Richmond Dispatch.

THURSDAY......FEBRUARY 13, 1879.

The Settlement.

That modifications of the proposition of the bondholders to Virginia have been agreed upon by them we are satisfied, and that those modifications will be ultimately satisfactory to a majority of the General Assembly we are satisfied. The failure to settle would bring consequences that the bondholders must foresee: consequences which none can look upon with greater apprehension and regret than they. The settlement of the Virginia debt will have the best effect upon the whole South, and unquestionably lead to the arrangement and proper disposition of a great part of State indebtedness. That would bring order out of chaos, and put financial matters in a train of settlement that would rapidly lead to the restoration of confidence and the reëstablishment of public credit. It has come to the point at which the public debtor and the public creditor are brought face to face, satisfied of the necessity of a settlement in which the question between them in all its bearings shall be considered, and shall be settled upon the basis of justice and practicability combined. In no other way can a settlement be effected. The bondholders commence with Virginia, and their disposition towards her has been considerate and fair—so reasonable, indeed, that we can hardly suppose there can be a failure in ultimate agreement. The consequence of a failure will be such that, we repeat, we can hardly think it possible that there should be failure.

We allude above to the reasons why the bondholders should desire most earnestly the success of the settlement with Virginia. Yet she can no less earnestly pray for this settlement. It will bring to her peace in all the walks of life and relief from that political agitation which has driven off order and rest, and that calmness and freedom from apprehension which are indispensable to successful industry. Worse than all these, should the debt question remain unsettled there will continue such a condition of things as will only lead to an increase of the public liability, add to the public confusion, impair the order and embarrass the administration of the Government, and fill the future of the State with danger and terror.

Such a condition of things cannot be contemplated without the deepest anxiety by every Virginian. To avoid it should command the most powerful and devoted efforts of our people.

POSTSCRIPT.—The bondholders have agreed to extend the period of the *three* per cent. interest to *ten years*, as had been desired by many on behalf of the State. The joint Committee of Finance of the General Assembly had the proposition under consideration yesterday evening, and it was pretty well understood that they would report the proposition in the shape of the bill heretofore printed, with such modifications as are consequential, and that they would, thus reported, leave the subject to the Legislature without recommendation. If the course determined upon is different from this the reader will find it properly stated in another part of this morning's *Dispatch*.

The proposition of the creditors thus amended should meet the approval of the majority of the Legislature. It will bring joy to every home, and give rest and contentment to the people of Virginia. Such a blessing, after so many years of distress and anxiety, can be appreciated by none better than the devoted people who have known the distress—that unexampled affliction which bowed us all down, and added to personal embarrassments the mortification of public dishonor.

Is it possible that those who have it in their power to secure such a blessing to our people will let slip the opportunity?

The Brazilian Subsidy.

This subject is producing some excitement. The proposition as it stands is for the establishment of two lines to Brazil—one from New York *via* Norfolk, and the other from New Orleans *via* Galveston, Texas. We explained yesterday our opposition to the principle as being hostile or detrimental to private enterprise and favorable to the bolstering up of objectionable monopolies. Above this the system of governmental intervention through subsidies engenders corruption and fosters and extends corrupt practices that are demoralizing to the public service and public character.

This Brazilian subsidy scheme is one that is intended for the benefit of private enterprise. Baltimore is opposing it with great energy. It may be said that she so opposes it because she is left out of the schedule of the line. But that need not provoke her hostility if such exclusion did not impair her commerce and inflict upon her a serious injury. For that reason she most justly opposes the intervention of the Government with a subsidy that fosters private interests and local benefits to the injury of a city that should not suffer from partial legislation. The just objection of Baltimore is a strong proof that Congress has no moral right to dispense private advantages to the injury of large communities.

Mr. ROACH's subsidy schemes have been for a long time pressed upon Congress, and they are not free from suspicion of corruption. The subsidizing of the Pacific steam-lines has been dove-tailed with the Brazilian enterprise. This combination was very strong, and threatened the country with a deal of lobby method and sharp practice that would have made a most serious impression upon the Federal Treasury.

Monopolies of commerce sustained through Government appropriations cannot but be fearfully injurious to both commerce and enterprise. Such things cannot fail to be regarded with disfavor by all fair-minded and sagacious statesmen. The Government should separate itself from all such alliances as unjust to commerce and local enterprise, and highly corrupting in their influences upon the public representatives.

The Government has no right to take a hand in commerce, and by its money to change the course of trade from one city or one line to another. This city once, through her fleet clippers, did a flourishing business in transporting our Richmond flour to Rio, and bringing return cargoes of coffee and hides, &c., to our city. Those vessels were lost in the war, and we have never been able to reëstablish the line. Those sail-vessels transported flour in better order than it can be carried by steamers, and their successful journeys tended to diffuse commerce and spread employment to the public good. But establish ROACH's subsidized line, and there will never be another line to Brazil from this city. It will transfer the coffee trade from other cities to New York, and the prosperity that now comes to many marts by a division of trade will be destroyed by the consolidation that will be effected by an absorbing monopoly.

England and Africa.

England having sustained a mortifying defeat in South Africa from the brave Zulus must now prepare to retrieve her lost ground. She cannot afford to lose anywhere. It is the requirement of her situation that she shall not recede from her geographical position anywhere. She must keep well up to her advanced front line. A reverse cannot be permitted to remain unrepaired. It would be made the occasion for depreciation of the prowess of the great nation, and embolden resistance among colonial governments. That in the course of history England shall show a tendency to decline is a thing not to be doubted; but for the good of England, as well as the civilized world, that period should be put off as long as possible. She is the balance-wheel of civilization, and when she suffers from the waning of her power it will be impossible for the world to escape the disturbing influences that must follow. England's prowess and forecast exclude all ground of apprehension on her account in the near future. Sufficient for all practical purposes is the power of England to maintain her predominance in the lands o'er which her flag floats, for an indefinite period, speaking humanly. The Zulus have shown heroism, but they have to be taken down, as we shall see. A conquering nation must now and then meet with a sort of surprise in the development of a nation with more skill and valor in war than had been looked for. It becomes necessary in such case to increase the strength of the conqueror until the resistance is overcome.

The election of a successor to Senator CHRISTIANCY in Michigan is to take place in a few days. We may suppose that old ZACH. CHANDLER has the place, but there is occasionally some talk of a rebellion against his longer possession of poor Michigan. It would be a delightful telegram that would announce a triumph over the hardened old partisan. But such men as CHANDLER are mighty hard to shake off. We shall be more surprised at his defeat than his election; and few things could afford us as much delight as the defeat of that vindictive and unscrupulous old man.

AN IMPORTANT OPINION.—We publish this morning Judge HUGHES's opinion in a case in which he decided that a judgment of a United States court is a lien upon lands anywhere in Virginia, although not docketed in the county wherein the land lies, &c., &c. Read it for yourself.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA.

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 1879.

SENATE.

Senator QUESENBERRY, president *pro tempore*, in the chair. No prayer.

The Senate agreed to the amendments proposed by the House to Senate bills for the relief of Crenshaw and others, and in relation to the Augusta Memorial Association.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. JOHNSON: A bill to set aside a fund to provide for the certain support of the free schools.

By Mr. FULKERSON: A resolution requesting the president of the James River and Kanawha Company to furnish certain information in reference to the debts and obligations of the company.

By Mr. HURT of Pittsylvania: A bill in relation to past-due coupons.

By Mr. SPITLER: A bill to amend and reënact an act passed March 24, 1871, to amend the act to incorporate the town of Luray, in the county of Page.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

On motion of Mr. BETTS, Mr. NASH was granted indefinite leave of absence.

SPECIAL ORDER.

At half-past 11 o'clock the Senate resumed the consideration of the bills for the reörganization of the district and county governments, the question being on Mr. DANIEL's motion to amend so as to include the assessment of a tax on railroad and canal companies.

Mr. DANIEL resumed and concluded his argument.

Mr. GAYLE replied on the other side.

Finally, Mr. DANIEL, with the consent of the Senate, withdrew his proposed amendment, and said he would bring in a bill to provide for the taxation of railroads and canals.

The previous question was ordered, and the bill engrossed and passed.

THE RAILROAD-CANAL BILL.

Mr. LEE, at 12:45 P. M., called for the special order—the canal-railroad bill.

Mr. GAYLE moved as a substitute to take up the kindred measure to the one just passed—viz., the bill in reference to county organization.

The ayes and noes were demanded on the question, and the Senate agreed to take up Mr. GAYLE's bill—ayes, 21; noes, 12.

COUNTY OFFICERS.

The bill was then taken up, being Senate bill No. 161, to amend and reënact an act entitled an act prescribing the duties, powers, liabilities, and compensation of certain county officers, providing for the collection of taxes, and for the repeal of chapters 37 and 46 of the Code of 1873, approved March 29, 1875.

The bill was discussed until adjournment.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The House was called to order at 11 o'clock by Mr. HANGER at the request of the SPEAKER, who is absent from the city.

Prayer by Rev. Henry McDonald, of the Baptist Church.

Messrs. HENSON and HUNTER stated that had they been present when the vote was taken on the passage of House bill No. 76 (canal-railroad) they would have voted for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. SHELBURNE made a personal explanation that in giving the statistics of attendance at the Blacksburg College, while the bill concerning that institution was under consideration, he did not intend to mislead the House, but took it for granted the members were aware that the last number given (124) was for the *first* half session for 1878-'9.

PRESENTED AND REFERRED.

By Mr. LADY: Bill to amend Code so as to require building associations to pay a license tax.

By Mr. FULKERSON: Bill to allow Hiram C. Wierman, of Lee county, to sell ardent spirits without paying State tax.

By Mr. FINNEY: Bill allowing J. W. Bagwell, of Accomac, to build a bridge across Onancock creek.

By Mr. FOWLER: Petition of the faculty and students of Emory and Henry College with reference to the local-option law at Glade Spring.

By Mr. CHASE: Bill to amend act incorporating the town of Grundy.

Mr. WALKER of Westmoreland, under a suspension of the rules, presented House bill 262, to incorporate the trustees of Clinton Lodge, I. O. G. Templars, which was read and placed on the calendar.

Mr. WILKINSON, under a suspension of the rules, presented House bill 263, to change the time for holding circuit courts in the Fourth judicial circuit, which was placed on the calendar.

REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES.

Finance: Senate bill 63, for the relief of Emma A. Hodges, of Portsmouth; House bill 260, for the relief of James Mason, of Grayson county, with recommendation it do not pass.

Chesapeake, &c.: House bill 261, to protect oysters in the Bay of Matchapungo, &c.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

At 1 o'clock (Mr. GRAVES in the chair) the proposed constitutional amendments (heretofore published in this paper) came up as the first special order.

Mr. HARRISON of Sussex spoke at length in favor of the amendments.

Mr. HARVIE followed. He was in favor of a convention, but not opposed to the changes contemplated.

Adjourned.

An Important Opinion of Judge Hughes.

United States Circuit Court, Fourth Circuit, Eastern District of Virginia, at Richmond, 11th February, 1879.—United States *vs.* Joseph M. Humphreys *et al.*—In Equity.—L. L. Lewis, United States Attorney, and Henry T. Wickham for the United States, and F. W. Christian for the defendants.

Hughes, Judge.—The very able and informing briefs of counsel leave me nothing to do but state the points of the case, and deduce a decision from the authorities which govern it.

The United States obtained a judgment in October, 1877, against Joseph M. Humphreys, late collector of customs at Richmond, and his sureties on his official bond. In January, 1878, Humphreys executed a deed of trust to secure money borrowed, through Thomas N. Page, on lands of his lying in the county of Henrico, near the city of Richmond.

The United States brings its bill in equity in this court against J. M. Humphreys and other proper parties defendant to subject this land to the lien of its judgment. And the single question in the case before the Court is, whether the judgment is of higher dignity than the trust-deed, and can be enforced as against the lien of the debt secured by that deed.

The contention of the trust creditor is that the United States lost its lien and the benefit of its priority in time over the deed by failing to docket its judgment in pursuance of the requirement of the 8th section of chapter 182 of the Code of Virginia, which provides that "no judgment shall be a lien on real estate as against a purchaser thereof for valuable consideration without notice, unless it is docketed" in the county or corporation where the land lies, on the judgment docket required to be kept by the clerk of each county or corporation court of the State either within sixty days next after the date of such judgment or fifteen days before the conveyance of said estate to the purchaser.

I shall first consider the question as if the judgment creditor was a private creditor.

The 6th section of the same chapter of the Code of Virginia provides that "every judgment for money rendered in this State heretofore or hereafter against any person shall be a lien on all real estate of such person." This provision was first embodied in the Code of 1849. Previously to that time, and, indeed, subsequently until March 26, 1872, the writ of *elegit* was in use in Virginia; but on that date that writ was finally abolished by special act of the Legislature.

Such being the law of Virginia as to the lien of judgments in the State courts, the next inquiry is, How does the law thus existing apply to judgments of courts of the United States rendered in the State of Virginia?

It is well-settled law that judgments rendered in the courts of the United States are liens upon the defendant's real estate in all cases where similar judgments of the State courts are made liens by the law of the State. *Wood et al. vs. Chamberlain et al.*, 2 Black, 430; more particularly page 438, *et seq.* Many other decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States might be cited to the same effect. These judgments are liens, not by virtue of the adoption of State laws by the United States courts, by rules of court or otherwise, but by virtue of acts of Congress giving the same effect to final process of United States courts as is given by State laws to process of the courts of the States in which they are held; giving the same remedies on judgments and decrees of Federal courts as are given by State laws on judgments and decrees of State courts; and giving authority to the United States courts to make proper rules for securing these objects.

We are therefore to look to acts of Congress on this subject to ascertain how far judgments of United States courts in Virginia are liens upon lands. If there had been no such act of Assembly as that of March 26, 1872, abolishing the writ of *elegit* in Virginia, it might probably be contended that in Virginia the process act of Congress of 1828 is not repealed by the act of Congress of June 1, 1872, now section 916 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, and that the writ of *elegit* lies from the United States courts in this State. But the Virginia law of March, 1872, does abolish the *elegit*, and section 916 in the Revised Statutes, giving the same effect to, and remedies on, judgments of the United States courts as were *then* ("now") given by State law to judgments of State courts, repeals by substitution in Virginia the process act of 1828 as to the *elegit*, whatever it may do in other States, under the particular legislation of those States bearing upon this subject. Decisions of United States courts in other States, seemingly in conflict with this view, were rendered upon the condition of State legislation in those States, and do not necessarily apply to the condition of legislation in Virginia.

The judgment in this case against Humphreys became a lien upon his lands just as it would have become if it had been a judgment of a State court; and the remaining question is, whether by the execution of the deed of trust which Humphreys gave in January, 1878, the judgment "*ceased*" to be a lien under the operation of the 967th section of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which provides that judgments of United States courts within a State "shall cease to be liens on real estate, &c., in the same manner and at such periods as judgments of the courts of the States cease by law to be liens thereon."

I do not doubt that so far as this law shall operate *proprio vigore* in any case—for instance, as a statute of limitations—the lien of a judgment of a United States court would cease just as that of a State court would do under a State statute of limitation; but I am precluded by a current of decisions rendered by courts of the United States from holding that the lien of a judgment of a United States court ceases in the event it is not docketed in accordance with a State law as against a subsequent purchaser without notice. I am precluded from holding that the lien of the judgment in this case ceased in January, 1878, as against the trustee's title under the deed of trust executed in that month by Humphreys.

The decisions of the United States courts have been in nothing more uniform, unvarying, and consistent than in holding that where rights once attach under laws of Congress adopting laws of the respective States, these rights are not divested by a non-compliance with conditions, restrictions, or limitations contained in those very State laws, where a compliance with the latter would depend upon a resort in any way to State officials, or to the machinery of the State judiciary.

The provision of the Code of Virginia making a judgment for money a lien upon the real estate of the debtor makes, in the 8th section of chapter 182, an exception in favor of a subsequent purchaser without notice, where the judgment has not been docketed. The process of docketing depends upon the action of an officer of a State court in keeping a docket, and upon that officer's actually docketing the judgment of the United States court when presented.

There is no law of Virginia requiring this officer to docket the judgment of a United States court. He acts strictly in a ministerial capacity, and is not required by any express law to enter such a judgment when presented for such a purpose. Congress, on its part, has not (as I think it should do) by law required clerks of United States courts to keep such dockets in each district as the law of Virginia requires to be kept in each county. So as to other restrictions, exceptions, limitations, and conditions which State laws conferring rights insert in the laws conferring them, I think it may be laid down as a rule having few exceptions that in any case of a law of a State conferring rights upon conditions, or with exceptions, and adopted by Congress as operative in that State, wherever the exceptions or conditions depend upon the action of State officers, so that the enjoyment of rights thus once conferred could be defeated or divested by the action, or refusal to act, of a State officer, such a condition, or exception, in the State law is uniformly held by the United States courts not to limit the rights conferred by the act of Congress adopting the State law. This was decided in *Palmer vs. Allen*, T. Crunct, 550-64; *Wagram vs. Southard*, 10 Wheaton, 1; *United States Bank vs. Halstead*, 10 Wheat, 51; *Boyle vs. Zacharie et al.*, 6 Peters, 648; and (more particularly in their bearing upon the question now under consideration) *Massengill vs. Downs*, 7 Howard, 760; and *Carroll vs. Watkins*, 2 Abbott's U. S. Reports, 474. In these last cases the law of Mississippi, giving the lien in favor of judgments for money, was modified by provisions requiring judgments to be docketed, and making exceptions in favor of subsequent purchasers without notice as against judgments not docketed—provisions identical in purport with those of Virginia. But the Supreme Court of the United States held in the former case that in States where judgments create liens a judgment of a United States court has that operation throughout the judicial district in which it is rendered, and any provisions of State legislation modifying the lien of judgments and restricting their operation cannot affect the lien of a judgment of a United States court.

I think the decision of the Supreme Court in Massengill *vs.* Downs is decisive of the question under consideration, and requires me to decide that the judgment of this court rendered in October, 1877, is good against the trust-deed executed in January following, and that the lien created by section 916 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, adopting section 6 of chapter 182 of the Virginia Code, is not controlled or affected by section 8 of that chapter of the Virginia Code. This Court has decided that a *lis pendens* in a United States court binds property in litigation, though not recorded and docketed, as required by State law if in a State court. *Ruchenglin vs. Wolf*, 1 Hughes, 78.

I do not think it necessary to go farther and inquire whether a judgment in favor of the United States has the same force as a judgment in favor of the State of Virginia in this State and as a judgment in favor of the Crown in England. I am inclined to believe on authority, and would so decide if necessary in this case, that judgments in favor of the United States stand on the same principle as those in favor of the Commonwealth and of the Crown; that they are a lien independently of laws making judgments generally a lien upon the estates of debtors, and do not depend upon those laws. Although the ancient writ in favor of the Crown of *extendi facias* is obsolete by mere disuse, having given place to more efficient remedies, yet I imagine that it still lies theoretically; and its theoretical existence is sufficient to establish the liens in this country of judgments in favor of the State and Federal Governments.

Their precedence over all liens in favor of private persons stands upon such broad maxims as *salus populi suprema lex*; *Thesaurus regis est pacis vinculum, et bellorum nervi*, and the like. Certain prerogatives of the Crown belong in the United States not only to the State governments, but to that of the United States. Those which belonged to the King in England as *parens patriæ*, as distinguished from those which belonged to his person, survive to the Government of the United States in this country. *Dollar Savings Bank vs. The United States*, 19 Wall., 239.

This doctrine is well settled in respect to the State governments; more particularly by *Commonwealth vs. McGovern*, 4 Bibb, 62; *Leake vs. Ferguson*, 2 Gratham, 436; and *Commonwealth vs. Baldwin*, 1 Watts, 54. Authorities might be multiplied if it were necessary.

It might not be necessary, in respect to recent judgments in favor of the United States, to resort to a bill in chancery for the enforcement of them upon real estate. But where they have been standing for any length of time, and junior liens have supervened, I think the proper method of proceeding is the same as would be proper in respect to judgments in favor of citizens—that is to say, by bill—and that such a course has been properly taken in this case.

[For the Dispatch.]

To Marshall Hanger, Esq.

As you have given so many proofs of your friendship for all measures of substantial retrenchment and reform I call your attention to the following, which I submit might with propriety be added to the amendments already proposed to the Constitution:

1st. Reduce the number of assessors to the ante-bellum status of 1860, when the duties of the office in Augusta county were efficiently performed by two assessors, and during a period not exceeding three months in the year. Now we have six (excluding Staunton). An old commissioner of the revenue informs me that the reduction indicated would save to the State Treasury from $40,000 to $50,000 a year.

2d. Reduce the number of precincts to two to each township (an ample number), or at least abolish those created in 1870. Voting is an expensive luxury.

As your head is always level, I knew you would support the Richmond and Alleghany railroad. General Echols's opposition to it excites much surprise and comment.

AUGUSTA.

Respectfully Declines.

To the Editors of the Dispatch:

Gentlemen,—I received a few days since a postal-card as follows: "Sir, you are appointed a delegate to the readjusters convention in Richmond, February 25, 1879, to represent your precinct, and urged to attend. (Return free; hotels half price.)

"O. W. PURVIS, Chairman.

"*E. G. Taylor*, Secretary.

"*Charlottesville*, February 3, 1879."

I respectfully beg leave to decline all connection with such an object or such a party—a party whose object can only be to break up the Conservative party, that political aspirants may get office at the expense of ruining the best interest of the State, financial and all others.

I suppose they thought I would take it as a compliment, and *therefore* accept. But they are mistaken. Respectfully,

J. R. BRAGG.

DANVILLE, VA., February 12, 1879.

Hon. C. Y. Thomas, former member of Congress from this (Fifth) district, died yesterday morning at 1 o'clock at his home, at Henry Courthouse, of consumption. He will be buried to-day at Leatherwood, Henry county.

[This comes from an unknown source.]

THE ALLEGHANY RAILROAD.—Notwithstanding the opposition it has met with from different sections of the State, it seems probable the rails will be laid on the tow-path along the James. It seems that the plan to compel the company to build a branch west from Craig's creek has been abandoned, doubtless because it would have proved fatal to the bill; and Mr. Johnston, of Giles, probably the ablest of the Southwestern members, has spoken in favor of the road. We know of no contemplated improvements that would result in more good to the Southwest than this.—*Clinch-Valley News.*

SETTLE! SETTLE!—The Legislature and the bondholders' representatives have met. Should the State debt now remain unsettled the fault will lie with the Legislature and not the creditors.

The proposition of the Council of Foreign Bondholders and the Funding Association of the United States is a practical and liberal one. It affords immediate and permanent relief. If accepted, it sets the debt question at rest finally.—*Manassas Gazette.*

We think this is a liberal proposition, and really better than refunding at four per cent. per annum. It is true the bondholders' proposition is in the long run a little higher rate, but the difference is comparatively very small. The interest on $30,000,000 at four per cent. for forty years would be $48,000,000, and the interest at the division of rates above proposed would be $49,500,000. The advantage allowed the State in the reduced rate for the first five years will more than compensate for the increased rate for the last ten of the forty years.—*Waynesboro' Tribune.*

If the present Legislature don't settle the State debt the debt will most effectually settle the State and the people.—*Petersburg Post.*

PETERSBURG.

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK—THE PENALTY OF RESISTING AN OFFICER—QUARTERLY MEETING—THE NEW MARKET-HOUSE.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

FEBRUARY 12, 1879.

The authorities of the Commercial National Bank give notice to all note-holders and other creditors of the bank to present the notes and claims for payment. The bank is now closing up its affairs as rapidly as possible. Its condition is sound and no losses will result to any one in the closing of its business. The matter of putting it in liquidation has long been talked of among the stockholders, and as stated recently in this correspondence, at their annual meeting held in January a resolution to that effect was adopted. This is the last of the national banks in Petersburg—the First National and the Merchants National having succumbed to the crisis of 1873. We have, however, four local banks in successful operation.

In the Mayor's Court this morning George Randall (negro) was fined $10 and sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment in the jail for resisting an officer of police while in the discharge of his duty. The officer was compelled to use his club several times to subdue the prisoner, and in doing so inflicted some wounds on his head. The accused took an appeal to the Hustings Court.

Rev. E. P. Wilson, presiding elder of the district, will hold his first quarterly meeting on the Prince George circuit at Mt. Sinai church, in that county, next Saturday and Sunday.

The sixteen butcher-stalls in the new octagon building on the Old-Market square are to be very handsome, and the counters are to be covered with fine marble slabs. The first stall was erected to-day. The building will probably be ready for occupancy by the middle of March.

ROBIN ADAIR.

BOTETOURT COUNTY.

COUNTY-COURT DAY—DEATH OF AN OLD MEMBER OF THE BAR AND FORMER STATE SENATOR—MEETING OF READJUSTERS; THEIR SIGNAL DEFEAT.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

FINCASTLE, VA., February 11, 1879.

Yesterday was the beginning of the regular term of our County Court, and an unusually large crowd of our countymen were in town. We always have a large crowd, but yesterday was a special day. The vexed question of the Valley railroad was to be discussed, and the said road annihilated, if possible—as it should be. The still more vexed question of the State debt was to be again brought before the people by the readjusters, so called; both of which questions have caused much intense feeling in our county. Very little business was transacted in the court owing to the announcement of the death of William M. Lackland, Esq., a member of the Botetourt bar. The court at an early hour adjourned out of respect to the dead. Mr. Lackland was an able lawyer, and had held many important offices within the gift of the people. For many years he was the clerk of our courts, which office he filled with great credit. He was elected to the Senate from this district in 1872, succeeding our former worthy and able representative, Colonel Edmond Pendleton, than whom Virginia has no more talented son. His remains were interred in this place yesterday.

The readjusters, or rather repudiators, under the directions and by special letters from "Jeems"—the honorable representative from Rockbridge—who had conjured them in the name of Mahone, Barbour & Co. to meet and send delegates to the convention to be held in your city on the 25th of this month, if there were but ten of them in the county, pursuant to notice met in the court-house and made a bold attempt to effect their purpose. *O tempora, O mores!* This in Botetourt! But what a bust! I am most happy to say the Black-and-Tan Convention will not have a representative from Botetourt. We are all too true readjusters up here for anything of that kind, as the large meeting proved. An attempt was made to pass resolutions (cut and dried) supporting the "Barbour bill," denouncing our able Governor, and authorizing Mahone *et al.* to represent our county in the convention of the 25th instant; but it was no go—no, not by a darned sight. After able speeches, *pro* and *con*, the following preamble and resolution, offered by Captain J. H. H. Figgat, as a substitute for the one above spoken of, was adopted by a large majority:

Whereas the State Convention of the Conservative party of Virginia, in their platform, declared itself opposed to the increase of taxation on property in the State; and we, the people of Botetourt, being called upon this day to express our opinion on the subject of the readjustment of the public debt; therefore

Resolved, That the proposition submitted by the representatives of the bondholders to the Legislature of Virginia meets the approbation of the people of Botetourt, and that our delegate and senator are earnestly requested to use all honorable means to secure the acceptance of these or similar terms.

The almost unanimous manner in which this resolution was carried shows full well how our people stand; and I am fully convinced if the question was submitted to the vote of the people this sentiment would not be changed. May all of Virginia do likewise.

I would like to tell you how grateful the people of our county are to the *Dispatch* for the stand it took upon the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad bill, but I have already gone too far. May it soon be put in operation is our earnest prayer, and may Richmond derive therefrom all that she richly deserves.

ZIG.

Any settlement of her debt accepted by all her creditors and faithfully carried out by herself will bring to Virginia within a very short period, in the shape of foreign investments and credit to her business-men, a sum exceeding the whole amount of her debt. We cannot believe that the short-sighted ambition of a few politicians will succeed in defeating such a result.—*Winchester News.*

If there should be no settlement of the State debt, when the people find that they must meet six per cent., although the creditors offered to compromise at four per cent., it will be poor consolation to the tax-payers to tell them that the offer of four per cent. was lost by an effort to force the creditors to take three per cent.—*Bedford Star.*

The Danville *Register* is in favor of accepting the terms offered by the bondholders. It says: "There are certain features of the plan which strike us as being somewhat objectionable, but as a whole the proposition is a liberal one."

At an expense of $60 to the people, besides his own lawyer's fees, a farmer of Jones county, Ia., has recovered one cent from a man he sued for fourteen fence-rails worth ten cents each.

DEATHS.

Died, on Wednesday, at 2:40 A. M., MARY E. ALVEY, wife of the late Richard T. Alvey, in the sixty-first year of her age.

Her funeral will take place from her late residence, No. 204 east Grace street, TO-DAY (Thursday) at 3½ o'clock P. M. Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

Died, of rheumatic fever, at half-past 2 o'clock P. M. February 12th, at his residence, on Union Hill, Richmond, JOHN G. FLEMING, in the forty-third year of his age.

His friends are invited to attend his funeral on FRIDAY MORNING (14th instant) at half-past 10 o'clock, from his late residence, No. 610 Twenty-second street.

☞ GOSPEL MEETINGS AT THE FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH (Seventh street between Grace and Broad) EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK from 8 to 9 o'clock. The pastor will be assisted by the different ministers of the city. All welcome. Seats free.

MILITARY NOTICES.

GRAYS, ATTENTION!—Assemble at Regimental Armory on FRIDAY NIGHT NEXT at 8 o'clock, rain or shine, in undress uniform, for company drill. No excuse for being absent but sickness or out of the city.
By order of Captain L. J. BOSSIEUX.
fe 13-2t J. E. TYLER, Orderly.

PERSONAL.

NOTICE.—R. C. SUTTON desires to inform his friends and the public generally that he can now be found at E. B. TAYLOR'S CHINA-, GLASS-, AND QUEENSWARE-HOUSE, No. 1011 east Main street, opposite the post-office, where he will be pleased to serve them. R. C. SUTTON, formerly with Kellogg & Gibson and James W. Gibson, and late with George Gibson, Jr. fe 13-6t

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ SILKS! SILKS! SILKS!

We have selected out of our stock about seventy pieces of STRIPED and PLAID SILKS, in pieces of from four to thirty yards, and have marked the prices down very low so as to make speedy sales. The lengths and prices are marked on each piece. We advise all in want to call early, as our low prices will make this lot go off fast.

We also offer a large assortment of BLACK and COLORED SILKS at extremely low prices, and respectfully ask those who are in the habit of sending North for their Silks to give us a call before making their purchases. We do not ask them to buy of us unless they can do as well, or a little better, than by purchasing out of the city.
fe 11 LEVY BROTHERS.

☞ SILK SHIRTS, SILK SHIRTS.—Gentlemen's SILK SHIRTS at $1.50 worth $2.50; LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS at $1.50, $2, $3, and up to $6 per dozen; MERINO, COTTON, and LAMBS'-WOOL SHIRTS and DRAWERS; SCARFS, TIES, and BOWS in great variety; SOCKS, GLOVES, SUSPENDERS, COLLARS and CUFFS, &c. LEVY BROTHERS.
BLANKETS very cheap. fe 11

☞ BROCHE SHAWLS TO BE CLOSED OUT AT A SACRIFICE.—Elegant DOUBLE BROCHE SHAWLS at $30 worth $50; at $50 worth $75. Only a few left. So call early if you wish to secure a great bargain.
LEVY BROTHERS.
CARPETS lower than ever. fe 11

☞ CLOAKS, CLOAKS, CLOAKS.—The extremely low prices at which we have been selling CLOAKS has been the means of reducing stock to about twenty. We offer great inducements so as to close out our entire stock.
LEVY BROTHERS.
Great bargains in CHILDREN'S CLOAKS. fe 11

☞ SHIRTS! SHIRTS! SHIRTS!—We continue to manufacture our celebrated DRESS SHIRTS. We offer for 90c. a Shirt made of Wamsutta Cotton and pure Irish Linen bosoms and cuffs. These shirts are completely finished, and have only to be laundried before wearing. As we are the manufacturers of these shirts, and having them made in this city, we guarantee them superior to any in this market. We also offer a good shirt at 50 and 75c.; must be seen to be fully appreciated. We also make to order shirts for boys and men. NIGHT-SHIRTS always on hand. LEVY BROTHERS.
CARPETS cheaper than ever. fe 11

☞ RICHARDSON'S LINENS, in all Nos., of our own importation, which enables us to sell them at 25 per cent. below regular prices;
TUCKED CAMBRIC SKIRTING 1¼ yards wide, 16 tucks and a wide hem, at 35c. per yard worth 75c.;
LLAMA LACE POINTS, in all qualities, at about one half of regular prices;
LINEN CRUMB-CLOTHS at $3 worth $4, at $4 worth $6;
WHITE and COLORED SHETLAND SHAWLS in all qualities;
A full assortment of BLACK MERINO and CASHMERE SHAWLS at low prices at
LEVY BROTHERS'.
BLANKETS very cheap. fe 11

☞ ALL-WOOL GREEN REPS at $1.50 worth $2.50 per yard;
FIGURED REPS for Lambrequins and Furniture Coverings at $3 per yard worth $5;
TABLE- and PIANO COVERS in great variety;
LINEN TABLE-CLOTHS in all sizes. We offer Extra Large Double Satin Damask Table-Cloths at twenty-five per cent. below New York prices;
A large assortment of TOWELS, DOILIES, NAPKINS, TRAY-CLOTHS, and TOWELLINGS—all sold cheap;
A large stock of fine quality FRENCH WOVE CORSETS at $1—some of this lot have been sold at $2.50 a pair;
NOTTINGHAM LACE-CURTAINS at $1.25, $2, $3, $4, $5, $6, and $7.50 a pair—all worth thirty per cent. more;
NOTTINGHAM CURTAIN-LACE at 12½, 15, 16⅔, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, and up to 85c. per yard;
CURTAIN MUSLINS at 16⅔, 20, 25, and 30c. per yard;
WINDOW-SHADES and FIXTURES at lower prices than ever at LEVY BROTHERS'.
Look at our CHEAP CARPETS. fe 11

☞ INITIAL HANDKERCHIEFS, made in the convents of Paris. We have a full assortment for ladies and gentlemen at the low price of 50c., which is 25c. below the value.
ELEGANT EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS at $1.25 and $1.50 worth $2.50—just the thing for infants;
EMBROIDERED CHEMISE YOKES of very superior quality;
LACE BARBS in great variety at reduced prices;
REAL GUIPURE LACE CAPES and COLLARS at a reduction of 30 per cent.;
DIMITY COLLARS for children; COVENTRY TRIMMINGS in all styles; LACES and EMBROIDERIES in all styles, at LEVY BROTHERS'.
Bargains in BLANKETS. fe 11

☞ HAMBURG EDGINGS AND INSERTINGS.—We offer to-day 78 new patterns in HAMBURG EDGINGS and INSERTINGS at the lowest prices. [fe 11] LEVY BROTHERS.

UMBRELLAS! UMBRELLAS! UMBRELLAS!—Two hundred UMBRELLAS, direct from the manufacturers, which we will sell lower than ever before. LEVY BROTHERS.
Look at our bargains in CARPETS. fe 11

☞ NEW YORK MILLS, WAMSUTTA, FRUIT-OF-THE-LOOM, DAVOL, ANDROSCOGGIN, BARKER, UTICA, LACONIA, and other SHEETINGS, SHIRTINGS, and PILLOW-CASINGS at the lowest prices; BED-TICK at 8⅓, 10, 12½, 15, 16⅔, and 20c. per yard; GINGHAMS at 8⅓, 10, and 12½c. per yard; CHEVIOT SHIRTINGS at 10, 12½, 15, and 16⅔c. per yard; WHITE and COLORED FLANNELS at all prices, at LEVY BROTHERS'.
CARPETS very cheap. fe 11

☞ BOMBAZINES, CASHMERES, MERINOS, ALPACAS, MOHAIRS, AUSTRALIAN CREPE, TAMISE, HENRIETTA CLOTHS, BLACK CREPE in all widths and qualities; CREPE VEILS in all sizes, very cheap; CREPE COLLARS and CUFFS, LOVE VEILS, MOURNING HANDKERCHIEFS, BLACK GLOVES of every description at
fe 11 LEVY BROTHERS'.

DRY GOODS.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Having fully determined to make a change in my business, we will from this day offer our entire stock of DRY GOODS regardless of cost. We are now offering DRESS GOODS at 16⅔c., reduced from 25c., and 12½c. worth 20c.

COUNTERPANES, TABLE-LINENS, TOWELLING, CASSIMERES, BALMORALS, SHAWLS, and many other goods too numerous to mention reduced greatly below cost.

We call the special attention of the ladies to our STAMPING, BRAIDING, and EMBROIDERY DEPARTMENT, which is promptly and neatly executed at very low rates.

UNDERWEAR always on hand and made to order. INFANTS' CLOTHING a specialty. Full line of Zephyrs, Germantown Yarns, and Shetland Wool; Embroidery Silks in all shades. Also, a full line of Corsets, among which we have the celebrated Mrs. Moody's Abdominal Corsets, in all sizes up to 33. Crocheting done in all of its branches.

All we ask is to give us a call at
LEVI HEXTER'S, 627 Broad street.
Mrs. LEVI HEXTER and Miss SEMON, formerly of this city, will be pleased to wait on the ladies.
fe 8

ANOTHER GREAT SLAUGHTER IN DRY GOODS.—As we are about to enlarge our store we will, for the next thirty days, sell goods AT A GREAT SACRIFICE. As we are compelled to reduce our immense stock to make room for improvement we will offer great bargains to purchasers of Dry Goods. Call and see what great bargains may be secured at the BALTIMORE AUCTION HOUSE, 323 Broad street. White banner—blue letters.
fe 5-1m

SAVE MONEY!

As the season is advanced and the wants of trade are few, we are determined to keep up our sales, and to do so have marked down our

ENTIRE STOCK TWENTY PER CENT.,

bringing all goods very low, and many at less than PRIME COST.

Don't fail to call this month on
BROWNE & ROWE,
and thereby save yourself $2 out of $10 spent with them. Remember all of their fresh and desirable goods, including
DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, NOVELTIES, ETC.,
are to be sold without exception at
PRICES THAT WILL TELL.
Give them a call at their popular store, 507 Broad street. ja 16-eod

PROPOSALS.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at the office of the clerk of Henrico County Court until 12 M. on MONDAY, 17th instant, for the REPAIRING OF THE BRIDGE OVER ALMAN'S CREEK, on the Osborne turnpike, near this city, and for the necessary DITCHING to straighten the creek above and below the bridge.

Specifications of the work to be done may be seen at the clerk's office. Bids may be made for one or both jobs. The commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all of the bids.
GEORGE D. PLEASANTS,
GEORGE K. GILMER,
fe 12-td Commissioners.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT CITY GAS-WORKS,
RICHMOND, VA., February 10, 1879.
SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED at this office until 12 o'clock M. THURSDAY, February 20, 1879, for the BEST QUALITY OF GAS-COAL, free from slate and other impurities, to be furnished the Works for the fiscal year ending February 1, 1880, to be delivered at the Lower Works as the necessity of the Superintendent may require. The minimum yield of the coal must be 4.50 cubic feet per pound, with an illuminating power of not less than 16 standard candles. Any deficit will be deducted monthly from the price paid the contractor, who will be required to give bond and security for a faithful compliance with the contract, and if inferior coal be repeatedly sent to the Works after due notice from the Superintendent, it shall be deemed sufficient cause to abrogate the contract.

The Committee on Light reserve the right to reject any or all bids. JOHN H. KNOWLES,
fe 10-10t Superintendent.

VALENTINES.

VALENTINES, VALENTINES.
ELLYSON & YANCEY,
1112 Main street,
have just received a fine assortment of both COMIC and SENTIMENTAL VALENTINES at prices from 1c. to $5.
Our Valentines are all fresh, bright, new stock, including many novelties, and are sold both wholesale and retail. ELLYSON & YANCEY,
ja 29 1112 Main street.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ THE LARGE FIRE RECENTLY
IN NEW YORK, ON WORTH STREET.
SYCLE BROTHERS
have become purchasers of several thousand dollars' worth of goods slightly damaged by water only.
All these goods will be sold at a great sacrifice.
2 cases PIQUES at 5c. per yard;
3 bales LINEN CRASH at 5c. per yard;
4 bales YARD-WIDE UNBLEACHED COTTON, 4½c.;
3 bales YARD-WIDE UNBLEACHED COTTON, 5c.;
5 cases PRINTS at 4½c.;
50 pieces BED-TICK at 8, 10, 12½ and 16⅔c.
This BED-TICK is worth double the money we ask for it.
Good NECK-RUSCHING at 6¼c.—not half much;
500 pair CHILDREN'S HOSE at 5c.;
Lot FRENCH-WOVEN CORSETS at 25c.;
REMNANTS OF BLEACHED COTTON at 8⅓c.—equal to Wamsutta;
100 dozen RUSSIAN TOWELS at $1 per dozen;
BLACK ALPACA, 16⅔, 20, and 25c.;
CHECKED MUSLINS at 12½c. worth 25c.;
CAMBRIC EDGES at half price;
REMNANTS OF IRISH LINEN at 50c.—real value $1;
1,000 GENTLEMEN'S LAUNDRIED and UNLAUNDRIED SHIRTS at 50, 75, and 90c.;
100 dozen GENTLEMEN'S HANDKERCHIEFS at $3 worth $6 per dozen;
50 dozen HANDKERCHIEFS at $1.50 per dozen worth $2.50 per dozen;
1,000 dozen pairs HOSE at 12½c. per pair worth 25c.;
BLACK and COLORED SILK and CASHMERE in great variety and at low prices;
300 pieces more of those 10c. TRIMMINGS.
For real genuine bargains you must call at
SYCLE BROTHERS',
fe 4-eod 311 Broad street.

☞ HARD TIMES MADE EASY.

THIRTY DAYS TO SECURE SOME GREAT BARGAINS IN DRY GOODS.

THALHIMER BROTHERS,
601 BROAD STREET,
will offer their entire stock at extraordinarily low prices in order to reduce their immense stock, preparatory to taking inventory. Those in want of DRY GOODS will find it to their advantage in giving us a call.

225 pieces DRESS GOODS of every description and style, from 8c. to 75c.;
DRESS GOODS at 16c. worth 25c.; at 20c. worth 35c.;
ALL-WOOL CASHMERES at 65c. worth $1;
COLORED SILKS and SATINS very cheap to close them out.

84 pieces BLACK CASHMERE at 16c. to $1.25. As this immense lot must be sold in thirty days, customers will secure great bargains in them.

BLACK ALPACAS, CREPE CLOTHS, VEIL CRAPES, and VEILS at very low prices. Give us a trial.

75 HANDSOME and CHEAP CLOAKS, which must be sold. We have reduced our $22 CLOAKS to $17; $16 CLOAKS to $12; $10 CLOAKS to $7. We guarantee these CLOAKS to be the cheapest in the city. We have determined not to carry them over, and ask a call from those in need of a cheap cloak.

BLANKETS, QUILTS, COMFORTS, SKIRTS, SHAWLS, UNDERSHIRTS, and other goods very low;
110 pair WHITE and COLORED BLANKETS at $1 to $8 a pair;
85 COMFORTS and QUILTS at $1 to $4;
15 dozen BOULEVARD SKIRTS from 40c. to $3 apiece;
140 WOOLLEN SHAWLS at $1 to $5;
22 dozen LADIES' and MEN'S UNDERSHIRTS at 37c. to $1.50 apiece.

210 pieces CASSIMERES and WOOLLEN GOODS from 20c. to $1.50 a yard;
120 pieces WHITE and COLORED FLANNELS from 10 to 50c. a yard.

1,200 CORSETS, of every style and quality, from 50c. to $2.50. As this is one of the largest stocks of CORSETS in the city we cannot fail to suit one and all.

A large line just received of LADIES' and MISSES' HOSE, SILK and LACE SCARFS, SILK and LACE HANDKERCHIEFS, BOWS, RIBBONS, GLOVES, LACES, &c., at very low prices.

500 pieces HAMBURG EDGINGS, INSERTINGS, and TORCHON LACES just received, at very low prices, at THALHIMER BROTHERS',
ja 25-S,M&Th 601 Broad street.

☞ COD-LIVER OIL.
MEADE & BAKER'S
MEDICINALLY PURE.
IMPORTED DIRECT

We have the testimony of physicians who prescribe it, and of patients who have taken it, that IT IS MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE STOMACH AND MORE EASILY ASSIMILATED THAN ANY OTHER OIL. MEADE & BAKER,
Importing and Dispensing Pharmacists,
no 15 919 Main street, Richmond, Va.

BOOKS, STATIONERY, &c.

THE IRISH BAR: Comprising Anecdotes, Bon-Mots, and Biographical Sketches of the Bench and Bar of Ireland. By J. R. O'Flanagan. 15c.
The Earl of Beaconsfield, K. G.: In upwards of 100 cartoons, from the collection of Mr. "Punch." $1.25.
The German—How to Give it. How to Lead It. How to Dance It. $1.25.
Paul Faber, Surgeon. By George McDonald, LL.D. 75c.
A Holiday Tour in Europe. By Joel Cook. $1.
The House and Its Surroundings, forming No. 3, Health Series. 40c.
Braithwaite's Retrospect for January, 1879. $1.50.
My Guardian. By Ada Cambridge. Illustrated. 60c.
New Books received daily, and mailed to any address on receipt of advertised price.
fe 12 WOODHOUSE & PARHAM.

JAMES BARRON HOPE'S NEW BOOK,
UNDER THE EMPIRE:
OR,
THE STORY OF MADELON,
is a well-written and interesting work. Price, 50c. paper; $1, cloth, by mail post-paid.
"The story of Madelon is that of a charming maiden—the story of her lover that of a noble soldier."—*The State.*
All the new books for sale by
fe 10-d&w RANDOLPH & ENGLISH.

FINE STATIONERY.
ELLYSON & YANCEY,
BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS,
1112 MAIN STREET,
have just received a supply of the latest designs in FASHIONABLE NOTE-PAPERS and ENVELOPES, VISITING-CARDS, and MOURNING-PAPER and ENVELOPES, which we offer on the most favorable terms. ELLYSON & YANCEY,
ja 29 1112 Main street.

99-CENT STORE.

RECEIVED
AT THE
99-CENT STORE:
A very large assortment of LADIES' LOW-PRICED UNDERWEAR—Chemise, Skirts, and Drawers at 50, 75, and 99c.;
NIGHT-ROBES at 75 and 99c.;
FOLDING LAP-BOARDS at 99c.;
A full assortment of PICTURE-FRAMES from 25c. up—those at 50c. are very cheap;
Complete assortment of SILVER-PLATED WARE, both Single and Extra Plate; the Extra Plate I fully warrant;
My entire stock of MEN'S and LADIES' GLOVES and GAUNTLETS marked down to 50 and 75c.;
All MERINO UNDERWEAR marked 25c. to close;
A few NEW TOILET SETS at 99c.;
SINGLE-SHOT PISTOLS for 99c.;
SEVEN-SHOT REVOLVERS for $1.98;
New lot of VIOLINS and BOWS at 99c.;
CANE and WILLOW ROCKING- and NURSERY-CHAIRS;
Four style TABLE-MATS at 99c. a set.
Catalogues mailed free to any address.
W. A. STEVENS,
fe 8 Richmond, Va.

BURIAL-CASES, &c.

RICHMOND BURIAL-CASE
MANUFACTURING COMPANY,
AND
UNDERTAKERS' SUPPLIES AT WHOLESALE.
WAREROOMS:
FRANKLIN STREET BETWEEN TWELFTH AND THIRTEENTH;
FACTORY AND LUMBER-YARDS:
TWENTIETH AND VENABLE STREETS,
ja 1-6m 19 RICHMOND, VA.