Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY....FEBRUARY 13, 1878.

PETERSBURG.

THE PETERSBURG RAILROAD, AGAIN—A PROTEST AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF THE ROAD BY THE CITY—THE OBJECTIONS URGED TO THE SCHEME DECLARED TO BE UNWISE AND IMPOLITIC—THE CITY REQUESTED TO PURCHASE ITS PREFERRED STOCK—AN OLD SUNDAY-SCHOOL SOCIETY—THE MERCHANTS AND THE SAMPLE-DRUMMERS.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

FEBRUARY 12, 1878.

The meeting of citizens at the court-house last night to oppose the scheme advocated by other citizens for the purchase of the Petersburg railroad by the city was quite numerously attended. Many of the representative people of the community were there. Mr. William F. Spotswood, president of the Common Council, was called to the chair, and a committee on business was appointed, who reported a preamble and resolutions declaring the passage by the Legislature of the State of the bill framed by the conference of citizens last week looking to the purchase of the road by the city to be unwise, impolitic, and calculated to damage the material interests of the city. The preamble embraces eight points of objection to the bill and its object, which may be stated briefly as follows: First. Experience demonstrates that municipal corporations cannot successfully manage railroads with profit to the corporation and to the interests of its citizens. Second. By every consideration of right, expediency, and universal usage, the City Council should have control of all the property of the city. Third. The commission constituted by the bill is granted the very unusual power of perpetuating itself; is practically empowered to purchase the stock on which the city has a lien, without limit of price, and may require the Council to furnish the money to buy said stock. Fourth. Upon the said bill becoming a law the sum of $180,000 will be taken from the assets of the city and invested in a speculative enterprise without security. Fifth. The proposed action will injuriously affect the credit of the city. Sixth. The commission is not limited to price in purchasing a controlling interest in the road. Seventh. The example set by such legislation will be very pernicious; there is no guarantee or safeguard against future amendments to the bill increasing the number of commissioners. Eighth. The commission is granted such absolute powers that it is not even required to make any report—annual or otherwise—of the management, expenditures, and results of this great property.

It was therefore resolved that the proposed measure to enable the city to become the owner or controller of the Petersburg railroad is injudicious, impolitic, and likely to result to the damage and not to the benefit of the city and its inhabitants. A committee of five gentlemen was appointed to present a copy of the preamble and resolutions to the Legislature, and to request our representatives to oppose the passage of the proposed bill.

A resolution was also adopted requesting the Council to become the purchaser of the city's preferred and common stock of the railroad, to be sold here on the 13th of March, at a sum not exceeding the amount due on the said stock.

Mr. S. W. Venable, chairman of the Finance Committee, while speaking on this resolution, stated that the committee had received numerous propositions to purchase this stock privately, and had been asked to fix a price upon it. He was of opinion that no combination could possibly be formed which could reduce this stock below its face valuation of $230,000.

A committee appointed by the chairman of last night's meeting is waiting on the citizens to-day inviting signatures to the above resolutions of protest.

The friends of the scheme for the purchase of the road declare that it will not add one cent to the indebtedness of the city, nor in anywise impair its credit, but in the end will prove a vast benefit not only to the city, but to the people. They, furthermore, do not see the reason of the objections urged to the passage of the bill, since the matter of the purchase of the road is to be referred to the people for ratification or rejection. And thus the matter stands, with a good deal of feeling manifested on both sides.

Up to this writing no clue has been obtained to the burglars who committed the robberies in this city on Saturday night, and Mr. Tennant has heard nothing of the valuable silverware stolen from him.

At the sixty-first annual meeting of the First Sabbath-School Society of this city, held evening before last, Hon. Charles F. Collier was elected president, Mr. A. G. McIlwaine vice-president, and Mr. John Donnan treasurer. This is the parent society of the Protestant Sunday schools in this city. When organized the schools of the several denominations were united. As years passed and these denominations increased in strength they organized Sunday schools of their own, and the First Society was left with the Presbyterians, who have kept up the organization ever since.

In response to a call for that purpose, the merchants of this city will meet this evening to memorialize the General Assembly to impose a special tax on sample-merchants.

ROBIN ADAIR.

CULPEPER COUNTY.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

CULPEPER, February 11, 1878.

The past week has been characterized by a great deal of anxiety and excitement on the part of our citizens, caused by the appearance of varioloid and small-pox of a malignant character in one of the prettiest and most densely populated portions of the town; and the latter of which proved fatal after three days' sickness of the patient. Upon being informed of the appearance of the disease, Mayor Stanard promptly convened the Town Council and had the infected portion of the town quarantined and other measures adopted to prevent the spread of the disease. Thus far, I am pleased to say, no new cases have been reported by the physicians, who have, under the orders of the Mayor and Council, been very active and busy for the week past in vaccinating the entire population, both white and colored. The excitement upon the subject has in a great measure abated, as ten days or more have elapsed since the appearance of the fatal case referred to, and the *varioloid* patient, as I am informed, has recovered. Business of the town has not been seriously interfered with, and the general health was never better at this season of the year.

The late rains and mild weather we have had have caused the snow, which fell to the depth of six or eight inches about a week ago, to almost entirely disappear, in consequence of which freshets are apprehended.

The friends of Mr. T. Marshall Archer will be pleased to learn of his improved condition since he has been an inmate of the lunatic asylum at Staunton. His family have received a letter from one of the resident physicians of that institution to that effect, and giving encouragement to hope that he may ultimately be restored. He was adjudged a lunatic by a commission consisting of Mayor Stanard and Justices Alcocke and Nalls, upon the evidence of Drs. Rixey, Lewis, and Jeffries, and sent to the asylum about two weeks ago.

The friends of Judge Shackelford, our present circuit judge, begin, I think, to fear that he may lose his place by the rearrangement of the circuits. He is very popular with the bar and people in his present circuit.

The condition of Mr. Peter C. Smith, who sustained a serious injury by fracturing his thigh-bone from a fall from his portico, is improving, and he is said to be doing as well as could be expected under the circumstance of age, &c.

Mr. Thomas Peter, who lives near by and in the same locality, also sustained a similar though not quite as serious an accident, a few days ago, by being knocked down and run over by a vicious cow which he was attempting to manage. The small bone in the leg above the ankle was fractured. He is, however, doing well, and it is hoped will soon be out again.

A great many people in this section begin now to think and fear that after all the present Legislature will fail to make any satisfactory or honorable arrangement in regard to the settlement or readjustment of the public debt. No doubt many who are now members of that body were elected through demagogical appeals to the people, and on the strength of promises made that they would reduce the taxes, upset the funding bill, and "play the deuce" generally, none of which they could have hoped or expected to fulfil. But the people were *green* enough to vote for and elect them, and now that they feel secure in office (for two years, at least), they no doubt smile at their (the people's) credulity and gullibility. It may truly be said that they have "lent the word of promise to the ear but broke it to the hope." But I will not bore you with farther remarks upon this topic. I do not yet despair; but, in common with the majority of the people of this county, and I hope elsewhere, continue to hope that ere an adjournment shall take place a settlement or readjustment shall be made which will prove *honorable* to the State and *satisfactory* to her creditors at home and abroad.

"Oc."

LOUISA COURTHOUSE.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

FEBRUARY 12, 1878.

Yesterday being the regular County Court-day, there was the usual assembling of the sovereigns. Despite the dreadful condition of the roads, the attendance was quite good. His Honor Judge Lane took the bench at the usual hour. The grand jury was sworn in, and the Judge delivered a carefully-prepared charge. As the result of their deliberations, Lindsay Poindexter was indicted for feloniously shooting Robert Appleby, and a number of parties were presented for different offences—distilling brandy without license, &c. The Judge, referring to the report of the liquor-registers, made some very warm remarks relative to the same. There were some parties whose reports were so small that it was apparent to him that they could not afford to pay a specific tax for the amount of business they did, according to their own reports. One party reported gross sales at *eighty-three cents*, another *one dollar and a half*. He wished it to be distinctly understood that unless improvements were made by many of the dealers in their next report their licenses would be revoked. He would revoke some of the licenses now but for the time of their expiration being so near at hand. He was determined, by the help of the proper officers, to see the law *enforced*. The Judge was very earnest and emphatic in his remarks, and from his well-known ability, firmness, and efficiency as an officer, there is no doubt that he will see the law duly enforced.

I noticed with Senator Murray on the court-green yesterday Senator Quesenberry. Captain Murray, our representative in the Senate, has given general satisfaction, so far as I can learn, by his course in the Senate. If there be those who do not agree with him on any question they are compelled to accord him an honest conviction that his course is proper. He is held in high esteem by the people of Louisa, and I think I may truly say of his district.

The young gentlemen of the town have recently organized a debating society. It was decided to name the society the "Henry Literary Society," after a society of the same name which flourished here some years ago. Mr. James L. Jones is the president. The first regular meeting was held last Thursday night, when the question, "Which is the Happier, the Married or Single State?" was discussed, and decided in the affirmative. The nights of meeting are the first and third Thursday nights in each month.

Louisa has recently lost by death one of her most esteemed citizens—Dr. Percival Beadles.

Ralph Bingham, the Richmond boy orator and actor, is advertised to give one of his entertainments in the Methodist church here.

I hear but little talk regarding the congressional nomination this year. B.

Fire in Buckingham.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

The dwelling-house of Louis W. Cabell, Esq., Green Hill, was, with all of the household furniture, burned down on the night of the 30th of January, the family barely escaping with their lives. There are many who will be saddened at hearing of the destruction of this mansion, ever the abode of the most generous hospitality; and during the four years of the war, as well as the sad days succeeding, there are hundreds throughout the United States who found, when ill and wounded, a home and a resting-place at Green Hill.

The old mansion-house at Green Hill was built prior to the Revolution, its wide hall proclaiming a tale of the past, and, like that mentioned in the old song—

"His hall, so old, was hung around
With pipes, and guns, and swords."

It was built by Colonel John Cabell, who was lieutenant-commander, receiving his commission from the "Committee of Safety" of the Colony. A limited number of these commissions were issued. Two of them known to be extant are—one of Patrick Henry, in the capitol at Richmond, and the other that of Colonel John Cabell—in possession of his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Russell Robinson, of Richmond.

Green Hill was the birth-place of Dr. George Cabell, Sr., that able physician and fearless surgeon, and his brother, Dr. John J. Cabell, equally eminent in the practice of medicine. These highly-gifted brothers settled in the vicinity of Lynchburg the early part of the present century, where they are still held in great reverence—their opinions being yet quoted in difficult cases of medicine and surgery; they largely inheriting the talent of their grandfather, Dr. William Cabell, of Wasminster, England, surgeon in the British navy, who came to America about the year 1720, having immense grants of land in Amherst, Nelson, and Buckingham, where many of his descendants still reside.

Russia and Turkey.

LONDON, February 12.—The correspondent of the *Times* at St. Petersburg telegraphs as follows: "I can state positively that orders have been sent to the Russian troops to enter Constantinople. Count Schouvaloff has been ordered to explain to Lord Derby that as the great Powers have decided to send their fleets to Constantinople, Russia is obliged to adopt similar measures; but Russia has no intention of aggravating the situation."

The *Times*, in its leading article, says: "A portion of the British fleet will proceed to Constantinople. That is unavoidable after what has occurred."

The leader points out that Lord Derby emphasized his statement that other Powers may not consider it necessary to avail themselves of firmans for the admission of their fleets, although they had applied for them. "It is possible, therefore, that the British and Russians alone may be present at Constantinople. Such a position would be one of the gravest anxiety. Everything may turn upon the character of the Russian occupation. A mere demonstrative occupation as that of Paris in 1870 ought not to be regarded as alarming, but an occupation in force, with no apparent limit in point of time, would throw upon our Government a grave responsibility. The crisis is one in which a few hasty words or a single hasty act might precipitate a conflict. The Government have laid down a certain limit, beyond which we cannot remain indifferent to the advance of Russia. If these limits are passed it will be their duty to act promptly and boldly, but it is equally their duty to place no hasty construction on acts which may be capable of two interpretations."

LONDON, February 12.—The news of the refusal by the Porte of its firman for the passage of the straits by the fleet has caused a great sensation, though the excitement is less than it was last week.

This morning's *Times*, in its leading article, says: "The fleet must go to Constantinople for the protection of the Christians and their ultimate interests in the city and straits. There need be no disguise that this is the real purpose with which our fleet will be sent to the Bosphorus, and Lord Derby would have done well to have avowed this fact plainly instead of evading its responsibility by the transparent excuse of affording protection to British subjects and other persons in the event of excitement in the Turkish capital. It is best to avow the simple truth that, as we intend to have a voice in the settlement of the future both of Constantinople and the straits, we deem it prudent and our plain right to assert some hold upon these positions."

But Russia, beyond question, has not the slightest reason for any further military guarantee for her own claims than she already possesses. The Turks and Constantinople itself are at her mercy.

A BITE FOR FREEDMAN'S BANK DEPOSITORS.—*Washington, D. C.*, February 12.—The Senate has passed a bill appropriating $275,000 to buy the Freedman's Bank building in this city.

A general suspension of coal production in the Schuylkill region commenced yesterday, and will continue until the 25th instant. In the Lehigh region resumption will go into effect on the 18th instant. The Reading Coal and Iron Company has a stock of 80,000 tons of coal on hand at Port Richmond. This suspension is in accordance with the agreement of the coal combination, but falls with great severity upon the miners, who have been working upon half time for several weeks past.

The Emperor William of Germany is reported as saying: "The situation is indeed serious, but I nevertheless still hope that the maintenance of peace is possible."

England seems to be preparing for war.

VEGETINE.

VEGETINE.

AN EXCELLENT MEDICINE.

SPRINGFIELD, O., February 28, 1877.
This is to certify that I have used VEGETINE, manufactured by H. R. Stevens, Boston, Mass., for Rheumatism and General Prostration of the Nervous System with good success. I recommend VEGETINE as *an excellent medicine* for such complaints.
Yours very truly,
C. W. VANDEGRIFT.
Mr. Vandegrift, of the firm of Vandegrift & Huffman, is a well-known business-man in this place, having one of the largest stores in Springfield, O.

OUR MINISTER'S WIFE.

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 16, 1877.
Mr. H. R. Stevens:
Dear Sir.—Three years ago I was suffering terribly with Inflammatory Rheumatism. Our minister's wife advised me to take VEGETINE. After taking one bottle I was entirely relieved. This year, feeling a return of the disease, I again commenced taking it, and am being benefited greatly. It also greatly improves my digestion. Respectfully,
MRS. A. BALLARD,
1011 west Jefferson street.

SAFE AND SURE.

Mr. H. R. Stevens:
In 1872 your VEGETINE was recommended to me, and, yielding to the persuasions of a friend, I consented to try it. At the time I was suffering from general debility and nervous prostration, superinduced by overwork and irregular habits. Its wonderful strengthening and curative properties seemed to affect my debilitated system from the first dose, and under its persistent use I rapidly recovered, gaining more than usual health and good feeling. Since then I have not hesitated to give VEGETINE my most unqualified endorsement as being a safe, sure, and powerful agent in promoting health and restoring the wasted system to new life and energy. VEGETINE is the only medicine I use, and as long as I live I never expect to find a better.
Yours truly,
W. H. CLARK, 120 Monterey street,
Alleghany, Penn.

VEGETINE.

The following letter from Rev. G. W. Mansfield, formerly pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Hyde Park, and at present settled in Lowell, must convince every one who reads his letter of the wonderful curative qualities of VEGETINE as a thorough cleanser and purifier of the blood:

HYDE PARK, MASS., February 15, 1876.
Mr. H. R. Stevens:
Dear Sir.—About ten years ago my health failed through the depleting effects of dyspepsia; nearly a year later I was attacked by typhoid-fever in its worst form. It settled in my back, and took the form of a large, deep-seated abscess, which was fifteen months in gathering. I had two surgical operations by the best skill in the State, but received no permanent cure. I suffered great pain at times, and was constantly weakened by a profuse discharge. I also lost small pieces of bone at different times.
Matters ran on thus about seven years, till May, 1874, when a friend recommended me to go to your office and talk with you of the virtue of VEGETINE. I did so, and by your kindness passed through your manufactory, noting the ingredients, &c., by which your remedy is produced.
By what I saw and heard I gained some confidence in VEGETINE.
I commenced taking it soon after, but felt worse from its effects; still I persevered, and soon felt it was benefiting me in other respects. Yet I did not see the results I desired till I had taken it faithfully for a little more than a year, when the difficulty in the back was cured; and for nine months I have enjoyed the best of health.
I have in that time gained twenty-five pounds of flesh, being heavier than ever before in my life, and I was never more able to perform labor than now.
During the past few weeks I had a scrofulous swelling as large as my fist gather on another part of my body.
I took VEGETINE faithfully, and it removed it level with the surface in a month. I think I should have been cured of my main trouble sooner if I had taken larger doses, after having become accustomed to its effects.
Let your patrons troubled with scrofula or kidney disease understand that it takes time to cure chronic diseases; and if they will patiently take VEGETINE it will, in my judgment, cure them.
With great obligations, I am yours very truly,
G. W. MANSFIELD,
pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

VEGETINE
prepared by
H. R. STEVENS, BOSTON, MASS.

VEGETINE IS SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS
[fe 9-S&W2t]

HUNYADI JANOS WATER.

THE GREAT EUROPEAN NOVELTY.

HUNYADI JANOS.

THE BEST NATURAL APERIENT.

THE LANCET.—"Hunyadi Janos.—Baron Liebig affirms that its richness in aperient salts surpasses that of all other known waters."
THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.—"Hunyadi Janos.—The most agreeable, safest, and most efficacious aperient water."
PROFESSOR VIRCHOW, BERLIN. "Invariably good and prompt success; most valuable."
PROFESSOR BAMBERGER, VIENNA. "I have prescribed these waters with remarkable success."
PROFESSOR SCANZONI, WURZBURG. "I prescribe none but this."
PROFESSOR LAUDER BRUNTON, M. D., F. R. S., LONDON. "More pleasant than its rivals, and surpasses them in efficacy."
PROFESSOR AITKEN, M. D., F. R. S., ROYAL MILITARY HOSPITAL, NETLEY. "Preferred to Pullna and Friedrichshall."

A WINEGLASSFUL A DOSE.

Every genuine bottle bears the name of THE APOLLINARIS COMPANY (Limited), London.
FREDERICK DE BARY & CO.,
41 and 43 Warren street, New York,
Sole Agents for United States and Canadas.

FOR SALE BY
DEALERS, GROCERS, AND DRUGGISTS.
[ja 28-M,W&F&eowtAu27]

LIME, CEMENT, AND PLASTER.

NOVA SCOTIA LUMP-PLASTER
KEPT CONSTANTLY ON HAND
and sold in lots to suit purchasers
AT LOWEST PRICE.
D. S. MORRISON, Agent,
Nova Scotia Plaster Quarries.
fe 4-1m 807 east Cary street.

RICHMOND-GROUND PLASTER,
ground fresh every day;
1,000 tons BEST BLUE WINDSOR LUMP, at lowest market rates.
WARNER MOORE,
fe 2-3m Shockoe Mills, Richmond, Va.

ROCKLAND LIME.
1,200 barrels ROCKLAND LIME
landing from schooner Maggie Bell. For sale by
oc 26 A. S. LEE

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

THE EUROPEAN WAR NEWS.

THE ENGLISH FLEET ORDERED TO GIBRALTAR—INTERESTING MATTERS AT WASHINGTON—THE PROPOSED NEW MAIL ROUTE; CONFERENCE OF RICHMOND RAILROAD-MEN—PRESENTATION OF THE PAINTING OF THE SIGNING OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION TO THE UNITED STATES—THE WORCESTER CAMBRIC MILLS BURNED—ARREST OF OHIO DISTILLERS—OCEAN MAIL STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND NEW ORLEANS AND BRAZIL—FROM THE EAST—DISTURBANCES IN SYRIA, &c.

Washington.

CARPENTER'S PICTURE OF THE SIGNING OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION BY LINCOLN AND CABINET PRESENTED TO THE UNITED STATES—THE SILVER BILL IN THE SENATE—CUBA'S RECOGNITION—THE WHISKEY-TAX QUESTION—THE TARIFF BILL—THE TROUBLES IN JUDGE RIVES'S DISTRICT—PERSONAL—THE MAIL ROUTE VIA RICHMOND, &c.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, February 12.—The presentation to-day of Carpenter's picture of the Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Lincoln and his Cabinet was a most imposing affair. The galleries of the House were thronged, and ladies occupied seats on the floor. When the Senate came in it was noticeable that Conkling and Edmunds were not in line, but Mr. Conkling was soon afterwards seen occupying a back seat with his wife. It is rarely the case that two as handsome men as he and Governor Walker are seen on the same floor.

Mr. Garfield's presentation speech, which was read, was a finished oration. He said Lincoln had no model in history and no parallel in the world; and of the picture, that it was the gift of a woman whose life has been devoted to the elevation of the laboring poor.

Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, in receiving it, said there was not among his friends and acquaintances in the South a single man who desired the negro returned to slavery, and he implored members of Congress to give up their prejudices, that harmony and peace may prevail all over the land. He predicted that the American Union of the future will be more glorious than that of the past.

Both speakers were enthusiastically applauded at the close of their speeches.

THE SILVER BILL.

The silver discussion continues to drag its slow length along in the Senate, but a vote is anticipated this week. Mr. McDonald, of Indiana, made a speech in support of the bill to-day, in which he quoted from Allison to show the disastrous consequences which followed England's forced resumption of specie-payment. He was for the repeal of the resumption act, and believed that the laws of trade will bring it about. The remonetization of silver is the door by which resumption is to be reached. To enforce the resumption act will be to repeat England's folly. The United States produces one half the silver of the world, and Mexico and South America, he said, two thirds of the other half. The gold dollar is worthless as a coin, and no more will be coined. The silver dollar is the largest coin of that metal that can be used, and before its demonetization it was worth more than the gold dollar. Although England nominally demonetized silver in 1816, she now has three silver dollars to our one in circulation. Remonetization only places us where we were in 1873.

Mr. McPherson, of New Jersey, followed in opposition to the bill.

Senator Merrimon, of North Carolina, will speak on the subject.

THE CUBANS WANT RECOGNITION.

Jose Ant Echeverria, commissioner, with diplomatic powers from the Republic of Cuba, and General Julio Sanguily, were before Messrs. Wilson and Forney, sub-committee of the House Committee on Foreign Relations, this morning, and urged—first, the recognition of Cuban independence, and if that cannot be granted, then that our Government shall recognize them as a *de facto* Government, entitled to trade with the outer world. They say they have maintained their struggle for nine years, and have a congress, courts, and everything pertaining to a regularly-organized Government. They further ask that the United States protest against the barbarities practiced by Spain in the conduct of the war against them.

THE WHISKEY QUESTION.

The Senate Finance Committee reported this morning in favor of the House joint resolution that it is inexpedient to reduce the tax on whiskey at this time. The whiskey-men are hoping, however, to get an extension of the time in which whiskey can be kept in bond. Their friends will urge an indefinite extension, but the opinion of your correspondent is that if their request be granted the time will be limited to three years. They will also ask that an allowance be made for shrinkage, but this will fail.

RAILROAD DISCRIMINATION.

The action of the House committee on this subject this morning was important, as the committee referred the bills of Messrs. Reagan, Watson, and Townsend, of Illinois, to a sub-committee, with instructions to prepare a bill embodying the provisions of the three bills named. The bills of Messrs. Reagan and Watson provide that no railroad shall give drawbacks or rebates, thereby favoring certain individuals and corporations; and Mr. Townsend's bill prevents discrimination in favor of one railroad and against another.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The schedule (D) in regard to imported liquors was taken up in the Committee of Ways and Means to-day, and the discussion was general, action being taken upon no single item. This section, and in fact the whole bill, will take more time than the committee anticipated. It is the desire of the committee to reduce wherever they can, and to frame a tariff for revenue alone. I have the best authority for stating this.

THE TROUBLES IN JUDGE RIVES'S DISTRICT.

It came to the knowledge of the Attorney-General that a grand jury had been summoned for Judge Rives's court which would have to consider the cases of the deputy marshals, &c., now under charge of grave irregularities, and for reasons which were satisfactory to him he ordered this grand jury to be discharged and another summoned not liable to the objections made to the first. This comes to me through a leading Republican who had a conference with General Devens in regard to the matter.

TO RETIRE NATIONAL-BANK NOTES.

A sub-committee of the House Committee on Banking, Mr. Ewing chairman, have agreed on a substitute for Buckner's bill to retire national-bank notes. They are to be retired as they come into the treasury, and Treasury-notes substituted for them. Banks may retire their notes and receive four-per-cent. bonds, and Treasury- and legal-tender notes may be received in payment of such bonds. The Treasury-notes are to be receivable for all dues to the Government, or are to be fundable in four-per-cent. bonds at par.

THE MAIL-ROUTE VIA RICHMOND.

A conference was called and met this evening at the Postmaster-General's office, which the friends of Richmond here say was gotten up in the interest of the Midland route, the object being to make a connection to suit it from Danville south for the through southern mail. Richmond was to have been left out of the arrangement. Among those present were Colonel Buford, Major Myers, President Robinson, and General Logan, the last named representing the Richmond Postal Committee. At their suggestion the subject was postponed until the April railroad-meeting for fixing the schedules. Richmond, it is urged, should keep vigilant watch in regard to this matter.

BRIEF ITEMS.

Mrs. Thompson, who gave Carpenter's picture to the Government, was a shop-girl when her millionnaire husband wooed and won her in Boston.

Congress has appropriated $1,200 for portraits for Senators Morton and Bogy.

General Logan, Major B. W. Nash, General Fitz. Lee, Mr. Scott Carrington, and General Custis Lee are in the city.

Stove-pipes and instruction in philology are embraced in the same section of the West Point appropriation bill.

Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, who presided in Committee on the Whole to-day, would make a capital Speaker of the House.

Miss Bessy Douglass, the accomplished daughter of Hon. B. B. Douglass, will spend the winter here.

A hurried dispatch made me say that thirty-five million pounds of tobacco were manufactured in Richmond, instead of in Virginia, annually. If congressional legislation were friendly Richmond could manufacture more than that.

The Senate Committee on Finance to-day reported favorably on the proposition for a commission of five to investigate alcoholic liquors.

Senator Harris, of Tennessee, is ill with Bright's disease.

[Associated Press Reports by telegraph to the Dispatch.]

INVESTIGATION OF THE METROPOLIS DISASTER.

Captain Merrimon, of the live-saving marine service, who was directed by the Secretary of the Treasury to investigate the loss of the Metropolis, has returned from Currituck and submitted his report that the life-saving marine service did all that was possible, and has been unjustly censured. Some specimens of the Metropolis's framework, brought by Captain Merrimon, show that she must have been in a very rotten condition.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

WASAINGTON, February 12.—Delfendapt, of the firm of Delfendapt & Piffin, distillers, of Dayton, Ohio, with their employés, have been arrested, and the establishment seized.

Appropriate orders have been issued by the Navy and Army Departments for the obsequies of ex-Secretaries Conrad and Wells.

The House Committee on Post-Roads has authorized its chairman (Mr. Waddill) to report the bill concerning ocean-mail steamship service between the United States and Brazil. It provides for two monthly lines—one from New York and the other from New Orleans—so as to furnish semi-monthly service between these ports and Brazil.

Sothern, the eminent comedian, starts on a tour south to-day. His successes this season have been phenomenal. He plays in Richmond Wednesday night.

XLVTH CONGRESS--Second Session.

WASHINGTON, February 12, 1878.

SENATE.

After a long executive session the Senate confirmed Wickersham as postmaster at Mobile, with four dissenting votes; also, Colonel Vernon as purveyor of customs at Baltimore.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The feature in the House to-day was the presentation in joint convention of the Senate and House of Carpenter's large painting of the Declaration of Emancipation by President Lincoln to his Cabinet. The presentation speech was made by Mr. Garfield, of Ohio. In his speech Mr. Garfield eulogized Mr. Lincoln and the members of his Cabinet, and emphasized the point that Mr. Lincoln had for a long time resisted all the attempts made to induce him to issue the proclamation, and had only resolved upon it after he had become convinced of its necessity as a war measure and to save the Union, which was his chief object. In this connection he quoted Mr. Lincoln's famous dispatch in reply to Horace Greeley's "Prayer from Twenty Millions," to the effect that if he could save the Union by abolishing slavery he would do it; but he would not do it or refrain from doing it through any other motive.

The speech was entirely free from any allusion that could give offence to any section or party.

He was followed in a speech by Mr. Stephens, of Georgia.

Mr. Stephens said: Mr. President and Speaker,—There is little left for me to say in the programme assigned me on this august occasion. On the picture—on the skill of the artist—my friend from Ohio has dwelt at length. In regard to the munificence of the donor he has left me nothing to say. Few instances of the kind have occurred in the history of our country. I know of none. May her example in the encouragement of art be followed by others.

Mr. President and Speaker, with reference to the subject of the painting, I propose, if my strength permits, to submit a few remarks: First, as to the central figure—the man; after that, as to the event commemorated. I knew Mr. Lincoln well. We were together during one Congress. I was as intimate with him as I was with any other man of that Congress, except, perhaps, one. Of his general character I need not speak. He was warm-hearted; he was generous; he was, as he afterwards said, possessed of a heart which had "malice to none and charity to all."

In bodily form he was above the average, and so in intellect. He was not highly cultivated, but had a native genius far above the average of his fellows. Every fountain of his heart was ever overflowing with the milk of human kindness. So much for him personally, and so much the deeper (from my attachment to him) was the pang in my own breast as well as in those of millions at the manner of his horrible taking-off. That was the climax of our woes, of our trouble, and the spring from which came afterwards unnumbered woes. But of these events no more now. As a friend, I may say—

"No farther seek his merits to disclose,
Or draw his frailties from their dread abode;
There they alike, in trembling hope repose,
The bosom of his father and his God."

So much I have felt it my duty on this occasion to say on behalf of my friend.

Now, as to the great historical event which this picture commemorates, and which we are here to-day to commemorate, this is a subject, perhaps, as remarked my friend from Ohio (Mr. Garfield), which the people of this day and generation are not exactly in a condition to weigh rightly and judge correctly. One thing has been remarked—emancipation was not the chief object of Lincoln. What was his chief object? The myth, the idol, with which his whole soul was concerned was the preservation of the Union. Now, let not history confuse events. That proclamation, pregnant as it was initiative, as it was in point of fact, originated more from the necessities of war than from any purely humanitarian views. Let this be noted in our history. Life is all a mistake. In the dark our forms meet. Mr. Lincoln, like all the rest of us, in my opinion, was an instrument in the hands of that Providence above us which "shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will."

I doubt much if he knew at the time or realized the great results of the act. The proclamation itself did not make free, or declare free, all the colored race. It was only to operate in those parts which were not in resistance to the Government. Had resistance ceased that would have been all. If emancipation of the colored race be a boon to that race (and Providence has yet to determine that), it depends much on themselves. If it is, I, representing the southern States here, may claim in their behalf that freedom was never finally consummated until the southern States sanctioned the thirteenth amendment, which they did, every one of them, and by their own constituencies. They, coming to the conclusion that that institution could no longer survive, accepted the position, and by their acts, and by the adoption of the thirteenth amendment to the Constitution, Mr. Lincoln's idea was consummated. Now, as to that institution which was called slavery, many errors were indulged in and many prejudices. Oh! that the people of the United States could divest themselves of prejudice, that moral distorting of the mind; what mischief has it not done? What ills has it not caused? What advancement would not the world have made if it had not been for this thing, prejudice?

Of all the grand expressions of that greatest of American orators, Daniel Webster, the grandest was that in which he told the people of Massachusetts (when Faneuil Hall was refused to him), "You have conquered the sea, you have conquered a sterile soil, you have conquered the elements; but you must yet conquer your prejudice."

Indulge me a moment on this subject of so-called slavery. It was not an unmitigated event; it was not without its compensation. It is my purpose now, however, to bury, not to praise, nor aught of evil to extenuate it. If it was not the best relation for the happinesss and welfare of both races, morally, physically, intellectually, and politically, it was wrong, and it ought to have been abolished. This I said years before secession, and I repeat it yet. But there is no time now to discuss this question. Let it go. I have seen something of the world; I have travelled somewhat, and I have never yet found on earth a paradise. The southern States were no exception. Wherever I have been I have witnessed the truth of the lines—

"What crowds in every land are wretched and forlorn;
Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

It was so with us. It is so the world over, so far as I know. The question of the relations of the races was one of the most difficult problems that statesmen or philanthropists, legislators or jurymen, ever had to solve. It is past with us. I do not think it inappropriate on this occasion to indulge in some remarks on this subject. Since the South has been released from all her responsibility about it, it has been common to speak of the colored people as the wards of the nation. May I not say with appropriateness and with due reverence, in the language of Georgia's greatest intellect, that they are rather the wards of the Almighty? They are committed now, under the new state of things, to the rulers, the law-makers, the law-expounders, and the law-executors, through this broad land, within their respective constitutional spheres, to take care of and to provide for them in the complicated system of government under the Constitution which we live. I am so inclined to regard them. I speak of them not in exceptional cases, but as a mass. Why in the providence of God they were permitted to come here it is not for us to say, but they have a location here; and I can say for myself and for those of my immediate circle of acquaintance, and for the whole southern people, that there is not one who would now change the condition of things, resubjugate the colored man, or put him in the condition he was in before. If there is one in all the South who would desire such a change I am not aware of it. Men of the North, of the South, of the East, of the West, I want to-day, on this commemorating occasion, to say, let us, one and all, within our sphere of duty, whether in public or private life, see to it that we do not violate that divine trust. We live in a new era. During the conflict of arms I frequently almost despaired of the liberty of our country. Wars always menace liberty and often result in slavery. I have always thought that the union of the States at first was founded on the assumption that it was the best policy of all to remain united.

What shall we do in the future? Down South we are doing the best that we can for the colored people, hoping earnestly that they will fit themselves for a higher civilization. The flag no longer floats over provinces, but over States; no longer over subjects, but over citizens—white and black. Why can we not look hopefully to the future?

Mr. President and Mr. Speaker, is it a delusion, is it a fancy which I have indulged in, that there is another and a grander future for these United States than anything they have yet attained? It may be a delusion, but it is one of which I do not wish to divest my mind while I linger on this stage. Let all parties and all sections do justice to the component legends of our country everywhere, according to our constitutional power and right; let harmony and peace prevail; let sectional strife be done away with, and then there is a higher and a grander future for us. But if the embers of the last and most lamented war are left and a little additional fuel comes to flame them up again; if the conflict of classes, the conflict of labor and capital, the conflict of race (that profound ethnological question which we have all got to settle, and the most difficult one ever committed to the consideration of statesmen or philanthropists) shall break out, and these dangerous elements be again aroused, I greatly fear that the recent troubles and disasters which we have just passed will prove to be but the shadow of a deeper and more dreadful eclipse which will come upon this continent, blighting and blasting the highest and best hopes of mankind. Should that be so, then some future bard may sing:

The star of hope shone brightest in the west,
The star of liberty, the last the best,
It, too, has set upon her darkened shore,
And hope of freedom light up earth no more.

[General applause.]

The Vice-President announced that the object for which the two houses had convened had been accomplished, and the Senate retired to its own chamber.

Among the notable persons who occupied chairs in the area in front of the Speaker's desk were Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, the donor; Mr. F. B. Carpenter, the artist, and his wife; Mrs. Lynde, of Wisconsin, and Mrs. S. S. Cox, of New York; Mrs. Sprague, the daughter of Chief-Justice Chase, and Messrs. Stoddard and Nicolay, formerly of President Lincoln's official household.

It is understood that the joint Committee on the Library will indicate the place for the picture to be hung permanently.

The House did not resume its regular session, but adjourned.

Massachusettes.

FIRE.

WORCESTER, MASS., February 12.—The cambric mill was burned to-day. Loss, $10,000.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

British War-Talk.

RUSSIA SNUBS ENGLAND AGAIN.

LONDON, February 12.—Lord Loftus, British ambassador at St. Petersburg, telegraphs to Lord Derby, Foreign Secretary, as follows:

St. Petersburg, February 9.—I have received from Prince Gortschakoff the following answer to your telegram of the 7th instant asking Russia to give some explanation about the advance of the Russians towards Constantinople. In answer to your Excellency's note respecting the occupation of certain strategical points in the neighborhood of Constantinople by the Russian troops in consequence of the armistice, it is my duty to inform you that we are not yet in possession of possible information as to the details of the armistice and as to its application. I should add that the military line of demarcation traced previously to the armistice has been agreed upon between the Russian and Turkish authorities, and is a question which exclusively concerns the belligerents."

BRITISH IRON-CLADS ORDERED TO THE MEDITERRANEAN.

LONDON, February 12.—The four iron-clads comprising the channel squadron were directed by telegraph to proceed immediately to Gibraltar for orders, on its becoming known that Vice-Admiral Hornby had been refused permission to enter the Dardanelles.

EFFECT ON THE LONDON MONEY MARKET.

LONDON, February 12—11 *A. M.*—At the opening of the Stock Exchange this morning the quotation of consols was 95¼. The news of the refusal by the Porte of a firman for the passage of the straits by the fleet has caused a great sensation, though the excitement is less than it was last week.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS—EXPRESSIONS REGARDING THE BRITISH FLEET PASSING THE DARDANELLES.

LONDON, February 12.—A Reuter's dispatch from Constantinople Monday says: Sabdoulab Bey, Turkish ambassador at Berlin, has been appointed the second delegate to conduct the peace negotiations, in place of Sadyk Pasha. Vefik Effendi informed the Cham