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The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH at $2 per annum, or $1 for six months.
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DAILY DISPATCH.

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THE DISPATCH.
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Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY.....AUGUST 20, 1879.

☞ THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.

[Entered at the Post-Office at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter.]

WEATHER REPORT.

INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, northwesterly winds, rising barometer, warmer, clear or partly cloudy weather.

For the South Atlantic States, partly cloudy weather, occasional rain, light, variable winds, stationary or higher temperature and barometer.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear and pleasant.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 64; 9 A. M., 72; noon, 81; 3 P. M., 84; 6 P. M., 78; midnight, 66.

Mean temperature, 74.

SOUND THE ALARM.

Chronic Agitation of the Public-Debt Question Dangerous to the Public-School System.

ADDRESS OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY TO THE FRIENDS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS—THE SCHOOL-MONEY SAFE UNDER THE McCULLOCH BILL, WHILE THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOLS WORTH THE NAME IF THIS UNREST BE CONTINUED—THE SCHOOLS CANNOT PROSPER WHILE THE PUBLIC MIND IS UNSETTLED—SUBTERFUGES OF THE ENEMIES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION—THE MOZART SCHEME COMPARED WITH THE McCULLOCH BILL—THE SCHOOL OFFICERS PRESUMED TO BE THE INSTRUCTORS OF PUBLIC MORALS—A POWERFUL AND PATRIOTIC DOCUMENT FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE VOTERS OF VIRGINIA.

The following "address of the State Executive Committee of the Conservative party to the friends of the public schools" deserves and will no doubt receive the careful attention of the voters of Virginia:

The educated and enlightened people of Virginia have shown their fidelity to the free schools. The same Legislature which, in the full belief of the ability of the State to pay six per cent. interest upon two thirds of the public debt, passed the funding act, still over-estimating the resources of the Commonwealth, anticipated the requirement of the Constitution of 1868, and six years before the time provided for in that instrument put into operation a public school system, free to all, white and colored alike; and we deliberately affirm that a better system does not exist in any State in the Union.

More than true to their pledges to carry out in good faith the article of the Constitution of 1868, which provided for a system of free public education, the Legislature elected a Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1870, and promptly passed an act providing for the establishment of schools throughout the State, and from that day to this has protected, encouraged, and developed the system until it has become thoroughly organized and operative in every county in the State, and firmly established in the good-will, confidence, and affections of the great body of the people throughout the Commonwealth.

Repeatedly reelected and supported by public opinion, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has brought to the discharge of his duties a zeal, an intelligence, and an impartiality which have elicited the attention and the applause of all the friends of education throughout the Union. There is not in the limits of the United States an educator who ranks higher for his knowledge and comprehension of the science of education, or for administrative ability to give efficiency to a public school system.

No man who has regard for truth will challenge the evidence afforded by the legislative history of the past nine years that the Conservative party of Virginia have faithfully discharged their duties and their pledges in this respect. If the Conservative party had been unfriendly to the schools, they would long ago have procured a less efficient and less enthusiastic administrator of the system.

It is the desire of the white people and tax-payers of this State to continue not only to maintain the ground which the school system has won, but to extend it and to develop the sphere of its operation until every child, white and colored, within the limits of the Commonwealth, shall have within his reach the opportunity to acquire a sound elementary education. What shall become of the State if our children are to grow up in semi-barbarous ignorance, unequal to, and unfit to be the associates of, the citizens of the States by which we are surrounded? We not only believe in the enlightenment and improvement of the white children of the Commonwealth, but regard it as our duty as well as our policy to elevate and educate the growing generation of the colored people, with whom we occupy a common heritage.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN DANGER.

The school system is IN DANGER. Unscrupulous politicians are seeking to rope it into the arena of politics, and to convert it into one of the factors in our annual political struggles. The cause of education, like the cause of religion, is too sacred to be entangled in any such associations. The only guarantee for an efficient public school system is that it shall keep itself aloof from all such alliances, and pursue the even tenor of its way, disconnected as far as possible with party politics of any kind, and free, as far as practicable, of the demagogues that flourish under all political banners.

A party has already arisen in the State which, under the guise of being the special champion of the schools, is seeking to obtain the support of the school interest for its own selfish purposes—caring no more about the schools than they do about the colored voters whom they are aiming to cajole and to flatter to help them into power.

The school system, we repeat, is IN DANGER, and we write this to sound the alarm and to appeal to the true friends of education not to permit themselves to be ensnared as tools to accomplish a result which will prove one of the greatest disasters that can befall the schools.

The object of these demagogues is POWER. The brokers' bill is merely the apology for this agitation, which having proved profitable so far, they are unwilling to part company with even after all occasion for it has ceased to exist. Some of them *will* come to you like "an angel of light," clothed in sacerdotal garments, but their object is personal preferment, and when you have served their purpose they will have little use for either you or your schools.

There was a serious attempt made to overthrow the school system in the Legislature last winter. A scheme was reported from a committee as a constitutional amendment, and there was grave reason to fear at one time that it would pass the Legislature. The plan contemplated the revival of the old self-perpetuating bench of magistrates, irresponsible to the people; and destroying the State character of the schools, substituted therefor a county system under the control of this magistracy, both as to funds and management. The county superintendency was abolished, and it was entirely at the option of the magistrates to give or withhold money for the carrying on of the schools. Appealing, as the move did, to a strong Old-Virginia prejudice—the restoration of a noble insitution as it existed under a different order of things—it became at one time extremely formidable; but the alarm was sounded in the press and on the floor of the Legislature, and it did not succeed. The author, originator, and tireless champion of this measure was one of the most prominent leaders among the extreme Readjusters in the Legislature, and another of its supporters was the Rev. JOHN E. MASSEY!

It is to the interest of the public schools that all farther agitation of the debt question shall cease, and to that end it is of the highest importance that men shall be returned to the Legislature pledged to the acceptance of the compromise made last winter with the creditors of the State.

We propose to show: 1. That under that settlement the school money will be entirely protected from further diversion into other channels; or that, at the least, the security of that fund will be greatly strengthened, and no serious trouble arise about the maintenance of the schools. 2. That, whether there be a risk of some continued diversion or not, no evil of this sort can possibly damage the school interest so much as it will be damaged by a continuation of the present agitation, and the assembling of a convention to repudiate the public debt and overthrow the present Constitution under which our school system is secured.

THE SCHOOL MONEY SAFE UNDER THE M'CULLOCH BILL.

As to the first point, we appeal to the figures set forth in the address of the State Conservative Committee, which figures, in substance, were ascertained by the Joint Finance Committee of the late Legislature after the most careful examination, and which were adopted by the Legislature as a reliable guide in the settlement effected with the creditors under the so-called McCulloch bill.

Other and different financial statements have been made by irresponsible persons, who know that the people cannot make this examination for themselves; but the good sense of the people can decide between the confidence to be reposed in the authoritative statement of the Finance Committee, the Legislature, the Governor, the Auditor, and the State Conservative Committee, on the one hand, and that of interested politicians, noways distinguished for arithmetical precision or financial achievements, on the other.

According to these figures, the net revenue of the State available for the public burdens is $2,564,850.09. This is the income. The public debt, including unpaid interest, is $32,771,112.24. We have, then, this table of expenditures:

Interest on public debt at 3 per cent. per annum	$983,133 36
Expenses of Government (including extraordinary expenses)	763,962 67
Add for public schools	497,782 85
Total expenditures	$2,244,818 88
This sum the annual revenue of $2,564,850.09 will fully discharge, and leave a surplus of	320,031 21
	$2 564,850 09

The schools are therefore entirely provided for, and the surplus of $320,000 will go towards the payment of the past-due coupons (which amounted on the 1st of August to $419,492, and which, of course, will not all be presented at once), towards the arrearages due the schools, and towards the Sinking Fund.

If these figures are correct, and we believe them to be so, without going into minute details it is obvious that no serious difficulty is to be apprehended in meeting the claims of the schools. If difficulty there be, it can only be of a temporary nature in the transition period incident to the calling in of the old bonds and issuing the new, and this difficulty will steadily diminish as the funding progresses.

But the Legislature was so jealous to protect the schools, even from the beginning, that it took a farther precaution in that direction—namely, by passing an act committing three-fourths of the school fund in currency to the direct custody of the several counties in which it is to be disbursed; and authorizing at the same time the Auditor to anticipate the revenues applicable to the payment of interest by temporary loans, and on the failure of that expedient, to sell certificates of indebtedness at not less than seventy-five cents in a dollar.

THE NEW REASSESSMENT.

There is no fallacy in the above statement, save that it is urged that under the reassessment of lands to be made in 1880 there will be a considerable falling off in the valuation and a consequent diminution of the land-tax. There will be no falling off in the Valley, and already there are indications of an improvement in the value of lands in Eastern Virginia. But under the present total assessment of the real estate in the Commonwealth, amounting to $242,702,503.42, only $171,078,046.18 appertains to the lands of the State; the balance, $71,624,457.24, is the value of the real estate in the cities and towns. Now, while the next assessment will show a depreciation in the value of our lands, this will not be the fact as to the real estate in the cities and towns; which, on the contrary, will show an appreciation. But, as we prefer to avoid in this paper all over-statement of our resources, let us discard this anticipated increase, and suppose for the sake of argument that the assessment of real estate in our cities and towns will remain the same as at present. If, then, the sum of $71,624,457.24 is deducted from $242,702,503.42, the total value of real estate in the Commonwealth under the last assessment, there will remain (in round numbers) $171,000,000. If we allow a falling off on this in the next assessment of 25 per cent., the revenue from the land-tax will be diminished about $214,000, of which loss one fifth, or $42,800, must be borne by the school fund. So that the amount by which our surplus of $320,000 above shown will be diminished will be only $171,200, and we will still have a surplus, in round numbers, of $148,800.

This is the extreme limit of any diminution in the revenue from this source. But it will not amount to this. As we have remarked, there will be no falling off in the assessments in the Great Valley and the Southwest, nor in some of the Piedmont counties—the whole representing in value one third at least of the lands of the Commonwealth; so that instead of $214,000, given above, the diminution in the amount of the annual land-tax under a new assessment will not exceed $142,700. It will be two years before even this is realized, and, with the general improvement noted in business throughout the country, and the quiet immigration already setting in among the northern counties of the State, it is not probable that the diminution, if any, will reach so large a figure.

We have given now the worst view of what may happen, according to the croakers, agitators, and prophets of evil, and have demonstrated that even should the worst that they have predicted come to pass we shall still have left a surplus of $148,800 annually, which will place the safety and prosperity of our school system not only beyond all danger, but guarantee its full and successful development in the future.

AN AGITATION ON A PALTRY ISSUE.

It is positively astonishing that a new agitation should have been reopened in this connection on such a paltry issue! In 1871 the State, in the exercise of its power, took the $100 bond of her creditor and told him to look to West Virginia for one third of it, which left him $66.66. The State took in the old bond and gave a new one, reducing the debt from $45,000,000 to $30,000,000. She then had $1,800,000 of interest to pay every year. But a clamor was soon raised, and the people were told that they could not afford to pay this, and that 3 per cent. on the State debt was as much as the bondholders ought to have. After seven years of agitation the people were brought up to the proper point, and a readjusting Legislature was elected. The Conservative party in 1877 urged upon the Legislature "the importance of using all just and honorable means of bringing about an *adjustment* of the obligations of the Commonwealth." We elected a Governor and Legislature on that platform. The Legislature convened, and, carrying out to the letter the mandate of the Convention, the McCulloch bill was passed. Readjustment had triumphed. The rate of interest had been practically reduced to 3 per cent.; that is to say, it was fixed at 3 per cent. for ten years, 4 per cent. for twenty years, and 5 per cent. for ten years. Those who had been agitating for eight years had carried their point. And now we are told that this won't do! but that we must reopen the question and make it 3 per cent. for all time! and this after the contract is signed, $4,000,000 to $5,000,000 now (August 19th) actually funded, and more than $6,000,000 more (exclusive of what has been done in England) are ready to be funded. It is believed that over two thirds of the debt will be funded before the meeting of the Legislature. The bond of $66.66 has been reduced to $33.33 for the next ten years by this second act of legislative surgery, and the cry goes up from Mozart Hall—Cut deeper! The goose that laid the golden eggs was killed in that way. In undertaking to trim the thing too fine we may break the point off.

Under the new act we pay $983,000 of interest per annum as against $1,800,000 due under the funding bill of 1871.

The whole difference between the Mozart agitators and the Legislature is whether it ought to have been 3 per cent. for ten years or 3 per cent. for all the time the bonds have to run. Are we really trying to avoid paying what we can pay? This certainly looks like it; for in ten years we can pay 4 per cent. as easily—more easily—than we can pay 3 per cent. now. The increase in our population in ten years, and the new values which will have accumulated in that time, will make us able to pay 6 per cent. in 1889, if we choose to do it.

The whole difference, we say, between the Mozart faction and the friends of the McCulloch bill has reference to 1889, and does not arise for ten years. The leaders of that faction, observe, are in favor of paying 3 per cent. now, just as we are. This being so, is it not astonishing that their organs and speakers are constantly publishing columns of figures to prove that we cannot meet the provisions of the McCulloch bill—that there will not be enough revenue to carry on the Government, provide for the schools, and pay 3 per cent. on the debt? We have attempted to show that there will be; but if not, we should find the same difficulty in carrying on the Government, providing for the schools, and paying 3 per cent. on the debt under the Mozart scheme. We do not see the object of trying to prove that 3 per cent. cannot be paid, when all parties agree that we are going to do it.

THE DANGER OF AGITATION TO THE SCHOOLS.

But it is time that we were passing to the second point we proposed to establish in this paper, letting all this be as it may: Is it good for the schools that this agitation be continued? Admitting that the bill is not all that we would have, if you repeal it, what are you going to do then? One half of the debt will probably be funded before the 1st of next January. If you could not get rid of the old funding act, can you get rid of this? can you get rid of both? You are doubly tied now; and the present act differs from the former in that it is already *an executed contract* with a syndicate. You cannot stop the funding, as was done before. It is, we believe, *impossible* to get rid of the act through the courts. The United States courts will undoubtedly bring all their power to bear to force a compliance with the terms of the agreement so solemnly entered into a second time. What, therefore, can agitation—or a repeal on the face of the Session Acts—accomplish? If we could repeal the act of last winter, we should merely be thrown back on the old funding act; and what has been the condition of the schools under that? What do you make by going back to that? Under that we have been paying some $1,200,000 of interest (the interest on the peelers going unpaid); under the present act we shall pay only $983,000 on the entire debt of the State. For seven years the old funding act defied the efforts of the Readjusters to get rid of it. Shall we devote the next seven years to warring on the new? Is the play worth the candle, even if the goal is at last reached? Where will the schools be in the mean time? We tell you, fellow-citizens, *there will be no schools worth the name!* No people can stand this continued unrest, kept up half the lifetime of a generation! And the whole difficulty now, even as confessed by the agitators, is about the payment of some three hundred thousand dollars per annum in the way of interest ten years hence, to which we shall advert more particularly farther on.

THREATENED WITH A CONVENTION.

When we urge, as suggested above, that the opponents of the McCulloch bill cannot leap the barriers of the courts, we are threatened with a convention. It will take two years for that body to meet and disperse; and when they have done their work, what results will probably have been realized? Repudiation, perhaps, unqualified; and organic changes in the school law which will practically amount to the destruction of our public-school system.

We do not know what changes might be introduced by such a body; but the friends of our school system would have special reason to tremble. It seems to be generally admitted among those who have examined, and in authoritative quarters beyond Virginia, and even in Europe, that the Virginia school system is constructed upon the best principles, and is organized throughout according to the most approved and tried methods of public education. And it has certainly been successful. In fact, the results accomplished in Virginia in so brief a time are simply wonderful. What the system is capable of is illustrated in our cities, where it has been thoroughly carried out. No one who has visited our Richmond schools has failed to be struck with admiration at the splendid results attained. And so again it has been notably in the Valley counties, where the system has been more efficiently supported than elsewhere.

There will undoubtedly be an attempt to reconstruct our school system if a constitutional convention assembles. We have already referred to one scheme of reorganization attempted last winter. In a body convened to change our organic law there will be many schemes proposed, and what would be the outcome no man can prophesy. Are the friends of the schools willing to run this risk? Are the true and genuine friends of the schools among the whites willing to run this risk? Are the colored people willing to run this risk? We solemnly warn both classes to let well alone, and to seek by peace and quiet among ourselves to reestablish and reopen the schools which have already been in large proportion closed by this agitation.

NEED OF REPOSE.

It is not through a disturbed and unsettled condition of public feeling that the schools will prosper. The most auspicious state of things for the schools would be a period of rest throughout the limits of the State. In the present distracted condition of the public mind proper attention cannot be directed to the schools. And if this public mind continues to be excited and drawn off from the necessary business of society it will be impossible to restore health to the school system. Chronic agitation paralyzes all effort. It is the worst of all things that can befall the schools. The effect of agitation is to produce a sense of uncertainty and bewilderment among the people generally, and especially with school-officers and teachers, and boards of supervisors and city councils. All plans for progress and improvement are arrested. There is no incitement to any new effort. The local support of schools will be rendered doubtful by the apprehension that the whole system is threatened with destruction. The people themselves will be casting about for other means of educating their children. The enemies of public education will brand all we have done as a miserable failure, and urge that there is no use in trying the thing any further. So that, although in fact there may not have been any real danger to the school interest on financial grounds, yet the panic and the demoralization created by the declarations of the agitators may actually bring about the very thing which they predict.

It were better to receive one half of the money annually due from the State, and to receive it promptly and punctually, than to secure the whole sum amid these angry and endless dissensions, which tend only to develop among the people a feeling of uneasiness and disgust. If we tamper more with the subject, there is grave reason to apprehend that the cause will lose the confidence of the people, and they will welcome anything that is proposed to get rid of the contention.

We have supposed that the convention will repudiate. This was only by way of argument. A convention could do no more in this respect than a legislature. There is no magical efficacy in the name of convention. If the legislature cannot free itself of the funding bill and the coupons because the courts regard it as a contract, no more can the people, through a convention, free themselves of the contract. It sticks like the shirt of Nessus, and passing legislative acts or framing new organic systems will not cast it off. What if we elect a new set of judges? That merely frees us of the State courts; behind is the great shadow of the Supreme Court of the United States.

But how many years will it take for all these things to occur? How long are we to wait?

And now let us turn back a moment and catch up a thread dropped some way back: What is all this contention about? Let us scrutinize this closely and see whether there is really anything of value in dispute.

NO PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE M'CULLOCH SETTLEMENT AND THE MOZART PLAN.

Then, first, the McCulloch bill provides that the old bonds, bearing 6 per cent., shall be called in, and a new bond issued, payable in forty years, bearing 3 per cent. interest for ten years, 4 per cent. interest for twenty years, and 5 per cent. interest for ten years. During the next ten years we are to pay only 3 per cent. interest.

Now, here is an extract from the Richmond *Whig* of August 4, 1879, the leading organ of the Mozart party:

"'I would use my best endeavors to secure a vote of the people sanctioning a settlement at 3 per cent. for forty-five years on the basis of $32,977,000.02.' *General Mahone's Mozart-Hall speech.*

"And that is still the General's position, as we understand it, in which he is heartily supported by Readjusters as a whole."

Here is another extract from the *Whig*, of date August 5, 1879:

"Now let us come to a 3 *per cent.* settlement of the State debt with a hip—hip—hurrah! Not the swindle of the brokers' bill—no, no, no! But a real 3 *per cent.*, that which General Mahone proposed in his Mozart-Hall speech, and which all Readjusters are ready to agree to. There is something tangible. There is something simple, certain. That is what the State and people will agree to pay and will pay, without tax-receivable coupons. Now, where are the Funders, brokers, and bondholders? What have they got to say to this straight 3 *per cent.*, without trimmings? Ah—they cannot swallow it so. They must have it watered and sugared before their weak stomachs can stand it. But they will have to come to it at last."

It will be observed that *there is no quarrel for the next ten years.* The *Whig*, speaking for the leaders of the Mozart party, proposes to pay 3 per cent. now and until 1889, just as the McCulloch bill does. It is only at the point of 1889 that any difference arises. Up to that point we are all agreed.

The agitation then refers to the question, What we are to pay in 1889—ten years off; whether we shall then pay 4 per cent. or 3 per cent. The difference amounts to about $320,000. And this crusade against the compromise of last winter is all about the raising of this additional sum in and after the year 1889, when the property of the Commonwealth will probably be worth a third more than it is to-day, and our population will amount to several hundred thousand more than it does at present. For this contention—as abstract as, Which is the most useful animal, the horse or the cow?—debated in the boys' debating societies—our poor old Commonwealth is to be convulsed anew from centre to circumference, the very existence of our schools is to be jeoparded, and a paradise of demagogues inaugurated, the like of which has not been seen even in these degenerate political days.

If we cannot pay 4 per cent. in 1889, it will be time enough to raise the question then. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

THE SCHOOL OFFICERS PRESUMED TO BE INSTRUCTORS IN MORALS.

But, finally, will it be the proper thing for the friends of education to place themselves in the ranks of those who are teaching the people to violate the public faith? There is a very conspicuous display of audacity on the part of these people when they are appealing to the public school teachers and the school officers of Virginia to aid them in the work of destroying the solemn contracts entered into by the State. What teacher would be fit to teach the humblest boy in the Commonwealth his letters if he could not command that child's respect as a teacher and example of sound morals? Shall our schools be set up under the shadow of Mozart, and all the boys set to work to learn as their first lesson that a State may renounce its obligations? There is no more sacred calling than that of the teacher; there is no more sacred cause than education, unless we except religion. But the teacher touches the springs of the youthful heart before the preacher, and the seeds which he plants there are those which contribute largely to the formation of the character in after life. Next to the Church the School Organization of the State—private and public—the university, the college, the high school, the elementary school—is the great Moral Teacher and Guide of the people. The conscientious and sensitive school officer who is invited to make himself an expounder in the casuistry of getting rid of contracts ought to repel such a solicitation with scorn. The people look to the school trustees, to the county and city superintendents, to the army of patient and faithful public school teachers, to *teach* them morals, not to offer them the example of the flagrant, or even questionable, violation of that commandment, the breach of which has perhaps in the estimation of mankind more *disgrace* attaching to it than the infraction of any other section in the table of the moral law.

One of the most prevalent objections urged against State education at present is that it fails to provide for religious instruction in the schools. We think the objection is wholly unfounded; but what defence shall we make if the children in the State schools are taught *bad morals?*

T. M. LOGAN, Chairman.

J. Bell Bigger, Secretary.

REUNION OF THE CLAYS.—It is proposed to hold a reunion at Lexington, Ky., of representatives of the Clay family, the time suggested being from October 14th to the 17th. It is said that all the American-born bearing the name are descended from one family. Most of them reside in Kentucky and Alabama, but the family is represented in this State, New England, Texas, and the Carolinas, and in Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, and perhaps other States in the North and Northwest.—*New York Times.*

It is believed that there is very strong evidence to show—the matter has been closely inquired into—that the first of the Clays who came to this country, and the undoubted progenitor of the "Mill Boy of the Slashes," settled in Talbot county, in this State.—*Baltimore Sun.*

LOCAL MATTERS.

THIEF CAUGHT.—On the night of the 10th instant the office of Robert Stanard was entered and robbed of the following articles: A new sack-coat, a Smith & Wesson pistol, a silk umbrella, and a large Russia-leather pocket-book. The thief took off his coat and hid it in the water-closet of the Shafer building, and in the coat was a handkerchief with the thief's name on it—Charles Miller—who was arrested by Private Detective John Wren. He told Mr. Stanard if he would give him $3 he would get the goods from a pawnbroker and fetch them back in half an hour, which Mr. Stanard declined to do. Miller was carried to the First station-house.

PERSONAL AND BRIEFS.—Governor Holliday went from Blacksburg to Winchester. He will return here the last of this week, it is expected.

Mrs. Matilda Dallam, *nee* Held, formerly of Richmond, now of Lincoln, Cal., is visiting relatives here.

The steward of the Norwegian bark Agres was drowned at City Point Monday.

City-Collector Woodson has forwarded to the Police Justice the delinquent license list.

Mrs. Nellie Grant Sartoris is at present in good health and engaged in reading the high-toned obituary notices of her.

Captain E. D. Starke, formerly adjutant of the First regiment, was last night elected junior second lieutenant of the Blues.

POLICE COURT, YESTERDAY—*Justice J. J. White presiding.*—The following cases were disposed of yesterday:

Annie Robinson and Ellen Thomas (both colored), charged with being disorderly characters; also with contempt of court. They were fined $2.50 for contempt, and committed to jail for three months in default of surety.

Charles Nelson (colored), drunk and disorderly. Fined $2.

Frank Cary (colored), surrendered by his bondsman, Benjamin Yancey. Committed to jail.

Caroline Jenkins (colored), drunk and disorderly, was fined $1.

G. L. Robinson (colored), a suspicious character, was committed to jail in default of surety.

Potter Berry and Ben. Harris were fined $2.50 each for assaulting and beating E. C. and A. M. Meyer.

TOO LATE.—The Governor yesterday issued a proclamation offering a reward of $100 for the arrest of J. H. Stevens, of Botetourt county, who Sunday a week ago in a fit of jealousy shot and killed his wife. Last evening intelligence reached the city that Stevens had returned to his home and committed suicide.

THE RIVER.—The noble Jeems is pouring down towards the sea a volume of muddy water, but there are no indications of anything serious in the way of a freshet. Indeed, at 10 o'clock last night it was falling rapidly.

BIG FOURS AT THE THEATRE FRIDAY NIGHT.—Our people are not to be wholly deprived of amusements during the warm season. The Big 4 Minstrels are going to give an entertainment at the Theatre on Friday night.

The following from a leading morning journal of New York shows what was thought of their exhibitions there:

One of the brightest and most mirth-compelling performances that has been seen in New York in many a day is the performance of the "Big 4 Minstrels," who are rapidly gaining a warm place in the estimation of this public at the Standard Theatre. The company is a large one, and includes many excellent performers, and if there are none of them who are so well known or so popular as some of our local players, there are some that are no less good. The singing in the first part is excellent, as a rule, though it is in nowise remarkable, but some of the character pieces are admirable. Mr. William Carroll, in particular, gives a song-and-banjo performance which is peculiarly good, and which gains *encore* after *encore*. Scarcely less good is the work of Messrs. Smith, Waldron, Morton, and Martin (the original "Big 4"), who do songs, dances, and posturing capitally. Such a performance as that of these minstrels affords perfectly pure and innocent enjoyment, and a great deal of it, and cannot meet with too much encouragement from those who believe in harmless and perfectly proper amusements, which are at the same time exceedingly clever.

MORTUARY REPORT for the week ending August 16, 1879:

Cause of Death: Apoplexy, 1 colored; cholera-infantum, 1 white, 1 colored; consumption, 2 white, 3 colored; convulsions (infantile), 1 white, 1 colored; diarrhœa, 2 colored; diphtheria, 1 white; drowning, 1 white; dysentery, 1 white; fever (typhoid), 1 white, 1 colored; infanticide, 1 colored; inflammation of bowels, 1 white; liver-disease, 1 white; marasmus, 2 white; old age, 1 colored; paralysis, 1 white; tabes mesenterica, 1 white; teething, 1 white; unknown, 2 colored. Whole number of deaths in the city, exclusive of still-births, 28. *Still-Births:* White males, 4; white females, 1; colored females, 2—total, 7. *Age:* One day to thirty, 3 colored; one month to six, 3 white; six months to twelve, 2 white, 2 colored—total, 4; one year to three, 4 white, 1 colored—total, 5; five years to ten, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; ten years to twenty, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; twenty years to thirty, 1 white; thirty years to forty, 2 colored; forty years to fifty, 1 colored; sixty years to seventy, 1 white; seventy years to eighty, 2 white, 2 colored—total, 4. *Condition:* Single, 11 white, 9 colored—total, 20; married, 3 white, 2 colored—total, 5; widowers, 1 colored; widows, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2. *Nativity:* Richmond, 15; other parts of the United States, 10; Ireland, 3. *Locality:* City at large, 1 white; Marshall Ward, 5 white; Jefferson Ward, 1 white, 3 colored—total, 4; Madison Ward, 1 colored; Monroe Ward, 1 white; Clay Ward, 5 white, 4 colored—total, 9; Jackson Ward, 2 white, 3 colored—total, 5; almshouse, 2 colored.

COMPARATIVE WEEKLY MORTALITY.

	Aug. 18, 1877.		Aug. 17, 1878.		Aug. 9, 1879.		Aug. 16, 1879.	
	W.	C.	W.	C.	W.	C.	W.	C.
Total deaths	14	18	15	21	21	18	15	13
Still-born	1	0	1	1	2	2	5	2

Mean temperature for the week ending August 9, 83.57; mean temperature for the week ending August 16, 76.85.

Amount of rainfall for week ending August 9, 0.15 inches; amount of rainfall for week ending August 16, 0.00 inches.

Population of city estimated at 80,000—white, 46,000; colored, 34,000. Rate of mortality of whole population was 18.20 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of white population was 16.95 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of colored population was 19.88 per 1,000 per annum.

MANCHESTER AND VICINITY.

Political.—Conservative County-Superintendent Hancock has called meetings for the different districts in Chesterfield to be held August 30th, at which time delegates will be appointed to the convention to be held at the court-house on September 3d, for the purpose of reorganization. There are eleven precincts, and the number of delegates to be appointed is forty-two, which are to be chosen from the different districts as follows: Manchester (two precincts) will send five delegates; Midlothian (one precinct), six delegates; Clover Hill (two precincts), ten delegates; Matoaca (three precincts), thirteen delegates; Dale (one precinct), five delegates; Bermuda (two precincts), three delegates.

Mayor's Court.—At the Mayor's Court yesterday two well-known citizens were up, charged with engaging in a lively altercation on Tenth street near Hull last Saturday evening. Hickory sticks and buggy-whips were at one time greatly in demand. Those on hand, however, were used quite extensively. Both parties were fined $1 and discharged.

Cleaning Gutters.—Hull street yesterday had every appearance of a farm, as a number of persons were engaged in cutting away grass in the gutters in front of their premises. Those who fail before the coming week to follow the example which has been set will be summoned before Mayor Clarke to show cause why they should not be fined.

Personals.—Rev. G. C. Vanderslice and family will leave this morning for Amherst county, at which place they will remain several weeks. Arrangements have been made to hold services at his church until he returns.

E. Morrissette, A. M., principal of the Manchester public schools, will also leave to-day for Prince Edward county, to remain until the schools here reopen.

Commonwealth's-Attorney B. A. Hancock, of Chesterfield, was out yesterday and in the city, after an illness of four weeks.

Mr. Bassett French, son of Colonel S. Bassett French, of this city, left yesterday for Washington, and will make that city his future home.

Brief Items.—The Bell telephone, connecting this city with Richmond and Petersburg, is frequently used by citizens in business affairs.

John Collins, the tramp who did a great deal towards enhancing the appearance of the public square, has left us—at a time, too, when he is most needed.

The brick-yards in the city are in full blast, and are turning out excellent bricks.

Next Friday night is the regular night for the Beethoven *musicale*. A splendid programme will be presented.

Services are expected to be held at several of the churches in the city to-night.

ROOMS STATE CONSERVATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, RICHMOND, VA., August 19, 1879.

Conservative meetings will be held at the places stated below on the dates mentioned, and one or more of the following gentlemen, to be hereafter announced, will speak at each of them: Dr. J. L. M. Curry, Hon. John Goode, Major John W. Daniel, Capt P. W. McKinney, Hon. Thomas S. Flournoy, Hon. A. M. Keiley, Hon. Thomas S. Bocock, and Hon. John Randolph Tucker.

Charlotte Courthouse, September 1st.
Hickford, September 1st.
Isle of Wight Courthouse, September 1st.
Princess Anne Courthouse, September 1st.
Nottoway Courthouse, September 4th.
Petersburg, September 5th.
Suffolk, September 8th.
Chesterfield Courthouse, September 8th.
Campbell Courthouse, September 8th.
Buckingham Courthouse, September 8th.
Lunenburg Courthouse, September 8th.
Prince George Courthouse, September 11th.
Pittsylvania Courthouse, September 15th.
Mecklenburg Courthouse, September 15th.
Prince Edward Courthouse, September 16th.
Halifax Courthouse, September 22d.
Surry Courthouse, September 23d.

By order of the Executive Committee.
T. M. LOGAN, Chairman.
J. Bell Bigger, Secretary.
Conservative papers please copy.

KENTUCKY WHISKEY.
FOUR (4) YEARS OLD.
$2.50 PER GALLON,
AT CHRISTIAN & WHITE'S.

"Now, here is something, as Toodles says,
That's bound to be useful one of these days"—
AN UMBRELLA.

LEVY BROTHERS have reduced the prices of their Umbrellas to such low figures that it will pay you to purchase one at once. They are also selling Silk Parasols at 45, 50, 60, 65, 75c., and $1—all of which are worth double the money. They have a few left of those Silk Parasols, lined with silk, at $1, formerly sold at $3.50 and $4.

LEVY BROTHERS also offer great bargains in the remainder of their stock of Dress Goods. Also, great bargains in 200 Remnants of Dress Goods. You can save money by making your purchases now, as the whole stock of goods must be sold.

OLD CLEMMER WHISKEY at a very low price is sold by W. D. BLAIR & CO., 1109 Main street.

PORTNER'S CELEBRATED LAGER, the leading Beer, endorsed by all eminent physicians. Bottled fresh daily, and delivered to families.
CHRISTIAN & WHITE,
General Agents.

"INGLESIDE," a pure whiskey, distilled in Augusta county, Va., is sold at $2.50 a gallon by W. D. BLAIR & CO., 1109 Main street.

SAVE MONEY by having your printing done at the DISPATCH PRINTING-HOUSE. Good work, low prices, and satisfaction guaranteed.

BURNETT'S FLAVORING EXTRACTS.—*The superiority of these extracts consists in their perfect purity and great strength.* They are warranted free from the poisonous oils which enter into the composition of many of the factitious flavors now in the market.

H. ELLYSON & CO., advertising agents, insert advertisements in all the newspapers of the United States at publishers' rates. Orders left at the *Dispatch* counting-room will receive prompt attention.

AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.

RICHMOND BAZAAR, 10 A. M., carriages, buggies, phaetons, and horses.

JAS. MACDOUGALL, 10½ A. M., stock of groceries, scales, candies, &c., at No. 1717 Grace street.

PAINE & NOWLIN, 10½ A. M., at No. 1413 Main street, trustee's sale of boots, shoes, trunks, valises, &c.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

HENRY A. ATKINSON, JR., FOR THE SENATE—RICHMOND AND HENRICO. Subject to primary election. au 6-eod:Se1&ditse11

WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO ANNOUNCE WILLIAM LOVENSTEIN as a CANDIDATE for the HOUSE OF DELEGATES, subject to the primary election, September 11, 1879. au 6-eod10t*

WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO ANNOUNCE T. WILEY DAVIS, Esq., as a candidate for the HOUSE OF DELEGATES. Subject to the primary election, September 11, 1879. au 9-S&W4w*

WE HAVE NOTICED THE NAMES OF SEVERAL GENTLEMEN who are well qualified to represent the city in the next General Assembly, but hope the people will not lose sight of one of the best and most suitable men in the Conservative party to represent them in the next House of Delegates. We allude to Mr. WILLIAM L. ROYALL, who will represent you ably and faithfully, with nothing 2est. He is the man to look after your varied interests, and will protect them.
au 19-2t TAX-PAYER.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASS'N.

THE ROOMS OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, Main street above Ninth street, are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, and all, especially young men, strangers as well as residents of Richmond, are heartily invited to call and make use of them. They will find there the latest Nos. of *Scribner's Magazine, Harper's Monthly* and *Weekly, Demorest's Magazine, Godey's Lady's Book, Illustrated London News, Nineteenth Century*, and others, besides the Richmond daily papers, the New York *Herald*, &c.
au 18-eod1w

OFFICE OF