DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. LVIII. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 21, 1880. NO. 18.

THE DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

CASH—INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

The DAILY DISPATCH is delivered to subscribers at FIFTEEN CENTS per week, payable to the carrier weekly. Mailed at $6 per annum; $3 for six months; $1.50 for three months; 50c. for one month.

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

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jy 12-M,W&F2w

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jy 8-2w

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Nos. 6 and 8 east Fifty-third street, New York, reopens SEPTEMBER 29. The course of study in the collegiate departments meets all demands for the higher education of women. jy 15-2taw3m

TO TEACHERS.

ON THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1880, there will be a MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEW LONDON ACADEMY, at the Academy, TO ELECT A PRINCIPAL for the next ensuing term. Attention of teachers of superior qualifications is requested to this notice. For particulars address at FOREST DEPOT or BEDFORD SPRINGS, VA., any one of the Board of Trustees:

W. H. IRVINE, R. C. W. RADFORD,
N. B. FLOYD, JESSE IRVINE,
THOMAS READ, THOMAS WEST,
Or S. T. PETERS, President.

The election of Principal of New London Academy has been POSTPONED UNTIL JULY 24, 1880. S. T. PETERS,

jy 7-codtiy24 President.

MOUNT VERNON INSTITUTE, 46 Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore. English, French, and German Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies. Mrs. M. J. JONES and Mrs. MAITLAND, Principals, assisted by Professors L. C. BRICKENSTEIN, SIDNEY LANIER, B. BARTON, M. D., and a large corps of other teachers of experience and ability. Superior advantages are offered on account of delightful situation. The twenty-first annual term will commence SEPTEMBER 20TH. Circulars sent on application.

je 8-cod2m

MRS. ENGLISH'S SCHOOL
FOR
YOUNG LADIES AND LITTLE GIRLS,
707 EAST FRANKLIN STREET.
WILL BE REOPENED TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1880.

The success of this school during the past year has encouraged the principal to secure in addition to the corps of teachers of last session other valuable assistance.

For circulars and further information apply to MRS. JESSIE GORDON ENGLISH.

jy 12-1w&1M.W&F1m

MILLER MANUAL-LABOR SCHOOL.

TWO TEACHERS will be appointed to the MILLER MANUAL-LABOR SCHOOL, of Albemarle county, on the 28TH OF JULY, 1880 (one of them to act also as book-keeper). Salary, $250 and board.

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Applications, with testimonials, will be addressed to "Visitors Miller Manual-Labor School," care of Rev. John T. Randolph, Charlottesville.

jy 16-cod6t

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JOHN B. CARY, State Agent,
1015 Main street, Richmond, Va.

jy 21-cod8m

THE LIFE-INSURANCE COMPANY
OF VIRGINIA,
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ITS STOCKHOLDERS,
HAS
REMOVED TO THE CITY OF RICHMOND,
AND FIXED ITS
PRINCIPAL OFFICE AT NO. 9 TENTH STREET.

Established under the auspices of such men as the late A. G. Mellwaine, its first president; D'Arcy Paul, its first vice-president, and D. B. Tennent, who has been continuously one of its vice-presidents, and a member of its Finance Committee since its formation, it has aimed always to maintain the high character with which such men moulded all their enterprises.

No man has ever had to enforce a claim against it by the judgment of a court.

It has always kept an ample reserve in cash.

Its policies have always been incontestable after three years except for actual fraud.

Its assets are larger in proportion to liabilities than those of any company in the United States.

It invites an examination into its modes of investment, its strength, and its rates.

It issues policies of insurance in amounts not exceeding $5,000—for a single year, or a term of years (at rates quite as low as competitive assessments), or for life, and endowments for any period. Premiums payable annually, semi-annually, quarterly, or monthly. SAMUEL B. PAUL, President.

JAMES W. PEGRAM, Secretary. jy 7-1m

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offer at the LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE over 1,300,000 ENVELOPES. The assortment embraces all the sizes and styles in general use.

Our stock of FANCY and STAPLE STATIONERY is unusually large and complete. jy 19-d&w

PAPER BOXES AND BLANK BOOKS

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FINE and FASHIONABLE STATIONERY for the LADIES.

CHEAP STATIONERY for EVERYBODY.

STATIONERY OF ALL KINDS wholesale and retail. WOODHOUSE & PARHAM,

je 28 Booksellers and Stationers.

Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY.....JULY 21, 1880.

☞ 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, occasional rain, followed by clearing weather, northwest to southwest winds, lower temperature, and higher barometer.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY was clear and cooler. Between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning there was a heavy rain-storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 74; 9 A. M., 80; noon, 92; 3 P. M., 88; 6 P. M., 86; midnight, 75.

Mean temperature, 82¼.

Large Fire in New York.

THE LOSS OVER $300,000—BOLD EFFORTS OF THE FIREMEN—THE FIRE A MYSTERY.

[Journal of Commerce, yesterday.]

A fire involving a loss of over $300,000 occurred last night in a large building on First avenue between Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets. The building was owned by Hermann Kohler, a wealthy brewer, and had a frontage on the west side of First avenue of the entire block that extended back toward Second avenue a distance of 175 feet. The first 100 feet of the building was occupied by many firms. The rest of the building was occupied by Kohler's brewery and the malt-house of Arnold & Bernheimer.

The flames were discovered shortly before 10 o'clock bursting from the third-story windows in the front of the building near the middle of the block. The building was four stories high, and divided into three parts by three partition walls, so that the flames could not easily spread into the malt-house or the brewery. In a very short space of time the flames had reached the roof, and a strong northwesterly wind helped their progress. For more than an hour the burning building presented a striking spectacle. The flames shot up high above the roof. The firemen had great difficulty at first in getting at the flames. The building was high, and the wind blew with sufficient strength to make the heat near the building intense. Long ladders were placed against the walls and the boldest of the firemen ascended until they were nearly wrapped in the flames. Others made their way into the lower stories of the burning building and reached a small courtyard in the rear. Lines of hose were also stretched to the tops of dwelling-houses on Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets. The fire was at length put under control about 11½ o'clock, before it had extended to either the malt-house or the brewery. The three upper stories of the front part of the building between Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth streets were burned out. Another hour of hard work was required before the firemen were able to relax their efforts.

The building was owned by Herman Kohler, the brewer, and was erected in 1864 at a cost of $400,000. It was insured for $150,000 in various companies. The machinery in the building was valued at $200,000 more, and was insured for $75,000. Had the flames reached the brewery they would have destroyed about $200,000 worth of malt and beer.

The following estimates of losses in part of the building invaded by the flames were made last night: Loss on the building owned by Mr. Kohler, $75,000; the Manhattan Soap Company, represented by L. V. Streeter & Co., on the second floor of the building, $50,000; Lehmeir & Schwartz, manufacturers of tin-foil, on the same floor, $40,000; William Munzer, engineer and machinist, on the first floor of the building, $10,000; the Lyon Sewing-Machine Company, on the first floor, $10,000; the Cigar-Ribbon Company, third floor, $35,000; the Castle Braid Company, on the third floor, $50,000; Fessler & Co., silk-factory, second floor, $5,000; S. Cox, carpet-cleaner, on the top floor, $5,000; E. O. Carrington, proprietor of the National Carpet-Cleaning establishment, on the top floor, $20,000. Most of the losses were covered by insurance. Mr. Carrington, however, had in his care about $10,000 worth of carpets which were not insured, and which were burned up. Some of these carpets came from the Park-Avenue Hotel and from the Academy of Music.

The cause of the fire could not be learned last night. There was a rumor that previous to the breaking out of the flames an explosion was heard, and that several panes of glass in the front of the building were blown into the street. No one could be found, however, who heard the explosion, and as no one was in that part of the building when the flames broke out it was supposed that the fire had originated from a defect in some of the gas-pipes.

The following additional losses were learned late last night: Wehlen & Co., silk-dyeing establishment, on the first floor, $15,000; American Standard Tin Company, first floor, $10,000; factory for surgical instruments, name of firm not ascertained, third floor, $20,000.

TAKEN UP BY A WHIRLWIND.—*Editor of Keysville Herald:* On the 8th instant, while Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Faris were walking over to Mr. John J. Morris's, near Mr. D. Buchanan's mill, they were overtaken by a severe whirlwind. Mrs. Faris, being a few paces behind her husband, and discovering the approach of the wind, attempted to reach him, but was taken up and carried about sixty feet distant from the place she arose, and fell to the earth without bodily injury. Her parasol was carried several hundred yards, and her tuck-comb and hair-pins have never been found. Mr. Faris did not fall a victim to the wind, but was so excited by the sudden event that he could not measure the distance to which she arose with any degree of accuracy. The event will be long remembered by this entire community. C. & F.

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VA., July 12, 1880.

THE RICHMOND POST-OFFICE DEFALCATION MADE GOOD.—Postmaster Forbes, of Richmond, who was a defaulter to the amount of $1,200, has settled with the Department, and made good his deficiency. The Bond on hand $700 in internal-revenue stamps, for the sale of which he was the agent. Yesterday Commissioner Raum telegraphed to his agent in Richmond, who took the stamps. Upon an examination of Forbes's account with his bureau the Commissioner discovered to-day that he was in arrears $216. He again telegraphed to his agent this morning and received a reply shortly afterwards that Forbes had made good the deficiency.—*Washington Star.*

According to the Washington papers the deficiency in the Richmond post-office was discovered by Mr. L. A. Conner, of the Internal-Revenue Bureau. Recently, when Mr. Conner was examining Colonel Forbes's account for revenue stamps, he saw "that money was being taken from the post-office drawer to make good the revenue account." A simultaneous examination of Colonel Forbes's accounts with the Revenue and Post-Office Departments was then ordered by the Washington authorities, and disclosed the deficiency.

By the explosion of a boiler at a saw-mill near Barnesville, in Charlotte county, on Saturday, a colored man was killed, and Mr. Bryant, one of the owners, horribly scalded. Several others were injured.

LOCAL MATTERS.

CITY CONSERVATIVE COMMITTEE.—At a meeting of this committee last night the following gentlemen were elected to fill vacancies: B. Frank Jacob, Charles Millhiser, T. H. Blankenship, E. Hill, Peyton Wise, John C. Teller, and J. D. Whitehead. The committee now stands as follows:

Marshall Ward: John Pitt (superintendent), G. Watt Taylor, J. A. Meanly, A. J. Vaughan, J. D. Whitehead.

Jefferson Ward: W. W. Wood (superintendent), Henry C. Adams, W. H. Cullingworth, Robert H. Styll, J. Caskie Cabell.

Madison Ward: Samuel B. Witt (superintendent), H. Tate Evans, J. Bell Bigger, Charles F. Taylor, John C. Teller.

Monroe Ward: B. C. Gray (city superintendent), P. E. Dupuy (ward superintendent), P. W. Grubbs, Peyton Wise, Charles Millhiser.

Jackson Ward: W. J. Epps (superintendent), A. A. Lorentz, Henry W. Lubbock, Thomas Cox, Thomas H. Blankenship.

Clay Ward: Thomas H. Gunn (superintendent), George J. Hooper, C. E. Hill, Thomas M. Saunders, B. Frank Jacob.

PERSONALS AND BRIEFS.—Rev. Dr. C. H. Read left the city last evening for the Old Sweet Springs.

Mr. Edward Brian was the winner of the match game of pool at Heuser's Monday night. His opponent was an expert from Boston.

Mr. Christopher T. Langley has left for his home, in New Haven, Ct. Mr. Langley was a member of the Blues during the war, and will be remembered as the son of Mr. Charles H. Langley, an old citizen of Richmond.

Mrs. Caroline Richings-Bernard, Mr. Pierre Bernard, Joseph D. Grensfelder, and Miss Amy Rogers, of the Richings-Bernard-Seigel English Opera Company, organized for the Virginia Springs, arrived in Richmond yesterday.

Mr. N. D. Hargrove has been elected chairman of the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform, and Mr. T. H. Ellett chairman of the Committee on Second Market.

Ex-Governor Randolph, of New Jersey, was in the city yesterday.

Four miles of track have been laid on the Richmond and Alleghany railroad.

In view of the talked-of change of postmaster of Richmond petitions are in circulation in the city in recommendation of persons to succeed him. We are informed that Colonel Holladay, the assistant postmaster, will also be a candidate for the position, but does not feel at liberty, on account of his relations to the incumbent, to prefer his claims in this manner at present, but it is said will do so in due season.

There will be a meeting of Richmond Division, No. 4, Knights of Pythias, this evening looking to a moonlight excursion down the river, and they hope soon to have everything in readiness. They also meet to-night to elect officers for the term.

MORTUARY REPORT for the week ending July 17, 1880:

Cause of Death: Cholera-infantum, 3 white, 3 colored; cholera-morbus, 1 white; cirrhosis, 1 white; consumption, 2 white, 1 colored; convulsions (infantile), 2 white, 1 colored; diarrhœa, 2 colored; dysentery, 1 white, 2 colored; fever (remittent), 2 colored; fever (typhoid), 1 colored; heart-disease, 1 colored; inanition, 1 colored; infantile lockjaw, 1 white, 1 colored; inflammation of bowels, 2 white; marasmus, 2 colored; meningitis, 1 white; old age, 1 white, 1 colored; peritonitis, 1 colored; pneumonia, 1 white; tetanus, 1 white; unknown, 3 white, 1 colored. Whole number of deaths in the city, exclusive of stillbirths, 40. *Age:* One day to thirty, 2 white, 2 colored—total, 4; one month to six, 2 white, 1 colored—total, 3; six months to twelve, 3 white, 1 colored—total, 4; one year to three, 4 white, 4 colored—total, 8; three years to five, 1 colored; five years to ten, 2 white, 1 colored—total, 3; ten years to twenty, 2 colored; twenty years to thirty, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; thirty years to forty, 1 white, 1 colored—total, 2; forty years to fifty, 2 white; fifty years to sixty, 1 white, 2 colored—total, 3; sixty years to seventy, 1 white, 3 colored—total, 4; seventy years to eighty, 1 white; eighty years to ninety, 1 colored. *Condition:* Single, 16 white, 13 colored—total, 29; married, 4 white, 1 colored—total, 5; widowers, 2 colored; widows, 4 colored. *Nativity:* Richmond, 24; other parts of the United States, 12; England, 1; Germany, 1; Ireland, 2. *Locality:* Marshall Ward, 3 white, 3 colored—total, 6; Jefferson Ward, 3 white, 1 colored—total, 4; Madison Ward, 3 white, 2 colored—total, 5; Monroe Ward, 4 white, 3 colored—total, 7; Clay Ward, 4 white, 4 colored—total, 8; Jackson Ward, 3 white, 5 colored—total, 8; almshouse, 2 colored.

COMPARATIVE WEEKLY MORTALITY.

	Week Ending							
	July 20, 1878.		July 19, 1879.		July 10, 1880.		July 17, 1880.	
	W.	C.	W.	C.	W.	C.	W.	C.
Total deaths	12	25	19	14	18	20	20	20
Still-born	2	2	4	3	2	5	4	0

Mean temperature for the week ending July 10, 82.85; mean temperature for the week ending July 17, 87.14.

Amount of rainfall for the week ending July 10, 0.73 inches; amount of rainfall for the week ending July 17, 0.52 inches.

Population of city, 64,650—white, 37,953; colored, 26,697. Rate of mortality of whole population was 32.17 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of white population was 27.39 per 1,000 per annum; rate of mortality of colored population was 38.95 per 1,000 per annum.

POLICE COURT, TUESDAY—*Justice D. C. Richardson presiding.*—The following cases were disposed of:

Maggie Morton (colored), charged with keeping a disreputable house. Case was continued until to-day.

E. P. Perkins was fined $5 for cruelly beating his horse on the street.

J. H. Leahman was fined $2.50 for beating his wife.

Isaiah Gregory (colored), assault and battery. The case was dismissed on payment of costs.

Etta Gathright and Anna Randolph, trespassing upon the premises of R. B. Lyne, were jailed for thirty days in default of surety.

William St. John was charged with stealing a horse from H. P. Didlake. Several parties testified that they were present when St. John bought the horse from a man named O'Dwyer. The case was continued till to-day, and the accused bailed for his appearance.

Mrs. Virginia Leahman was fined $2 for contempt of court in failing to appear as a witness after having been summoned.

Margaret Morris (colored), arrested for using improper language on the public street. Jailed in default of surety.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELIEF OF POOR.—The Committee on Relief of the Poor met yesterday at the City Hall at 12 o'clock. Present: Messrs. Wagner, Barksdale, Williams, Pizzini, Cole, McDowell, and Weisiger. After the transaction of routine business, on motion of Mr. Pizzini, of Madison Ward, the action of the committee at its last meeting in electing the matron of the almshouse was reconsidered. Messrs. Pizzini, Cole, and Williams were appointed a committee to revise the rules and regulations governing the almshouse.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL PIC-NIC TO-MORROW.—The pic-nic of the First English Lutheran Sunday school to Mount Pleasant to-morrow promises real enjoyment to all who accompany the excursion. Extensive preparations are made for a variety of innocent amusements. Mr. William Krause, the city caterer, will have charge of the refreshment department. Refreshments will be furnished at less than city prices, to accommodate all who may not have made provision by taking their basket along.

CLOTHING CHARGES.

Auditor Massey Investigating Sergeant Lee's Accounts.

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES REPORTED TO JUDGE CHRISTIAN—CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE AUDITOR AND THE JUDGE—THE "STATE" AND THE AUDITOR—WHAT MR. LEE SAYS, &c., &c.

In view of the reports in reference to the clothing account of the Sergeant of this city with the Auditor of Public Accounts, and the publications yesterday afternoon, a representative of the *Dispatch* addressed the following note to Mr. J. E. Massey, the Auditor:

RICHMOND, July 20, 1880.

J. E. Massey, Esq., Auditor:

Dear Sir,—Having seen a paragraph in the *State* this afternoon to the effect that a correspondence has taken place between Judge Christian and yourself relative to certain allowances to the Sergeant of the city for prisoners' clothing, &c., I would be glad if you would furnish me with copies of those letters for publication in the *Dispatch* if consistent with the public interest.

Yours truly, EDWARD H. FISHER.

MR. MASSEY'S REPLY.

About 11 o'clock last night Mr. Massey sent us the following reply:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE AUDITOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
RICHMOND, July 20, 1880.

Mr. Editor,—I am in receipt of a note of this date from Edward H. Fisher, Esq., asking, in behalf of the *Dispatch*, a copy of a correspondence between Judge Christian and myself relative to certain allowances to the Sergeant of the city for prisoners' clothing, if in my opinion its publication be consistent with public interest.

You refer in your note to "a paragraph in the *State* of this afternoon."

I herewith furnish you copies of the letters referred to. This correspondence needs no explanation. The letters sufficiently explain themselves; I therefore furnish them without note or comment.

My reasons for not furnishing them to the *State*, and then for furnishing them to the *Dispatch*, should be given. They are briefly these:

The case has been placed in the hands of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Captain George D. Wise, by Judge Christian for judicial investigation, &c. Captain Wise suggested to me that the publication of the correspondence might possibly interfere to some extent with a fair and impartial trial of the case in hand. I therefore thought it proper not to give it to any newspaper.

This morning a reporter for the *State* called upon me in a gentlemanly manner for a copy of the correspondence. I stated to him my reason for not complying with his request at present. I thought he saw the propriety of my decision, and left satisfied that I was right.

Soon after he left, however, he returned accompanied by the editor of the *State*. The editor insisted on my giving him copies of "those letters." I expressed to him, as courteously as I could, why I declined furnishing them for publication at present. Of course these reasons did not satisfy the editor of the *State*, though I think they would have satisfied *ordinary* men.

The editor of the *State* talked in his own peculiar and inimitable manner. He talked loud, he talked long, and he talked—well, he talked only as the editor of the *State can* talk, with about the same *coherency* that is seen in his inimitable paragraph to which you refer. His talk would have been remarkable if it had been the talk of any other man than the editor of the *State*. During all this time he smoked as only the editor of the *State* can smoke, and puffed the tobacco-smoke through his nose instead of his mouth, which I should have regarded as very remarkable if the smoke had been emitted from any other nose than that of the *State*. Finally the *State* left the office in his own peculiar and inimitable way. I should have been surprised at this conduct of the *State* from beginning to the end if it had been the conduct of anybody but the *State*. Indeed, although the conduct of the *State* was consistent *with* the *State*, and entirely excusable *in* the *State*, and perfectly harmless to anybody *but* the *State*, if it had been the conduct of anybody *besides* the *State* I should have regarded it as rude, offensive, and impertinent. But as it was the *State*, and as the *State* is entitled to peculiar consideration which relieves it from *designing* either rudeness, offensiveness, or impertinence, we can only say that it was peculiarly *State*-like, and cast the veil of charity over whatever the *State* says or does. So, without any further notice of the remarkable effusion of the *State*, and fully excusing it, I must admit that its sensational article has, in my opinion, rendered it proper for me to waive all objections to the publication of the letters you ask. They are therefore placed at your disposal. Very respectfully,

JOHN E. MASSEY.

THE "STATE'S" ARTICLE.

The following is the article of the *State* to which the Auditor refers in his note to this paper:

"HIDE FRAUD.

Hide It, Says Massey—Now Official, Now Private, Says Massey—We Will Ruin Somebody, Says Massey—But You Mustn't See My Records, Says Massey—They are Private, Says Massey; and Not Fit to See, Says Massey—I Charge Fraud, Says Massey; and I Charge it in a Whisper—The Public Will Know the Charge, Says Massey; for I Make it in Corner, in Several Corners, Says Massey—Nobody Can Defend Himself, Says Massey—And I Only Whisper, Says Massey—I've Got a Chief, Says Massey, and an Organ, Says Massey; and I Will Try to Throttle the Public, Says Massey—Maybe We Can Drag in the Judge and George Wise, Says Massey.

Mr. Auditor Massey has let it be known that he has preferred charges of fraud against the Sergeant of the city of Richmond. He and his understrappers whispering to people on the streets vague intimations that the said Sergeant has defrauded the Commonwealth, and that he (Auditor Massey) has proved himself the watch-dog of the Treasury or the Auditor's office or the Commonwealth, and that he a long time ago—viz., on the first day of the month—gave these charges into the keeping of the judge of Richmond's Hustings Court, and that thereupon a correspondence followed between him, the said Auditor and the said Judge, complicated with the advice of the prosecuting attorney, who advised, according to the Auditor, that 'the public should be shut off from any knowledge of this matter until such time as the ends of justice might be furthered by a prosecution.'

A special reporter of the *State* was thereupon sent to the Auditor, Mr. Massey, to know if he had made charges against the said Sergeant of the city of Richmond before said Hustings Court Judge of said city.

The Auditor refused to show to the reporter the letters supposed to have been written by him. Thereupon the editor of the *State*, with the reporter, went to the office of the said Auditor and asked to see and to copy the letters to and from the Auditor, Judge, and prosecuting attorney, as being official letters concerning public matters.

The Auditor sheltered himself under the pretence that his letters were private, and that the letters of the Judge and Commonwealth's Attorney were private, and upon being asked whether a letter-book upon his table was official or private, declared that it was both or neither, just as he chose; that in it were many letters from Massey and many letters from the Auditor, some private and some official, and when the editor of this paper took the book and began to look at it Auditor Massey said it was private. Thereupon the Auditor was asked where was his official letter-book, and he answered that he had none unless that was official. Then the demand was made to look into that book as an official record of public acts, and Massey begged off, because he said there were private letters in there, yet at the same time allowing that he had no official record of public letters open to the inspection of the public. The result of all this is plain enough. Either Massey is getting up a false and malicious prosecution, or the Judge and prosecuting attorney are in a ring with him to conceal frauds upon the public, a ring in which several other officials must necessarily be interested. In any case this Massey refuses to make public his official acts, though they are detrimental to individuals and to communities.

He quibbles on what is public and private, and it is evident that an order of court would be necessary to allow any citizen access to the record of his private acts.

The Sergeant of the city of Richmond is the person whom he desires to attack. What is the system in the Sergeant's office we do not know. If it is a bad one, we desire to overthrow it; if a good one, to sustain it.

Thus Massey desires evidently to throw vitriol from a dark corner, and travels around this Commonwealth making charges which he fears or refuses to give to the public in his handwriting. Let the people judge this creature, this thing in the livery of godliness, this cuttlefish, who throws out what is at once a venom for his enemies and a defence for himself."

MR. MASSEY'S FIRST NOTE TO JUDGE CHRISTIAN.

The following is the first note which Mr. Massey addressed to Judge Christian on the subject:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
RICHMOND, July 1, 1880.

Hon. G. L. Christian:

Dear Sir,—I beg leave to call your attention to the accounts presented to your Honor by the Sergeant of the city of Richmond for boarding and clothing of persons confined in the city jail. These accounts are certified to the Auditor of Public Accounts for payment. The law limits the amount of clothing to be allowed by the court to any one person to an amount not exceeding ten dollars in any one year.

Upon examination I find a large number of prisoners have been furnished $5 worth of clothing *per month* for the first five months of the present year. I have not examined the accounts of past years, but suppose the same charges have been made heretofore as now. I think some have been reported as having been furnished with clothing who are amply able to provide their own clothing. The State is suffering seriously from exorbitant accounts allowed and certified to the Auditor for payment, and I beg your coöperation in efforts to arrest them.

The law allows three dollars per day for conveying prisoners to the penitentiary. The Sergeant of Richmond conveys prisoners *one at a time on succeeding days*, and charges three dollars thus for *each prisoner*, when all might be taken on the same day—that is, all who are convicted at the same term of court.

Very respectfully, &c.,

JOHN E. MASSEY,
Auditor of Public Accounts.

THE JUDGE'S REPLY.

Judge Christian sent the following answer:

JUDGE'S OFFICE, HUSTINGS COURT,
RICHMOND, VA., July 17, 1880.

Dear Sir,—I am just in receipt of your favor of this instant. I propose to hand your communication to the Attorney for the Commonwealth this morning for a prompt and thorough investigation of the subject alluded to. He will call to see you. Pending the investigation it seems to me that it would be best not to publish your communication; but you and Mr. Wise can determine about this when he sees you, which, I suppose, he will do to-day. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN.

Hon. John E. Massey, Auditor, &c.

THE CHARGES.

On the 15th the Auditor sent the following note to Judge Christian:

RICHMOND, July 15, 1880.

Hon. George L. Christian, Judge of the Hustings Court of Richmond:

Dear Sir,—I deemed it my duty some time past to call your attention to the fact that *ten dollars* was the maximum sum which courts are authorized to allow for clothing any prisoner confined in jail in one year, and to the further fact that the charges made by the Sergeant of the city of Richmond, and certified by your Honor to me for payment, greatly exceeded that sum.

Your Honor expressed willingness to take proper steps to prevent a repetition of these violations of law, and to redress the wrongs already committed whenever I could put you in possession of necessary information upon which to base your action.

The law which authorizes the purchase of clothing for prisoners is as follows: "A court may, * * * when a person in its jail charged with or convicted of an offence is unable to provide himself with sufficient clothing, direct the jailer to provide him clothing, and allow therefor not exceeding ten dollars in one year."

I have carefully examined the accounts of the Sergeant of the city of Richmond, which have been certified to me for payment, and many of those which were paid by my predecessor, and I am forced to the conclusion that they exhibit not only total disregard of law, but a reckless extravagance which, in my opinion, is wholly incompatible with either economical, faithful, or honest administration. You may think this strong language, but I think the facts not only justify but demand emphatic condemnation and prompt and vigorous judicial investigation.

It is unnecessary to give you the names of all the prisoners who are alleged to have received clothing at State expense. They would make a very long list. I will, therefore, only give you a sufficient number to satisfy you as to the general character of these accounts. The following persons are alleged to have received clothing to the amounts stated: Holly Brice, $25; Nat Campbell, $28; Claiborne Cunningham, $28; Lucian Davis, $28; Mary Evans, $30; Fred. Gibson, $28; James Hicks, $20; Sarah Jefferson, $22.50; Sarah Wilson, $25; Annie Lipscomb, $30; Joe Richardson, $20; Jacob Randolph, $17.50; Robert Smith, $27.50; Alice Stewart, $25; Charles Fusche, $20.50; Charles Thompson, $20; B. J. Ware, $30.

These charges are for only six months. They show an average of $25 worth of clothing furnished, or alleged to have been furnished, to each one of the above-named prisoners within six months while they were lying idle in jail. Similar accounts have been made off by the Sergeant, certified by the Court, and paid by the Auditor, each month for *years* past. For many months these accounts were more than *four hundred dollars* per month. The State has been robbed of thousands of dollars, which have been wrung from the honest tax-payers of Virginia.

I have good reason for believing that but little of the clothing charged in these accounts was ever given to the prisoners who are alleged to have received it. Evidence upon this point can be had whenever called upon. This evidence is strongly corroborated by the facts that the amount charged for clothing in December, 1879, was $181.50; in January, 1880, $190; February, $170.75; March, $175.70; April, $172; May, $191.50; and in June, after the $36.50. Even that was, in my opinion, twice as much as it should have been.

I appeal to your Honor to take proper steps to redress these wrongs and to prevent their repetition. Very respectfully,

JOHN E. MASSEY,
Auditor of Public Accounts.

THE ANSWER.

Judge Christian sent the following response to Mr. Massey's last letter:

JUDGE'S OFFICE, HUSTINGS COURT,
RICHMOND, VA., July 1, 1880.

Dear Sir,—I am just in receipt of your favor of this date calling my attention to charges in the account of the Sergeant, which surprise me greatly, and which it was impossible for me to be advised of without your assistance. As the accounts go from me as soon as they are examined, and it is impossible for me to remember from month to month which of the prisoners received clothing &c., I thank you for the information contained in yours, and will always thank you to call my attention to any irregularities which come from this court. You may rest assured that I will coöperate with you in any way that lies in my power to prevent any abuses in the future or to correct any that have been committed in the past. I remain, sir, very hastily,

Your obedient servant,
GEORGE L. CHRISTIAN.

John E. Massey, Esq.

IN THE COURTS.

Captain George D. Wise has called to see the Auditor, and the matter is now in his hands for investigation.

MR. LEE'S STATEMENT.

We sent to Mr. Lee's house last night for a statement from him, and he furnished the following:

RICHMOND, July 20, 1880.

Dear Sir,—My letter is addressed to Captain George D. Wise, and is in his hands. I said to him to state to Auditor Massey that if any money had been paid me which I was not legally entitled to it had been so paid without my knowledge or advice, and I was ready to pay it back as soon as informed of the amount. I said this verbally to Auditor Massey and to Judge Christian. I never made out my monthly accounts for the jail, and never knew anything about the clothing charges. I supposed if they were not correct the clerks in the Auditor's office would correct them, as they generally kept them one or two days for the purpose of examining them before they paid them. I correct all errors for or against me in all my business affairs. The State is at all times indebted to me for support of prisoners, and can at any time indemnify herself against loss by mistake or otherwise. N. M. LEE.

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN.—Mr. Joseph H. Colquitt died yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock at his residence, No. 803 west Grace street, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. For many years he was one of the leading saddle- and harness-manufacturers of this city. Until within the past three days he was in his usual health, and was out attending to his daily duties. He was a good man and highly esteemed by many friends.

MOONLIGHT AT BON AIR.—An excursion train on the Richmond and Danville railroad will leave here at 5:30 o'clock this afternoon for Bon Air, returning at 11:30 P. M. Music and a good time generally may be expected.

Public Library Needed.

Editors Dispatch: The following paragraph appeared in your issue of Monday last, but as it occupied such an obscure position (if I may be allowed the expression), being at the bottom of a column, I apprehend that not a few of your readers under whose notice it should have especially fallen failed to see it; and now, with the view of giving it that prominence which it should have, and with the hope that it may set somebody hereabouts to thinking, and perchance to acting, I beg that you will allow me space in your popular columns to reproduce it with a few subjoined remarks:

"Mr. Samuel Watkins, of Nashville, Tenn., has given $100,000 for the erection of a public library in that city. He has already, at an expense of $30,000, purchased a beautiful building site for the proposed library building."

I conceive that it requires no great depth of insight into the abstruse science of metaphysics to teach us that the best and most comprehensive commentary on the acts and sayings of men is found in the results which flow therefrom, and by the simple art of plain reasoning we are enabled to ascertain what such results will be before they have been practically developed.

Referring to the above-mentioned act of philanthropic beneficence, who will deny that Mr. Watkins has not forged the first link in a long chain of results, grand and glorious, that will bind him for all time to the hearts of the reading public of Nashville, and especially the young men who are animated by the desire for the acquisition of knowledge? By this single act he builds a monument to his memory more conspicuous, more imposing, and more enduring than chiseled marble or sculptured bronze, and his name will ever be enshrined in the memory of a grateful public.

We need a *public library* in this city; indeed, it is a crying want, and one that should be supplied.

With what joyous and grateful acclaim would the young men of this city hail such an announcement as the above did it relate to Richmond. I presume it is generally known that there is but one library in our midst worth mentioning that is accessible to the general public, and that only upon payment of a fee, which expense many are not able to bear who would like to avail themselves of the privilege. Then, too, while this library contains many works of value and interest to the general reader, yet it is very incomplete, most of the books being very old. We need a