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; $2c. 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., THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 5, 1877. No. 82.

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 25
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

Richmond Dispatch.

THURSDAY.....APRIL 5, 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 Middle States, increasing cloudiness and areas of rain, with northeast winds, falling barometer, and rising temperature, winds veering to southerly and southwesterly in the southern portion during the day.

For the South Atlantic States, areas of rain, followed by clearing and warmer weather, light, variable winds, and slight changes in pressure.

For the Gulf States, rising temperature, with variable winds, mostly from the east and south, no decided change in barometer, and partly cloudy weather, with local rains in the southwest.

For Tennessee and the Ohio Valley, southerly to westerly winds, rising followed by falling barometer, no decided change in temperature, and partly cloudy weather, with rains in the eastern portion.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was cloudy, or rainy and cool.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 43; 9 A. M., 47; noon, 53; 3 P. M., 52; 6 P. M., 49; midnight, 45.

LOCAL MATTERS.

MEETING OF THE STATE CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE.—The State Conservative Committee met yesterday at the Ballard House to consider the question of a State Convention. The roll was called, and the following members and officers answered to their names: First district, W. B. Taliaferro; Second district, Mann Page; Third district, C. C. Buckner, John W. Wright; Fourth district, S. F. Coleman, F. R. Farrar, General William Mahone; Fifth district, H. H. Hurt; Sixth district, J. W. Johnston, J. B. Ficklin; Seventh district, W. A. Burke; Eighth district, A. B. Payne, John T. Lovell; Ninth district, H. C. Wood; Nathaniel B. Meade, of the Executive Committee; James R. Fisher, secretary.

Mr. Johnston, in order to test the sense of the committee, moved to fix the time and place of holding the next State Convention; which motion was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Judge Lovell, Richmond was selected as the place and August 8th the time of holding the Convention.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

General Hurt presented the following resolution as a basis of representation: That there shall be one delegate and one alternate to every one hundred Conservative voters, and multiple of one hundred exceeding fifty—on the basis of the Tilden vote—to be appointed in such manner as the county and city committees may prescribe. Adopted unanimously.

There being no further business, the committee adjourned to Tuesday, 7th of August.

HOW A PANIC AND PROBABLY A SERIOUS FIRE WERE PREVENTED.—Probably not half the large audience that attended Assembly Hall a few nights ago upon the occasion of the entertainment for the benefit of the Old Ladies' Home connected with St. Paul's church are aware of the fact that possibly a serious panic and the destruction of the building by fire was avoided by the presence of two firemen—Messrs. John E. Walthall and P. B. Mackie—and their prompt action. During the performance it became necessary to use "red-light," and a larger quantity than was intended fell into the flame, setting fire to the stage, and at one time a serious affair was apprehended. The firemen, however, went to work with determination, and soon put out the flames without causing any excitement or panic.

The stage was filled with the most inflammable material, and the house pretty well crowded with ladies and children, and had the fire made any progress a very serious result would probably have taken place. The firemen had their hands painfully burned and their uniforms pretty well spoiled. These men had been sent to the hall (at the request of the ladies) by the Chief Engineer of the department, and one was placed behind the scenes and the other near the door leading to the stage. Would it not be appropriate for the ladies to present them with new suits?

A WELL-KNOWN LADY ROBBED AND ASSAULTED ON BROAD STREET.—An outrageous robbery and assault occurred on Broad street near Twelfth yesterday morning, which for audacious boldness and design exceeds anything that has happened in Richmond for some time. Mrs. James B. Macmurdo, while on the street named, was accosted by two negro girls, apparently about ten or twelve years of age, one of whom had a ring in her hand, and addressing Mrs. Macmurdo in that style peculiar to negroes now-a-days, said, "Lady, is this ring made of gold?" The dirty hands of the girl were almost thrust in her face, and, not suspecting anything, she told the girl she must go and ask a jeweller, and he'd tell her whether or not the ring was gold. She had hardly uttered the sentence when she realized that one of the girls had put her hand into her cloak-pocket while she was looking at the ring and taken her pocket-book. Perceiving that she had been robbed, Mrs. Macmurdo caught hold of the girl, and seeing the pocket-book in her hand, took it away. As she did so the girl gave her a severe blow in the face and started to run away. Once or two persons saw from their windows what had happened, and called to a gentleman on the opposite side of the street to stop the little thief. The girl was caught (but her companion escaped), and when brought back to Mrs. Macmurdo she interceded for her, and the gentleman let her go.

DEATH OF AN OLD PHOTOGRAPHER.—George W. Minnis, one of the oldest photographers in this section, died of consumption yesterday afternoon at the residence of Thomas M. Saunders, Esq., the well-known druggist of Marshall street and Brook avenue. Mr. Minnis was years ago one of the most popular and efficient men in his line of business in Virginia, and prospered well. After the war he removed to Petersburg, where he gained, as he had here, a host of friends. He was a warm-hearted, genial, and courteous gentleman, and his death will be heard of with grief among large circles of friends in this city and in Petersburg. He had recently returned from the South, where he had been in the vain hope of regaining his failing health.

DEATH OF MR. HIRAM B. DICKINSON.—Mr. Hiram B. Dickinson, formerly a tobacconist of this city, died yesterday. He will be buried to-day by Richmond Commandery, Knights Templar, and Dove Lodge, No. 51; which organizations are to meet at St. Alban's Hall at 2:30 P. M.

THE CRITTENDEN CASE POSTPONED TO MAY 1st.—The case of Colonel C. T. Crittenden was called in the Hustings Court yesterday morning at 11 o'clock. His counsel, James Barbour, Esq., Senator Grimsley of Culpeper, and Judge Crump and John S. Wise, moved a continuance till the next term of the court. Judge Guigon refused to continue the case, but in order to allow counsel ample time to collect their witnesses, set Tuesday, May 1st, for the trial.

THE LATE RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—The accident on the Alexandria and Fredericksburg railroad caused only a slight delay to one of the trains. The cars are now running on their usual time.

The Bible Cause.

SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA BIBLE SOCIETY—REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The public exercises of the sixty-fourth anniversary of the Virginia Bible Society were appointed to be held last night at 8 o'clock in Centenary Methodist Episcopal church.

The business meeting was the night before, as under the constitution the annual meeting must be held on the first Tuesday in April. Rev. Dr. Hoge presided, and Mr. Staples acted as secretary.

Mr. Thomas Branch presented a resolution, which was agreed to, to amend the rules of the Society so as to provide that the president shall be elected for four years instead of two.

Rev. J. B. Jeter, D. D., was placed in nomination, but declined to serve as president.

Rev. Dr. Curry was also nominated, but declined to serve. The following

OFFICERS WERE ELECTED.

Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D., president; Rev. Charles H. Read, D. D., first vice-president; Rev. Charles Minnigerode, D. D., second vice-president; Right Rev. D. S. Doggett, D. D., third vice-president; Rev. W. E. Hatcher, D. D., fourth vice-president; Rev. M. W. Staples, corresponding secretary; William Willis, Jr., treasurer. Other managers: Rev. William Brown, D. D., Rev. T. L. Preston, D. D., Rev. W. W. Bennett, D. D., Rev. J. E. Edwards, D. D., Rev. J. Peterkin, D. D., Rev. J. W. Jones, Rev. George Woodbridge, D. D., Mr. W. F. Taylor, Mr. John L. Williams, Mr. R. H. Meade, Mr. Thomas W. McCance, Mr. Robert Stiles, Rev. J. L. M. Curry, D. D., Mr. T. Branch, Mr. George D. Fisher, Mr. P. F. Howard, Mr. S. Putney, Judge Robert Ould, Mr. Asa Snyder, Mr. D. S. Wooldridge, Mr. Josiah Ryland, Mr. A. B. Clarke, Rev. T. G. Dashiell, Mr. E. B. Addison.

OTHER BUSINESS.

A letter was read from Rev. Dr. George Woodbridge declining to serve as a member of the Board if elected.

On motion, Revs. Drs. Hoge and Edwards were appointed a committee to wait upon Dr. Woodbridge and inform him of the high esteem in which he is held, and urge him to remain in the Board and attend its meetings when convenient.

On motion, one thousand copies of the report of the Board of Managers was ordered to be printed.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The report of the Board of Managers is as follows:

In presenting the sixty-fourth annual report to the Virginia Bible Society, the Board would gratefully acknowledge the Divine goodness which has been so signally manifested to the Society during the year now closed.

We entered upon the work last April with many misgivings as to the success which would attend our efforts to prosecute the great interests committed to our care. Nearly all denominational enterprises in our Commonwealth, greatly embarrassed, were demanding all the financial support which their respective memberships could contribute. Our industries were paralyzed and our people were feeling more severely the financial pressure than at any period since the panic of 1873. The result has been, as we feared it would be, that the extraordinary efforts to save denominational enterprises in the midst of such depressing times would, to a considerable extent, lessen the contributions to this Society.—It is, therefore, not surprising to find at the close of the year that our receipts, on donation account, have fallen short of previous years. The American Bible Society closed its last year's work with receipts less than the previous year by $50,371.53. All other benevolent institutions have shared in like discouraging results.

Notwithstanding the hard times, unprecedented in duration and severity in the history of our country; notwithstanding the many *hindrances* and very often great discouragements, the blessed work of Bible distribution has gone forward in our State, not ceasing for a day nor an hour, and the results achieved, although not as great as we desired, yet are such as ought to excite our gratitude and commend the Virginia Bible Society to the sympathy and coöperation of all friends of the Bible.

During a part of the year we have had eighteen colporters in the employment of the Society. Quite a number of these were efficient young men from the denominational colleges and seminaries in the State. Others have been laymen and local preachers. They have travelled in the neighborhood of 14,000 miles on foot and on horseback, along our rivers, through the valleys, and over the mountains, in search of families to whom they might carry the word of life to lighten up the homes of these often-neglected people. They have visited 14,606 families (about 4,000 in excess of last year's work), and found 2,648 families living in this Christian land without a Bible—without God—without a hope in the world. They have left the *precious word* in the homes of 1,978 families. They have prayed with these families and urged them by every consideration to conform their lives to the teachings and requirements of this holy book. These 1,978 families constitute a population of not less than 10,000 souls. Assured that the word of God shall not return void, but shall prosper in the thing whereunto it is sent, the Board feels amply rewarded for all its efforts in the fact that it has been privileged to carry this sure word of prophecy to the homes of so many perishing souls. Six hundred and seventy families had to be left unsupplied because no one of their number could read. Three hundred and sixty-five individuals, not connected with the families, have been supplied with a Bible or a portion of the same. Ninety-four needy Sabbath schools, white and colored, have been furnished gratuitously.

It may be well to mention the fact that the Board has felt a deep and special interest in the supply of the colored population, and that in no instance have their wants been unheeded. Our missionaries visit the churches, Sabbath schools, and homes of this people, and most cheerfully supply them with a copy of the Bible either by sale or donation. The very large proportion of destitution is found among the colored people, except in the mountain sections of our State. Three thousand seven hundred and ninety-four volumes have been distributed by the missionaries, one thousand four hundred and seventy-nine of which number were donated to those who were entirely destitute.

In the year's work 11,490 volumes have been issued from the depository in Richmond, valued at $3,720.02, $2,717.82 of which have been furnished us by the American Bible Society, without whose *noble and generous aid* it would have been impossible for us, under the heavy burdens which our coöperating churches are compelled to carry, to have prosecuted the work successfully.

At the beginning of the year now closed the treasurer had cash in hand $1,010.06. He has received from sales of Bibles, $2,845.21; collections from churches and individuals, $1,428.21; a legacy from a Presbyterian lady, whose name is unknown to the Society, $500. Total, $5,753.48.

He has paid for missionary work; the American Bible Society for Bibles; freight, boxing, cartage, office-rent, and salary, $5,162.94, leaving a balance in the treasury April 1st of $590.44. A detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures will be found in the treasurer's report.

In the review of our work since October, 1871, we have reason for devout gratitude to God for what this Society has been able to accomplish in the distribution of the Bible among the destitute families of our Commonwealth. Eighty thousand three hundred and fifty-two families have been visited. Twelve thousand seven hundred and ten of these were found without a copy of the Bible. Eight thousand four hundred and forty-three have been supplied, besides 2,336 individuals not connected with these families. This constitutes a population of at least 52,000 souls to whom it has been the exalted privilege of this Society to carry God's Holy Truth, which is able to make them wise unto salvation.

We have issued from the depository in Richmond 87,985 volumes of Scriptures, the value of which has been $30,404.13. Thirty-four thousand three hundred and twenty-six volumes, valued at $7,907.41, have been distributed gratuitously to the families and Sabbath schools that could not be otherwise supplied. This number will be increased when all the returns from auxiliary societies are completed.

It is the earnest desire of the Board to complete the canvass and supply of the State during the next year; if not entirely, at least so far that we shall not need the further aid so delicately and generously given by the American Bible Society during these last years. Such a desirable work, if accomplished, will depend mainly upon the coöperation and material aid of the friends of the cause.

The great want of the Society, in the language of the last report, is systematic and regular help from the churches in the State. The want of this has kept the treasury low in funds, and greatly crippled the work.

We trust that the friends of this cause, who are numbered by tens of thousands, will come forward to take part in this work, and carry it on until every hamlet and home in our State shall glow with the light of God's holy word.

OTHER FACTS.

It was also stated, not, however, as a part of the report of the Board, that the American Bible Society since its organization has printed and circulated more than 33,000,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures, at a cost of over $17,000,000.

In the last ten years 5,454,787 families in our country have been visited through its organized agencies; 376,527 destitute families, 299,871 individuals, and 14,507 Sabbath schools have been furnished with the Bible. Surely such a work as this noble institution is prosecuting ought to enlist the sympathies, earnest coöperation, and material support of all the friends of the Bible.

VESTRYMEN ELECTED.—The following vestrymen have been elected for St. Paul's church for 1877: Joseph R. Anderson, senior warden; E. B. Bently, junior warden; Thomas W. McCance, treasurer; George A. Barksdale, register; D. N. Walker, John L. Bacon, H. E. C. Baskervill, Lewis Booker, A. Y. Stokes, G. B. Davenport, J. H. Carrington, and Dr. James B. McCaw.

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS, YESTERDAY. Taylor *vs.* Cleary, &c. Fully argued by N. F. Cleary and Leigh Robinson, Esqs., for the defendants in error, and William Green, Esq., for the plaintiff in error, and submitted. The case was very ably argued on both sides.

CIRCUIT COURT—ALFRED MOSES VS. OLD DOMINION NAIL COMPANY.—The jury in this case have been occupied for the past two days in hearing testimony on a suit instituted by Alfred Moses against the Old Dominion Nail Company for damages sustained by him in the breaking down of his warehouse on the night of the 28th March, 1876, alleged to have been caused by the defendants overloading the premises leased by them from the plaintiff. The testimony was carefully heard, and at its conclusion yesterday morning Judge B. R. Welford, Jr., submitted the following instructions to the jury:

"If the jury shall believe from the evidence that the plaintiff, after the accident, with a full knowledge of all the circumstances, entered upon the premises, and with the consent of the defendants, but with their disclaimer at the time, and at all times thereafter, of any responsibility for the accident, employed at his own expense agents and workmen to repair the damages to the building, and to put it in such condition as would prevent the defendants from claiming any right to abandon the premises and to declare the lease determined, although before commencing the work, and throughout its progress, he protested to the defendants that he was under no legal obligation to make such repairs, and reserved the right to claim compensation therefor from the defendants; and if the jury shall further believe that after the completion of the work by the plaintiff the defendants accepted the building, and the relation of landlord and tenant under the original lease has by mutual consent ever since subsisted, the jury are instructed that the plaintiff cannot in this action recover from the defendants any portion of the expense incurred by him in making such repairs."

The case was immediately given to the jury without argument on the part of counsel, and a verdict was rendered for the defendants in accordance with the Judge's instructions.

The plaintiff will carry his cause up to the Court of Appeals for its decision on the questions of law involved in the case.

HUSTINGS COURT, YESTERDAY.—In this court yesterday the following cases were disposed of:

Washington Evans, charged with breaking and entering the house of Robert J. Jones, was tried and convicted and sent to the penitentiary for five years.

Sarah Heath, second offence of petit larceny, was sent to the penitentiary for one year.

William J. Sutherland, charged with stealing property of his brother, was tried and acquitted.

James Couch, charged with assaulting John Thomas, was tried and convicted of unlawful shooting, sent to jail for three months, and fined $25.

POLICE COURT, YESTERDAY—*Justice Joseph J. White presiding.*—Charles Welsh and William Morton, arrested for fighting in the street. The case was continued until to-day.

J. W. Smoot was fined $2 for disorderly conduct in the street.

Daniel Smith and James Honan, trespassing upon the premises of and breaking and destroying the property of Sallie Banton, were sent on to the grand jury.

THE ROMANCE OF A POOR YOUNG MAN.—This play, which is one of the most beautiful we have in the style of romantic drama, will be performed on Friday evening at the Theatre by a fully competent company.

Mr. Montague appeared here this week under the management of Mr. Arthur Wallack, whose connection with the first theatre in our country was a sufficient guarantee of a fine performance, apart from the name of one of the greatest actors of the time as the star. The plays, though very good in their style, were hardly suited to a popular audience; but this one is something which is very taking, and it promises to secure a full audience.

MARITIME ITEMS.—The Norwegian bark Sulitjelma, Captain Ullenass, arrived yesterday from Liverpool with a cargo of 2,150 sacks of salt and 202 tons of agricultural salt, consigned to Davenport & Morris.

The American schooner George Peabody, McCahan master, was cleared yesterday by Curtis & Parker for Cardenas, Cuba, with 270,000 hoops.

BODY FOUND IN THE RIVER.—The body of an unknown negro man was found floating in the river at Goode's Rock yesterday morning by Captain Cunningham, of the steamer Frank Sommers. The body was made fast to a buoy, and the Chesterfield authorities notified.

CLOVER HILL RAILROAD.—The sale of the Clover Hill railroad, announced in the *Dispatch* to take place yesterday, has been postponed until the 25th instant.

OLD FRIENDS GONE.

Adjournment of the Legislature.

A REVIEW OF SOME OF THEIR WORK—WHAT THEY HAVE DONE AND FAILED TO DO—IMPORTANT BILLS PASSED UPON—THE CLOSING HOURS OF THE SESSION—AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER APPOINTED.

The Legislature, after one hundred and twenty days' session, adjourned last night. Their works will live (or die) upon the pages of the Acts of Assembly, but as the people generally will not go there to review them, a brief and rapid survey of the most prominent points of legislation, and of the most important incidents connected with the two houses, is here given.

In the place of Judge Wood Bouldin, of the Supreme Court of Appeals, who died just previous to the meeting of the General Assembly, the two houses elected E. C. Burks, of Bedford. This choice has proved to be a first-rate one. The decisions so far written by Judge Burks are among the best that have emanated from that distinguished court. The question of reapportioning the State for representation in the two houses was raised early in the session, and, after long delay, the House passed a bill which the Senate killed off. A committee of fifteen to revise the criminal laws was appointed, with authority to employ a clerk. Their report, covering seventy-six printed pages, was presented some weeks ago, and was adopted substantially by the House, but did not reach the Senate in time for deliberate consideration, and was laid upon the table. There it was smothered to death. Resolutions were passed thanking W. W. Corcoran for his donation of $50,000 in State bonds to the University of Virginia.

Colonel George F. Strother having resigned his position as Superintendent of the Penitentiary, Colonel Samuel A. Swann, a member of the House of Delegates, was chosen to fill the vacancy. The Governor sent in his message, in reply to a resolution of inquiry from the House, recommending that the offices of Second Auditor, Register of Land Office, and Superintendent of Public Printing be abolished, &c., &c. After long and patient investigation the committees and the House, with great unanimity, decided that the Governor's views were impracticable. On the 14th of December the Clifton Forge extension was specially brought to the attention of the General Assembly. The lease-bill was subsequently passed and vetoed by the Governor. After that the two houses could not agree upon another measure on the subject. Resolutions in respect to the memory of General Bagwell passed.

The death of Colonel John W. Minor, doorkeeper of the Senate, took place at his home, in Loudoun. The vacancy was not filled by election, but by resolution Mr. Wilson, the janitor (one of the most polite and obliging of gentlemen), was requested to discharge the duties, which he did with perfect satisfaction. Several bills for protection of fish and game passed. All dog-laws voted down. The disabilities of a large number of gentlemen supposed to have been engaged as principals or seconds in duels were removed. Mr. C. U. Williams's bill, providing that municipal assessments shall not exceed State assessments, was amended and passed. The bill introduced by General Bradley T. Johnson, to provide for the appointment of railroad commissioners, was reported with a substitute, which latter was adopted. Under this Colonel Thomas H. Carter, of King William, was elected the commissioner. The award of the Maryland-Virginia boundary-line commissioners was received, and provisions made for payment of arbitrators and counsel.

Senator Moffett exhibited his whiskey register (the invention of himself and Mr. Otis Deane), and introduced his bill, which, under the lead of Mr. Armstrong, passed the House, was then endorsed by the Senate and approved by the Governor. An effort to endorse the electoral bill failed in the House. The bill to appoint a commissioner of agriculture, introduced by Dr. Strayer, became a law. Dr. Thomas Pollard, of Henrico, was on yesterday appointed and confirmed commissioner.

The commissioners selected Hare's farm, near Petersburg, as the site for the new Central Lunatic Asylum, and the city of Petersburg agreed to purchase it and make it a present to the State. The Senate passed a bill appropriating $125,000 for the erection of the necessary buildings thereon, but the bill failed in the House. A bill to reörganize the police system of Richmond was proposed. After a warm fight in committee a substitute, drafted by by General Johnson, was adopted and became a law. The bill to regulate uniformity of text-books was vetoed by the Governor, and thus perished. Large numbers of the members of the Legislature signed recommendations to Tilden for the appointment of friends to Federal office. Application for pardon of Coleman asked by many members and refused. Old tax-bill amended in a few particulars only. By a bill of which ex-Governor Smith was the patron, and which became a law, councilmen and city officials were forbidden to contract with their municipalities for supplies.

The Governor claimed that the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad was forfeited to the State. The claim not sustained by action of the two houses. The Governor was requested by both houses to employ counsel to investigate the settlement with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. Legislators' salary bill passed and time of meeting of next General Assembly fixed. The great work of Senator C. T. Smith's legislative life was accomplished in the adoption by both houses of his bill to protect the property-rights of married women. Colonel Crittenden, first doorkeeper of the House, was arrested, charged with forgery and grand larceny. The Committee on Rules recommended that he be suspended by the House, but through fear that such action might prejudice his case before trial the report was passed by from day to day.

The Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College at Blacksburg was helped to the extent of $16,000 to complete its buildings; employés on railroads were given a lien in the nature of a mechanics' lien; the West Point Railroad bill was choked out of life, and dozens of other measures of interest and local importance were made into laws.

LAST HOURS OF THE DEPARTED.

Up to the time of meeting of the two houses last night it was believed by many that the Governor would call an extra session to consider the Clifton Forge extension. Members generally expressed the wish that he would not impose this additional duty and consequent loss of time from home upon them, but patriotically declared that if he insisted they would be compelled to serve. In his message vetoing the canal-lease the Governor intimated that such a course in a certain contingency might be taken. After that, however, both houses took further action—the Senate passed the railroad bill, and the House indicated its preference for a canal extension—and no doubt his Excellency then considered that he was relieved of responsibility.

In each house there were the usual closing-up proceedings, with somewhat less levity. Resolutions of thanks to everybody for everything were passed. The committee was appointed to wait upon the Governor. In the Senate Mr. Newberry delivered a poetical valedictory, containing some good legislative hits; in the House presentations and presentation speeches were made; and after all of that Lieutenant-Governor Thomas and Speaker Hanger delivered their farewell addresses, and declared their respective bodies adjourned. Then there was a slamming of desk-tops, rattling of State papers, the hurry and scurry of leave-taking, and the legislative halls were left in silence and gloom to gather dust until a little previous to the first Wednesday in December, when the broom-brigade will invade them to make ready for the next General Assembly.

PRESENTATIONS.

Yesterday afternoon the Senate, through Major Daniel, presented to Lieutenant-Governor Henry W. Thomas, the presiding officer, a handsome gold-headed cane. Both speeches were eloquent and impressive. Last night the delegates, through General Ronald, treated Speaker Hanger in similar style, and with like result as to speeches. Colonel Watt, on behalf of the delegates, presented the clerk, John Bell Bigger, with a gold pen of remarkable beauty and elegance. Colonel Watt's little address was charming, and Mr. Bigger in his response gave evidence of oratorical powers which had not before been suspected by members. A splendid china table-service was provided for Sergeant-at-Arms J. C. Hill, but that gentleman having been compelled to leave for home by the canal-packet of yesterday evening, Mr. Crank, of Albemarle, received it for him from the hands of Mr. Mathew.

POCKET-VETOES.

Mr. W. A. Winston, the enrolling clerk, got all of the bills enrolled at an early hour yesterday. Mr. Lovenstein and his committee examined them with swiftness and dispatch, and promptly placed them in the Governor's hands. The Governor signed all but two—that proposing to endow a citizen of Fauquier, commonly called Plomb Payne, with the name of Charles Van Mason; and one proposing some sort of fence law in Rappahannock district, Essex county. As to the first, it is said the courts can act; as to the second, it was thought to be not a fit subject for legislation as it was presented to the Governor.

THE LAWS.

The enrolled bills—the laws and the vetoed acts—will at once be sent to the binders, and in the course of three or four days will be accessible to the public in the office of John Bell Bigger, keeper of the rolls.

The acts of Assembly will make a large volume, and will not be ready for some months to come. The fugitive sheets will be issued from time to time as usual.

PERSONAL.

The reporters owe more gratitude than they can easily express to Messrs. John Bell Bigger, Monroe Kelly, W. J. Bigger, D. A. Carter, R. A. Ayres, T. N. Conrad, W. F. Rose, W. A. Winston, and S. Bassett French, clerks of the House, and to Messrs. Davis, Pendleton, Stratton, Williams, Whittet, and Clarke, of the Senate, for constant help and unwearied politeness in the discharge of their duties. The Biggers and Dr. Pendleton especially know by experience that it is no light part of their daily work to answer reportorial questions, to explain this and that, and generally to keep the writers for the press safe in the paths that are known only to experienced parliamentarians.

Scarcely less are the press and the public indebted to Sergeants-at-Arms Hill and Harrison, and Doorkeepers Sullivan, Harrison, and Wilson.

Rev. Mr. J. J. Lamkin, one of the Pittsylvania members, has passed examination before Judges Christian and Wellford, and will soon commence the practice of law in his county.

On Friday twelve or fifteen members will leave on a trip to New York by the Old Dominion Steamship Line.

RESISTANCE TO THE MOFFETT WHISKEY BILL.—A meeting of the Liquor-Dealers' Protective Association was held yesterday, and measures were taken to unite the liquor-dealers throughout the State for mutual protection, and to raise a large sum of money to test the legality of the Moffett whiskey law.

Probably the most serious trouble and interference the officers of the State will have with the law will be from questions raised as to the patent-rights said to be infringed by the Moffett register. There the authority of the United States courts can be invoked. However, some of the northern gentlemen who think that the register is an imitation of the car-bell punch will be surprised to find out that it is no more like that useful instrument than a steam-engine or coffee-mill is. The fact is, the crank is like a coffee-mill's, the indicator is like a gas-meter's, and the gong is like the small one used on doors, drawers, &c. There is no punch about it. That is to be furnished by the barkeepers, and for every glass sold the crank is to be turned once.

Further as to the patent-rights and law-points this deponent saith nought.

THE WHEAT-DRASDIL CONCERT LAST NIGHT.—The event of the season in musical circles was the first of the "Grand Evenings of Song" at the Theatre last night, under the direction of Mr. Leo P. Wheat, who, as the caterer to the refined musical taste of our community, has time and again regaled our people with the rarest treats. The appreciation of these efforts was fully attested on this occasion by the presence of a fine audience, despite the extremely inclement weather. Though not crowded, the auditorium, especially the dress-circle and orchestra-chairs, presented a scene of brilliancy and beauty not often witnessed within the walls of that temple of Thespis.

The programme, with but one exception, was vocal throughout; and the selections composing it, which were from the best masters, displayed the fine taste of the artists participating in its rendition. It opened with a piano and violin *duo*, by Mr. Wheat and Professor Kessnich, from the opera of "William Tell," which was performed by those two artists with telling effect. Of the singing by the Monumental quartette choir (Misses Swain and Redford, and Messrs. Redford and Grant), who, assisted by Miss Sarah Wood, of New York, closed the entertainment with the recitative, air and chorus, from "Rebekah," by Barney, but little can be added to what has often been said in these columns in the past. They acquitted themselves with marked effectiveness, and were the recipients of generous applause. In their individual efforts during the evening they were equally successful.

The features of the evening, however, were the solos of Miss Anna Drasdil. Appearing for the first time before an audience to whom she was an entire stranger, and none of whom knew of her merits as an artist, it was not long before her hearers were convinced they were listening to vocalization rarely heard. She is gifted with a contralto voice of great purity, richness, and power, and when her full, mellow, resonant tones broke upon the ears of the listeners in the charming aria "*O mio Fernando,*" from the opera of *La Favorita,* each one appeared spell-bound, and a death-like stillness pervaded the building to the end. At the close of the aria the fair *debutante* was greeted with a perfect ovation, and the many *sotto voce* expressions of delight fully testified that her triumph was complete, and that she had won the hearts of the Richmond audience.

She gracefully acknowledged the compliment by singing the beautiful ballad "I Cannot Sing the Old Songs." Her second solo was the exquisite gem "Lord, Whom My Inmost Soul Adoreth," by Hiller. Her appearance on the stage was a signal for an enthusiastic and hearty greeting, and when she had concluded she was accorded another demonstrative outburst of rapturous applause. To the repeated and prolonged calls for an *encore* she responded by singing, to her own accompaniment on the piano, a song of her native Bohemia, similar in character to the "Home, Sweet Home," of our own land. Her singing of this song of her far-away home was exquisitely affecting, displaying, as she did in its rendition, evident feeling and the most natural emotion. In her duo with Mr. Grant, "Oh! Days of Youth," from "La Favorita," she again carried her auditors by storm, and the piece had to be repeated before they would be satisfied.

It can be safely asserted that never before has any singer so favorably impressed our musical community upon a *debut.* She combines an admirable voice, superb execution, and fine dramatic power to give expression and feeling to her vocalization.

Miss Sarah Wood, another new candidate for favor, was also the recipient of the generous plaudits of the audience, who seemed greatly pleased with her charming rendition of the aria "Bell ragio" from "Semiramis," and a beautiful ballad by Abt, entitled "Embarrassment."

To-night another tempting programme will be presented, and it is expected the Theatre will be crowded.

THE MOZART THIS EVENING.—The Mozart Association will present their usually attractive programme for this evening. The orchestra will perform three pieces—an overture, the favorite polka, with piccolo solo, "Les Fauvets," and the waltzes "On the Beautiful Rhine," by Kela Bela. Messrs. Kessnich, Thilow, and Reinhardt will render a trio by Schumann, and Mr. Kessnich a violin solo. Mrs. Dr. Robinson will sing two selections, and Mr. John E. Mitchell a favorite song by Arditi.

IMPROVING.—Mr. J. D. Kidwell, the engineer who was injured on the Danville railroad a few days ago by an accident, is improving.

UNMAILABLE LETTERS REMAINING IN RICHMOND POST-OFFICE APRIL 4, 1877.—Silas W. Fleming, Stubensville, Ohio.

CONVICT RECEIVED.—Claiborne Brandon, from Halifax, one year for house-breaking, was received at the penitentiary yesterday.

Harper's Weekly and *Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* for this week received from J. T. Ellyson, 1112 Main street.

Two Brave Firemen.

Editors of the Dispatch: Will you allow me through the columns of your paper to say a word of grateful praise in behalf of two brave men, whose judicious conduct saved many lives Monday night, and who deserve the thanks of this community. By request of the lady managers connected with the exhibition for the benefit of the "Home for Aged Women," held in Assembly Hall on the night of the 2d, two members of the Fire Department were placed in the hall (one behind the scenes) to assist the ladies in case of accident. In preparing the red-light for one of the scenes the rear of the stage was set on fire, which, owing to the many inflammable materials around, would have been most serious in that crowded assembly, composed chiefly of ladies and children. With great presence of mind the two firemen mentioned instantly attacked the burning stage, and so promptly and effectually managed the fire that no serious result followed. I must add, they worked so quietly that very few in the audience knew of the accident, and thus a panic was prevented which might have proved as disastrous as a fire. These firemen are poor men, and ruined the suit of clothes in which they appeared—no small loss to men in their station. I want the good people of Richmond, particularly those present that night, to know these facts, and show their gratitude for their preservation by some substantial aid to these brave men, and leave their contributions at the *Dispatch* office.

A LADY WHO WAS BEHIND THE SCENES.

MANCHESTER NEWS.

Distinguished Visitors Expected.—Past Grand Sire Stuart, of the District of Columbia, and Grand Representative Hugh Latham, of Alexandria, are expected to exemplify the unwritten work of Odd-Fellowship at Jackson Lodge April 8th, and with Stuart Lodge April 10th.

While they are here arrangements will also be made for the institution of another—Rebecca Lodge.

New Buildings.—The work of rebuilding at the corner of Thirteenth and Hull streets, the scene of the late fire, has commenced. The contractors for Mr. T. B. Cersley's building are John S. Bowen for the wood- and William R. Blunt for the brick-work. For the Bradley house, John A. Blanton for the brick- and John Crostick for the wood-work. Both buildings will be pushed forward to a speedy completion.

Attractions Ahead.—Concerts will be given at the court-house Friday and Saturday nights for the benefit of the poor. Attend, be amused, and aid a good cause.

The first cotillon *soirée* of the spring season will be given at Nunnally's hall April 10th for a worthy object. The affair is in charge of a competent committee, of which Mr. J. T. E. Turner is chairman.

The Late Accident.—Captain Longest will take up the Danville road this morning a number of hands to rebuild the bridge at Difficult creek, lately destroyed.

Personal.—Mr. David Lynch, of Texas, formerly of Chesterfield, is on a visit to his old home.

County Commissioner William E. Spears and County Surveyor Joseph E. Laprade were in the city yesterday.

The Street-Work.—Colonel Edward Vickers, contractor for levelling and grading the streets, has completed his work. The Council would do well to get him to commence the work of gravelling at once. The streets should be fixed up before the winter season sets in again.

PHOTOGRAPHS.—Employ C. R. REES to execute your likeness by the new process. No increase in price. Four card photographs, with all the latest improvements, only $1; $2.50 per dozen; large size, $1. Nos. 821 and 823 Main street, between Eighth and Ninth.

DR. SCHENCK'S STANDARD REMEDIES.—The standard remedies for all diseases of the lungs are SCHENCK'S PULMONIC SYRUP, SCHENCK'S SEA-WEED TONIC, and SCHENCK'S MANDRAKE PILLS, and if taken before the lungs are destroyed a speedy cure is effected.

To these three medicines Dr. J. H. SCHENCK, of Philadelphia, owes his unrivalled success in the treatment of pulmonary diseases.

The Pulmonic Syrup ripens the morbid matter in the lungs; nature throws it off by an easy expectoration, for when the phlegm or matter is ripe a slight cough will throw it off, the patient has rest, and the lungs begin to heal.

To enable the Pulmonic Syrup to do this Schenck's Mandrake Pills and Schenck's Sea-Weed Tonic must be freely used to cleanse the stomach and liver. Schenck's Mandrake Pills act on the liver, removing all obstructions, relax the gall-bladder, the bile starts freely, and the liver is soon relieved.

Schenck's Sea-Weed Tonic is a gentle stimulant and alterative; the alkali of which it is composed mixes with the food and prevents souring. It assists the digestion by toning up the stomach to a healthy condition, so that the food and the Pulmonic Syrup will make good blood; then the lungs heal, and the patient will surely get well if care is taken to prevent fresh cold.

All who wish to consult Dr. SCHENCK, either personally or by letter, can do so at his principal office, corner of Sixth and Arch streets, Philadelphia, every MONDAY.

Schenck's medicines are sold by all druggists throughout the country.

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 Beef and Tonic Invigorator has the preference for weakness, depression, consumption, lassitude, and fevers.

M. ELLYSON & CO., advertising agents, insert advertisements in all of the newspapers of the United States at publishers' rates.