cheap;
CHILDREN'S FANCY HOSE of all colors and designs;
BOYS' CASSIMERES, 25, 35, 40, 50, 60, 75c., and $1 per yard;
GENTLEMEN'S CLOTHS and CASSIMERES in great variety;
FURNITURE CRETONNES at 37 and 50c.;
LADIES' SCARFS, HALF-HANDKERCHIEFS, FICHUS, JABOTS, BIBS, COLLARETTES, and FRILLINGS in profusion;
Beautiful LACES, EDGINGS, INSERTINGS, &c.
Please call and examine our goods before you purchase.
COURTNEY & POWELL,
mh 26 815 Broad 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.

GREAT BARGAINS IN CORSETS.—Another lot of those handsome French Embroidered Corsets, warranted whalebone, at $1, worth fully $1.50, just received at
JULIUS MEYER'S,
mh 19-eod No. 603 Broad street.

EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS IN VICTORIA LAWNS.—50 pieces very fine and sheer at 15c. worth 25c.; 75 pieces extra fine and sheer at 16c. worth 30c. Just received from auction at [mh 19-eod] JULIUS MEYER'S.

ASTONISHING BARGAINS IN SPRING CASSIMERES.—A large and new lot for men's and boys' wear, bought very low at auction, just opened at
mh 19-eod JULIUS MEYER'S.

BARGAINS IN HAMBURGH EDGINGS AND INSERTINGS.—An entirely new assortment at lower prices than ever just opened at
mh 19-eod JULIUS MEYER'S.

NEW AND HANDSOME SPRING DRESS GOODS—NEW AND HANDSOME SPRING PRINTS.—5,000 yards best Solid Black Prints at 6½c., just received at
mh 19-eod JULIUS MEYER'S.

MADAME DEMOREST'S RELIABLE PATTERNS for the spring and summer just received at JULIUS MEYER'S. Send for catalogues—free. mh 19-eod

FOR LACE COLLARS, COLLARETTES, BIBS, RUFFS, and other neck-wear, go to [mh 16-eod] BROWNE & ROWE'S

FOR NEW SPRING DRESS GOODS and SPRING CASSIMERES for men and boys, go to [mh 16-eod] BROWNE & ROWE'S.

FOR A SPLENDID LINE OF HOSIERY, CORSETS, BUSTLES, and FANCY GOODS, go to BROWNE & ROWE'S.
mh 16-eod

FOR BLEACHED AND BROWN SHIRTINGS and SHEETINGS and PRETTY DRESS and SHIRTING PRINTS, go to
mh 16-eod BROWNE & ROWE'S.

FOR BEAUTIFUL PARASOLS, CURTAIN LACES, and EMBROIDERIES, go to
mh 16-eod BROWNE & ROWE'S.

IF YOU WANT NEW AND FRESH GOODS at the lowest cash prices, go to
mh 16-eod BROWNE & ROWE'S.

Richmond Dispatch.

MONDAY..... APRIL 2, 1877.

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR SUNDAY.—For the Middle States, slightly warmer, east to south winds increasing in force, falling barometer, generally cloudy weather, and rain.

For the South Atlantic and Eastern Gulf States, Tennessee, and the Ohio Valley, increasing cloudiness and rain, with southeast to southwest winds, falling barometer, and stationary or slight rise in temperature, followed in the western portion of the Ohio Valley during Sunday evening by colder northerly to westerly winds and rising barometer.

For the Western Gulf States, warm southerly winds, shifting to colder west and north in the western portion, falling barometer, cloudy weather, and rain.

THE WEATHER ON SATURDAY was partly cloudy or clear and cool.

THERMOMETER SATURDAY: 6 A. M., 38: 9 A. M., 49; noon, 55; 3 P. M., 59; 6 P. M., 57; midnight, 49.

[From the Insurance Monitor for January.]

Hartford Junior.

We have only to look back to the front edge of the present century to find the insurance creation at the Connecticut metropolis without form and void—*nihil fit!* We all know that "what man has done man may do"; and when we remember what good things have been done, and in what brief time, in Hartford Senior, why should we not expect a repetition of them in another and more southern latitude? More than once we have had occasion to call attention to the rapid and successful progress of insurance matters in Mobile, Ala. In that city there have been growing up in a healthy, quiet way six or seven fire and marine insurance companies and two life companies, which have gathered in since the close of the war the handsome sum of three million dollars—besides paying expenses, losses, and dividends. Beginning with nothing, this for a ten years' work, on a limited field, is a telling record for the economy and industry of the officers. Some time ago five of these companies united to do a general agency business, and for a year past we have been advertising in our columns *the Mobile Underwriters.*

They have extended here and there—St. Louis, Louisville, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia—and have established State agencies, eastern fashion, in Michigan, Kentucky, and Missouri. The last move was in regular Hartford style—the creation of a "Western Department" under the charge of an accomplished agency underwriter, with headquarters in Chicago.

Mobile is a steady-going place. Though not large, it has a business in cotton and in shipping that makes heavy money transactions with New York, where the principal Mobile merchants are well known. They are mostly of the old-school type, solid, not showy, and have wholesome notions of economy. Nearly all of them are interested in their insurance companies. Despite the drawbacks, political and financial, of past years, the companies have pushed steadily ahead. "The Mobile Underwriters" has $1,200,000 assets, and is an orthodox member of the National Board.

The extension of the business northward is the right thing; *scattering risks* is safer—that is the why and the way the eastern companies have gone South and West. In insurance there is no North, no South, and all companies that bring us solid indemnity, like the "*Underwriters,*" we welcome them and wish them well. We hope Mobile will continue her well-begun work, and become as well known for her good insurance companies as that perfect type of all insurance cities, Hartford, in the East.

[Major J. B. Ezell, of the firm of Seibels & Ezell, of Columbia, S. C., general agents for the Mobile Underwriters, is now in Virginia placing agencies.]

Church Items.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, Australia, reports 122 settled ministers, 400 elders, 15,000 communicants, 264 Sunday schools, and an income of $400,000.

The collections for the United Presbyterian benevolent funds are stated to be very encouraging, but the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions announces a falling off in receipts of $25,000.

The Northern and Southern Presbyterian Assemblies meet on the same day this year—viz., May 17th—the Northern at Chicago, the Southern at New Orleans. Dr. Henry J. Van Dyke, of Brooklyn, will preach the sermon at Chicago, and Dr. B. M. Smith, of Virginia, will perform the same service for the Southern Assembly at New Orleans.

The Right Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, of Kentucky, is the presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the United States. He has held the episcopate longer than any prelate in the Church with the exception of Bishops White and Brownell, who held it respectively forty-nine years and a half and and forty-five years. Bishop Smith will complete the forty-fifth year of his episcopate October 31, 1877.

Ritualism is on the increase in London. Eucharistic vestments are now worn in forty churches in that city.

The Baptist ministers of Boston have invited the "National Baptist Sunday-School Convention," which is to be held on May 17–19, to meet in that city. A committee of entertainment has also been appointed.

The Hon. R. W. Thompson, Secretary of the Navy, was a lay delegate to the Methodist Episcopal General Conference held in Brooklyn, May, 1872.

The first Methodist Episcopal church in Tokio (Yeddo), Japan, was dedicated on January 28th. The Rev. Dr. R. S. Maclay preached the opening sermon. Two hundred persons were present.

A Methodist Sunday-School Congress will be held at St. Louis April 9th and 10th.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Hirosaki, Japan, has just received nineteen natives to membership.

Rev. W. J. David, a missionary of the Foreign-Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, recently visited Ogbomoso, in Yoruba, where no missionary had been for twenty years, and found the chairs, tables, compass, sextant, etc., safely preserved.

Hon. William M. Evarts, Secretary of State, is the son of Jeremiah Evarts, for a number of years secretary and treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

The widow of the Rev. Dr. S. H. Calhoun, for many years missionary on Mount Lebanon, Syria, has sailed for that missionfield, with the purpose of closing her life there. The Rev. Giles F. Montgomery and his wife, missionaries of the American Board, also sailed for Central Turkey.

Rev. C. H. Corey, principal of the Richmond Institute for training colored preachers and teachers, reports four young men who desire to preach the gospel in Africa as soon as their studies are completed.

Thirty-two missionary societies have stations in China, Japan, and Siam. They employ two hundred and forty-nine ordained missionaries, and forty-five medical missionaries. The American societies have in China one hundred and thirty workers out of two hundred and seventy-four.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey expect to remain in Boston until June. Their future movements are not yet decided upon. Hartford, New Haven, Montreal, and San Francisco are all appealing to them for a visit.

[From the New York Herald, March 30th.]

A WASHINGTON ROMANCE.

A Letter from General Washington Acknowledging the Power of Love.

In a collection of rare and valuable autograph letters which will be sold by Bangs & Co. this afternoon we find the accompying letter written by General Washington at the age of twenty-six, and never before made public. The present owner purchased it in England some years ago for the sum of £15, where it was probably taken by members of the Fairfax family of Virginia. The letter is addressed to Sarah Fairfax, at Belvoir. This lady was a Miss Cary, to whom Washington at one time offered his hand, but was refused for his friend and comrade, George William Fairfax. Irving asserts that it was a sister of Mrs. Fairfax, Miss Mary Cary, afterward Mrs. Edward Ambler. We have the authority of Mrs. Constance C. Harrison, a descendant of Lord Fairfax, who says in a paper called "A Little Centennial Lady," published in *Scribner's Monthly* of July last, that Sally Cary (Mrs. Fairfax) was the lady for whom Washington had a tenderness. Mrs. Harrison says:

It is fair to say that papers which have never been given to the public set this question beyond a doubt. Mrs. George William Fairfax, the object of George Washington's early and passionate love, lived to an advanced age in Bath, England, widowed, childless, and utterly infirm. Upon her death, at the age of eighty-one, letters, still in possession of the Fairfax family, were found among her effects, showing that Washington had never forgotten the influence of his youthful disappointment.

It is hardly probable that Washington means to express his love for Mrs. Custis, to whom he alludes here, for her husband was then living—in fact, did not die until twenty-odd years after the date of this letter. For the matter of that, Mrs. Fairfax's husband did not die until 1787. The following letter is, without doubt, one of those letters which Mrs. Harrison declares will "set this question beyond a doubt." It will be found very interesting, as it shows Washington in quite a new light. Even as a lover he has all the stateliness of the General and the Father of his Country:

CAMP AT FORT CUMBERLAND,
12th September, 1758.

Dear Madam.—Yesterday I was honored with your short but very agreeable favor of the first inst.—how joyfully I catch at the happy occasion of renewing a correspondence which I feared was disrelished on your part, I leave to time that never failing expositor of all things—and to a monitor equally faithful in my own breast to testify. In silence I now express my joy. Silence, which, in some cases—I wish the present—speaks more intelligently than the sweetest eloquence.

If you allow that any honour can be derived from my opposition to our present system of management you destroy the merit of it entirely in me by attributing my anxiety to the animating prospect of possessing Mrs. Custis—when—I need not name it—guess yourself—Should not my own Honor and country's welfare be the excitement? 'Tis true, I profess myself a votary of Love—I acknowledge that a lady is in the case—and further I confess that the lady is known to you.—Yes, madam, as well as she is to one who is too sensible of her charms to deny the Power whose Influence he feels and must ever submit to. I feel the force of her amiable beauties in the recollection of a thousand tender passages that I could wish to obliterate, till I am bid to revive them,—but experience, alas! sadly reminds me how impossible this is,—and evinces an opinion which I have long entertained, that there is a Destiny, which has the sovereign control of our actions—not to be resisted by the strongest efforts of Human Nature.

You have drawn me dear madam, or rather I have drawn myself, into an honest confession of a simple Fact—misconstrue not my meaning—doubt it not, nor expose it—The world has no business to know the object of my Love—declared in this manner to—you—when I want to conceal it. One thing above all things in this world I wish to know, and only one person of your acquaintance can solve me that or guess my meaning—but adieu to this till happier times, if I ever shall see them. The hours at present are melancholy dull, neither the rugged toils of war, nor the gentler conflict of A—— A——s is in my choice. I dare believe, you are as happy as you say. I wish I was happy also. Mirth, good humor, ease of mind and—what else? Cannot fail to render you so and consummate your wishes.

If one agreeable lady could almost wish herself a fine gentleman for the sake of another; I apprehend, that many fine gentlemen will wish themselves finer e'er Mrs. Spotswood is possest. She has already become a reigning toast in this camp; and many there are in it, who intend (fortune favoring) to make honourable scars speak the fullness of their merit and be a messenger of their Love to Her.

I cannot easily forgive the unseasonable haste of my last express, if he deprived me thereby of a single word you intended to add,—the time of the present messenger is, as the last might have been, entirely at your disposal. I can't expect to hear from my friends more than this once before the fate of the expedition will some how or other be determined. I therefore beg to know when you set out for Hampton and when you expect to return to Belvoir again—and I should be glad also to hear of your speedy departure as I shall thereby hope for your return before I get down; the disappointment of seeing your family would give me much concern.—From any thing I can yet see 'tis hardly possible to say when we shall finish. I don't think there is a probability of it till the middle of November. Your letter to Capt'n Gist I forwarded by a safe hand the moment it came to me. His answer shall be carefully transmitted.

Colonel Mercer, to whom I delivered your message and compliments, joins me very heartily in wishing you and the ladies of Belvoir the perfect enjoyment of every happiness this world affords. be assured that I am, Dr madam, with the most unfeigned regard, yr most obedient and most oblig'd H'ble serv't, G. WASHINGTON.

N. B. Many accidents happening (to use a vulgar saying) between the cup and the lip, I choose to make the exchange of carpets myself, since I find you will not do me the honour to accept mine.

The above reads as if it might be genuine; but we never saw a MS. letter of Washington's which was not signed "Go: Washington."

Washington married Mrs. Custis in 1759; so the *Herald* blunders inexcusably in its dates.

THE DEATH OF BILL ARP.—Bill Arp, late of Georgia, the man who furnished the witticisms and odd sayings which Charles H. Smith prepared and published some years ago, was accidentally killed near this place (Decatur, Texas,) last Monday, March 5th. He fell from a wagon loaded with corn, the wheels passing over his neck, killing him instantly. When he left home in the morning he told his family he would never again be permitted to enter the house alive; and, strange to say, he was within fifty yards of the house, on his return, when the sad accident occurred which terminated so fatally. He was a remarkable man; perfectly illiterate, but replete with original ideas and witty sayings. He rarely ever spoke without saying something pithy.—*Fort Worth (Texas) Democrat.*

The Charlestown (W. Va.) *Free Press* states that Captain G. Spencer, for several years past supervisor of trains on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, has taken leave of the road to accept a responsible position on the Virginia Mid and road.

LOCAL MATTERS.

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.—The Legislature will, according to resolution, adjourn on Wednesday. It is believed that the Governor will call an extra session unless the Buchanan and Clifton Forge Railroad bill is in the meanwhile passed.

The bill revising the criminal laws, making seventy-six pages in print, was engrossed by the House clerks between 8½ and 2 o'clock Friday night.

The following was adopted Saturday:

Resolved by the Committee for Courts of Justice, That it is due to Colonel S. Bassett French, their accomplished clerk, that it should be entered of record the committee's appreciation of his fidelity and ability in the discharge of his duties during the present session of the General Assembly.

[Signed] R. A. COGHILL, Chairman.

The Joint Committee on Printing having annulled the awards for bookbinding made to J. J. English and W. E. Simons new bids will be opened to-morrow (Tuesday).

METEOROLOGICAL.—The following table shows the reading of the thermometer for the month of March, from observations taken at sunrise each day; also the condition of the weather at that hour. The observations were taken at an elevated position in the eastern portion of the city, and from two instruments—one filled with alcohol, the other with mercury—and both marking the same, or very nearly so, there scarcely ever being more than the difference of a degree between them.

The first column shows the lowest point reached (by a self-registering thermometer) during the twenty-four hours ending at sunrise, the other the readings at that time:

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER.	*Lowest Reading in last 24 hours.*	*Read'gs at sunrise.*
Mar. 1—Clear	30 heavy frost	30
2—Raining	41	45
3—Clear	41	43
4—Partly cloudy	43	50
5—Cloudy	34	34
6—Clear	24	24
7—Cloudy	32	32
8—Clear	42	44
9—Cloudy	58	61
10—Clear	23	24
11—Clear	23	24
12—Cloudy	33	33
13—Partly cloudy	40	52
14—Cloudy	40	40
15—Clear	30	31
16—Clear	32	35
17—Raining, sn'w'p	32	35
18—Cl. snow 5 in dp	18	19
19—Cloudy	22	24
20—Clear	23	24
21—Cloudy	33	35
22—Cloudy	40	41
23—Cloudy	40	40
24—Clear	45	45
25—Partly cloudy	52	50
26—Cloudy	52	54
27—Raining	44	44
28—Clear	37	39
29—Clear	37	40
30—Clear	35	37
31—Partly cloudy	37	37

STATISTICS OF THE MONTH OF MARCH.—Number of deeds recorded in the office of the Chancery Court for the month ending Saturday, 215; number of marriage-licenses issued by the clerk of the Hustings Court, 27—9 white and 18 colored.

The following is a statement of the flour inspected in Richmond during the month ending March 31, 1877: 1,285 barrels family; 2,226 barrels extra superfine; 599 barrels superfine; 36 barrels fine; 22 barrels middlings; 117 barrels condemned.

During the past month the Police Justice disposed of 290 criminal cases and tried 410 cases of ordinance violations; 17 persons were sent to the Hustings Court for indictment, 21 convicted of assault and battery or petit larceny, and 55 were committed to jail in default of surety for their good behavior. Fines collected: City, $693.50; State, $40; Commonwealth's costs, $43.85—total, $777.35.

A DISTINGUISHED PRISONER.—William J. Hensley, charged with murdering a township collector in Lee county in 1874, is expected to arrive at the penitentiary to-day to serve out a term of ten years. When first arrested he broke jail and escaped to Indiana, where he was apprehended, and in charge of an agent of this State started to Virginia. At Indianapolis, Hensley having spread the report that he was to be taken back to be hung for shooting Ku-Klux, he was taken from the agent of the State and set at liberty by the Republican police of the city. He was again arrested, and at the request of Governor Kemper Governor Hendricks furnished a sufficient guard to prevent a second rescue. The man killed was a collector who had levied upon some of Hensley's property for taxes.

THE SO-CALLED PRIZE-FIGHT.—On Saturday morning Police-Justice White examined into the matter of the prize-fight alleged to have taken place Sunday the 25th of March at the Fairfield race-course. It turned out that there had been a difficulty between Tracy and Bendix; that they resolved "to fight it out"; that they went to the race-course followed by about a dozen men; that after fifteen minutes' struggle Tracy bit off a piece of Bendix's ear; and that the combat then and there ended. There was no prize or stake. All the parties proved to have been present were bound over to keep the peace and to be of good behavior. The Justice issued a warrant against Tracy, charging him with feloniously wounding and maiming Bendix. Tracy is at large.

CONVEYANCES OF REAL ESTATE FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 31, 1877: Lots fronting—20 feet on Pine street near Holly for $350; 20 feet on Cedar street, between Seventeenth and Buchanan streets, for $120; 50 feet on Baker street, corner of Shook's alley, for $900; 22 feet on Broad street, between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth streets, for $770; 32 feet on Poplar street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, for $700; 31½ feet on Leigh street near Sixth, and 50 feet on Sixth street, for $540; 30 feet on Pleasants street for $200; 48 feet on Eighth street, corner of Clay street, for ——; 60 feet on Main street, corner of Beach street, for $1,800; 15 feet on Fourth street, between Leigh and Jackson streets, for $2,250; one square between Main, Floyd, Plum, and Harvie streets for $1; 26½ feet on First street near Canal for $5,000; 35 23-24 feet on Seventh street near Leigh for $1,050; 62 feet on Main street near Eighth for $11,000.

THE COMMON COUNCIL.—The Common Council will meet this afternoon at 5 o'clock, when the report of the Retrenchment Committee will be considered. It is stated that there will be no opposition to the report, but that the ordinances and resolutions will be concurred in as they passed the Board of Aldermen.

UNMAILABLE LETTERS REMAINING IN RICHMOND POST-OFFICE MARCH 31, 1877.—Miss M. Linda Cross, Richmond, Va.; Mrs. T. S. Ferguson, Richmond, Va.; Miss Annie Hill, Richmond, Va.

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS, SATURDAY.—Clarke's *vs.* Govan's executors; Govan's executors *vs.* Clarke's. Further argued by James Lyons and R. T. Daniel, Esqs., and General George W. Richardson, and submitted.

Taylor *vs.* Cleary will be called Tuesday.

Grigsby's administrator *vs.* Grigsby, &c. Dismissed for failure to print the record.

POLICE COURT, SATURDAY—*Justice Joseph J. White presiding.*—John H. Smith and John Evans (colored), charged with stealing $10 from the person of Billy Berry. Case continued until to-day.

Robert Scott (colored), who was discharged from jail Friday afternoon, was sent down again for being drunk.

Nellie Burwell (colored), a disorderly character, was sent to jail for five days.

James Wilson was fined $5 for his driver interfering with passengers at the Richmond and Danville railroad depôt.

APRIL FOOL.

ANOTHER NEW OFFICE.

The Bill for Appointment of Railroad Commissioner.

AN OFFICER TO SUPERVISE RAILROAD RATES AND CHARGES, AND TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE COMPANIES—SALARY THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER ANNUM—PROVISION FOR CLERK, EXPERTS, &c.—THE MAN WHO WILL PROBABLY BE ELECTED.

Early in the session General Bradley T. Johnson introduced in the Senate a bill to appoint railroad commissioners. A substitute was reported from the Committee on Roads, and having been amended in both Houses, was passed on Saturday and approved by the Governor in the form following:

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly,* That there shall be a railroad commissioner for the State of Virginia, who shall not be a stockholder in, nor the owner of any bonds of, nor in the employment of any railroad company created by the laws of this or any other State. The said commissioner shall be elected by the General Assembly for the term of two years, and shall be subject to removal for good cause. He shall have a clerk, to be appointed by himself, who shall keep a full and faithful record of the proceedings of said commissioner, and serve notices, and perform such other official duties as may be required of him by the commissioner. Before entering upon the duties of their respective offices the said commissioner and clerk shall make and subscribe an oath that they will faithfully perform the said duties; and the said commissioner shall further make and subscribe an oath that he is not a stockholder in, nor the owner of any bonds of, nor in the employment of any railroad company created by the laws of this or any other State, and that no such stock or bonds are held in trust for him. The said oaths shall be filed in the office of the Board of Public Works, and an entry of the taking of such oaths shall be made on records of the proceedings of said commissioner, which shall be kept in his office.

SUPERVISION OF RAILROADS.

2. Said commissioner shall have the general supervision of all railroads in this State operated by steam, and shall examine the same and keep himself informed as to their physical condition and the manner in which they are operated, with reference to the security and accommodation of the public, and the compliance of the several corporations with the provisions of their charters and the laws of the Commonwealth; and the provisions of this act shall apply to all railroads and railways, and to the corporations, trustees, receivers, or others owning or operating the same.

VIOLATIONS OF LAW.

3. Whenever in the judgment of the railroad commissioner it shall appear that any such corporation has violated any laws, or neglect in any respect or particular to comply with the terms of its charter, or with the provisions of any of the laws of the Commonwealth, especially with regard to the connections with other railroads, the rates of toll, and the time-schedule, he shall give notice thereof in writing to such corporation; and if the violation or neglect is continued after such notice the commissioner shall make report of the facts to the Board of Public Works, and such Board shall, if upon inquiry into such facts it deems it proper or necessary, direct the said commissioner to make application to a circuit court, or a judge thereof in vacation, for an injunction to restrain the company complained of from further continuing to violate the law or the terms of its charter.

RAILROAD REPAIRS.

4. Whenever, in the judgment of the railroad commissioner, it shall appear that repairs are necessary upon any such railroad, or that any addition to the rolling-stock, or any enlargement of or improvement on the stations or station-houses, or any modifications in the rates of fare for transporting freight or passengers, or any change in the mode of operating the road and conducting its business, is reasonable and expedient in order to promote the security, convenience, and accommodation of the public, he shall give information in writing to the corporation of the improvements and changes which he adjudges to be proper; and if the said company shall fail within sixty days to adopt the requirements of said commissioner he shall make report thereof to the Board of Public Works for such action as it may deem expedient.

COMPLAINTS.

5. Upon the complaint and application of the mayor and aldermen of any city, or the judge of the county court of any county within which any part of any such railroad is located, it shall be the duty of the railroad commissioner to make an examination of the physical condition and operation thereof. Before proceeding to make such examination in accordance with such application, said commissioner shall give to the applicants and the corporation reasonable notice in writing of the time and place of entering upon the same. If upon such examination it shall appear to said commissioner that the complaint alleged by the applicant is well founded, he shall so adjudge, and shall inform the corporation operating such railroad of his adjudication in the same manner as is provided in section three; and the company failing, for sixty days after such notice, to remove the cause of complaint, he shall make report thereof to the Board of Public Works for such action as it may deem expedient.

ACCIDENTS.

6. The railroad commissioner shall investigate the causes of any accident on a railroad resulting in loss of life, and of any accident not so resulting, which in his judgment shall require investigation.

INFORMATION.

7. Every railroad corporation shall at all times, on request, furnish the railroad commissioner any information required by him concerning the physical condition, management, and operation of its railroad, and particularly with copies of time, tolls, and also with the rates for transporting freight and passengers upon its road and other roads with which its business is connected.

ADVICE AND REQUESTS.

8. No request or advice of the railroad commissioner shall have the effect to impair, in any manner or degree, the legal duties and obligations of any railroad corporation, or its legal liability for the consequence of its acts, or of the neglect or mismanagement of any of its agents or servants.

ANNUAL REPORT.

9. The railroad commissioner shall make an annual report to the Legislature of his doings, including such statements, facts, and explanations as will disclose the actual working of the system of railroad transportation in its bearing upon the business and prosperity of the Commonwealth, and such suggestions as the general railroad policy of the Commonwealth, or as to any part thereof, or as to the condition, affairs, or conduct of any of the railroad corporations, as may seem to him appropriate, with a special report of all accidents, and the causes thereof, for the preceding year.

ABSTRACTS OF RETURNS.

10. The said commissioner shall require the annual returns to be made by railroad companies in manner and form and at the time now provided for by law, and shall be authorized to require returns to be made of such other matters as he may deem expedient. When the return received from any corporation is defective, or probably erroneous, the commissioner shall notify the corporation to amend the same within fifteen days. The commissioner shall prepare such tables and abstracts of all the returns he shall deem expedient, and his annual report shall be transmitted to the Governor of the Commonwealth on or before the first Wednesday in January in each year, to be laid before the Legislature. The originals of the return or returns as amended, subscribed, and sworn to by the directors of the corporations, shall be preserved in the office of the commissioner.

PAYMENT OF COMMISSIONER.

11. The annual salary of the railroad commissioner shall be three thousand dollars, and of his clerk fifteen hundred dollars, payable quarterly by the Auditor of Public Accounts in the manner hereinafter provided. The commissioner shall be provided with an office in the Capitol, or in some other suitable place in the city of Richmond, in which his records shall be kept. He may employ and take with him experts or other agents whose services he may deem to be temporarily of importance; and he may draw upon the Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth for a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars annually, to be expended by him in the payment of such experts or agents for their services, and in procuring necessary books, maps, statistics, and stationery, and in defraying expenses incidental and necessary to the discharge of the duties of his office. A statement of such expenses shall accompany his annual report.

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS.

12. The annual expenses of said railroad commissioner and his clerk, including officerent, if any, not to exceed $400, shall be borne by the several corporations owning or operating railroads or street railways, according to their gross income received from transportation, to be apportioned by the Auditor of Public Accounts. On or before the first day of July in each year he shall assess upon each of said corporations its just proportion of such expenses, in proportion to its gross income, for the year next preceding that in which the assessments are made, and such assessments shall be notified to the respective corporations by the said Auditor of Public Accounts, and if not paid to him within twenty days after said notice, shall be recovered, on his motion, in the Circuit Court of the city of Richmond after ten days' notice, said motion to be in his name for the benefit of the railroad commissioner.

EMPLOYMENT OF EXPERTS.

13. The railroad commissioner shall employ an expert when necessary, to be paid out of the fund herein provided for; and said commissioner, his clerk, and expert shall be transported free on every railroad in this State when travelling on official business.

14. This act shall be in force from its passage.

General James C. Hill, sergeant-at-arms of the House, seems to be the most prominent candidate for the position of commissioner. The caucus to make the nomination will be held this (Monday) afternoon at 3 o'clock.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SUPPER FOR THE BENEFIT OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AGED HOME.—To-night there will be an entertainment at Assembly Hall for the benefit of St. Paul's Church Home for Aged and Infirm Women, and in connection with it a sumptuous supper will be spread next door to the hall, in Mr. Norwood's school-room. The supper is under the management of one of the most enterprising ladies in Richmond—a lady who doesn't know what it is to fail—and this will be a guarantee that her part of the programme will be carried out to the letter.

The entertainment itself will be beautiful and unique, consisting of a series of illustrations of "Midsummer Night's Dream," with Mendelssohn's music, interpreted by Dr. Satter.

The ladies have decided that the supper, which was originally intended to be served on the breaking up of the entertainment at the hall, will be ready for *all* comers during the whole evening.

TWO EVENINGS OF SONG.—Mr. Leo Wheat's two grand Easter concerts will be given at the Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, April 4th and 5th, upon which occasions Miss Anna Drasdil, a noted contralto, will make her *début* in Richmond. She will be assisted by Miss Sarah Wood (a soprano), of New York; Miss Alice Swain (soprano), of this city; Miss Maggie Redford, alto; Mr. J. D. Redford, tenor; Mr. William H. Grant, Jr., baritone.

The sale of reserved seats will commence this morning at 9 o'clock at West, Johnston & Co.'s.

These concerts will doubtless be very well attended. They promise to be of the first order, and will doubtless make quite a stir in musical circles.

LECTURE, CONCERT, AND LADIES' FESTIVAL. This evening the ladies of the Glen Allen Baptist church will hold a festival and give a concert with a view of raising funds for a benevolent purpose. "Catawba's" services have been secured, and a pleasant time is promised all who attend. Major Myers has kindly consented to furnish round-trip tickets at a very low figure. The cars will leave Broad street at 4:30 P. M., and returning, leave Glen Allen at 10:30 P. M. or 7:45 next morning. The lecture will commence at half-past 7. Tickets for lecture and concert may be had at Wyatt's music-store.

THE THEATRE TO-NIGHT.—The noted comedian Mr. H. J. Montague, of Wallack's Theatre, New York, will appear at the Theatre to-night, supported by Mr. Louis L. James, Miss Nellie Cummings, and a good company. The new comedy of False Shame will be presented.

AN OLD OFFENDER.—Walker Hill, *alias* Walker Lewis, was arrested Saturday night by Officer Fensom charged with assaulting Charles E. Berry a week or two ago.

Harper's Bazar and *Leslie's Lady's Journal* for April 14th received from J. T. Ellyson, 1112 Main street.

RICHMOND, March 31, 1877.

Editors of Dispatch: Please state that the person arrested for fighting under the name of Benedict is *not* a member of Captain Isbon Benedict's family; but whose correct name is *Bendix.*

Yours respectfully,
FRANK P. BENEDICT.

OF ALL THE WONDERFUL DISCOVERIES, perhaps none surpass that of extracting the essence of beef, which has proved such a blessing to the sick. Colden's Liebig's Liquid Extract of