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Richmond Dispatch.

SATURDAY.....JUNE 7, 1879.

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, rapidly rising barometer and numerous local rains, followed by cooler and generally clear weather, with northwest to northeast winds.

For the South Atlantic States, falling followed by rising barometer, warm southerly winds, generally shifting to cooler northerly, partly cloudy or clear weather, and local rains.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear and warm, with rain at night.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 71; 9 A. M., 82; noon, 93; 3 P. M., 96; 6 P. M., 89; midnight, 79.

Mean temperature, 85.

LOCAL MATTERS.

The Public Schools.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF INSPECTION BY THE COMMITTEE ON SCHOOLS OF THE COUNCIL—AN INTERESTING DAY—PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS—LIST OF TEACHERS, &C., &C.

Yesterday morning at 9 o'clock Messrs. L. L. Bass (chairman), Dr. Robert G. Cabell, Joseph C. Dickerson, J. Taylor Ellyson, Leroy S. Edwards, James H. Goddin, and *Elijah Baker*, of the Committee on Schools of the City Council, met at the City Hall, from which point they proceeded to visit the public schools. The committee was accompanied by Mr. James H. Peay, Jr., Superintendent of Public Schools, and Mr. Alfred Moses, secretary of the School Board. The first school visited was Madison, situated at the corner of Cary and Madison streets. They were there met and received by Mr. John A. Cunningham, Jr., principal. The committee first examined the condition of the building. Each school of the group was visited, and the children put through a course of public examination by their teachers, which showed that both teachers and scholars had not been idle during the past scholastic year. In the first room visited Dr. S. P. Moore, late Surgeon-General of the Confederate army, and one of the most valuable members of the School Board, was on an official visit, and by personal examination of the scholars was testing the efficiency of those charged with the important trust of training the children.

After the examination by the committee the several schools were gathered in the assembly-room, where the committee was entertained with some very sweet singing and several very interesting recitations. We noticed that the banner for the best marching was unfurled and borne by the scholars of Miss Ella V. Shell's class.

The following is the list of the teachers of Madison School: Misses L. P. Hulce, A. E. Hicks, M. D. Shell, M. L. W. Jones, E. M. Garnett, L. S. Cosby, R. Moore, E. V. Shell, C. C. Morton.

The exercises being concluded, Chairman Bass congratulated Mr. Cunningham upon the very satisfactory exhibit of his department, and started with his committee for the High School.

The High-School is situated at 805 east Marshall street, and is one of the most interesting departments of education in the State. When this school has its commencement exercises it is difficult to obtain standing-room in the Theatre, where they are generally held. A feeling of ambition inspires the breast of the Richmond girl or boy who enters the door of a public school to reach the High-School before their education is completed, and when they do reach it their hearts are filled with proud satisfaction. Graduating night comes at last, and the Theatre is filled with the beauty and *fashion* of the city, the scene is enlivened by music, and Mr. Kelley gets up and in his eloquent style tells the graduates how to go forth in the "battle of life" and to make their mark in the world. Then the crowning point of public-school life is reached; and happy is that pupil who receives the plaudits of the High-School teachers, for it is not an easy task to accomplish.

All of the grades of the High-School were visited, and much time spent in each. Among the interesting features was the reading of selections in the school of Miss Ramos. After the examination in the different grades, where a remarkable degree of proficiency was shown, the committee repaired to the assembly-room, and there had the pleasure of seeing the scholars grouped. The entertainment consisted of music and recitations—Miss Kate O'Neil presiding at the organ. Miss E—— read a Legend of Bregenz—the touching story of a "Tyrol Maid," by Adelaide Proctor—in a manner that elicited a hearty outburst of applause. The ceremonies at the High-School were concluded by the singing of "Sweet By and By," said to have been suggested by the presence of a certain city official.

The following is the list of teachers in the High-School: Misses O'Neill, Fulton, Robins, New, Mr. Murray, Dr. Taylor, Mr. Read, Misses Ramos and Lybrock.

The next place of interest visited was Bellevue school, corner Twenty-second and Broad streets—Mr. E. W. Cone being the principal. When the committee arrived there it was at a late hour, and the examination in the different schools had closed, and the scholars had already commenced their exercises in the assembly-room; after which Superintendent Peay introduced Dr. Robert G. Cabell, who addressed the teachers and scholars, and said he was more fully convinced every day of his life of the great value of the public-school system, and as a citizen of Richmond he felt proud of her public schools.

Mr. Leroy S. Edwards followed the Doctor, and after taking his venerable friend Mr. Peay to task for putting him before such a large assembly, expressed himself as highly delighted with the management of the public schools, and on behalf of the committee stated that they were more than delighted with what they had seen and heard on their first official visit.

After these *brief* addresses the committee were entertained by one of the first primary grades—Miss Julia F. Mitchell teacher—with calisthenics and excercises with dumb-bells. This, one of the most interesting features of the day, closed the programme of the visit of the Committee on Schools.

The following comprises a list of the teachers of Bellevue School: Mrs. Moon, Messrs. Sharp, Folkes, Rogers, Tompkins, Mitchell, Alley, Gaskins, Vaughan, Anderson, Cane, Dolan, Snyder, and Richardson.

Each and every member expressed pleasure at what they saw and heard on their tour of inspection, and we doubt not will make a unanimous report to the Council that the public schools of this city are in a condition that reflects the very highest credit upon superintendent Peay and his corps of capable assistants. Lack of time prevented the committee from visiting any of the schools except those named. The list of teachers in this report is from the last annual report of the School Board.

The committee were so well pleased with their visit that they resolved to attend the closing exercises of the Richmond Colored Normal and Richmond High Schools in a body.

The schools were visited by several members of the School Board and a large number of the parents and friends of the pupils during the public examination, which ended yesterday.

A CHANCE FOR AN EXCURSION ON THE ARIEL.—The steamer Ariel will leave here for Old Point on the night of the 3d of July instead of the morning of that day, so she can be chartered for an all-day picnic party to any point on the river, leaving here at 7 A. M. on the 3d of July, and return same afternoon. This will be the only chance for a trip of this kind during the season.

THE TRIAL ENDED.

Conclusion of Argument in the Law-Wren Case.

ABSTRACT OF SPEECHES OF THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY AND THREE COUNSEL FOR DEFENCE—LAW HELD UP AS A FRAUD BY ONE PARTY AND AS A FAIRLY RELIABLE MAN BY THE OTHER—STEELE'S CARD AND TESTIMONY UNDER CONSIDERATION—THE CASE GIVEN TO THE JURY—THEY COME IN WITH A QUESTION, WHICH IS ANSWERED, AND LATER WITH A VERDICT OF "NOT GUILTY"—CONGRATULATIONS ALL AROUND—STEELE DISCHARGED—THE WREN-KNOX-REDFORD CASE, &c.

At 11 o'clock yesterday morning the Hustings Court resumed the trial of John Wren, indicted for taking $40 from the person of E. R. Law on the night of April 10th.

Policeman Cosby and Captain Charles H. Epps testified to the character of the witness Steele. They were not intimate with him or his associates, but as far as they knew or ever had heard he is a respectable and truthful man.

The grand jury, which was expected to investigate the Wren-Knox-Redford matter, was discharged, the Commonwealth's Attorney being engrossed with this case and unable to attend the grand jury.

A FORGOTTEN WAR.

Policeman Brooks (for defence) testified that he had known Steele since the Ellyson-Chahoon war, when they were on the special police together. Witness had, it seemed, very little acquaintance with people who know Steele. Knew nothing against him.

COLONEL YOUNG EXPLAINS.

The Court was kept waiting a good while for absent witnesses. When Colonel John B. Young came in at 12 the Judge told him that he had kept the Court and jury waiting for an hour.

"FOR ME!"

said Colonel Young, with great surprise. "I would like to know how that is." The Judge said that he would too. Explanations then followed. Colonel Young said that he was summoned in *the Steele case*. From the papers of the morning he had seen that the Wren case was not yet ended. He was surprised to hear that he was wanted. He had been to see Judge Welford on business.

Of course Colonel Young was excused.

Colonel Young testified that Steele was a man of good character, as far as he knew or had heard.

MIXED WATER, WHISKEY, AND BEER.

Conway Johnston was put upon the stand again by the Commonwealth's Attorney. Steele could not remember that witness was in his bar on the night in question. But Johnston identified Steele. Johnston that night asked Steele for a glass of water; Steele shoved him a whiskey-glass and decanter. Witness told him that he did not want whiskey—wanted water. Steele then started to pour out beer. Told him that he wanted water. Witness confessed that the water was just an excuse; that he went in there to see what was going on.

THE WOMAN'S VOICE.

Policeman Brooks testified that he and Policeman James saw Johnston go in the bar. Policeman James testified to the same thing.

James saw Wren and Steele come out the bar on both occasions. Nobody was with them. The second time they went out of the bar he heard a voice cry out from a window over the bar "Robert" three times. That voice called him. It was a young woman of twenty-five or thirty, who asked him to tell Mr. Steele to come home; that his mother was very sick. He went as far as Delarue's looking for Steele, but couldn't find him. [He and Wren had turned up Thirteenth street.]

NOT FOUND.

Antonio Zetelle was next solemnly called as a witness for the Commonwealth.

The Sergeant said that he could not be found.

The young man and his partner left the city several days ago.

THE FARO-BANK.

The Commonwealth's Attorney was, at his own request, sworn, and he explained to the jury the situation of the faro-bank on Bank street visited on the night in question by Wren, Steele, and Law; it being Steele's testimony that the three were on their way to Snelling's, and that Law turned in there, and they followed. The Commonwealth's Attorney had occasion some time ago to inspect the premises, with Mr. Zetelle as his guide, and with that information he showed that the rooms were difficult of access.

Mr. Steele also explained the situation of the faro-bank, which he said he had never visited before or since that night.

THE FARO-BANK, AGAIN.

Mr. Law recalled.

Judge Marshall: When you went into the faro-bank—tell the jury if you went up a flight of steps?

Mr. Law: My impression is that I went up the steps and turned to the right.

Mr. Steele explained to the jury the situation of his saloon.

MR. STEELE'S CARD.

Mr. Steele explained also about his card. When the first publication was made he, being very indignant, went at once to Mr. Witt and got that gentleman hurriedly to prepare it. It was subsequently altered somewhat and printed as a circular.

Mr. Seddon, a member of the jury, questioned closely Steele, and had Mr. Law and Mr. Lee recalled, and examined them on some points. Mr. Witt corroborated the statement of Steele as to the writing of the card.

Opening Speech of Commonwealth's Attorney.

The Commonwealth's Attorney, in his opening speech, said Steele's story writes his own and Wren's condemnation. He confirms Law on the only point where Law wasn't previously confirmed. There is hardly a word Law has said which is not confirmed by witnesses, and witnesses that you do not have to call others to give a character to. Law has been candid. There is not a witness who could have proved that he was on a spree in Wilmington and Charlotte. He has told all unreservedly. Now as to his memory: It is shown that Jack Wren was introduced to Law on the night of the robbery. Law stepped from the train last Tuesday, and identified Wren in a room quite full, and Wren then having on a different suit from that he wore the night of the robbery.

Take that and tell me that this man don't know what transpired on that occasion.

This is not all. Law with equal readiness identified Policeman Brooks. Could that have happened with a man whose memory was drowned by whiskey? Law identified Griffin, too.

Law told you that he was between Wren and Steele when the former took his money. Brooks says that when he saw them on Tenth street Law was in the centre. Law tells you that they carried him to a faro-bank. Steele tells you Law carried them there.

Now, is Steele confirmed? He says Johnston did not come into his bar the night of the robbery. James and Brooks tell you that they saw Johnston go in there. Three against one! Is there a lie? Who tells it? Has Johnston, James, or Brooks a motive to lie? Has Steele a motive to lie? Either these three men lie, or Steele lies.

But that is not the only place where somebody lies. You are told that Law was locked in the bar. Steele says he and Wren let him out at the front door. James says he saw them when they came out, and Law was not with them. Another lie! Gentlemen, pray tell me who tells it? In every essential particular Law has been confirmed, while Steele has either lied to you, or Johnston is a perjured villain, without a motive.

Now, let us look at Steele's witnesses as to character. None of them were intimate with him or associated with people who associated with him. Who are Steele's companions? Where are they? Why are they not here? Jack Wren is one. They arranged to go to the ball together. Steele, a married man, floating in the vilest sink-hole in Solitude! When his wife is calling him to his home he is walking arm-in-arm with Jack Wren on his way to Solitude.

That is their man of character, who went to his wife's chamber to get a key to get more whiskey to pour into this man, already drunk. That is his character. That is the picture he paints of himself.

The Commonwealth's Attorney said that it struck him as one of the most remarkable things he had ever known in the history of criminal trials that testimony should have been introduced *as to Steele* and not a word said on the subject about Wren, whose liberty is alone involved here.

Mr. Cabell called upon the Court to stop the Commonwealth's Attorney in his line of argument.

The Judge: I think it is perfectly legitimate.

Mr. Cabell: We except.

The Judge: Stop, Mr. Wise, and let them draw up their bill of exceptions.

Then the Commonwealth's Attorney went on and made the most out of the fact that defence had not attempted to prove a good character for John Wren.

Then he went on to speak of Toney Zetelle's flight, and to dwell upon the fact that though there were seven or eight other persons in that faro-bank when Law was there, not one was brought here to contradict Law. That work is left to Steele—himself charged with crime. Any of these seven or eight might have been brought here to testify and could not have been prosecuted for gambling. Nobody is brought here but one whose own liberty depends upon the amount of swearing he can do.

But even Steele couldn't explain how it was that he and Wren were whispering together (as Johnston said) in a corner of the bar the night Law was robbed, and Law was not to be seen. They could have gotten clear of Law if they wanted by turning him over to the police, who were right at hand, but they didn't do it. Jack Wren got matches from Policeman Brooks, and Brooks asked him who the stranger was, and Jack Wren told a lie; he said that it was "Steele's friend from the country." Why did he tell that lie? Why didn't he deliver Law over to Brooks if they wished to be rid of him? Why was Zetelle about?

The Commonwealth's Attorney, referring to Zetelle, said that he had

"Gone where the woodbine twineth,"

and that it was like "rats leaving a sinking ship." [Laughter.]

Mr. Meredith, of counsel for defence, insisted that the Court should stop these demonstrations; that, he said, was the third. The Judge and Sergeant Lee said they most assuredly would, and the crowd was solemnly warned not to make any demonstrations soever.

The Commonwealth's Attorney next discussed the evidence in regard to Wren and Steele locking Law up. They never did put him out of the front door. They put him out of the back way, and themselves went out of the front door (Mr. James saw them) and walked down towards Thirteenth street to see which way their victim was going.

Mr. Law swears positively and emphatically to the robbery—to the fact that Wren put his hand in his breast-pocket.

You can account for all this dark dodging; for all this shuffling out of back ways; all that lying about the stranger being "Steele's friend from the country"; all that about Steele not seeing Johnston—by the fact that Wren had robbed Law. That was the motive.

The statute provides that larceny from the person of more than $5 is punishable with imprisonment from five to ten years. It is enough that Wren took more than $5. It makes no matter whether it was $35 or $40.

E. C. Cabell, Esq.

Mr. Cabell, in opening, stated that counsel for defence had offered to submit the case without argument, but that the Commonwealth's Attorney would not consent. "We know that you want evidence, and not vituperation—facts, and not the snickers and sneers of the rabble who are hounding this man"—said he.

The Commonwealth's Attorney relies greatly upon the fact that Law promptly identified Wren; but Mr. Cabell would call attention to the way the Commonwealth had treated this witness. They have kept him under the guardianship of Mr. James ever since he has been here. We think that he is an impostor, liar, and tramp; but what does the Commonwealth think of him that they have kept him in custody?

He is doubted by the very people who brought him here. After James's two visits to Washington, and after James's constant custody of Law, is it any great wonder that Law identified Wren? Yes, the evidence of Law is confirmed—by whom? By Steele; by the man who Law says he believes had *nothing to do with the robbery*. How can they show why a man like Steele (who stands to-day the peer of any man in this community) would deny that Johnston was in his bar and not hesitate to admit—what was more damaging—that he had been to a Solitude ball? He either didn't see Johnston or don't remember him.

Mr. Cabell denied that Wren and Steele "dodged" the police, as the Commonwealth's Attorney said. On the contrary, Wren went out into the street and asked Brooks for matches to light up the bar.

And why didn't they put General Law in the hands of the police? Would that have been an act of kindness? Would any reasonable man have done it, especially in a case like this, where the man had spent money in this very bar?

As to the absence of Mr. Toney Zetelle, said Mr. Cabell: Toney didn't want to be prosecuted for gambling. But Mr. Wise said he wouldn't have been. Toney knows better. He has been through the mill. He testified in one case here, and the consequence was he was indicted. It is true that he employed counsel and filed a special plea, and was discharged. But it cost him trouble and money. Toney doesn't want to get into trouble again.

Mr. Cabell asserted that never before had counsel been allowed to prejudice a prisoner's cause because he had not thought proper to summons witnesses as to character. He did not regard it as fair or proper.

"Law is a candid man to some extent," said Mr. Cabell. He admits his great sins, but denies his small ones. Defence have proved that he got here drunk.

He says he had $65. He went straight from the depôt to the hotel and delivered up his money—$40. He had only $40. And he tells you that before he got to Steele's he had spent $25.

Did you ever hear of a man deliberately robbed by a party, and going there next day and saying nothing about it? And then because of this robbery taking a four-weeks' tramp to Washington? Is such a thing possible? If he had been robbed, instead of asking Steele for charity he would have demanded his money. And how did he get back to Richmond? Not through any patriotic motives. His expenses, &c., brought him on. He regarded Law as wholly unreliable, and asked the jury, Would you convict a dog upon such evidence?

The Commonwealth's Attorney says that Law is corroborated. Of course he is; but only as to facts that show no guilt on part of the accused.

Mr. Cabell, in closing, hoped that the verdict would uphold the majesty of the law and vindicate the truth.

C. V. Meredith, Esq.

Mr. Meredith said that it was their wish to submit the case without argument; but the Commonwealth's Attorney would not have it so.

He thought it somewhat remarkable that the Commonwealth's Attorney devoted the burden of his song against Steele and not against Wren, who is alone on trial. With the exception of drawing attention to the fact that Wren had called no witnesses to testify to character, the Commonwealth's Attorney had scarcely noticed him at all.

Mr. Wren is a detective. Nobody, however honest, who is in that business, can fail to have a suspicion about him. The defence knew that, and so concluded, to be candid, not to call witnesses as to character.

It is a profession that unavoidably brings him in contact with thieves.

Notwithstanding Mr. Wren's position in life, Mr. Meredith felt that the jury would do him justice and would let proof and not assertions weigh with them.

It was necessary for the Commonwealth's Attorney to break down Steele to convict Wren, and hence the furious attack upon Steele.

Mr. Meredith contended that Law was never in Steele's bar-room until Thursday. He introduced himself there as General Law, and at once thereby recommending himself to Steele's favor. Steele treated him well. About 11 o'clock P. M., Wren came in and was introduced to Law. Law says they proposed to him to take a walk. Why should they have proposed to take a walk with him? They had not seen his money. He himself says he went into a corner to count it. How could they tell he was "a good pigeon to pluck"? It would have been more profitable for Steele to have kept him at the bar. Is it intimated that Steele is interested in the faro-bank? No. The probability is that Law forced his company upon them. Law says he was invited. Steele says Law followed them.

Now, this drunken loafer's character is so pure that it makes him shrink from playing cards! The man who gets drunk and stays drunk for six months says in one breath that he refused to play cards; that he shrunk from it. In the next he swears that he was not certain that he didn't play a game of short-cards! That is the man who you are to believe in preference to Mr. Steele.

Now, wasn't the ball the very thing a drunken man would want to go to? Could Wren and Steele make anything of him there? Was it desirable for them that he should go? No; hence their desire to be rid of him.

Mr. Meredith reviewed and compared the testimony of Messrs. Steele and Law from the time they left the faro-bank until they got to the saloon, with the view of demonstrating that Steele had told the truth and Law not. Why all this hullaballoo about the bar-room if the robbery had been committed before they had gotten there? Why, then, carry him to the bar-room? It was not to pour liquor down his throat; for an hour afterwards he was seen by two policemen walking tolerably well down Main street. Is it probable that Law, having seen Wren put his hand in his pocket, would have been satisfied with the bare statements of the two strangers, or would he not have called aloud for the police? He was sober enough to remember and be able to describe this robbery, but did not raise a cry when robbed.

But that is not all—he went to Steele's bar-room next morning. He never said a word to Steele about the robbery. He does not believe, he says, that Steele was guilty; but he didn't say a word about Wren's offence—not a word to the man who had been the innocent cause of it, if he introduced Law to Wren. No, he only asked Steele for a drink.

Mr. Meredith urged the view that Steele had no motive for telling an untruth. True, he is under indictment; but is there any probability of conviction when the chief witness (Law) says he doesn't believe that Steele had aught to do with robbing him? Anyhow, Steele boldly went upon the stand and told the truth, and acted the part of a brave man towards his companion, the accused.

Another fact that Mr. Meredith called particular attention to was that when they carried Law in the bar they didn't lock the door behind them. They left it open. Johnston says he came in. Anybody might have come in.

Mr. Meredith, without harshly commenting upon young Johnston's testimony, argued that it could not be true. He accepted the statement of Steele, that Steele and Wren let Law out of the front door. James was at that moment on the steps of the First National Bank. They carried him down towards Thirteenth street, where they left him, and Law soon after, at the corner of Fourteenth and Main, met up with Griffin and Brooks.

The answer of Wren to Brooks and James, that the stranger was a "friend of Steele's from the country," can be explained by the well-known jealousy between policemen and detectives. Did Wren do anything more than James did when Steele asked him upon his first return from Washington if he had been after Law, and he said not? And yet Mr. Meredith would not call James a liar, as the Commonwealth's Attorney had done Steele.

Mr. Meredith seemed to admit that there was some public prejudice against Wren, but he asked that the jury would weigh this testimony just as if he (Mr. Meredith) were on trial.

At 3:15 the court took a recess until 5 P. M.

Judge Marshall's Speech.

At 5 P. M. Judge Marshall, of counsel for defence, arose to address the jury. He reminded them of the gravity of the case. If they should find a verdict of guilty they would consign the prisoner to the penitentiary for a term of from five to ten years. To justify such a conclusion the case must be clearly proved.

Where is the man who says that he saw Wren take $40 from the person of Edward? It is E. R. Law. Did any other man see him do it? No.

And who is E. R. Law? The gentlemen of the jury saw and heard him examined. He was upon the stand for several hours; and gentlemen, what did you think of his testimony? He contradicted himself time and again. He admitted that when the act was done he was so drunk he could hardly walk. Would you convict a respectable dog upon such testimony?

Jack Wren may be unpopular; but the jury has no right to know anything of that. He is entitled to the same fair treatment that any one else would receive. The Judge would not denounce Law as a liar. He is cursed by his God, who made him with an infirmity which causes him to put down his throat that which takes away his reason. That is what makes him unreliable. He is the only witness to the robbery. There is none to corroborate him, and he repeatedly contradicted himself in the cross-examination.

Steele says that there was no robbery. Law says there was. There is a conflict. There is the statement of one laboring under an infirmity. There is the statement of Steele, a man in the full possession of all his faculties. In addition to Steele you have Brooks, who saw the three men from Tenth street to the bar. Who is right? Is there any doubt? If there is a doubt accused is entitled to it.

Take the testimony of Law as to the direct act. Is it to be relied upon?

Law got here between 4 and 5 P. M. April 9th. He was so drunk he didn't know what to do. He went about the depôt-yard and offered $5 for a seat for half an hour. Smith, through pure charity, got him ready to send to the hotel. Law remembers nothing of all this.

At the hotel he gave his name as "General E. R. Law, of Savannah, Ga." He was drunk, and was hardly responsible. He was registered, and sat down. Smith and another railroad man came in, and Smith said that "this man has some money, I reckon." Law was persuaded to give it up.

He said that on the train he had counted his money and p[illegible] when he went t[illegible] he gathered a n[illegible] from every pocke[illegible] says before he we[illegible] $25. He was unde[illegible] went to Lambert's [illegible] that day. He [illegible] went from th[illegible] not leave t[illegible] until next morning, when he [illegible] money.

One $5 note he handed Mr. Lee to take out fifty cents for a night's lodging. The next we hear he is in Steele's about 5 or 6 P. M. He went there drunk. He stayed there drunk; and treated until he spent four or five dollars. Where he had been or how much he spent before he went to Steele's no man knows.

He stayed at Steele's until about 11 P. M. He was introduced to Wren there. They treated each other. At last Wren and Steele started out. Law followed. They went towards Snelling's. Law, seeing the light in the passage, thought it was a bar, and went in, and they followed him into the faro-bank.

As to what occurred in the faro-bank, Steele and Law differ.

Returning toward Steele's bar-room, Law relates how Wren robbed him. Steele says *that is not true*. Back at the bar, they take three drinks. Law falls asleep, and Wren and Steele left him and walked up the street and were gone about half an hour. They went back, roused him, gave him another drink, and walked with him down town to between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets, when they left him.

A little later Law met with Officers Brooks and Griffin and was taken to his hotel. The only discrepancy is that James did not see Law come out with Wren and Steele. Law had passed out while James was on the steps of the First National Bank. As to Johnston's visit to the bar, Judge Marshall thought it a point-no-point.

Steele's visit to the Solitude ball was very improper, no doubt. Being a married man, he should not have been guilty of it. But he is not on trial for it here. Nor is Wren. Steele could have suppressed that fact, as having really nothing to do with this case. He stated it because he chose to put every fact before the jury. It was not incumbent upon him to do so, and Judge Marshall regretted, for Mr. Steele's sake, that he had thought it accessary. But other men had done as bad, and the Judge remembered the words of Scripture, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone," and that they all hung their heads and slunk away.

Closing Argument for Prosecution.

The Commonwealth's Attorney referred to the fact that defence said they wished to submit this case without argument, and yet it had been necessary for three of their counsel to speak.

In reference to Mr. Cabell's statement about Toney Zetelle, he said that Mr. Cabell was mistaken. He had not promised Zetelle immunity and then indicted him. He was never indicted in this court; nor did he testify in this court. He was summoned, but not put on the stand. But in the course of the examination facts developed his connection with this house, and his Honor called attention of the grand jury to it. The speaker represented the facts to his Honor and the proceedings were dismissed.

Mr. Cabell must have known from the letters produced that Law *is* in Government employment at Washington. All that Law is allowed here is his mileage and attendance. It is his legal right. And what becomes of all their comments about a paid and hired witness? Steele's own card admits that Law did not originate the prosecution. "It was originated in Richmond," says Steele.

It proves that Law did make an outcry about the robbery before he left the city. And why was Sergeant Seal put into the witness-chair and allowed to go out of it without making his statement? Comment has been made that Law has been with an officer. Suppose Law had been left alone, and had dropped in company with certain parties, and they had come into court and said he had stated certain things! He would have been helpless. They haven't been able to hold converse with him. Didn't Steele ask that Law should come on? He comes at a loss to himself. He is not a swift witness.

The evidence is that Law did have more than $40. He had that amount in five- and ten-dollar notes. He exhibited some silver at the depôt. He paid Lambert ten cents out of a one-dollar note or piece of silver. That is not contradicted.

Who can say that he went in the carriage immediately from the depôt to the hotel? Mr. Owens says that he appeared there twice the first day. Mr. Lee didn't remember seeing him but once. On his first visit he asked for Lambert.

The Commonwealth's Attorney went on to show that the evidence of all the witnesses confirmed Law, and showed that Law's memory was good to mark and to notice.

Law recollected Lambert; he recollected that he gave his money to the clerk, and got it from him in the morning and paid for his lodging; he recollected being at Steele's; he recollected going to the faro-bank with Wren and Steele; he recollected walking arm-in-arm with Wren and Steele; he recollected the faces of Brooks, and Wren, and Steele. He remembered much more.

Now, as to Steele's candor in admitting that he went to the Solitude ball, why, he had to tell it. I asked him if he saw a sergeant that night. Oh, there was an eye upon him. Why, he *had* to tell it! But if he wanted to be candid, why didn't he publish that fact in his card when he affected to make known all the facts?

The Commonwealth's Attorney ventured to say that not a citizen of Richmond could get into that faro-bank without a man to pilot him. Law, a stranger, enter there! Never could have a man entered without being piloted by some one, and be known to the proprietor. Steele confirms Law that no game was going on. A game was played for drinks, says Steele. Law does not remember it.

Steele admits that the three stopped at the corner of Tenth and Bank streets. Then the robbery was committed. It was past midnight. Law, tipsy, was in the hands of two strange men. Why did he not make an outcry? If he had it might have been the worse for him.

The Captain said that in a city double the size and population of Richmond, not at midnight, but at 10 o'clock at night, he had been seized by five men and robbed. He didn't make any outcry. It would have been only to invite the dagger.

It was not before the jury that Law reported the robbery to Policemen Brooks and Griffin before he got to his hotel, but by means of Steele's card Captain Wise showed that Law had spread abroad in the city the report of the robbery before he left here. The Commonwealth's Attorney's theory was that they locked Law in the bar to keep him from seeing the police. He maintained that Law was fully confirmed by all the witnesses, and that his solemn, distinct, and direct assertion that Wren robbed him should be believed.

In concluding, Captain Wise, commenting upon the evidence of Steele that they locked Law up to take care of him, &c., said that it was "the wolf taking care of the lamb," and he hoped the good Lord would never let him, in a dark place in a city, fall into the hands of such keepers.

Liberty *is* sweet; but the liberty of these men is not to live by the sweat of the brow, but by slight-of-hand. Liberty is sweet; but your liberty and mine is imperilled when our city becomes the den for thieves and the lash of justice is not applied like a whip of scorpions. The jury would not countenance him if he stood by and permitted such deeds to pass unnoticed.

Ah! but they say that Law is a fraud. Is he? He gave at the hotel his own initials; not those of General Law. He said he was from Savannah, not from Yorkville, S. C. He thought if all the men in this goodly city are frauds who wear titles which they [illegible] upon the fields of blood, then [illegible] of frauds. Every day he [illegible] never heard the crack of [illegible] Law told you that the [illegible] en him by the printers. [illegible] called Captain Jack—[illegible] Did he purchase [illegible] d he rush to the [illegible] untry's danger? I re[illegible]

Capta[illegible] jury for their patient atte[illegible] that he would be satisfied with their decision, whatever it might be.

The Case Given to the Jury.

At 7:30 the jury retired.

Half an hour later they came into court with the following question: "We, the jury, desire to know if the card written by Mr. Steele is evidence before the jury; and if so, we desire that the same be read in court."

The Commonwealth's Attorney argued in favor of admitting the card, and counsel for defence against it.

The Judge decided that as the paper had not been put in evidence before the jury retired, it could not now be read.

The card was Mr. Steele's denial (immediately after the first publication) of his guilt, and gave a statement of facts.

At 10:30 P. M. the jury came in and rendered a verdict of "not guilty." Mr. Wren was thereupon discharged. The Commonwealth's Attorney entered a *nolle prosequi* in the case of Mr. Steele, who was jointly indicted with Wren. It is understood that a like course will be pursued in the Wren-Knox-Redford case.

The jury which tried Mr. Wren yesterday was composed of citizens of high character and intelligence. They gave the case honest and earnest attention. That they did right there will be none to dispute, for they thoroughly understood the case and decided it upon the sacred obligation of their oath.

POLICEMAN GILL'S ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—Mention was made in this paper yesterday morning of the sudden and mysterious disappearance of Policeman John H. Gill, of the First district. He left home early Thursday morning, and as fears were entertained that he might be laboring under mental aberration, several policemen were detailed to go and hunt him up. All day Thursday was spent in the search, but in vain. Yesterday morning, however, information was received at the lower station-house that Gill had been found about two miles from the city, on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, wandering about the farm of J. W. Pedin with his throat cut. Captain Pleasants immediately dispatched Sergeant Whitlock to bring him home. Mr. Pedin, however, procured a carriage and sent Mr. Gill home, where Dr. Brock visited him, and found a wound on the right side of the throat a little above the angle of the jaw, extending directly down an inch and a half, and about an inch and a quarter deep; also a wound on the arm. The wounds were dressed, and the unfortunate man was made as comfortable as possible.

Mr. Gill's mind appears to have been disordered for some time, and he has upon more than one occasion told his wife he meant to end his life; but she has dissuaded him from any such attempt. Thursday morning he bought laudanum and started out in the direction of the Mechanicsville turnpike. Yesterday morning at 6 o'clock a colored man found him sitting on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad-track with a handkerchief around his throat. He was advised to get up, or he would be killed by a train. He got up and walked away to the field where Mr. Pedin found him.

OLD AND WELL-TRIED.—We publish this morning a statement of the condition of the Imperial and Northern Fire-Insurance Companies of London. They are both old and well-tried—the former established in 1803, and the latter in 1836. Their capital stock, schedules of real estate, bonds, mortgages, stocks, and other investments, foot up $39,123,210.58. All of the American business of these companies is done under a joint policy. The deposit with our State Treasurer for the protection of Virginia policy-holders is $100,000—being double the usual deposit.

These old institutions are represented here by Howard Swineford, 1108 Main street.

POST-OFFICE STATISTICS.—The following is a report of mail matter delivered and collected by the letter-carriers at the Richmond post-office for the month of May; Carriers employed, 16; delivery trips daily, 2, 3, and 4; collection trips daily, 2, 3, and 4; registered letters delivered, 1,070; mail letters delivered, 111,314; mail postal-cards delivered, 30,112; local letters delivered, 9,178; local postal-cards delivered, 8,520; newspapers, &c., delivered, 59,186; letters returned to the office, 194; letters collected, 62,041; postal-cards collected, 23,736; newspapers, &c., collected, 8,631; total postage on local matter delivered through the boxes, general delivery, or by carrier, $315.37.

MASONIC OFFICERS ELECTED.—At a stated communication of Temple Lodge, No. 9, A. F. and A. M., the following officers were elected: S. McG. Fisher, W. M.; George W. Poe, S. W.; W. M. Netherland, J. W.; C. A. Spence, Treasurer; R. E. Tyler, Secretary; B. W. Gillis, S. D.; C. K. Yancey, J. D. The Worshipful-Master-elect appointed William Krause, Steward; Thomas Angel, Tiler; Revs. R. S. Barrett and Dallas Tucker, Chaplains; C. A. Mercer and S. H. Bowman, Steward's Committee.

THE EXCURSION TO OLD POINT NEXT SATURDAY.—Quite a number of tickets have been sold for the Nonpareil excursion to Old Point on Saturday morning next, on the Ariel, and the indications are that it will be a most enjoyable affair. Tickets may be had at various points in the city, but they cannot be bought on the boat.

PERSONAL.—Rev. John A. Broadus, D. D., one of the most popular and eloquent preachers in America, is in the city, the guest of James Thomas, Jr. He will spend a few weeks in the city, and for the next two Sundays will occupy Baptist pulpits.

MANCHESTER AND VICINITY.

Badly Injured.—Lewis Reid (colored), an employé at the wharves below the city, was badly injured yesterday whilst unloading iron from one of the vessels, a piece of the metal falling upon his foot and mutilating it.

THE VIGOR OF YOUTH given to the aged and infirm by using Hop Bitters. Try it.

READ the advertisement of HUTZLER BROTHERS.

Three hundred pieces new Lawns at 6¼, 8½, 10, and 12½c., at D. & F. MITTELDORFER'S.

ICE-CREAM! ICE-CREAM!
ALL FLAVORS.
Made of the best material,
Warranted to keep hard,
at $1 50 per gallon,
at COLUMBUS'S, 321 Broad street.

I HAVE ANALYZED THE WHISKEY known under the brand of "B-select," controlled by Messrs. WALTER D. BLAIR & CO., Richmond, Va., and find it free from fusel oil and other impurities, and recommend its use for medicinal and family purposes.
J. B. McCAW, M. D.,
late Professor of Chemistry,
Medical College of Virginia.
January 13, 1872.

ROMAN PUNCH.—Of all the delightful beverages in the world, nothing can be compared with ZETELLE'S ROMAN PUNCH.

NATIVE WINES AND CLARET ON DRAUGHT. ALSO, ALL THE CELEBRATED CALIFORNIA BRANDS.
PRICES VERY LOW.
CHRISTIAN & WHITE, Agents.

Two hundred and fifty pieces Matings from auction just received at D. & F. MITTELDORFER'S.

THE DISPATCH.
TERMS OF ADVERTISING.
CASH—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

One square, one insertion	$0 50
One square, two insertions	1 00
One square, three insertions	1 50
One square, six insertions	3 00
One square, twelve insertions	5 50
One square, one month	10 00
One square, two months	15 00
One square, three months	20 00

HEALTH—the poor man's riches, the rich man's bliss—is found in AYER'S MEDICINES, after a fruitless search among other remedies. A word to the wise is sufficient.

LOOK at the announcement of Mrs. F. HUTZLER.

A LARGE STOCK of ready-made dresses for ladies.

A large stock of underwear for ladies.

All kinds of goods for school commencements, such as Lawns, Muslins, Sash-Ribbons, Gloves, Hose, and Fans.

Also, a large stock of genuine Torchon Edgings and Insertings; Hamburg Edgings and Insertings.

Also, 1,000 pairs of Hose for women and children. This is a job