

LOCAL NEWS.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26.

RIVER NEWS.—The river to-day has been full of floating ice, but the prevailing winds will soon clear it of the obstruction.

LENT.—To-day being Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of the season of Lent, which is more particularly observed by the Catholic and Protestant Episcopal churches.

CITY COUNCIL.—There was a regular meeting of the City Council held last night, a quorum being present in both boards.

AQUA CREEK ROUTE.—The Fredericksburg Herald of yesterday says: "The route from Washington via Aqua Creek, &c., was opened on Friday, on which day the mails arrived from North and South on schedule time."

FOR LIVERPOOL.—The steamship Worcester, Captain J. O. Graham, of this city, of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line, sailed to-day at two o'clock, from that company's new pier at Locust Point, Baltimore, for Liverpool.

MAIL MATTERS.—Advertisements are being prepared at the Postoffice Department for all mail messenger service between the Washington city office, the Baltimore and Alexandria railroads and mail steamers, to go into operation which all other mail service on the first day of July next.

WARRENTON SPRINGS.—Major Cornelius Boyle having purchased Warrenton Springs, has had a handsome plat of that valuable property drawn, which exhibits the different lots into which he has divided the tract.

THE CONCERT last night, for the benefit of the poor, given by Nelson & Weston's Minstrels, was a very fine affair, and all who heard it were very much pleased.

GRAIN RECEIPTS.—As an evidence of the trade of Alexandria it is mentioned that one commission firm received this morning a consignment of more than three thousand bushels of grain by the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad.

OFF THE TRACK.—Owing to the filling of the railroad bed on Union street with snow, one of the cars attached to a freight train was thrown from the track near the fish wharf this morning.

GERMAN CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the German Co-operative Building Association is to be held to-night, at Washington Hall.

FISHING SEASON.—Many hands for the different fishing shores on the Potomac left here this morning in the Aqua Creek steamer Keyport.

WATCH HOUSE.—There were but two lodgers at the watch house last night—one from this city, and the other from abroad.

THE SLEET, this morning, made walking on the pavements disagreeable and dangerous.—Several persons had falls.

POLICE REPORT.—MAYOR'S OFFICE.—The Mayor having partially recovered from his late indisposition presided at his court this morning.

MAGISTRATES' OFFICE.—There were no cases of criminal character at the Magistrates' office this morning.

GARDEN SEEDS.—We have just received a consignment of LANDRETH'S fresh and genuine GARDEN SEEDS, Onion Sets, &c., &c. Catalogues can be had upon application.

COD LIVER OIL, prepared by Hedgman, Wilber, Burnett, Foushers and DeJough; also, pure Cod Liver Oil on draught, just received and for sale by

TELEGRAPHIC.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Case of Gen. Thomas before Court GENERAL THOMAS DISCHARGED.

WASHINGTON, February 26.—At 10 o'clock, Gen. Thomas, with his counsel, R. T. Merrick, esq., and Joseph H. Bradley, sr., advisory counsel, came into the court room and took their seats.

Messrs. Merrick and Cox, counsel for the defence, obtained a subpoena on Mr. Stanton to bring with him his commission, which subpoena was placed in the hands of Marshal Gooding for service.

Marshal Gooding arrived at the War Department about half-past ten o'clock, sent in his card to Secretary Stanton, and was immediately admitted. Mr. Stanton then invited Marshal Gooding into his private office, where the Marshal handed him the copy of the writ, which Mr. Stanton read, and replied that he would be at Court before 12 o'clock.

At twenty minutes past ten o'clock Chief Justice Carter entered the court room, and the Criminal Court was opened by Deputy Marshal Phillips.

The crowd of spectators was great, every available space being occupied.

Hon. A. G. Riddle and Nathaniel Carpenter, Esq., of Wisconsin, were counsel for the prosecution.

Mr. Riddle moved that Mr. Carpenter be admitted to the bar.

Mr. Carpenter then arose and said that as this was a matter of great importance to the public and the parties themselves, and as he had been unable to examine the matter fully, and as he was in ill health, he would ask a postponement of the examination until to-morrow, at 10 o'clock.

The Court asked if there was any objection. Mr. Merrick said that while he was disposed to indulge the gentleman, he wished the matter to go on to-day, as it was important that there should be an early settlement of the case on account of the great public concern in the matter.

Mr. Carpenter said that if the case was postponed until to-morrow the prosecution would get through the case in two hours.

Chief Justice Carter. Let the case be continued. Mr. Merrick said that before the case was continued, he would ask that the case be adjourned into the Criminal Court.

Mr. Riddle said that this was an anticipation of the order that would probably be passed, that the defendant appear at the ensuing term of the court.

Chief Justice Carter said he was ready to decide that point now. The court was sitting now as a magisterial court, preliminary to the inquiry into the matter by the Criminal Court.

The transfer might operate for the convenience of the record, but it would not change the character of the investigation or the relation of the parties. In either case the court must act in a magisterial capacity. It was not good practice for a judge in chambers to transfer his work to the court.

Mr. Cox begged leave to interrupt, and said that he doubted the jurisdiction of a judge in chambers while the Criminal Court was in session.

After a short consultation on this point—Chief Justice Carter said: The inquiry of counsel seem to presuppose that it is the duty of the Judge holding the court to inquire into crimes committed, the grand jury sitting apart from that court. The examination of a judge in chambers is as to whether a crime has been properly committed, and it is properly his province, and not of a judge upon the bench. The idea, in my mind, is that the transfer may be made, not that it should be done. It is, there, merely a matter of practice, and, while he would do anything for the convenience of the record, he did not see that anything could be gained by the transfer.

Mr. Merrick said that as Gen. Thomas was now in the custody of the U. S. Marshal for the District of Columbia, he would present a petition for a writ of habeas corpus to the Judge holding the Criminal Court for the District of Columbia.

The application is as follows: To the Hon. D. K. Carter, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, holding the Criminal Court for the said District: The petition of Lorenzo Thomas shows that he is now held in custody by the Marshal of said District under and by virtue of a warrant made out and given to said officer by your Honor, sitting in Chambers. He avers and will show that said imprisonment is wholly unlawful and without color of authority under the constitution and laws of the United States upon the facts stated in the cause of his said arrest, and he prays your Honor for the writ of habeas corpus, directing the said Marshal to bring the body of your petitioner before your Honor in open court, that the cause of his capture and detention as aforesaid may be inquired into and dealt with according to law.

Mr. Carpenter said that this action was unnecessary, that this suit was prosecuted by the Secretary of War, who had taken this course to bring the matter to a decision, but there was no ill-feeling between him and General Thomas. They did not ask that Gen. Thomas should give bail, or that he should even be placed under his own recognizance.

Mr. Cox said there was nothing else for the defence to do but to move the discharge of the prisoner.

Mr. Carpenter said that this matter of bail had nothing whatever to do with the inquiry before the court. The Court had said that bail was not necessary, and if it was not necessary, then it would be unjust to require it.

Mr. Merrick—May it please your honor I have a suggestion—

The Chief Justice said it was unnecessary, for he had determined to grant the motion for the reason that General Thomas does not seek to evade the law. It was now the Wednesday before the Monday in which the Criminal Court, with its grand jury, will be in session. There are no circumstances in the case before this tribunal which would settle anything. The subject that is now under controversy is passing the ordeal of the highest tribunal in the land, and it must terminate with the session of a grand jury. In view of these facts, any investigation here would partake of the character of trifling, and he did not promise to be instrumental in such a case. Under the avowals made before him, he thought his duty as a magistrate would be well discharged in dismissing Gen. Thomas on motion of his counsel.

There was a general buzz in the court room at this announcement, and with few exceptions the faces of the audience expanded into a smile. A moment Judge Carter remarked: "General Thomas, you can go." The General rose, and was immediately taken by the hand by his counsel and other friends. When General Thomas left the court room he was followed by a large crowd, who, when they got outside the court-house gave three stentorian cheers, and followed him over to the private office of Joseph H. Bradley, Esq., with whom he went in company.

COMMERCIAL. Alexandria Market, February 26, '68.

Table listing market prices for various goods such as Flour, Wheat, Corn, and other commodities.

FOR BALTIMORE. The steamer COLUMBIA, Capt. James Harper, having received a new boiler, and been thoroughly refitted, has resumed her regular trips, leaving Baltimore every SATURDAY, at 4 o'clock, p. m.

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS. The steamer EXPRESS, Capt. A. C. NICKLE, of the Potomac Transportation Line, will leave Baltimore on TUESDAY, February 26th, for Alexandria, leaving at 4 o'clock, p. m.

BRICK LAYING. The CO-OPERATIVE UNION OF UNION No. 1, of VIRGINIA, at Alexandria, are prepared to make contracts for, and execute all kinds of Brickwork, in a workmanlike manner and at reasonable prices.

NEW BOOKS. Ecco Homo, a Survey of the Life and Works of Jesus Christ. \$1.50

MEMORANDA. Schir. Maggie Mulvey, Rogers, from Turk's Island, with a cargo of salt for this port, yesterday arrived at Sandy Point, on the Potomac, where she is detained by the ice. Her captain is Capt. J. A. Aquia Creek mail boat, and has reached this city.

GERMAN CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING ASSOCIATION, OF ALEXANDRIA.—The object of this Association is, by co-operation, to aid its members in procuring homes for themselves and families by providing them with the means of purchasing real estate, and for making improvements thereon.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY ORGANIZATION. The County Committee is requested to meet at BRENTSVILLE, the first day of March Court. It is important to have a full meeting.

OFFICE VIRGINIA EXPRESS CO. No. 67, CAMERON STREET, ALEXANDRIA, Va., February 17, 1868.

GARDEN SEEDS! GARDEN SEEDS! We have received to-day per steamer from New York our Spring supply of fresh and genuine GARDEN SEEDS.

INTERESTING. We respectfully give notice to our friends and the public generally that, between now and the 15th March, we will sell many kinds of GARDEN SEEDS at reduced prices.

MARYLAND SHELL MARL.—Having been appointed agents for the sale of this fertilizer we are prepared to furnish any amount to those who may desire to prove its virtue, at very low rates.

H. B. WHITTINGTON, DEALER IN FANCY DRY GOODS AND NOTIONS, Would respectfully solicit a call from his friends.

AMUSEMENTS.

SOIREE DRAMATIQUE.

A. E. MURDOCK, the celebrated Elocutionist and Actor, will give one SELECT READING at LIBERTY HALL, on THURSDAY EVENING, February 27th, 1868.

PROGRAMME. 1. Hamlet (Soliloquy).....Shakspeare 2. The Bashful Lover.....Sweetser 3. Hamlet Nickleby.....Dickens 4. Bingen on the Rhine.....Hon. Mrs. Norton 5. Sacreligious Gamblers.....Rev. J. S. Kellon

MOUNT VERNON ASSOCIATION. THE FOURTH ANNUAL BALL of the Mount Vernon Association will take place AT THE ENTRACT HALL, on WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 11th.

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FOR SALE AND RENT.

FOR SALE OR RENT—A BRICK HOUSE, including a Confectionery Store, with Fixtures and Bake Oven. No. 265, King street. feb 24-68

FOR RENT—A three-story BRICK DWELLING HOUSE, No. 46, S Washington street, near the corner of Duke. feb 24-68

FOR RENT. The commodious and desirable residence, No. 117, corner Cameron and St. Asaph streets. Possession given immediately. feb 24-68

FOR RENT. The HOUSE, No. 5 Washington street, for many years the residence of the late Judge Neale—has water and gas. To a good tenant the rent will be moderate. Possession given 1st March. Apply to BRENT & WATTLERS, 684 Prince street. jan 9-68

FOR RENT—Two STORES under the Mansion House Hotel; also, DWELLING HOUSES—two suitable for large families, or boarding houses, and others of smaller capacity. And on Union street, convenient to the railroad, TWO LARGE YARDS, suitable for the lumber, coal, wood, or plaster trade. Enquire of JAMES GREEN, 58, Prince street. feb 24-68

DESIRABLE PROPERTY FOR SALE. A two-story BRICK DWELLING HOUSE and LOT OF GROUND, on the east side of Water street, between King and Prince streets, the residence of the late George Snyder. It has a front of 44 feet 12 inches on Water street, and a depth of 72 feet.

PIANOS! PIANOS!! Just received, another of those beautiful PIANOS with carved legs, extra mouldings, and splendid tone, made by W. Heintzmann, of Baltimore, for sale low. Also several cheap second hand PIANOS, MELODEONS, and a new ORGAN, suitable for a parlor or church, at 20, 61, N. Washington st., cor. of Queen. feb 24-68

NOTICE.—The Stock Books of the Alexandria Building Association, will be open for subscription from this date, until the 15th of March, 1868, at the office, No. 67 KING ST., where all persons wishing to subscribe can have their names entered upon the list. As the demand for stock is active, parties are requested to call early. GEO. WISE, Secretary and Treasurer. feb 18-68

SHAKER'S GARDEN SEEDS. Received to-day twenty boxes Shaker's Garden Seeds, containing 200 papers each—put up especially for retailing, by country merchants. Money returned for all returned unopened by the first of July. Send in your orders early. feb 24-68

SUGAR, SYRUPS AND COFFEE. 3 bbls P. R. and E. I. Sugars. 15 bbls Imperial, Golden and Super House Syrups. 10 bags Rio Coffee, received in store and for sale by A. J. FLEMING, No. 9, King st. feb 24-68

GERMAN SCHOOL. The German School has now been organized, and parents and guardians desirous of entering their children can obtain all the necessary information from JOSEPH BRAGER, No. 12, King street; A. ROSENTHAL, No. 98, King street; or JOS. COHN, Cameron street. feb 21-68

FOUGERA'S COMPOUND IODINISED COD LIVER OIL.—The safest, speediest and most effective preparation for Bronchitis, Consumption, Chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Rickets, General Debility, Scrofulous Diseases of the skin and of the eyes, and in general all Scrofulous Affections. For sale by WARFIELD & HALL, 221 Corner Prince and Fairfax streets. feb 21-68

DRIED FRUIT.—Pitted Cherries, Peeled Peaches and Apples, received and for sale by AVERY & DAVIDSON, 223, King st., cor. Alfred. feb 15-68

CHOICE SUGAR-CURED HAMS of the celebrated "Maryland" and "Smithfield" brands, for sale by AVERY & DAVIDSON, 223, King st., cor. Alfred. feb 15-68

TEAS.—Superior Gunpowder, Japan, Oolong and English Breakfast Teas, selected with great care, received this day, and for sale by AVERY & DAVIDSON, 223, King st., cor. Alfred. feb 15-68

REMOVAL! MRS. C. L. SIMPSON would inform the ladies of this city that she has removed to No. 125, King street where she will attend promptly to all orders. feb 4-68

BRISTOL BRICK POWDER, WASH-BOARDS, &c.—Just received a supply of Bristol Brick Dust in Boxes, which we sell at a low figure, by the gross or retail; also, a large lot of Zinc Wash Boards at less than usual prices. JOHN T. CRAWFORD & CO., No. 88, King street. jan 31-68

P. R. SUGAR AND SYRUP. 3 bbls P. R. SUGAR. 12 bbls GOLDEN EXTRA and PLAIN SYRUP, just received and for sale by A. J. FLEMING, No. 9, King st. feb 11-68

SEED! SEED! SEED! 200 bushels Clover Seed. 100 Timothy Seed, in store and for sale by GWIN, BECKHAM & CO., 23, King st. feb 10-68

AUCTION SALES.

By J. H. Parrott, Auctioneer. PUBLIC SALE OF LAND. By authority of a deed of trust, dated July 7, 1863, from the Piedmont and Valley Agricultural Society, the undersigned, at the office of the Mayor's office, in the city of Alexandria, on MONDAY, the 10th day of March next, at 12 o'clock m., a LOT OF TWENTY ACRES OF LAND, situated in the county of Alexandria, near the city, on the west side of the land now owned by Frederick H. Lee (formerly Angus McDonald's) on the south by the land owned by Richard H. Lee, on the east by the land of Kell, and on the north by the lands of Wm. Gregory and others.

TERMS—One-fourth cash; the residue in 6, 9 and 12 months, in equal instalments, with interest from the day of sale; the deferred payments to be secured by the bonds of the purchaser, and a deed of trust upon the premises. feb 24-68 C. F. LEE, Trustee.

LOUDBON LAND AND VALUABLE MILL SEAT FOR SALE. Pursuant to a decree of the Circuit Court of Loudoun county, rendered on the 22d of October, 1863, in the case of Israel Warner and others, plaintiffs, against George Keppart and others, defendants, and by the consent of the said George Keppart, given in writing, the undersigned Commissioners, named in said decree, will proceed, on

MONDAY, the 13th day of April, 1868, being the first day of the County Court of Loudoun, in front of the Court House in Leesburg, to sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, the following described REAL ESTATE, situated in said county of Loudoun, in the State of Virginia, to wit:

THE TRACT OF LAND AND MILL SEAT, containing 51 acres. This is the tract on which the ELIZABETH MILLS, (now burned down) formerly stood, and is exceedingly valuable. It lies on Goose Creek, near its mouth, within 15 miles of a fine canal, the residue of the Potomac Canal. The water power is amply sufficient to drive four pair of five feet burrs; it has a right of way to the river, and flour can be taken from the mill door to Georgetown and Alexandria, for 17 cents per barrel. There is a good brick miller's house and other buildings, and it is well adapted for all manufacturing purposes.

THE COTON FARM, containing about 819 acres of land, bounded for about a mile by the Potomac river, opposite to the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, within one mile of the above named Mill Seat; and within 24 miles of the "Farmwell Depot," on the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad. The land is of good quality—a part of it is river bottom, with about 300 acres of good TIMBER in one body. The improvements are as follows:

COMFORTABLE DWELLING, a new Swiss Barn, Corn House, Dairy, Smoke House and Carriage House, and a Spring of never-failing water near the house.

TERMS—Ten per cent of the purchase-money to be paid in cash, on the day of sale, as a deposit; to be forfeited if the purchaser fails to complete his purchase—the residue of the purchase-money to be paid as follows: One-third on the confirmation of the sale by the Court—on the first day of the year from the day of sale; the remaining third in two years from the day of sale; the purchasers to give their bonds for the deferred instalments, bearing interest from the day of sale, and the title to be retained as security for their payment.

Persons desirous of examining the land will please call on Mr. George Keppart at Belmont, adjoining the land offered for sale. MATTHEW HARRISON, JOHN JANNEY, Commissioners. J. L. RISKER, Auctioneer. Leesburg, feb 20-68

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE. In front of the Court House, in Fairfax County, Va., on MONDAY, March 16, 1868, at 12 o'clock m., I shall proceed to sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, a PARCEL OF LAND, containing two hundred and twenty-three acres and 147 poles, and lying in Fairfax County, about three miles in a southerly direction from Alexandria Railroad, a station of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and adjoining the land now owned and occupied by James H. Rice. The said land lies upon the main road leading from Fairfax Station to Occoquan; has a comfortable HOUSE upon it; is well timbered and well watered.

The above described land is offered for sale to satisfy a mortgage of one hundred and seventy dollars, bearing date September 14, 1855, payable eighteen months after date, with interest, payable annually—said note being payable by Jas. G. Fitts and John Bradford to James H. Rice, and to secure the payment of which note the said Jas. G. Fitts and John Bradford conveyed the said tract of land to me in trust, dated and recorded September 14, 1855, which is recorded in the Clerk's office of Fairfax County. The said land is to be sold for cash in hand. GEORGE TUCKER, Trustee. Fairfax county—feb 18-28-68

PUBLIC SALE OF PRINCE WILLIAM LAND. By virtue of a decree of the Circuit Court of Prince William county, entered on the 20th of October, 1867, in a suit in chancery, pending in the said court, between the plaintiff, GEORGE F. BECKER, and Wm. S. Fowell are defendants, the undersigned, Commissioner, will sell, before the front door of the Court House of said county, on MONDAY, the 6th day of April, 1868, that being the 6th day of the month of April, at public auction, the tract or PARCEL OF LAND, containing 50 acres, situated in the county of Prince William, at or near the junction of the Manassas and Orange & Alexandria R.R., and binding on said roads.

TERMS—A fourth cash, and the residue on a credit of one and two years, with interest from the day of sale; the purchaser to give bond and security for the deferred payments, and the title to be retained as a further security therefor. A. NICOLL, Comm'r. Pr. Wm. Co., feb 18-68

GROVER & BAKER'S BEST PREMIUM ELASTIC STITCH FAMILY SEWING MACHINES, No. 405, BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

THE HIGHEST PREMIUMS at all the fairs and exhibitions of the United States and Europe have been awarded the Grover & Baker Sewing Machines, and the work done by them, wherever exhibited in competition.

The very highest price, THE CROSS OF THE LEGION OF HONOR, was conferred on the representative of the Grover & Baker Sewing Machines, at the Exposition Universelle, Paris, 1867, thus attesting their great superiority over all other Sewing Machines.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LARGE addition to our stock of FREDERICKSBURG AND HOLSTON MILLS VIRGINIA CASSIMERES, of the latter of which we are the agents. We are prepared to offer these goods to wholesale and retail purchasers on the most liberal terms, and would call particular attention to the VIRGINIA CASSIMERES, which are much cheaper and more serviceable (being free from shoddy) than the same class of goods from the North.

MAHON H. JANNEY, DEALERS IN PURE DRUGS, LEWIS' WHITE LEAD, PAINTS, OILS, and Varnishes, FRENCH WINDY GLASS & PUTTY, No. 115, King Street, Alexandria, Va.

Orders and Inquiries from the country promptly attended to. sep 23-68