



ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1874

NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD.—At a meeting held at Pittsylvania C. H., on Monday, resolutions were adopted directing the appointment of commissioners to open books of subscription to the capital stock of the proposed Pittsylvania and Henry Narrow Gauge Railroad Company...

The Columbian Flour Mills at Richmond, Va., owned by Hazell, Crenshaw & Co., were burned last night. The fire destroyed the principal buildings, three in number, including an immense amount of machinery, much of it new, and a large quantity of grain and flour.

The Grange influence is strongly felt in King George county. On the 12th of March a Grange was formed in the upper part of the county, and on the 17th another at King George Court House...

At a special election held in Baltimore yesterday to decide the question of the further issue of city bonds to the extent of \$1,500,000 for the improvement of Jones' Falls run, in a vote of 28,000 there was a majority of 5,500 against the issue.

The annual meeting of the National Academy of Science commenced yesterday in the hall in the west wing of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

General Drummond, Commissioner of the Land Office, has resigned. He will probably be succeeded by General Burdette.

It is thought that the President will sign the Senate Currency bill.

FOREIGN NEWS.

MADRID, April 21.—The vigorous cannonade kept up by the national troops upon the Carlists' positions before Bilbao is beginning to tell. Several of the points which were bombarded by the Republicans have been evacuated by the insurgents.

The Carlists before Bilbao have been compelled by the heavy fire of the Republicans to abandon their positions of Portugalita and San Tero.

BERLIN, April 21.—The journals say it is probable Herr Klauwald will be appointed successor of General Raesing at New York. CITY OF MEXICO, April 15.—Congress is at work on additional amendments to the constitution. The one providing for the creation of a Senate, composed of two members from each State, has been adopted.

President Lerdo's message at the opening of Congress is generally well received, but the opposition journals are criticizing his recommendation for an increase in customs tariffs.

In consequence of frequent revolts and depredations of Indians, the President advises the establishment of military colonies to keep the tribes in subjection.

The extraordinary powers granted the Government for the apprehension and punishment of kidnappers have been prolonged by Congress another year.

The expenditures of the Government during the present year are estimated at \$23,000,000.

HAVANA, April 21.—Advices from St. Thomas to the 16th instant state that a report had reached there that the authorities of San Domingo had moved the flag of the Samana Bay Company and resumed possession of the bay and surrounding territory.

JACMEI, April 9.—The Presidential election in Hayti takes place on the 15th instant. General Dominguez is raising an army with which to take possession of the Presidency by force should be fail of an election.

MARACAIBO, April 12.—Governor Pulgar, of Maracaibo, has declared against President Blanco and fled into the interior, where he has raised the standard of revolt.

LONDON, April 20.—Action to recover \$500,000 salvage has been entered against the steamship L'Americaine by the parties who picked her up and brought her into Plymouth. The vessel has been taken in charge by law officers to await the result of the action.

Scraper's Monthly Magazine for May; and Scriber's Illustrated Magazine for Girls and Boys, for May, have been received. They are both interesting numbers, and are handsomely illustrated.

Mrs. A. M. Fitzhugh's Will.

In the Corporation Court, on Monday, the last will and testament of Mrs. Ann Maria Fitzhugh, deceased, with three codicils annexed, was presented by the executors under the will for probat, and the will and codicils with the signatures of the testatrix to the same, were proved by John W. Burke and Arthur Herbert to be wholly in her hand writing, and the will was admitted to probat and ordered to be recorded. The court fixed the penalty of the bond to be given by the executors at \$250,000.

"RAVENSWORTH, August 23, 1870. I have more than once written my will, but time and circumstances have rendered changes necessary in such a paper. I am now about to make memoranda in the disposition of my property after my death, and whether signed or not, it is my desire and direction that it be considered binding, subject only to such changes as I may hereafter see fit to make, and succeeding all wills of earlier date. I shall endeavor to be concise, but I hope plain, and not liable to be misunderstood."

"My niece, Mrs. Mary C. Lee, will inherit my present residence at Ravensworth, and I add to it whatever furniture, books, &c., may be in the house at the time of my death, excepting only such articles as I may, in this paper, bequeath to any other person. In the early days of my trials and afflictions, when I was about to act as executrix to her uncle's estate, she very generously gave up some things to which she was entitled by her will, thereby enabling me to act with much more ease and comfort, and which has proved very beneficial to the estate. It is not my desire or intention that she should lose by this; on the contrary, I shall be enabled to leave her more than could have been saved under the previous arrangement, and it is a source of great gratification to me to believe that her affectionate liberality and disinterestedness will be thus rewarded. It is proper for me to add in this connection that all my own property, left me by my father and other relations, which was by no means inconsiderable, has been thrown into the common stock. The annuity left me I have never drawn, or used in any way; all the proceeds of the whole, excepting what I found needful to spend, have been used to increase the capital, and I have fortunately been enabled to do so very successfully, so that I have a good deal to dispose of, altogether independent of what would have been her claim. I mention this to prevent doubts or dissatisfaction on the part of any, and which would only arise from want of proper understanding of the case. I shall proceed to make such bequests as I desire to members of my own family and other friends and dependants, and leave my niece, Mrs. Lee, residuary legatee of whatever may remain of the whole property that I have in possession."

"To Jim and Violet Burke I leave an annuity of \$150 for the two, to be paid them half yearly, and when one of them is removed by death, \$100 a year to the survivor, paid in the same way."

"To Virginia I leave \$100 a year, paid semi-annually, and my wearing apparel—that is, the plainer articles, not jewels or such like, of course, but not including, and such dresses as are suitable for her to wear, and I have few, if any, that are not."

"To Miss I give \$200."

"To Wm. H. Burke I leave the house and lot in which he has resided for some years with a lot attached, fifty feet south from Queen street, and extending east to the enclosure of the turntable, and running with it the fifty feet on the west, the boundary to be with his house, and not including the gate, which is needed for the larger house."

"To my sister, Mrs. Kerr, should she survive me, I leave thirty thousand dollars, to be equally divided among her children at her death, but in case of her dying before me, I leave the amount to her children, \$10,000 to each."

"To the children of my sisters, Williamina, Mrs. Laird, Mary, Mrs. Goldsborough and Caroline, Mrs. Daudridge, or such of them as may be living when this will is executed, I leave \$1,000 each. Also to the children of my brother, Wm. T. Goldsborough, I leave a like sum of \$1,000 to each one who then living."

"To my brother himself, I leave \$10,000, or the interest on such sum, to be paid semi-annually, but to be responsible for his debts or liabilities, but at his death to go as he may bequeath it."

"To my brothers, Richard Fitzhugh and Chas. Fitzhugh Goldsborough, I leave each five thousand dollars, and to Charles, a small silver waiter, given me by my father with a cipher C. E. G."

"To Gordon Fitzhugh Lee I leave the tract of land upon which he is at present residing, called 'Richland,' with the mill adjoining, containing together about 1,175 acres; also a tract of woodland just above the mill, sold under the same decree of court that Richland was, and containing, I think, 170 or 175 acres, upwards of 1,200 altogether. The Arkdale tract, which has recently come into my possession again, containing 2,200 or 2,300 acres, I wish to be divided equally among my other goodsons, Sidney, Smith Lee, John M. Lee, Henry C. Lee, and Daniel Murry Lee, my executors to distribute it as nearly according to its value as they can."

"The fishery I am a little at a loss about. I should like them all to have a share in its benefits. Joint property is apt to bring trouble, but I know not how better to arrange it than to let the proceeds of the rent be divided equally among them. If they can make any better arrangements among themselves they are at liberty to do so."

"My nieces and nephews, the children of my niece, Mrs. Mary C. Lee, I have not mentioned specially, because the property that I leave to her, other than the 5,000 acres belonging to the Ravensworth house tract, which is her's by former bequest, I leave to her, not in fee, but to be given to her children at her death in such portions as she may consider they best and most require."

"I wish my nephews, Charles S. Kerr, Fitzhugh Lee and Custis Lee to act as my executors. Their bequests and remembrances to friends I may wish to make, and I shall add them as they occur to me."

"Death has removed one very dear friend since this paper was commenced three months ago. To all who may survive me I leave my blessing and true affection, with fervent hopes for their happiness in this world and forever."

(Signed) A. M. FITZHUGH. Ist codicil to the will, dated 28, 1872: I have tried to designate within the portion of my lot that I wish Burke to have. He must remove his gate to Queen street, so as to leave the present gate for the use of this lot given to Mrs. Lee, and let him have a good lot for a garden, going to St. Asaph street."

"The rent of turntable I give to Robbie. It is \$20 a month, \$240 a year, and I do not give him a portion of Arkdale, as I at first intended. I have just erased that portion. It may all be divided among the brothers that are now residing there. Robbie is not fond of country occupations or farming, and I leave him instead my house and lot in Alexandria in lieu of land in Stafford."

"To Fitzhugh Lee I leave \$5,000 of bonds or stocks, and \$1,000 to John to help to build his house; \$1,000 to Dan to aid in his improvements."

(Signed) A. M. FITZHUGH. (Note—On the back of the paper upon which the first codicil is written is a diagram of lot

intended for Burke, with directions how it is to be laid off.) 2d codicil, dated February 11, 1873: I have not yet mentioned my very dear relations at Myrtle Grove, believing that they were comfortable in their circumstances, but a little proof of my remembrance I should like to leave and therefore leave \$1,000 each to Mary, Caroline, Eliza, William and John McDowell. George is abundantly supplied with this world's goods, and Sally is also independent; they need nothing more than my love and sincere interest. Willie and Charlie I have remembered earlier in my will. Little Ida Kerr I wish to have my guitar, which is in like to give some well provided for. I would like to give some assistance to the children of Carter Lee, but have not as much left as I would wish, but think I can spare \$500 to each. To Henry C. Lee, who may not find the land I have designated for him very profitable, \$1,000 in addition, and to Smith, who is living on a part of the land, the same, viz: \$1,000. There is one good house on that part of the tract."

(Signed) A. M. FITZHUGH. 3d codicil, dated September 5, 1873: My latest direction about the house and lot in town. I have designated on another paper the part I wish Burke to have. The dwelling on Washington and Queen to Burke's premises I wish Mrs. A. M. Lee to have for five years or more, if Robbie chooses, as I give it to him after her, I want her to keep it up and let it be a convenient and comfortable place of meeting for my executors—one or more. They will probably often have occasion to be there, and all my relations and connections are fortunately such good friends that I am sure they will always have pleasure in their association. When they find it convenient to be at Ravensworth of course this house will be open to them. I do not wish any appraisement or strangers and officers going through either house, and do not see that any can be necessary. Mrs. Mary Lee is entitled to everything in this house, and Mrs. A. M. Lee to what is in the house in town, and if they wish to make an exchange they can do so. Robbie is very anxious to have my picture though it would seem right they should hang together. I cannot write more now."

(Signed) A. M. FITZHUGH. FROM RICHMOND.

LEGISLATIVE. RICHMOND, April 21.—In the Senate, today, bills were passed prohibiting non-residents from taking fish in the waters of the Commonwealth; authorizing the auditor to sell the steam tug boats constituting the "oyster navy"; providing a new registration for Winchester; authorizing certain counties to subscribe to the stock of the Roanoke Valley railroad; incorporating the Masonic College of Harrisonburg; and to amend the fence law in the counties of Albemarle, King William, Surry and Sussex.

Messrs. Cockran and Bagland were appointed upon the committee to examine into the affairs of the Eastern Lunatic Asylum.

The Tax bill was further considered. In the House of Delegates bills were passed directing the commissioners of the sinking fund to convert into five per cent registered stock of the State of Virginia all bonds, stock, etc., received by virtue of the 5th section of the act passed March 30th, 1871; incorporating the Virginia Turnpike Company; amending the Code for the protection of game; ascertaining compensation for land condemned for roads or landings; making repairs to Eastern Lunatic Asylum; and amending the Code in reference to depositions.

The bill to encourage land purchasers and actual settlers in the State was rejected by a tie vote—yeas 58, noes 58—and a motion to reconsider was defeated. The bill, over which there has been so much discussion, is lost.

The bill amending the Code relative to the duties of township collectors was reported upon adversely.

A resolution was agreed to prescribing terms whereby liquor may be sold in the town of Upperville, in Fauquier county.

The report of the committee for courts of justice on the resolution relative to the responsibility of the auditor, second auditor and late treasurer for default or loss in the sinking fund was ordered to be printed.

MISCELLANEOUS. More investigating committees of the Legislature! What a reflection upon the integrity of the Old Commonwealth! The committee appointed to investigate the conduct of the basement offices have exhausted the insurance deposit department of the treasurer's office, and will next begin an examination of the manner in which the funding bill has been carried out. The committee thinks it has enough work before it to enable it to worry through the Summer. The last committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Lunatic Asylum at Williamsburg.

The Governor has appointed Charles E. Mount, of Loudoun county, a notary public. The insurance men of Richmond are divided in their views in reference to the deposit system. One party is in favor of a continuation of the deposits, while another desires it abolished.

Warner T. Jones, of Gloucester, will tomorrow be elected judge of Gloucester County Court.

The proposition to change the gauge of the Richmond and Danville railroad from broad to narrow is agitating the public mind here just now, and a meeting of citizens on the subject is to be held to-night.

The celebration of the anniversary of the adoption of the fifteenth amendment by the colored people of the city, yesterday, was a very creditable affair.

John Andrews, supposed to have been intoxicated, walked off an abutment of the Free bridge, near the Manchester side of the river, at noon yesterday, and fell a distance of over thirty feet, fracturing his hip and inflicting other injuries.

Congress.

In the Senate yesterday a bill was passed removing the political disabilities of Charles H. McBlair, late Adjutant General of Maryland. The House bill for the relief of the sufferers by the floods in Louisiana was passed, with an amendment providing that its operations shall not extend beyond September 1, 1874. The Louisville and Portland Canal bill was considered and the House amendment providing that the Secretary of War shall not take possession of the work until the State of Kentucky shall accede to the U. S. jurisdiction over the same, was stricken out. The House resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to the captain and crew of the White Star steamer "Scotland," for rescuing the crew of the brigantine "Scotland," was passed.

In the House of Representatives a resolution was introduced by Mr. Randall, directing a temporary suspension of the Legislature of the District of Columbia, which was referred to the committee now investigating the affairs of the District. Mr. Morey, of Louisiana, made a speech in favor of the reclamation of certain swamps in that State by drainage and other means at the expense of the United States Government. The Senate amendment to the bill for the relief of the sufferers by the Mississippi floods was concurred in and the bill was finally passed. The Legislative Appropriation bill was considered in Committee of the Whole.

An amendment reducing the appropriation for the salaries of Collectors of Internal Revenue \$200,000 was voted down. An amendment was adopted limiting the pay of guests to \$7 per day. After voting down two or three amendments the House discovered that no quorum was present, and adjourned.

The Strife in Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, April 21.—About 5 o'clock the colored troops; under command of Colonel King, (white,) paraded the streets preceded by a brass band. After marching through several streets they halted in front of the Metropolitan hotel and the band played a lively air, and the troops fronted the hotel yelling for Governor Baxter, who appeared on the balcony and made a speech amidst the wildest cheering. He said an insurrection had broken out, and the archives of the government were in the hands of the insurgents; that they had been called together for the purpose of vindicating the rights of the people of Arkansas, not the rights of Eliza Baxter. He said he was making preparations for and intended to assert his rights as Governor of the State. He counselled them to be patient and quiet, and conduct themselves orderly, and in due time the proper order would be given them to assert the rights of the people. At the close of his speech, the band played "The Red White and Blue."

By this time Main street, above the head of Col. White's column, at the intersection of Main and Markham streets, was filled with men, principally Brooks' sympathizers, who were looking on. The sidewalks were also crowded and the upper stories of all the buildings around either had armed men in them or citizens.

Col. Rose was sitting on his horse in the middle of the street. When the band ceased three cheers were given for Col. White, and he made a short speech. Addressing the Governor, he said that the colored men had come here to see that Baxter was reinstated in the State-house, and let it take one day or one year they would stand by him. All they prayed for was orders to take the State house, and this there was again the wildest cheering, and the band commenced playing. Just then Col. Rose rode up to Col. White and said something when some one in the upper story of a building fired a shot into Baxter's crowd, which was readily followed by others from the direction of the crowd standing in the street near the Metropolitan hotel. This action caused the Baxter men to return the fire. The colored troops rapidly retreated from the street.

The firing was very heavy for a few moments, the Baxter men running up Main street and others. Amidst this, Colonel Rose rode rapidly to the City Hall and called out his company, barricaded the street temporarily with a hook and ladder truck, and formed his men behind it, across the street, in solid column to prevent an advance by the Baxter men.

About two hundred shots in all were fired. The street was cleared of men in a short time. Several of the Baxter men were wounded. Major D. F. Shell, who was at the Anthony house, received a wound in the head, from which he is not expected to recover. Governor W. A. Crawford received a painful wound in his head, but it is not fatal. One or two others were slightly hurt.

In the midst of the excitement the United States troops at the Federal court-room and two pieces of artillery were moved to the corner of Second and Louisiana streets, ready to repel any attack. Since dusk the men have been marching back to their quarters, and the excitement is about over. During the excitement a colored woman jumped out of a second-story window and broke her leg.

The following account of the skirmish this evening is given by a number of eye witnesses: Colonel Rose, post commander, rode abruptly to Colonel White through the latter's band, knocking down several members of it.

He asked Col. White if he intended to advance his troops any further, and received a negative reply. Col. White said to him, he had no right to ride through his men in that manner. A few hot words followed, and Col. Rose pulled his pistol, cocked it and struck at White, who threw up his right hand, which struck and fired off the pistol in the air. Col. Rose's orderly took a pistol in the air, and then commenced firing. Col. Rose turned and ran up the street to the city hall, and formed his men across the street, as previously telegraphed.

Most of the firing from the Brooks men was from the Metropolitan windows and the crowd below on the pavement, and was aimed at the Anthony house. The flag waving in front of Baxter's headquarters was pierced by several bullets. Several colored men were wounded, one in the foot and then in the leg and one on the ear. Col. D. Sullivan, of Brooks' party, who was standing on the sidewalk opposite the Metropolitan, was shot through one of his legs, breaking it. He then walked up opposite the hall and received another shot in the other leg, breaking it also. Joseph Hill, hackman, was shot in the left hip. Major Shell, who was shot in the head, died a few minutes after. One shot was fired by a United States soldier, opposite the city hall. The city is quiet now. One or two new companies arrived to-night to assist Baxter.

THE ARKANSAS DELEGATION AND THE PRESIDENT. The members of the Arkansas delegation in both Houses of Congress in company with the Democratic contestants for seats in the House of Representatives, Col. Gunter and Messrs. Gauss and Bell, were at the Executive mansion yesterday morning, in consultation with the President and Cabinet concerning the situation of affairs at Little Rock, and the policy which the Government has determined to observe respecting the tangled condition of political matters in that city. There is no difference between the Arkansas Congressmen and the administration upon the point of the preservation of peace, and there is harmony respecting the propriety as well as the necessity of submitting the case to the courts of the State, as suggested by the dispatches telegraphed from Washington to the contestants at Little Rock.

The visit of the delegation to the White House seems to have been more with a view to represent to the President their united desire for a peaceful solution of the question than for any other purpose.

The following dispatch was received and read at Cabinet meeting: MARIANA, ARK., April 21, 1874. Pres't Grant, Washington, D. C.: For the sake of law and order, take some steps to suppress the riot in Arkansas. Every good citizen will abide your command. Speak, and we will obey. The general impression is that you will not interfere. Thus they keep up the fight. Will you save us? We are in a pitiable condition. For God's sake, help us! Our whole salvation depends upon our crops. If this matter continues much longer we are ruined. There is not a man in Arkansas, but what will obey your orders, if you will only demand it. President Grant, you can stop this middle if you will, and if you do not you are responsible for our ruin. Know from whence this comes we do not care—and I speak the sentiments of the people of Arkansas without egotism—who is Governor, all we want is peace. The people will obey. Answered: W. H. FORBES, Sheriff Lee County, Arkansas.

REVENUE OF THE STATE.—The total revenue of the State for 1873 was \$2,268,550.13, of which the cities paid \$67,919.71, the counties and towns \$1,701,539.42. The following amounts are paid by the several cities named: Alexandria, \$36,834.41; Danville, 20,275.08; Frederickburg, 13,885.41; Lynchburg, 39,361.74; Norfolk, 82,334.36; Petersburg, 65,281.22; Portsmouth, 22,908.59; Richmond, 252,277.65; Staunton, 15,919.44; Williamsburg, 2,917.49; Winchester, 13,617.88.

—Richmond State Journal.

NEWS OF THE DAY

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

The steamer Electra, of the Providence and New York line, and the steamer City of Boston, of the Norwich line, while rounding the Battery, at New York, into East river, both endeavoring to escape collision with a ferry boat, collided with each other yesterday. The Electra struck the City of Boston amidships, bursting her harbored boiler and cracking her steam-chest. Nobody was hurt. The passengers of the City of Boston were transferred to the steamer Rhode Island and taken east with only an hour's delay. The City of Boston was towed to her dock, where she will discharge and repair. The Electra, which had her bow badly smashed, returned to her dock and forwarded her passengers by another boat. During the excitement in the harbor over the accident the steam tug S. J. Christian was sunk by the tug Canulla while both were going to the assistance of the City of Boston. The crew were saved.

At Cleveland, Ohio, yesterday a body of between 200 and 300 unemployed sailors boarded the schooner Eliza Zeeb, moored in the river, and compelled the crew to quit work and leave the vessel. They then proceeded to perform the same operation. The captain tried to protect his vessel and was assailed with a shower of missiles and a number of pistol shots from the rioters. He returned the fire and a number of shots took effect. One George S. Amos was wounded in his breast, probably fatally. Another was shot in the knee and a third in the arm. A posse of policemen arrived and the leaders in the riot were arrested. The remainder dispersed. The riot originated in a strike among the sailors, who demanded an increase of wages.

A dispatch from Titusville says that a large meeting of oil producers was held at Petrolia yesterday, the object being to decrease the production of petroleum by discontinuing the drilling of wells, in order to advance the price. The action was taken by a large majority of the operators, with a fair prospect of attaining a discontinuance of further operations for ninety days.

Three men from the bark Ziuri, lying at anchor at the mouth of the Mississippi, started in a boat for a telegraph station on shore and were blown out to sea. An officer and six men launched a boat and went to their assistance, but this boat was also blown out to sea, and nothing has been heard from either party.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue gives notice that unless parties liable to payment of special tax license under the internal revenue laws making their returns on "from eleven" before the 31st of May, they will be liable to a penalty of fifty per cent.

A trap-zee performer named A. H. Scarles fell twenty feet from a bar while performing at the Theatre Comique in Jersey City last night.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Having in a previous article noticed some of the principle requirements and essentials necessary to a building, which is to serve so noble a purpose as public education, we would now like to consider the subject in some of its other, but no less important and essential aspects.

We are of those who believe that the actions of public officers are justly open to a fair and impartial criticism, hence when the action of the School Board was fully consummated and laid before the public, their acts then became public property and of general interest; and as such were therefore legitimately subject to review and discussion, as all great interests and principles are, and should be, which appertain to the people.

The building purchased by the committee will require the expense of very many and great alterations, before it can be made fit for school purposes, and even after it has been altered and arranged with this view, it is not possible to get what we want, or what would be necessary for complete school accommodations, for it would require a radical change in nearly all its internal features, before we could embrace even a part of those highly essential and necessary arrangements adverted to in a former article on this subject. There would remain insufficiency of light and ventilation in some of the class rooms, which, from the form and construction of the building cannot be obviated. The entrances, outlets, stair cases and corridors, cannot be so conveniently arranged, as would be if originally designed for the purpose. The stairway especially has some features which render it unsuitable and dangerous for school purposes. The number and height of stories are very serious objections, nor can they be obviated; the stories are too low for comfort and health, as the most casual inspection will show. The objection to such a number as four stories for school purposes has been set forth in a previous article, and need not be here repeated, as they are patent to all. The building being located on the most public business street of the city has the great objection of a close and crowded neighborhood, and as also contiguity with other buildings, and its consequent liability to fire therefrom. It also precludes the possibility of private play grounds and range for scholars. The objection to having the school in closely built and populous neighborhoods has aspects which cannot fail to strike the mind as very objectionable. There are other objections which will readily suggest themselves to any unbiased mind, but enough has been stated to show very conclusively the undesirability of the building for school purposes.

There is a financial view which it may be well for us to consider. In withdrawing so large and taxable an improvement from the assessment and taxes of the city, the Corporation has lost a revenue which would have flowed into her coffers yearly, but which has now been lost, and the amount now withdrawn from taxation not spent or circulated in adding other property to the wealth of the city, by which it could have derived a revenue equal to that it has lost, but which will be dormant and unproductive for public good. This amount of money expended in erecting a new edifice would have been circulated generally among the community in all branches of business and every one would have felt the benefits of its effects. Its action would have been reflex; the people could have more easily have met their obligations to each other and to the city. The city would not have lost any of her revenues, and general prosperity to the extent of the expenditure would have been enhanced; it is unquestionably true that money spent in public improvements is not lost, as it flows into the general circulation and arteries of trade thereby benefiting all.

It may be said that there was not money enough at the disposal of the board to have built such a school as you have described. In answer to this I would say, that there was, and could have been made available, money enough to build such a building as would have met all our present wants. This is strikingly apparent when we consider that they have just bought a building at \$14,000 cost, and one meeting all our requirements could have been erected for \$12,000, for the building should have been planned and designed with special reference to the erection of a part now, and the other part to be erected at some future time when the finances of the city would have permitted. Such a design should have been complete in itself, and the parts above mentioned complete in themselves. By this mode the object would have been accomplished both as to a fine substantial structure, pleasing to the eye and creditable to the city, meeting all the wants and requirements of the community for school purposes, and also within the range of its financial ability.

INDEX.

[COMMUNICATED.]

SCHOOL BUILDING. A communication in yesterday's Gazette on the purchase of the Bradley building for the public schools of the city deserves a passing notice. If the writer be not unfriendly to the schools or the Board it is difficult to conceive why such an article was published after the conclusion of the purchase, which it could have any effect at all would only tend to render the public dissatisfied with the schools, as the placing the schools in that building is now a "fixed fact." The article probably emanated from some one whose mind has been running in a groove of symmetry, proportions, &c. of school buildings and school rooms from which all other considerations are insufficient to move it. The subject is introduced by a long extract from a speech of R. C. Winthrop delivered probably thirty years ago, containing a set of truisms, on the advantages of education which have been said a thousand times before and since and which no one would think of denying, and is followed up by five rules of his own about the construction of school-houses and school-rooms, and because the building does not meet all the requirements of his rules seems willing to condemn the purchase. "Oh most wise and impotent conclusion." In making this purchase the Board were driven to the alternative of doing so, or continuing the schools in a set of low pitched, inconvenient, ill ventilated rooms, scattered through the city, at a high rent, and also of building a shed schoolhouse at a cost of \$1500 for temporary use. These mean school-rooms, have been the sole cause of the non success of public schools in this city. It so happens that the building which has been purchased fulfills all the essential conditions contained in the five rules of "Vignola." Being constructed for a furniture factory and ware house, in addition to three large stores on the first floor, it contains three large rooms in the upper stories, the full front and depth of the main building. The back building on Alfred street contains eight rooms, four being 38 by 19, and 4 being 21 by 25. These last are all supplied with water and gas and the rooms in the front building all with gas. All the rooms in the house are supplied with fire walls and iron doors from cellar to attic so that any compartment might burn through and leave the others intact. It is also supplied with a magnificent staircase 5 feet in width from the ground to the 4th story and two other staircases to the other compartments on Alfred street, so that any danger to the scholars from fire, unless on the supposition that the building should be set on fire in all directions at the same time, is a matter of impossibility. Vignola seems to think it indispensable that the building should be isolated, with a lot attached for a play ground; that the rooms should be 24 by 36 and 14 feet high, no more or less. Why so? One would think they should be adapted to the number of scholars. If a play ground be essential nearly all the public or private schools in large cities would be condemned at once as the ground is too valuable to be occupied for such a purpose. The same may be said about the height of the building. There is no school house in Washington but that has more than two stories and some in New York have school rooms in the sixth story. I will concede that if by abundant means we were about constructing a new school building we might yield to some of the ideas of Vignola about dimensions, &c., but the choice was the old condition of things, and Bradley's building, and I confidently ask any candid man whether there can be a doubt. The new building with the lot would have cost by estimate \$16,200, to which we may add from general experience several thousand dollars more for deficiency. This was to be paid for in cash and was doubly more than their means, and for which they would have had to have gone in debt and waited another year to get into the building. As it is the Board has purchased beyond all comparison the finest building in the city, capable of supplying all the white children in the public schools. This edifice, which by estimate of competent builders, could not be put up for \$30,000 is in perfect repair without having settled in a single inch in any of its walls in twenty years of having a single crack in any of its walls. The part cash and the balance in five years the property will pay the balance of purchase money in five years or less, and yet Vignola is not happy because he cannot get his play ground and his cloak room at an extra cost of some \$10,000.

INDEX.

[COMMUNICATED.]

THE NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.—Permit me to suggest that, as the subject of the purchase of Bradley's building for school purposes was under consideration from the 6th of February, until the 10th of April, Vignola's questions, as well as his copious extracts from Mr. Winthrop's excellent suggestions as to what school houses ought to be, would have been much better fitted, had they been published before the last named day. Such school houses as are mentioned by Mr. Winthrop cost \$100,000 and the people of Boston are both able and willing to build them; but our School Board had but \$6,000, and even that small sum was derived, in any way, from the people of Alexandria, but was obtained from the Peabody Education Fund, through the exertions of the City Superintendent of Public Schools. To build a house to suit Vignola's refined taste, with accommodations only half as great as those afforded by Bradley's building, would cost \$15,000, and that sum, the Board was assured by the gentleman who care for its finances, could not be raised. It was, only, upon this assurance that the trustees, all of whom were decidedly in favor of a new building if one could be erected, agreed to the purchase. It is not proposed, for the present, at least, to put any children higher than the third story, and there is, to the front building, a very fine stair-case, five feet wide, down which one hundred children, only, will have to come from the third, and one hundred from the second story. Before the back building is used, a stair case at least as wide will be erected, down which only fifty children will have to pass from each story.

It is to be regretted that while Vignola is so much alarmed at the possible danger which may arise to children in the third story in the possible occurrence of a panic, he seems to be utterly oblivious of the fact that most of those who are to occupy Bradley's building are now being actually poisoned, day by day, in the contracted rooms they are compelled to use, by the carbonic acid from each other's breath, and the exhalations from their own bodies, as has been conclusively shown by Superintendent Carno.

X. Y. Z.

The Senate yesterday passed the bill for the removal of the disabilities of General M. Blair, of Maryland. The name of G. H. T. Blair, of North Carolina, was coupled in the bill with the name of Gen. Blair. The Senate struck Mr. Blair's name out, which action was subsequently concurred in by the House.

Henry Ward Beecher has declined to accept the six months' leave of absence voted to him by the vest