



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1873.

The dispatches which passed between Secretary Fish and Gen. Sickles, concerning the resignation of the latter as Minister to Spain, have been made public.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says: "It is understood that Mr. Cushing will not leave for his new post of duty until after his confirmation by the Senate."

The Lexington Gazette regards the efforts to organize "Granges" in Virginia as an insidious attack on the Conservative organization.

A New York Herald dispatch from London says a fresh monetary crisis is apprehended at Berlin.

A MATRIMONIAL ADVENTURE—TWO BRIDEGROOMS AND ONE BRIDE.—Plymouth county has had a matrimonial sensation, which the Chatham Tribune tells about as follows:

The Washington Board of Police at a special meeting yesterday adopted a resolution refusing hereafter to approve liquor licenses to proprietors of restaurants between Ninth and Fifteenth streets and below Pennsylvania avenue.

The Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias of Virginia will meet in Richmond on the third Wednesday in January.

Mr. Sickles, it is said, desires the publication of his letter of resignation, and it is understood that it, with all the correspondence on the Spanish question, will be sent to Congress on Monday next.

Heil, who accidentally shot and killed his wife a few days ago in Washington in attempting to defend her from the assault of three ruffians, was yesterday discharged from custody.

E. D. Mason, President of the Vermont Dairywomen's Association, is happy that two cheeses he sent to the Vienna Exposition received the highest prize over competitors from the celebrated dairy regions of England and Holland.

The December number of Blackwood's Magazine, has been republished by Leonard Scott & Co., New York.

The American Farmer (for January), published by S. Sands & Co., in Baltimore, has been issued. It is an excellent number of an excellent publication.

NEWS OF THE DAY

"To show the very age and body of the Toms." A committee of the London Board of Trade has begun an investigation of the Ville du Havre disaster.

Reliable reports state that the trouble in Lincoln county, in New Mexico, between the Americans and Mexicans, is daily growing more serious.

For nearly two weeks the days have been about nine hours and eighteen minutes in length. It will not be until New Year's day that they will be perceptibly longer.

The Spanish government relieved General Barriel of the command of the Eastern department of Cuba, because in his proclamation issued last week he attacked the existing administration of Spain.

Nine tons of silk worms' eggs arrived at San Francisco from Japan the other day on their way to Milan, Italy.

The Charleston Chamber of Commerce, at a meeting held on Monday night, adopted a resolution declaring it expedient that the South Carolina Taxpayers Convention of 1871 should be assembled at once to consider the present financial condition of the State.

The new method of reckoning the American dollar went into effect on the London exchange yesterday.

A petition, signed by wholesale merchants in every branch of trade in Portland, Maine, protesting against the repeal of the Bankrupt law, and urging its amendment, has been sent to Washington.

A New York Herald dispatch from London says a fresh monetary crisis is apprehended at Berlin.

A MATRIMONIAL ADVENTURE—TWO BRIDEGROOMS AND ONE BRIDE.—Plymouth county has had a matrimonial sensation, which the Chatham Tribune tells about as follows:

"One night last week a couple from the northern part of the county, accompanied by several gentlemen friends, arrived in our village and put up at Carter's Hotel.

"Finding that he could get a license here, without the trouble and expense of a journey to North Carolina, the gentleman informed his intended of the fact, and as advised, a license was secured for him by the pastor of the Presbyterian Church was on hand, and the happy couple were made one.

A VERY BASINFUL HUSBAND.—The following little anecdote is told about a very basinful man in Indiana.

"All this was enacted while the gentleman was in waiting, and drove off in the darkness, not much wiser but certainly a great deal happier."

THE NAPOLEONIC SACRIFICIAGES.—The magnificent granite sarcophagus presented by Queen Victoria to the Empress Eugenie, as a receptacle for the remains of the late Emperor, has arrived at Chislehurst from Aberdeen and been placed in the Mortuary chapel.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, has an employed manufacturing capital of \$12,725,000 and annually produces articles valued at \$21,150,000.

General Spinner will leave Washington on Friday for Florida. His health is somewhat better than it was in the early part of the winter, and he is almost constantly at his desk in the department.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

On last Saturday, Captain J. N. Nichols, one of the most distinguished and widely known citizens of Peter-burg, died at his residence, after a protracted and painful illness in his 53d year.

The Governor has refused to suspend the sentence of the court in the case of Oscar P. Little, who was charged with murder and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of years.

The first shipment of coal from West Virginia for New York that has passed through the Chesapeake and Ohio tunnel at Richmond went through on the 22d of December.

Last week one passenger train on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad came through from Hinton to Staunton without a single colored passenger—something never known before.

The Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Company will not be able to pay their January interest promptly, and will cravenly short-ship.

Shipments of land and cotton are passing through Richmond via Chesapeake and Ohio railroad from the West.

Peacham county has shipped 2,000 pounds of veal in meat to Richmond.

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.—The following is the official announcement of the New Year's reception at the Executive Mansion:

At 11 o'clock a. m. the President will receive the members of the Cabinet and foreign Ministers.

At 11:30 a. m. the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, Senators and Representatives in Congress, the Governor of the District of Columbia and suite, the Judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and of the Court of Claims will be received.

At 12 m. the officers of the army and navy will be received.

At 12:30 p. m. the Assistant Secretaries of Departments, the Assistant Postmasters General, the Solicitor General, and Assistant Attorney General, and the heads of the several bureaus will be received.

At 12:45 p. m. the Associated Soldiers of the War of 1812, and members of the Oldest Inhabitants Association of the District of Columbia will be received.

The reception of citizens will commence at 1 p. m. (at which time the gates of the enclosure will be opened) and will terminate at 2 p. m.

Carriages will approach the Executive Mansion by the eastern gate and leave by the western gate.

MARRIAGE LOTTERY.—The Swedes and Germans of Wisconsin have a lucky way of disposing of widows and widowers, if the Green Bay Advocate may be credited. It states that there were eleven widows and twelve widowers residing in Hollandtown, in that county, and it was determined by the community that eleven of these widowers should marry the disconsolate widows.

It is proposed to build forty-five iron steamships of 4,000 tons burthen, and capable of sailing fifteen knots an hour. The carrying capacity of 100,000 and there will be a capacity of 100,000 and 100,000 storage passengers.

THE NAUTICAL GAZETTE publishes a gigantic plan for establishing American ocean commerce on a new footing, and for giving the Stars and Stripes an airing at sea.

It presents the outline of a scheme to which many large capitalists are committed, and to which the attention of others will be invited.

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DEATH OF A NOTED CHARACTER.—Charles J. Jack died a week ago in Brooklyn, N. Y., aged seventy-four years. Mr. Jack was a well known Philadelphian, as a lawyer and politician, where he practiced forty years.

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Gen. Sickles' Resignation.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 30.—The following is the telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Fish and Minister Sickles concerning the resignation of the latter:

Madrid, December 6, 1873. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington: It is published semi-officially that the Government disposes of my conduct in the case of the Virginia. In the opinion of the President my resignation would facilitate a satisfactory termination of that question, or be otherwise advantageous to the public interests, such resignation may be considered as hereby respectfully tendered. [Signed] Sickles.

Washington, D. C. December 6, 1873. Sickles, Minister, Madrid: The alleged publication of disapproval of your conduct is entirely unauthorized; no disapproval has been expressed or intimated, and it is deemed important that you remain. Your resignation at this time would not be accepted, as it would interfere with the prospects of an accommodation. [Signed] Fish.

Madrid, December 16, 1873. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington: I respectfully request that my telegram of the 6th instant, tendering my resignation, and your reply of the same date may be now published. [Signed] Sickles.

Washington, December 17, 1873. Sickles, Madrid: Your tender of resignation was only hypothetical, and your telegram referred to in Madrid publications unknown here, attributing disapproval which had not been expressed. Your resignation at this time would not be accepted, as it would interfere with the prospects of an accommodation. [Signed] Fish.

Madrid, December 21, 1873. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State, Washington: I respectfully renew the tender of my resignation, which I trust may be accepted now, without interfering with the prospects of an accommodation. [Signed] Sickles.

Washington, December 20, 1873. Sickles, Madrid: Your resignation will be accepted. Letters of recall, with instructions, will be forwarded by next mail. [Signed] Fish.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT.—A distressing accident occurred in Cumberland, Allegany county, on Monday. The Cumberland News says:

"Mr. Wm. Shuck, an old and well known citizen, who has for several years been engaged as car repairer for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, at Cumberland, was at his usual work, and at the time of the accident had gone to the circular saw, standing in front of the company's round house, for the purpose of sawing some pieces of wood to be used as 'bolsters' of cars.

While the saw was in rapid rotation Mr. Shuck stooped down and reached under the saw for the purpose of getting out a quantity of sawdust to stand upon, the ground being covered over with snow and ice, rendering the footing insecure. In raising up his head he struck his head at the back, near the neck, and cut clear across to his nose, splitting the skull open. In some places the brain could be seen. He was still living last night, but his recovery is not thought possible.

A DRASTIC FISHING SEASON.—The year now closing has been the most disastrous in the destruction of life and property of any since the establishment of the fishing business at this port, there having been 174 lives and 31 vessels lost during the present season.

The year which approximates to it was 1862, when there were 165 lives, and 19 vessels lost. Of 174 men lost this season, 47 were known to be married, leaving 47 widows and 86 fatherless children.

The largest loss of life and property was in the Bay of St. Lawrence fishery, in the month of August 24th, when 89 seamen and 12 vessels were lost. Three vessels and 35 lives have been lost in the Georges fishery, a 2 ring fishery, 9 vessels in the shore fishery, 1 to the Grand Manan herring fishery, 1 fruiter and 1 ballast lorry. The total value of the vessels lost is \$118,700, their insurance \$100,918, mostly in the Gloucester Mutual Fishing Insurance office.—Cape Ann Advertiser.

SINKING OF THE VIRGINIA.—It seems that the Virginia was unseaworthy when she began the homeward voyage, and that when the heavy gale which swept along the Atlantic coast set in, the commander of the Osipee with the Virginia in tow, steered for Charleston harbor. When he reached smooth water however, the Virginia performed better, and it was hoped that by vigorous pumping she might be kept afloat.

Commander Haswell again turned his course to the North. When he reached the Cape Fear Shoals, however, the Virginia was found to be filling so rapidly that her crew signalled that she was sinking, and asked to be taken off. They were brought on board the Osipee with much difficulty, owing to the rough sea. Commander Haswell anchored his vessel and waited till the Virginia went down. She lies in eight fathoms of water, and will probably never be raised. Thus ends the career of a most disreputable vessel.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN VIRGINIA.—"We learn from the Marion Patriot and Herald that petitions are in circulation in the various counties of the Southwest for signatures, asking the Legislature to submit to the people certain amendments to the State Constitution. The amendments proposed are as follows:

1. To reduce the number of members of the House of Delegates to seventy-five, and the number of Senators to twenty-five.

2. To provide for the meeting of the Legislature biennially instead of annually, and making the pay of members at a fixed salary of \$500 per session, instead of a per diem salary of \$6.

3. To make attorneys for the Commonwealth ineligible to seats in the Legislature while holding the office of attorney.

4. To equalize, and reduce: as far as possible, the rate of taxation upon the real estate of the Commonwealth.

A NEW YEAR'S APPEAL.—The following is the New Year's appeal of the National Temperance Society, being a resolution adopted at a recent conference of the friends of temperance:

Resolved, That this conference has heard with great pleasure that the ladies in Washington, including the wives of the President of the United States and his Cabinet, will not offer intoxicating drinks to their guests on New Year's Day, and that they earnestly implore the ladies of this and other cities, in behalf of the young and in the interests of virtue and humanity, to set the same example, and to banish wine and other liquors from their tables on that day.

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS OF WASHINGTON.—A package of twenty most interesting autograph letters of Gen. Washington has just been discovered at Princeton. More than half of the letters relate to the college, to General Mercer, who was killed there, and to the battles at that place. They were written to the Burrs, father and son—the one at one time President of the college, and the latter afterwards Vice-President of the United States—and to President Witherspoon. One of them, relating to General Mercer, urges the erection of a monument to the gallant general, who was killed at the battle of Princeton.

Lytleton Waddell has become one of the editors of the Charlottesville Chronicle, and those who know his qualifications for that position know that he will add much to the interest of its editorial columns.

The weather was very cold yesterday and last night, and much ice was formed in the river above, opposite to, and below this place.

Letter from Richmond.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.) RICHMOND, Dec 30.—To-day a large additional number of delegates arrived, and exercises of both houses were held to-night. In the Senate only twenty-two members were present, although twenty-eight were known to be in the city. The caucus adjourned until to-morrow night at eight o'clock without transacting any business.

The House caucus assembled, organized, and unanimously selected J. Marshall Hanger, ex-Speaker, and J. Bell Biggs for Clerk, after which it adjourned. There were present 73 members, sixteen only being absent.

The caucus between Messrs. Wall and Crittenden for Speaker at Annapolis is growing more and more exciting, and the chances are now very nearly equal. The nomination will probably be made to-morrow night, by which time it is expected all absences will have arrived. Gen. Kemper is expected to-morrow.

DEADLY ACCIDENT.—[From the Baltimore American.]—Our local columns this morning contain an awful story warning to those who use candle lamps. These tragedies (for we can call them nothing else) are occurring every day; but this one will attract special attention, for the reason that the victim was a most interesting lady occupying a high social position, in the full bloom of early womanhood, the mother of an interesting family, and the wife of a prominent citizen. There are those to whom the estimable lady that perished on Monday night in her bed chamber was personally known, and who will mourn her as a beloved friend, and to whom the enactment of a law that will effectually prevent such accidents as these. The lady, whose melancholy death has caused a wide circle of friends to mourn, was the wife of William E. Cook, Jr., Cashier of the Central Savings Bank. As she was about retiring she set a lamp upon the mantle near her bed; it toppled over and the oil instantly took fire. There were a few hours of dreadful agony, and then a young, beautiful and accomplished woman was a cleared and discolored corpse. When Mrs. Cook rushed to the room of her servants with her clothes on fire they sprang from their beds and ran from the house, but her little son, only nine years of age, threw a blanket over his mother and acted like a hero.

CASE OF THE LATE COL. SPALDING.—Our readers are already familiar with the details of finding the body of Col. Joseph C. Spalding in the Grand Jury room of the County Court of Hamilton, and the result of the post mortem examination held on Sunday morning by the Coroner and Dr. Tompkins. At a final session of the jury yesterday afternoon, and a full investigation into all the circumstances connected with the case, they agreed upon the following verdict:

"That the deceased came to his death on or about the night of the 26th of December, 1873, by exhaustion produced or promoted by secondary hemorrhage from a wound of the neck received on the 13th of December, but whether this wound resulted from accident on his part, or from design on the part of some other person or persons, the jury cannot, from the evidence before them, conclusively determine."—Rich News.

KOSSUTH AS A TEACHER.—An article in the Franklin Gazette, which appears in Appleton's Journal, says:

The following advertisement appears every now and then in the Couriers de Paris: "Lessons in German, English, and Hungarian, given at moderate rates, by K. Kossuth."

The advertiser is none other than the once celebrated Hungarian patriot, who has been almost utterly forgotten, even in Hungary; he will gladly give you a lesson in any language. This would seem very humiliating for him, and yet he is proud of his poverty. Mr. Kossuth expresses great interest in American affairs, and states that he would be glad to visit the United States again.

The "Old Year" expires to-night. We should be thankful for all the good it has brought—much more than many of us deserve. The New Year commencing to-morrow, we hope will be a year of peace and prosperity, health, and happiness, to all.

The Legislature will assemble on to-morrow and as soon as the votes can be counted General James L. Kemper will be installed as Governor and Colonel Robert E. Withers as Lieutenant-Governor. There will be no formal public inauguration ceremonies.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, DECEMBER 31, '73.

Table listing market prices for various goods including Flour, Extra, Family, Wheat, Corn, Rye, Oats, Butter, Eggs, Turkeys, Chickens, Irish Potatoes, Onions, Dressed Hogs, Bacon, Ham, Sides, Shoulders, Lard, Plaster, Ground, Lump, Salt, Wool, Washed, Merino, Hays, and Remarks.

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FOR THE GAZETTE.

The "hop" which took place last night was one of the pleasantest affairs we have participated in for some time.

After a long absence, returning to Alexandria for this particular occasion, we feel forced to acknowledge ourselves amply repaid and to congratulate the committee upon their admirable arrangements and affair. The hop was essentially a young folks' affair—gotten up by the young men of Alexandria, and reflects credit upon them. The room was well chosen, large, well ventilated, and well lighted, and possessed a most delightful floor, upon which every dancer knows being largely upon their enjoyment. The music was excellent and performed by a band brought from Washington. No pains or expense seemed spared.

We could not but be struck by the array of beauty presented. So far as we saw there was not one homely face in the room, and the expression of joy that radiated on every face would have made the plainest attractive. While all there took well, there were those present of an uncommon beauty, and we thought Alexandria should well be proud of her girls. Among "Alexandria's own" the most particularly admired were: Miss F., particularly well-dressed; Miss G., in black tulle with scarlet trimmings; Miss S., in pink silk with white; a lovely contrast with her fresh fairness; Miss F., being a perfect brunette, while Miss M., in blue silk and white, was universally admired; her beauty made so charming by the perfect unconsciousness with which it was worn; Miss H., in pink tulle; Miss M., in blue silk white overdress; Misses P. and L., in white, and others, so rushed upon our vision that it is a wonder almost such a coterie, there is one heart-whole man in Alexandria.

The strangers and visitors bore their part well. Among them, Miss C., of G., seemed most admired, arrayed in white and black tulle, which was most becoming to her slender form. Everywhere we heard praises, in which we join, of her beauty of face, form and mind. Miss M., of Maryland, was distinguished by her blue silk and lace. Both charming and chaperone were greatly admired. Miss D. in blue and Miss P., also in blue, bore the palm for fairness of complexion; both much admired. There were others deserving remark, but our hands were so full with those already mentioned we were obliged to forego many introductions we desired. Our old friend Miss P., of Georgetown, lent her presence to the assembly. So much had been heard of her that when it was rumored she had arrived great interest was manifested to see her enter the room so as to have a first sight of her. After some delay, just as the band struck up a waltz, she danced out a mass of gauzy whiteness, by the side of her handsome escort, who, immediately throwing his arm in position, whirled her into the maze of colors. Miss P., though beautiful, we were sorry to see, really looked less well than we ever remember to have seen her, from having her hair so powder. Her own dark hair is far more becoming. There is one thing that saddens the attendant upon balls, who seeks real beauty, and that is the way in which the accessories of art are used, powder, crayon, &c., to a marvellous extent, and gives to all the same intimate expression.