ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.

Alexandria Gazette
SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS
AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER

ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1873.

STATE FINANCES.—Mr. A. H. H. Stuart, of Staunton, has, in the Lynchburg Virginian, a long and able letter on the subject of the Finances of the State. He discusses elaborately the whole matter, and comes to the conclusion:—

1st. That Virginia is under strong moral and legal obligation to pay her debt.

2d. That the debt was wisely incurred, and that Virginia has already received in the enhancement of the value of her lands, and in reduced cost of transportation of her agricultural products, and otherwise a full equivalent for the money she owes, and that that equivalent is to be greatly augmented in the future.

3d. That Virginia is now able to pay the interest on her debt, the principal of which debt is about seven and a half per ct. of the present assessed value of her real and personal property, and that within a very few years her ability to pay will be greatly increased by enhancement of the value of her lands, the increase of her personal property, and the development of new sources of wealth which have heretofore been dormant.

Let us examine for a moment the official figures, and see what they will prove.

The present assessed value of the lands of Virginia is	$261,411,108
The present assessed value of personal property is	77,850,520
The present assessed value of taxable incomes is	3,290,980
Making an aggregate of	$342,552,607

Assuming the State debt to be reduced, by crediting available assets, to $25,000,000, a simple arithmetical calculation will show that the debt of Virginia amounts to less than seven and a half per cent of the assessed value of her taxable property!

He then examines the various expedients that have been suggested for paying the interest on the debt and meeting the current expenses of the government, and states his objections to the schemes proposed. His own plan is, he thinks the best:—

"I would meet the issue fairly and squarely by an increase of the rate of taxation on the present subjects of taxation. This is a mode of raising revenue to which our people are accustomed, and which they will readily understand. The present rate of taxation is one half of one per centum or 50 cts. on $100. If this rate were increased to 70 or 75 cts. on $100 it would produce sufficient to pay the interest on Virginia's share of the public debt, and all the current expenses of the State government. Such a tax would at once re-establish the credit of the State on a firm basis, and inspire a feeling of confidence in the public mind. A new assessment, fairly made, within a few years would show such an increase in the value of real and personal property and incomes as would justify the Legislature in reducing the rate without diminishing the amount received into the Treasury. The revenue derived from other sources might be advantageously applied to the sinking fund.

"Some will say that the burthen would be intolerable—that the people cannot stand it. If the people are already so over-burthened with taxes, how does it happen that so many counties and cities are, at every session of the Legislature, applying for the privilege of subscribing to new works of internal improvement, thereby greatly increasing the amount of their taxes? It seems to me that this fact furnishes conclusive evidence that the people do not feel that they are now burthened beyond their capacity to pay.

"But let us test by figures the practical operation of the increased taxation which I propose.

"A man who owns $5,000 worth of taxable property (which is much above the average) now pays a tax of $25. If the rate were increased to three-fourths of one per ct. we would have to pay $37.50, or an increase of $12.50. Would this $12.50 overwhelm him with ruin? Six or seven bushels of wheat, half a ton of hay, or 100 pounds of good tobacco would pay it! Nay, more, a curtailment of one third of the cost of his segars, or in the number of drinks wherewith he refreshes himself, would provide a fund to meet it. A reduction of one third or one half in the cost of a single dress for his wife or daughter would square the account!"

It will be remembered that there were two elections held in West Virginia last year for members of Congress, one in August and one in October, and as yet there has been no authoritative decision as to which was legal. The correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says: "It is understood that up to this time Governor Jacobs of that State refuses to issue commissions to any of the parties who were returned at either of the elections. Mr. Hereford, at present a member of Congress from West Virginia, was a candidate for re-election, running both in August and October, and receiving a majority of the votes cast each time. It would seem, therefore, that there could be no doubt as to his election. But the Governor's mind does not appear to be satisfied on this point, and he has issued to Mr. Hereford, what may be styled a hypothetical certificate."

The New York Post states that an examination of the accounts in the controller's office and different New York city banks reveals the facts that the thefts of the special board of audit were greater than heretofore supposed, amounting to some $40,000,000. It is believed that the new evidence is sufficient to fasten the guilt upon every person who received any of this stolen money, and many politicians who have thus far escaped will be called to account. It is also asserted that additional startling frauds in the department of public works have been discovered and the proofs of guilt are complete. The board of audit comprised Tweed, Connolly and Hall, and Tweed was head of the department of public works.

Mr. Caldwell, one of the Senators from Kansas, has published a statement of his case, in which he denies all the charges of corruption brought against him by his accusers.

An item of Washington News says "it is currently reported that as soon as Congress exhausts the Credit Mobilier, or, more probably, the Credit Mobilier exhausts Congress, the palate of the nation is to be tickled by the revelations of the Credit Foncier. It will be remembered that the irrepressible Train was the first who introduced this latter scheme in this country from France. It is thought it will contain some startling revelations in regard to jobs which have been lobbied through Congress in the past fifteen years. Verily the lines have not fallen in pleasant places in regard to Congress, at least of late."

The Baltimore Sun says that the singular fact is learned from Washington that of the called bonds issued under the act of February 25, 1862, and upon which the interest ceased on the first call in December, 1871, and on the second and third call in March, 1872, there were outstanding on the 17th of January, 1873, $1,159,000; of these $588,000 were embraced in the first call, $247,100 in the second, and $324,400 in the third call. There are more than a million of dollars of government securities drawing no interest, entailing a lost of upward of $60,000 to some persons.

In the Circuit Court yesterday, Judge Wellford of Richmond decided in the case of the Merchants Insurance Company, of Chicago, vs. The Andes Insurance Company, of Cincinnati, that the deposit of the latter company in the hands of the treasurer of the State can not be reached by attachment. He holds that the securities required to be placed in the hands of the treasurer by the deposit law are dedicated to the specific purpose of protecting resident policy-holders, and that the State is bound to return them whenever that purpose is fulfilled.

Joseph B. Stewart has sent a communication to the House of Representatives inclosing an amended report of his examination before Mr. Wilson's Special Committee last week, asking that he be discharged from custody; that the facts of his case be referred to the Judiciary Committee, and that if Mr. Wilson's Committee continue to examine witnesses with reference to his (Stewart's) personal character, he be allowed to appear before the committee and defend himself.

The Richmond Enquirer says: "A gentleman who has just returned from a tour which extended to the Southern States, including Texas, tells us that looking at the matter calmly and as far as possible without bias for the place of his nativity, he is more than ever convinced that the present condition and the prospects of Virginia are better than those of any other State within the limits of the late Southern Confederacy."

The annual stock report of she statistician of the Department of Agriculture shows that prices of farm animals are better sustained than those of other farm products. Horses command improved prices in nearly all sections of the country. Sheep are somewhat higher than last year, the appreciation being quite general, though not equal in the several States. Prices of cattle have advanced in some States from local causes, and receded in others.

The Richmond Enquirer has changed ownership and Baker P. Lee, esq., becomes the editor. He is an able writer, and has editoral experience in the conduct of the Norfolk Journal. We doubt not he will support the credit and standing of the Enquirer. We wish him success and prosperity.

The Chief of Police of Baltimore arrested George O. Savage, of San Francisco, yesterday, on a warrant charging him with embezzling $4,000 funds of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Miss Emily B. Tyson, daughter of Mr. Charles B. Tyson, in Baltimore, laboring under temporary insanity, took arsenic on Monday last and it caused her death.

The Baltimore Board of Trade, at its monthly meeting yesterday, adopted a resolution protesting against the repeal of the present National Bankrupt Law.

CONGRESS YESTERDAY.—In the Senate Mr. Hill offered a bill increasing the salary of the President to $50,000 and of the Vice-President to $10,000, which was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections. A bill authorizing the consolidation of national banks was introduced by Mr. Sherman, and referred to the Committee on Finance. The bill for the resumption of specie payments next January was debated and several amendments offered, all of which were rejected. No decisive action was reached upon the bill. In accordance with the resolution of the House of Representatives, the testimony implicating members of the Senate taken before the Credit Mobilier Investigation Committees was delivered to the Senate, and on motion of Mr. Patterson, one of the inculpated, a committee of five was ordered to consider the evidence.

In the House of Representatives a bill was passed for the sale of a vacated burial ground near Cumberland, Md., to a Hebrew congregation. A conference committee was appointed on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the repeal of the Bankrupt law. A bill was passed restoring to the pension rolls the names of Southerners stricken therefrom for sympathy with the rebellion. A memorial was presented regarding oppressive customs regulations in Cuba, and asking that the Spanish Government be addressed with a view of obtaining a reform. The bill to pay the Montana war claim was passed. Speaker Blaine introduced a bill to pay a pension of $50 per month to Mrs. Robt. C. Wood, daughter of ex-President Taylor, which was passed unanimously.

A DOG CASE.—The Supreme Court of the District of Columbia heard yesterday the case of Meigs vs. the District of Columbia, a long-pending suit, growing out of an arrest of the venerable clerk of the court in 1869 for keeping a dog without license, and involving the right of the city to levy a tax on dogs. The appeal was one which would naturally have a humorous side, and it was saved from becoming entirely so by the age and high character and legal acumen of the defendant, Reuben J. Meigs, who appeared in his own behalf, and exhibited the result of a most painstaking examination of all the authorities on the subject, extending back to the earliest precedents of the common law. The case, however, was not without many humorous passages. Mr. Meigs contended, first, that dogs were property; and second, that the corporation of Washington had no authority to require a license for keeping them. In support of this view he cited not only modern authorities, but he brought into court the authorities of the early days in black letter.—Mr. Cook replied for the District, but had not completed his argument when the court adjourned.—*Wash. cor. of Baltimore Sun.*

FROM RICHMOND.

LEGISLATIVE.

RICHMOND, Feb. 4.—In the Senate, to-day, the House bill to authorize the trustees to sell Rappahannock academy, in Caroline county, was passed, and the resolution asking for information in regard to lands returned delinquent for non-payment of taxes, was adopted.

Messrs. Quesenberry, Pridemore, Penn, Massey and Rixey were appointed the committee on the part of the Senate to report what steps should be taken by the General Assembly to protect the revenue and interest of the commonwealth in the matter of delinquent lands.

Bills were reported to amend the act in relation to funds from gifts, grants, devises and bequests; and to amend the act as to the maintenance of illegitimate children.

It was reported inexpedient to legislate further upon a resolution to prevent the exclusion of colored men from service as jurors in the courts of this commonwealth, as colored men are not excluded by law from service on juries.

An adverse report was made upon the proposition providing for the repeal of all laws which allow the punishment of citizens of this commonwealth by stripes.

The joint resolution providing that the Congress of the United States be requested to make provision for refunding to the citizens of Virginia the direct taxes paid by them under acts of Congress passed in the years 1861–'62, was agreed to.

Resolutions were introduced and referred, requesting the auditor to report the names of such clerks of courts of the various cities, towns and counties of the State as have, since April, 1865, made default in payment to the commonwealth of the amounts required by law to be received and accounted for by them, the amount of the deficit in each case, and what steps have been taken to enfore the payment thereof, and instructing the committee to whom was referred the subject of delinquent lands of the commonwealth to inquire into the expediency of enacting a law for the forfeiture of all lands in the commonwealth which are not on the land-books of the respective counties, cities and towns in which they lie.

Mr. Rixey presented a petition of citizens of Fauquier county asking a change in the law in regard to the appointment of school commissioners, &c.

The bill to amend the act providing for the reassessment of lands in the commonwealth so as to enable those counties in the State which failed to avail themselves of the provisions of said act to do so, was taken up and considered until adjournment.

In the House of Delegates, bills were placed upon the calendar to authorize the issue of duplicate land-warrants where the originals have been lost or destroyed; to amend the act to authorize the voters of certain counties and townships to vote upon the question of repealing the fence law, and to amend the code so as to increase the punishment for barn-burning.

The committee on courts reported it inexpedient to amend the law so as to declare barn-burning in the night time a capital offence, and also inexpedient to authorize the supervisors of the several counties to offer rewards for the detection and apprehension of persons guilty of arson, which reports were concurred in.

Senate amendments to the following House bills were agreed to: To incorporate the Mangorike wharf company on the Rappahannock river; to authorize the Washington city, Alexandria, Lynchburg and North Carolina railroad company to extend its railway from Alexandria to a point on the Potomac river, opposite, or near to, or above the city of Washington or Georgotown; to authorize the same company to acquire and sell lands; and to authorize the same company to issue bonds to provide for the payment of the bonds and debts of the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas railroad company and for other purposes; and a bill was passed to preserve all rights and remedies imperiled or destroyed by the loss or destruction during the late war of papers filed in the various offices of the commonwealth.

Bills were introduced; to authorize the corporate authorities of Winchester, and supervisors of Frederick county, to subscribe to the capital stock of the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural society; to amend the fence law; to refund certain amount of license tax to W. D. Fleming, of Caroline county; and for the encouragement of immigration; also resolutions memorializing Congress for public lands to aid in the education of Southern children; and as to the expediency of paying jurors sitting on inquests.

The House bill to define the jurisdiction of County and Circuit Courts, &c., was considered until adjourment.

INSURANCE BUREAU.

The bill te establish a Bureau of Insurance in this State has been reported in the Senate. It provides for the election by the Legislature of an Insurance Commissioner, to hold his office for a term of four years—the Governor to appoint in case of no election, or when a vacancy occurs. This commissioner is to give bond in $25,000, and to receive a salary of $3,000 per year, to be paid out of moneys received from the fees and charges of said insurance department; and all expenses of clerk's hire, examinations, and of every other kind, are to be paid out of the fees and charges of said insurance department, and not otherwise; and all moneys arising from the fees, charges and taxes, after paying the expenses of said insurance department, are to be paid over to the treasurer of the State. The bill provides for the duties and powers of the department and the commissioner in giving general supervision, with the right of investigation, over the insurance companies doing business in the State, with a view to the protection of policy holders and the public generally. It requires annual statements from all insurance companies, &c.

LAWS.

Since those last reported the following have become laws: authorizing the payment of interest on the bonds of the State purchased with the agricultural land scrip; to amend and re-enact the 12th section of chapter 182 of the code of 1860, in relation to appeals, writs of error and supersedeas, approved June 23, 1870; releasing the Bank of Danville from the payment of its notes upon certain conditions; to remove certain causes commenced in the County Courts to the Circuit Courts, and for other purposes; instructing the Senators in Congress from Virginia to vote against the repeal of the bankrupt law, and requesting the representatives from Virginia to unite their efforts with said Senators therein, &c.; and requesting the Governor to give official notice to the creditors of the State.

COME HOME.—The Petersburg Index of the 28th ultimo says: An old man with bent form, grey hair and suffering with rheumatism and old age but having in his posession a sum of money sufficient to support him comfortably for the remainder of his life, came down on the Southside Railroad yesterday, and stopped a few minutes at Burkeville. While there he made known the fact that he is a Virginian, and a native of Fredericksburg; that he has resided for more than forty years in the State of Arkansas, and served in the Confederate army under Gen Price. He has amassed all the money he will probably need, and has now returned to the scenes of his youth to see his brothers and sisters once more, and to be buried in the soil of his native Virginia.

"It's so long," said he, "since I saw any of my relatives that we will not recognize each other, and I don't know that any of them are living except my two sisters. Forty years produce wonderful changes, and bring many sad memories. But I am glad to get back, even though I come as an old and worn out man, and I want to be buried in old Virginia."

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times"

In New York yesterday, a woman, supposed to be Barbara Shaffer, accompanied by a man thought to be her husband, from papers found on their person, entered a house of assignation in Bleecker street. Soon afterwards the woman was heard to scream for help, and an officer, who was passing at the time, on going to her assistance, found the woman dead at the head of the stairs, and the man lying on the bed with a fearful gash in his throat. The quarrel is supposed to have originated from the woman leaving her husband to live with Stephen Haas, a one-armed letter-carrier.

Before the Wilson investigating committee, at Washington, Mr. Sidney Dillon, president of the company, has testified that the present property of the Credit Mobilier consists of about $155,000 worth of land, about 2,000 shares of Union Pacific stock, and a note of the Union Pacific Railroad Company for $2,000,000. He has not collected the latter because it might hurt the Pacific Company, which the Mobilier has drawn pretty dry, and which latter, by its distribution of the large dividends, is now pretty dry itself.

The thraw which commenced yesterday and bids fair to be continued to-day is rapidly breaking up the ice in the rivers. Along the Susquehanna the snow is melting rapidly, and the small streams are pouring large volumes of water into the river. The ice had not commenced to move last night at the gorges at Port Deposit, Williamsport, Harrisburg, Columbia or Chickies, but it was thrawing rapidly and good judges estimate that the crash will come to-night.

G. K. Tidball, a defaulting agent of the Adams Express Company, from Alliance, Ohio, who was arrested last week in Washington, has been sent to Ohio in charge of an officer from that State. Tidball, it is alleged, abstracted money packages at various times amounting in all to $7,000, which he spent in card-playing and fast life.

The new trial of the abortionist, Rosenweig, has been set for Friday. It will be remembered that Rosenweig was tried, convicted and sentenced to the penitentiary for seven years, and had served out a portion of his term when the Supreme Court of New York City awarded him a new trial for technical reasons.

It has been stated that $100,000 of the bonds and other securities stolen from the banking house of Stepman, Clarkson & Co., in Lancaster, Jan. 15, had been discovered hidden in a church in Reading. It is now stated that the thieves took care to retain the $14,000 of convertible bonds, which they selected from their plunder.

An express train was thrown from the track of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad yesterday morning, a few miles west of Lock Haven, by running into a snow-slide. The engineer was killed, and baggage-master and express agent were injured. The passengers escaped unhurt.

The excessive and very unusual cold weather lately prevailing in England, has been followed by another advance in the price of coal. This has caused a suspension of work by many furnances and mills, and, consequently, great distress among the poor work people, who are thus thrown out of employment in mid-winter.

It is said that startling developments have been made in the examination of the accounts of the Comptroller of New York city, which show that the "Ring" thefts are much larger than heretofore computed.

Prince Bismarck, asks the German Federal Council for an appropriation of nine millions of thalers for the improvement of the fortifications at Cologne, Konigsberg, Wilhelmshaven, Kiel and Posen.

Gen. Burnside contradicts the rumor that he aspired to the command of the Marine Corps. He say that he has no desire to abandon his present business pursuits.

Prince Lunalilo was crowned King of the Hawaii Islands, January 8th, The Cabinet of the new King is composed for the most part of Americans.

No mails have been received in Paris for a week from Spain, and the insurgent leaders seem to have control in the frontier provinces.

It is reported in London that hundreds of persons in England froze to death during the late intensely cold spell,

The large English steamer Severn is reported to be grounded in Delaware Bay. The captain mistook the channel.

The cable report of the earthquake in India turns out to have been a hoax.

LOUDOUN COUNTY ITEMS.—The cheese meeting at Hamilton was organized on Saturday last, by calling Wm. McCray to the chair and electing S. B. Mercier, Secretary. The committee on sales of stock reported stock all sold, Washington Hains and J. Kuhlman having taken the four shares unsold, at the last meeting. The committee on grounds reported that they had attended to their duty, and presented a survey of the grounds adjoining the factory. The committee on organization reported in favor of applying to the Legislature, to charter the Old Dominion Cheese and Butter Company, which report was adopted, and J. K. Taylor, Amos Hughes and L. Dow Hess, appointed a committee to prepare a bill, and secure its passage by the Legislature. S. B. Mercier and J. K. Taylor were appointed a committee to prepare a bill, to protect cheese and butter manufacturers in this State, from being imposed upon by parties adulterating milk. The meeting adjourned to meet on Friday next, at 2 o'clock, at the Masonic Hall.

Quite an interesting case was tried at Round Hill, last week before Justices Gore and Heaton. A very pretty girl—a Miss Carlyle, was arrested, upon the complaint of John H. Price for stealing goods, sometime last spring from his store in Snickersville. It seems that this store was broken open, set fire to, and quite a large amount of goods stolen. These goods were identified in the possession of Miss Carlyle, for which possession she failed to account for in a satisfactory manner. The justice's were obliged to commit her for the action of the grand jury. There have been a great many daring robberies, and burglaries, committed in part of the county during the last two years. Mr. Hammerly's store at Woodgrove, was broken open, and robbed, of a large quantity of goods. Mr. Chamblin, at Round Hill, lost two hundred dollars worth of his goods. Mr. Paxon, at Bunkerhill, has lost at various times, a considerable amount—the robbers entering his store by means of false keys. Mr Albert Best lost three valuable horses, and Messrs. Thompson & Brawner, lost fifty dollars worth of shoes and leather; all within the time mentioned above. No doubt the same parties were concerned in all these robberies, and it is hoped that this arrest will give a clue to the criminals. Of course the girl did not break open, and set fire to Mr. Price's store; but she knows who did it.

The shipments from Hamilton Station W. & O. R. R., for the month of January, were 6,102 bushels of Wheat; 1,238 bushels of Corn; 75 bushels of Rye; 70 bushels of Mill Feed; 18 bushels of Meal; 14 bushels of Beans; 55 bbls. of Flour; 40 bbls. of ear Corn; 20 bbls. of Apples; 21 bbls. and boxes of Eggs; 750 head of Cabbage; 9,600 lbs. of Castings; 6,200 lbs. of Quercitron Bark; 5,500 lbs. of Sumac. 31,439 lbs. of Butter and Poultry; 58,943 lbs. of Pork and Beef; 5 cars of Stock; 1 car of household goods and 66 Calves.—*Loudoun Enterprise.*

VIRGINIA NEWS.

Chester, the Richmond correspondent of the Petersburg Index says:—"It cost a member of the Legislature as much as any one else to get on a spree here. A day or two ago one while in a state of glorious exhilaration went to Gerot's restaurant, called for what he wanted, and to the great edification of the waiters smashed crockery, glassware, &c., to the amount of $7 50. His per diem account was short this amount next day."

A bill has been introduced and a committee of the House of Delegates have reported, "a bill to protect farmers and others from embezzlement by commission merchants, and others." Per contra, somebody else has introduced a bill to protect commission merchants and others who may make advances to farmers. A third bill introduced comprises the objects of both the others in one bill.

The Richmond Enquirer thinks that from the responses made to a resolution of the House of Delegates by the superintendents of the various lunatic asylums it is evident that the State will soon have to take enough money out of the Treasury to build a new asylum, or to very much enlarge the present ones.

Within the past week, six deaths occurred in the family of Mr. R. J. Bradley, of Richmond. The disease was varioloid in its worst form. It has taken away the young, the middle aged and the old, and left but two or three who are at this time sick with the same disease.

The steamship Peruvian, of the Allan line, has arrived at Norfolk from Liverpool, with thirteen cabin passengers and thirty-nine in the steerage. A large quantity of freight was also landed. Some of the passengers will go to Tennessee and Mississippi; the rest will remain in Virginia.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth has received for record a charter granted by the circuit court of Mecklenburg, for the incorporation of the "Mecklenburg Female College." The corporators propose to purchase property and establish thereon a college.

The Staunton Spectator says that owing to the scarcity of long forage and bad weather, (they now pay one dollar per month for straw in Rockbridge,) large numbers of cattle are sent to market, and dealers report very few beef cattle in the Valley counties.

On Saturday afternoon Mr. J. B. Sener, member of Congress elect from the First Congressional District had a difficulty in the streets of Fredericksburg, with Mr. Magrath, a member of the Council of that place. There is to be a judicial inquiry into the matter.

The smallpox and measles—the latter of quite severe type—are prevailing diseases in Petersburg. There are a good many sufferers with each in town. A little son of Mr. L. A. Marbury, china merchant, died on the 3d inst., after a brief illness.

In the beginning of summer an express train will be put upon the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad which will run from Richmond to Huntington—four hundred and twenty miles—in eleven hours!

A colored man named George Stephens died lately in Troy, N. Y., leaving property to the amount of about $10,000, which he devised, by will, to his wife and children, who, if living, are supposed to in Virginia.

The first car-load of freight for Cincinnati via the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad left Louisa Court House yesterday morning.—The freight consisted of a quantity of superior bark.

A letter received in Richmond from a gentleman of Frederick county, says that last week the thermometer, there, indicated a temperature of twenty-one degrees below zero.

A Legislative committee has at this time, before them the second book of Maury's physical survey of Virginia and are debating whether they will recommend its publication.

Mr. Dabney M. Miller, a former resident of Richmond, and for many years City Assessor, died in Louisa county on Saturday last in the 66th year of his age.

Seventeen car loads of cattle from Southwest Virginia were shipped to the Northern markets Sunday, over the Orange and Alexandria railroad.

Archy Mosely, colored, of Richmond, aged 54 yeays, was found dead in bed on Sunday morning.

Mrs. John B. Floyd has contributed to the State Library, two fine portraits of the late Governors John Floyd and John B. Floyd.

A whale, of the black fish variety, measuring forty-two feet in length, was recently captured in Hampton Roads.

The Lynchburg News says that the wheat in that section is said to be looking very badly.

The roads leading to Lynchburg are almost impassible on account of the mud.

COMMERCIAL.

Alexandria Market, February 5, 1873.

FLOUR, Superfine	$7 50	@	7 75
Extra	9 00	@	9 50
Family	9 50	@	10 00
Family choice	10 50	@	11 00
WHEAT, Common to fair	1 80	@	1 90
Fair to good	1 90	@	2 00
Good to prime	2 00	@	2 08
Prime to choice red	2 08	@	2 12
Prime to choice white	2 08	@	2 12
CORN, white	0 00	@	0 65
Mixed	0 64	@	0 65
Yellow	0 63	@	0 64
RYE	1 00	@	1 05
OATS	0 50	@	0 53
BUTTER, prime	0 25	@	0 28
Common to middling	0 8	@	0 12
EGGS	0 35	@	0 38
TURKEYS	0 15	@	0 17
CHICKENS, dressed	2 50	@	4 00
IRISH POTATOES	1 00	@	1 15
ONIONS	1 00	@	1 25
CLOVER SEED	6 50	@	6 75
Timothy	4 25	@	4 50
BACON, Hams, country	0 10	@	0 12
Western	0 15	@	0 16
Sides	0 9	@	0 10
Shoulders	0 6	@	0 6½
LARD	0 8½	@	0 9
DRESSED HOGS	6 00	@	7 00
GREEN APPLES, per bbl	2 50	@	3 50
PLASTER, ground, per ton	7 50	@	0 00
Ground, in bags or bbls	9 50	@	0 00
Ground, in bags, returned	8 50	@	0 00
Lump	6 25	@	6 50
SALT, G. A. (Liverpool)	1 80	@	1 90
Fine	2 85	@	3 00
WOOL, common unwashed	0 33	@	0 35
Washed	0 50	@	0 55
Merino, unwashed	0 33	@	0 35
Merino, washed	0 50	@	0 55
HAY, per ton from the cars	30 00	@	35 00

REMARKS.—The market for Wheat is less active and prices are unchanged; offerings of 1370 bushels red, with sales at 180 and 200 for common to good, 203 and 210 for prime, and 212 for choice. Corn is dull and lower; offerings of 146 bushels white and 914 of mixed, with sales of the former at 65, and of the latter at 64 and 65. Offerings of 128 bushels Oats; no sales reported.

☞ An adjourned Retrocession meeting will be held at the Columbia School House, at Arlington, on the 6th day of February, 1873, at 7 o'clock p. m. A general attendance is requested.
feb 5-2t W. A. ROE, Chairman.

$2500 CORPORATION OF ALEXANDRIA CONSOLIDATED REGISTERED COUPON BONDS.
$5000 Citizens' National Bank Stock.
$10,000 Washington and Ohio Railroad first mortgage 7 per cent Gold Bonds.
$500 Lynchburg Corporation Bonds.
For sale by WILMER D. CORSE & BRO., 57 and 59 King street.
feb 5

[COMMUNICATED.

OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—Some remarks concerning these schools which have recently been made in the City Council, though, in one case, ably replied to, at the time, seem to require more extended notice, that the subject may be fully understood by the people, who are deeply interested in the matter.

A member of the Common Council remarked, at the last meeting of that Board, that the schools were of very low grades; that teachers could be procured for schools of such grades at much lower salaries than are now paid; and that before the salaries were raised the City Council should have been consulted.

Now, a boy or girl can learn, *thoroughly*, in our schools, spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and geography, besides getting a very respectable knowledge of the history of our country. If all our people had that amount of knowledge we would be considered a very intelligent community, and would, doubtless, select wiser law makers; but, unquestionably, the education of some of our children could be carried farther. Why then don't the School Board have schools of a higher grade? Simply because the people don't seem to want them, and the City Council has never offered, as it might have done, to provide for their establishment. In organizing the system, the School Board placed at the head of Washington School a gentleman of high reputation as a teacher, then occupying the post of teacher of mathematics in the largest and most flourishing academy, and at the head of Lee School a lady equally well known for her refinement and skill, yet there are but ten white girls and thirty-five white boys of the highest grade now in our schools, and the lady above mentioned actually teaches three grades because there are not girls enough of one, who wish to attend a public school. In this state of affairs was it to be expected that the School Board should have Latin and Greek, French and music, natural science and the higher mathematics taught to the half-dozen who would have been likely to enter a high school, at an additional expense of four or five thousand dollars to the city? If the gentleman who thinks the grades low will persuade his fellow Councilmen to vote five thousand a year for a high school, I am sure the School Board will be very happy to establish one, if they can find a place to put it in; though as our children are now taught in the most unsuitable places, it would seem the part of wisdom to provide good school houses and decent chairs and desks for those we have first, before we make arrangement for people who don't seem to want our assistance in educating their children.

As to the present course of study it was arranged by a committee, two of whom are now, and the third has been, until recently, among our most successful teachers, and was adopted by a Board, of whom one-half have been engaged, for years, in teaching, while the rest are gentlemen of education, fully capable of judging how children ought to be taught. It is true that the course of study provides for thoroughness at every step, but because children are not advanced to higher classes before they have mastered the studies of the lower, it does not follow that the schools are of low grade.

As to the pay of the teachers, your files will show that on the 26th of April last, a classified estimate of the cost of the schools for 1872–'3 was adopted by the School Board and laid before the City Council at its next meeting, and that "for salaries of teachers $7,100" was one of the items which was duly and favorably passed upon by that body, which granted the $6,600 asked for by the Board, *and now refuses to pay it.* The salaries of the teachers, as will be seen by your files, were not fixed until August 30th, long after the City Council had acted on the subject, and so far from the expenses having been increased, the estimate for this year was five hundred and fifty dollars less than that for 1871–'2, the city having been called on for a greater sum only because the State fund had diminished.

As to getting teachers at lower rates, the average pay of our teachers last year was $43.14 a month, while Lynchburg paid $51.87; Norfolk, $50.42, and Richmond $49.92, and all these cities, I understand, have raised the salaries this year. No doubt we can get people to teach, or profess to teach, at half price, but they would be dear at that. Our present teachers can, undoubtedly, teach things in which they are not now required to give instruction, but it seems to me that the lower branches require as competent people to teach them well as the higher, for it is not everybody who can read and write that can teach reading and writing skillfully.

As to the extraordinary declaration made in the Board of Aldermen on Monday night, that the claim of the School Board is just, but that it is inexpedient to pay it, because the city wants money badly, and the still more extraordinary conduct of the Board in tabling the resolution directing payment, I have only to say that the *people* to whom the schools belong must look out for themselves in the matter. The current expenses are nearly $1,000 a month; owing to the reduction of assessments, &c., we are advised that the State fund, from which we have received but $1,492.50 this year, will fall very far short of the estimate, and if the city wont pay its quota, they must be closed. The State law says, plainly enough, that "it shall be the duty of the City Council of every city of the first class, to provide, *in due time, and it shall have no power to withhold*, the sum or sums reported by the City School Board, and declared to be necessary for the proper maintenance and growth of the public schools of the city," but if they wont, why I suppose it must be left to the people, in May next, to elect Aldermen who will. That they will pursue that course, no man who considers the signs of the times can doubt. VERBUM SAT.

TRANSFERS OF REAL ESTATE.

Green & Wise, Real Estate Agents and Auctioneers, report the following transfers of real estate during the month of January, 1873:

House and lot on west side of Columbus st, 162 ft 4 in north of Duke st, John W Stewart to Betty W Jamieson, $3300.

Lot on west side of Columbus st, 119 ft 6 in south of 1st st, 27 ft 1 in by 100 ft, Smoot and Stuart, comm'rs, to Marg't J McCann, $211.

Lot and improvements on west side of Fairfax st, bet King and Prince, 25 ft front by 82 ft deep, M M Wheat to M Bossart, $1750.

Lot on the west side of Royal st, bet Wolfe and Gibbon, 40 ft 6 in by 113 ft 5 in, Francis L Smith, trustee, to C Scott, $500.

Lot and improvements on S E cor Columbus and Oronoco sts, 40 by 104 ft, G K Willmer et al to Isaac S Lane, $1800.

House and lot on the north side of Prince st, 50 ft east of Fairfax, 19 by 48 ft, L Gentzberger and wife to Fields Cook, $1950.

A CARD.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

You are respectfully requested to announce that the Temperance Convention, which is to be held next Tuesday, is solely for the purpose of conference upon the best means of promoting the temperance cause. Its object is not political in its character, either directly or indirectly, notwithstanding the report to the contrary. Its object is purely and simply Temperance.

JAMES ENTWISLE, Jr.,
Gen'l. Sect'y. Y. M. C. A.

CONSTABLE'S SALE—Will be sold, for cash, on WEDNESDAY, February 5th, 1873, at the hour of 12 o'clock m., of that day, at the livery stable of James Chatham, in the city of Alexandria, ONE HORSE and BUGGY WAGON, the property of Henry A. Armstrong, taken by virtue of an attachment in favor of James Chatham against said Henry A. Armstrong, and ordered at the January term of the Corporation Court by the Judge of said Court to be sold for cash; first advertising the same in some newspaper published in the city of Alexandria ten days prior to the sale, to satisfy the said Chatham his debt and costs expended.
jan 27-td JAMES ENNIS, Constable.
☞ The above sale has been postponed until MONDAY, the 10th instant. feb 5-1t