

NEWS OF THE DAY.

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



ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1875.

SPEECH OF SENATOR WITHERS.—In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, while the Louisiana resolution was under discussion,

Mr. Withers, of Virginia, said as a representative of one of the older States of the Union, a State which has contributed as much as any other to form and fix the character of the Government and to protect the principles of constitutional right, he claimed the right to be heard at a time when their existence was threatened with destruction.

He maintained that the Senate could not properly consider the pending resolution in this special session. To express an opinion in advance as to the action of the President would set a dangerous precedent, and might embarrass the future action of the body in cases of impeachment that might arise. He commented upon attempting to pass without proper consideration, a resolution framed after much care by a caucus. In this connection he referred to Mr. Morton as wielding the party whip with a relentless hand, and lashing into obedience the recalcitrant members of his party like a skillful driver crowding his team over the brink of a hill.

He proceeded to discuss the general questions involved in the debate. He alluded to what he regarded as the repeated infractions of the present Executive upon the other departments of the Government, and his repeated disregard of law, which the Senate was now asked to approve. He condemned in the strongest terms the military interference in Louisiana, and the course of Gen. Sheridan on his assuming command in that State. He did not believe that one-half or one-tenth of the murders and outrages alleged to have been committed in Louisiana had really taken place. There were outrages and murders in other States, but there was no interference. In a party point of view the adoption of this resolution would not be unfortunate for his party, but on this question he did not speak as a partisan. In the next election the naked question would be presented whether there are any rights or liberties of the people which the Executive is bound to respect. He did not fear the result. He had hoped that the Anglo-Saxon race would be the victors in the historic struggle of the Union. He believed the people would assert their honor and their sovereignty superior to both State and National affairs.

The Baltimore Gazette's Washington correspondent says of the speech:—"Colonel Withers' reputation as a gallant soldier heightened the interest of his listeners on the other side, and when it is said that he contributed some new points to this generally hackneyed debate, it will be conceded that he is a man of more than average ability. His speech was well delivered and well received."

In response to questions by the jury, Judge Emmons, in the United States Court at Memphis, Tennessee, yesterday, delivered a charge to the grand jury in reference to civil rights. He said you ask whether it is a crime, for which you have the right to find an indictment, that a negro has been denied full and equal enjoyment of accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of theatres and inns of the State. Such a denial is not an offence over which Congress can give this court jurisdiction. These are matters which the State government alone controls. Parties who think themselves aggrieved can bring their civil action in this court at once. Any decision we may then make can be reviewed by the Supreme Court.

Accounts of the destruction of life and property, by the tornado of Sunday, especially in Georgia, are distressing. The territory in the line of the tornado is a desolate waste. There is great distress in the devastated districts, and urgent need for assistance. Contributions sent to the mayor of Augusta will be distributed to the afflicted.

Walter W. Wood, of Halifax county, who has removed to St. Louis, having resigned the appointment of Commissioner to the Centennial Exhibition. Col. Frederick W. M. Holliday, of Winchester, has been nominated to the Presidency, by the Governor, as his successor.

It is said to be doubtful whether Graham, implicated in the Stowell cadetship case, will be expelled from the State Senate. His term ends with this session and the session itself will come to an end four days after Friday.

The good will, debts, material, job office and other property of the Richmond Evening News, brought \$3,500 at public sale Saturday. The office was purchased by Wm. H. Wade, who will continue the publication of the paper.

The bill of the New York Herald for advertising the sale of the Virginia penitentiary, 28 lines, 30 times, was \$456. What would have been said if any paper in the State had charged one-half that rate?

The Philadelphia North American contains a positive denial of the statement that Mr. George H. Baker intends to decline the Russian Mission.

The House of Delegates has passed an amendment to the Tax bill, requiring all license taxes to be paid in lawful money of the United States.

U. S. SENATE.—In the U. S. Senate yesterday ex President Johnson spoke upon the Louisiana resolution. Messrs. Bogy, Withers and Randolph followed in opposition to the pending resolution. Mr. Whyte offered, as a substitute for the resolution that the acts of the President are "contrary to the spirit of republican institutions and cannot be approved by the Senate." Mr. Anthony stated that he would to-day ask the Senate to remain in session until the matter is disposed of. Mr. Boutwell offered a resolution to fix a day for final adjournment. The Senate then went into executive session, and at its close adjourned.

A delegation of Maryland Republicans called upon President Grant yesterday and presented a petition signed by twenty-two hundred citizens of the State, asking for the removal of Collector Booth. The President promised to take the memorial into consideration.

The Attorney General of the United States has given his opinion in the case of the commissioners of the Freedmen's Bank, as to the power of the Secretary of the Treasury to accept their resignations and release them from further responsibility. The Attorney General holds that their resignations cannot be accepted, nor can the commissioners demand a divestiture of their trust until the affairs of the bank are finally administered, or Congress, by new legislation, comes to their relief.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Blake, collector, vs. the First National Bank of the city of New York, holding that the incomes of banks, railroad companies, and other corporations, for the last five months of the year 1871, were subject to an internal revenue tax of two and one-half per cent. assessed to the government about three millions of dollars.

A man named Wm. Thompson was, yesterday, arrested in Baltimore county charged with committing an outrage on the 20th of November last upon Dora Young, (aged 11 years), a daughter of Mr. Christopher Young, residing near Hall Spring, on the Harford road. Thompson was fully identified, and was committed to the Baltimore county jail.

The murderer Wm. J. Sharkey, who escaped from New York and has of late turned up in Cuba, is now under arrest there, it is surmised, for attempting to elude the law-giving lines. He denied his identity, assuming the name of an Englishman, and claimed British protection. The British consul, however, has declined to interfere.

The Interior Department has determined to dispatch, as soon as possible, a geologist to the Black Hills with the view of ascertaining accurately the alleged mineral wealth of that country. Steps are also in rapid progress to negotiate with the Indians for their voluntary relinquishment of that part of their reservation.

The statue of Manin, the patriot hero of Venice, was unveiled yesterday in that city with splendid ceremonies and great enthusiasm on the part of the public. The day was observed as a holiday. The city was richly decorated, and at night there was a general illumination.

Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the American revivalists, after a consultation with clergymen of all religious denominations, have determined to invite a number of the most popular preachers in this country to go over and assist them in carrying on their work.

The sudden fall in the temperature on Sunday night arrested the flow of ice in the Susquehanna, and the gorges were all holding fast at latest advices, although the water was gradually falling.

The tornado in Georgia was a most disastrous visitation. There were also tornadoes in North Carolina and Louisiana, which did some damage to property, and killed three or four persons.

Disturbances are reported at Morant Bay, Jamaica, caused by the coolie laborers. Men-of-war, the guard ship and a detachment of marines left Port Royal at midnight for the scene.

The Postoffice Department has determined to enforce the rule prohibiting postmasters from selling postage stamps outside of the territory within the delivery of their respective offices.

Among the indictments found by the grand jury of the District of Columbia is one against Whitelaw Reid for libel of A. R. Shepherd, and another of W. Scott Smith for libel of Joseph McFarland.

On Saturday afternoon last, while some fifty persons and several teams were on the ice bridge at Quebec, it broke loose, and floated up the river. All were landed safely.

ESTATE OF JOHN HOPKINS.—The Baltimore Sun says: "The executors, Francis White, Francis T. King and Charles J. M. Gwin, have returned to court to report on this estate to the Orphans' Court of Baltimore county. The total real estate of the deceased, returned in connection with the inventory for the purpose of the payment of the collateral inheritance tax, was \$1,622,320 57. The total appraised value of the household and other personal estate subject to the same tax was \$5,623,621 18—making a total amount of real and personal estate, at the appraised value, of \$7,145,941 75. The Johns Hopkins University has received, under the will, real estate appraised at \$100,000 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock appraised at \$24,194 40, and \$79,847 01 on account of its interest in the rest and residue of the estate. The Johns Hopkins Hospital has received \$293,000 in bank stocks, \$618,896 in lesshold property, \$282,326 in real estate, and \$795,959 51 on account of its interest in the rest and residue of the estate. The members of the family of the deceased and the legatees and devisees have received their respective portions of the estate, and the whole estate has been closed by the first account excepting a balance of \$102,164 22 ultimately belonging to the hospital and university, which remains in the hands of the executors undistributed, to await the result of certain litigated cases. The executors have at the same time closed the administration of the estate in Virginia and in West Virginia, and after payment of all the expenses connected with the administration of the estate in the States of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, and having received their respective portions of the estate \$227,900 of the commissions fixed by law and allowed them by the Orphans' Court. The total cost of settling the whole estate in the three States, not including the taxes imposed, has been less than three-quarters of one per cent on the estate. These facts indicate most intelligent and efficient administration of a great estate on the part of the executors, as also that the testator evinced the usual wise discernment in the choice of his executors that he had in the management of his business affairs through life. The will of Mr. Hopkins had been drawn by Mr. Gwin during the latter years of the life of the deceased, and though it underwent some modifications later, they were effected in consultation with the same attorney, who thus came thoroughly to understand the spirit and purpose of the deceased in regard both to his great public as well as private bequests. It is certainly very rarely that such an important estate, so great in amount, as well as high and sacred in its trusts, has been so promptly and creditably administered and the varied properties and moneys turned over to the official bodies and persons for whom they were designed in so complete manner and improved condition. Of course in estimating the estate none but very moderate valuations have been made. For instance, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock is estimated at only \$150 per share, whereas such limited sales of it as take place occasionally in the market are at from \$180 to \$190 per share. The other estimates are on an equally moderate scale."

The three o'clock express from New York for Baltimore ran off the track near Newport on Saturday. The locomotive and four cars were overturned. The engine, falling across the tracks and sliding about fifty feet, was badly broken. The track was torn up entirely part of the distance and badly damaged for two hundred feet. The end of the Pullman car—the second in the train—was jammed into the end of the baggage car, and both were partly buried in the bank. The next two passenger coaches were thrown over on the side and the trucks broken off all but one. Five cars were left on the track. The engineer and one passenger were slightly hurt. The cause of the accident is unknown, but is supposed to have been from a displaced rail. Travel was interrupted for two or three hours.

Mr. Geo. A. Ives has been awarded the contract for building a bridge across Holmes' Run, near Oak Mount, Hills Church Township, Fairfax county, at \$190.

Speech of Senator Johnson.

In the U. S. Senate, yesterday, the resolution endorsing the action of the Administration in Louisiana being under consideration, Mr. Johnson said that for many years he had been accustomed to speak before the people and in deliberative assemblies; yet he now confessed that he appeared before the Senate with some embarrassment. He feared that many had been drawn here with expectations that would surely be disappointed. He had not expected to take any part in the debate at this time, but circumstances had occurred which induced him to change his resolution. He wished it, however, understood that in what he would say he was not guided in any manner by party bias, but solely by his regard for the good and happiness of the country. He then called for the reading of the resolution, and said he did not consider that it was at this time legitimately before the Senate, which had been called together solely for the purpose of disposing of executive business. If this resolution was proper to be considered, then it was proper to consider any act of the Administration since its advent to power. It was reversing the policy and the principle upon which the Legislature had always acted. He said Senators would not doubt remember the resolution brought in by Mr. Clay denouncing President Jackson for removing the bank deposits. This was at the time when both Houses were in session, but it was then urged that the Senate had no right to pass upon the action of the President unless sitting as a court of impeachment. The Senate was now asked to express its approval of the action of the President in interfering in the affairs of a State. Now, what had usually been the course of the Government in cases similar to that which has arisen in Louisiana? He referred to the case in Tennessee in 1836, where the Governor and the Legislature were at variance, and where the Governor undertook to control the Legislature. The Legislature then reduced itself below a quorum. Here was a contest between two of the civil departments of the Government. In principle this case was exactly the same as the case of Louisiana. Now, what was the action of the Federal Government then? He read from a letter of Governor Browlow refusing to receive the resignation of a member of the Tennessee Legislature, because he alleged the object of the resignation was to break up a quorum. The Governor had nothing to do with the organization of the Legislature. It was not for him to preserve a quorum. Governor Browlow then applied to General George H. Thomas, commanding at Nashville, Tenn. He read from the dispatch of General Thomas of July, 1836, covering the request of Governor Browlow for military assistance to compel the Legislature to preserve its organization, addressed to Lieutenant General Grant, at Washington, and inquiring whether he should furnish military assistance. He (Mr. J.) was only now speaking of the public acts of public men, and he would not on this occasion indulge in one personal remark or one personal reflection. He then read from the telegram of Secretary Stanton directing General Thomas that it was no part of the military to interfere, and that he must scrupulously abstain from any interference. This was the precedent set by the Government, and it was known to the now President, who was then the Lieutenant General, and through whom the correspondence passed. But there was further to this. In 1837 Gen. Sheridan was in command at New Orleans, when, in consequence of his officious interference and his oppressive course, an insurrection broke out from that country for his removal. He was removed and Gen. Hancock was sent in his place, and immediately peace and quiet was restored. Gen. Hancock, on assuming command, issued an order recognizing the supremacy of the civil law, and setting up the true line between the civil and military authority. The General of the Army (Gen. Grant) at that time protested against the removal of Gen. Sheridan, but his assertions, which were mere assertions, were shown to be without foundation. Then, why at this time is this man sent back to the people whom he had oppressed and who had prayed for his removal? Why was he sent when there were so many other officers of the army who could have been sent, unless it was to carry out a certain policy—to irritate and goad these people? He knew those people. All that they wanted was their rights in the Union—their right to self-government. Now, he would tell those people that he was behind the curtain, that he was trying to stir up another civil war, in order that one might ride into power on a third term over the ruins of the Union, over a civil war, that if their plans succeeded then farewell to liberty. [Applause in the galleries.]

The Chair (Mr. Ferry) reminded the galleries that applause would not be permitted. Mr. J. then commented on the views of Mr. Johnson to a third term. He then referred to the proviso in the Constitution prohibiting the President from receiving any gifts, fees, or any foreign prince or potentate. If it had been added, "or from any American citizen," it would perhaps have been well. [Laughter.] If the Senate was now discussing the propriety of adding such a clause to the Constitution it would be very pertinent. He then instanced the resolution passed by the House of Commons in 1673, arranging their speaker, Sir John Trevor, of high crime and misdemeanor, because he accepted a gratuity of one thousand pounds from the city of London for assisting in passing a bill in which it was interested. And he was made to read the resolution himself, and the resolution expelling him for such conduct. And this was in corrupt England. Now, it would be very proper under the circumstances, if this Senate was at this very time discussing this question of gifts to an American official, it would be quite as proper as to discuss the resolution now before the Senate. He then alluded to the Government interference in Louisiana. He said the Constitution said the United States shall guarantee to every State a republican form of government. It does not say the President, nor Congress, but the United States. When did the President become the United States? He read from the report of the Committee on Privileges and Elections made in 1873, that there was no legal State government in Louisiana, and then said the action of the President in interfering to uphold the Kellogg government was a plain violation of law. In this connection he also read from the President's message that the election of 1872 was a gigantic fraud, and it was not certain whether Mr. Kelly or Kellogg was elected. If this action taken by the Federal Executive is to stand, to be indorsed, then there is an end of the existence of the States, except on the will of the President. Within his recollection such a usurpation as this would have shocked the nation; it would have produced such an indignation from one end of the country to the other as would have hurled from power the perpetrator of it. But now it is proposed to approve of this violation of the organic law of the land—a violation which, if unchecked, must lead to the destruction of our present form of government. He then read from what he styled the extraordinary letter of instruction of the Secretary of War to Lieutenant General Sherman, directing him to proceed South, and comment on a sentence written on its last page. Here was an officer of the army sent back to a people who had repudiated him, and the limit of his command left to his own discretion to mark out, and he does mark out a command as proud as an emper.

In all this where is the General of the Army? Where is General Sherman? He (Mr. J.) held that it was not constitutional for the President to delegate to any one the power to lay out military commands. It was a sheer usurpation. He then characterized Kellogg as a pretender and usurper, upheld in power solely by military force, and then commented on the

interference of the military in the Legislature, interfering under the pretense of preserving peace, marching men out who were elected at the sword's point. That was a new way of organizing a Legislature. He could not vote for the resolution, not because it was a Republican measure, but because it was wrong in principle and wrong in fact. He quoted then from the proclamation of the President in May, 1874, recognizing the Baxter government in Arkansas, and proclaiming its opponents as insurgents. Then in February, 1875, he sends in a message expressing the belief that Brooks was elected. What does this mean? Further quoting from the President's message on this occasion, speaking of the alleged design of certain Southern States to change their reconstruction constitutions, and asking "if this thing be permitted." &c., Mr. J. asked what does this mean? Does it mean that the constitutions of all those States are to remain forever fixed and unalterable unless changed by the Federal Government?

Further, quoting from the same message in which the President asks "Congress to relieve him from further responsibility." This is the iron hand under the silk glove. It means that if you don't I will. How this thing is gaining. We have an empire laid off in the South for a military commander. We have the force bill proposed; the arbitrary interference in Louisiana and Arkansas. It is a pretty good step toward a dictator. Next we may look for a revolution in this or the other House declaring A or B President for a certain term of years. What is there to prevent it? Where is your army? Where is your navy? It is under the control of the mailed heel of power. He told his countrymen, standing here as a Senator, he warned them that there was danger ahead—despotism and absolutism. Years ago he had stood here and warned his countrymen of the dangers ahead; of the bloody strife that was ahead. He had proved that time a prophet; he wished he had not. Now he warned them again of the danger now coming, shown by the encroachments of power; shown by the utter disregard of the laws and of the Constitution. Don't talk about party; there had been too much of party. Let the people rise; let us save the country; let the people arraign a perfidious and traitorous administration that is striving to overthrow the liberties of the country.

He had always made the Constitution his guide; by that sacred instrument he would always stand, and when he saw it invaded and encroached upon, he would rise up and utter his warning. He did not care at this time to discuss the question of the sovereignty of the States, but would pass beyond that. The people were sovereign; they were the crown; they were the source of power, and they can change their government. This is the source of power upon which he fixed himself; but now the attempt was to fix the power in the General Government—two States upside down. Let us rise to our moorings, go back to the source of power, give us the constitution; give us back the Constitution that you have taken away; don't give me usurpation; don't give me arbitrary power; let us back to the pale of the Constitution; if we do not, our country is gone. Let us all unite as a band of brothers to save it as our fathers gave it to us. We have now a satrapy, a military Government. Every day the encroachments upon the Constitution are plain, palpable and gross. If we are disposed to take up questions as germane as this is, how many subjects might be considered.

He would say to this dictator as Cato said to the ambassador of Cæsar, "Go and tell him to disband his legions and restore the commonwealth to its liberties." He would say, "Do this, disband your legions, restore to this commonwealth her liberties, restore to her peace and prosperity; do this, and I, even one so humble as I, will mount the rostrum and, for the sake of peace and harmony, will strive with the people to grant pardon for all the wrong and outrage of the past, and let the country be saved. He would rather now that this Capitol should fall in ruins, these pillars should crumble, than that the country should not be saved. In the language of Webster, "Let the Union be one and inseparable, now and forever." He besought Senators to come up to this grand work of saving the Constitution—saving the country—for the safety of one meant the safety of the other; forgetting all that was past, and laying aside all personal feelings and all personal differences. In conclusion he thanked the Senate for the kindness and attention with which he had been listened to. [Applause in the galleries.]

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, yesterday, the bill to issue \$6,000 worth of bonds to the bank of Rockingham, was referred to the Committee on Banks.

A number of bills were introduced and referred to committees, among them a bill giving the consent of the State to the purchase by the United States of certain lands at Hampton and Winchester, now used as cemeteries, &c., and a bill to consolidate the existing debt of the University of Virginia.

The House joint resolution instructing the Attorney General to institute proceedings against the sureties of the late treasurer of the Commonwealth was referred.

Bills were passed providing for an increase of the school funds of Prince William county; protecting sheep in Albemarle county; incorporating the Protestant Episcopal Church Home; and to secure iron ship building yards in, and steamship communication between the State of Virginia and Europe.

A bill appropriating \$2,000 to print documents of the Southern Historical Society, was laid on the table.

The House general tax bill was read twice and placed on the calendar and made the special order for to-morrow.

The bill fixing \$3,000 as the amount to be expended yearly in books, works of arts, &c., for the State Library, was ordered to its engrossment.

In the House of Delegates a number of bills were received from the Senate and referred. Bills were reported amending the Code in relation to subscription to stock of Internal Improvement Companies, and to prevent Internal Improvement Companies from selling their corporate rights and powers.

The bill subdividing the 12th judicial circuit and creating the 18th, was amended. A bill to establish a bureau of insurance was ordered to its engrossment.

The House bill requiring one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals to reside in Richmond, with an increase of pay, was read the third time, and ordered to its engrossment. The House took up the bill providing for a lease of the penitentiary, which was debated and amended.

The bill to consolidate, re-establish and regulate the Sinking Fund of the State of Virginia was passed.

"CIVIL RIGHTS" IN BERRYVILLE.—The Clarke Courier says: "Last Friday a mulatto, with his courage fortified by enough 'bunzine' to mark out a worm from a snake, entered the Union Hotel of this place, and called for something to eat. Very quickly the proprietor accommodated him, preferring to do this rather than be subject to the annoyance of legal proceedings; but the next day the proprietor took down his hotel sign, placed a sign over the door, and the 'Union Hotel' was converted into a boarding house, which class of houses does not come under the Civil Rights bill."

The Legislature of Alabama adjourned yesterday sine die. The last act was one withdrawing the license tax from hotels, and allowing them to make contracts with boarders.

County Items.

[REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.] There are at least two white avowed believers in the doctrine of Civil Rights in this county.

A neat dwelling house has been finished at the intersection of the Washington and Alexandria pike, by the county road, which is a decided improvement to that portion of the county.

Mr. J. P. Bartlett, sr., of Arlington, has commenced the boot and shoe business in Georgetown, D. C., and his friends in the county can well afford to patronize him, for he is a master hand in his trade.

Brick making will soon be in full blast in the numerous yards at Fort Roonon, Waterloo and thereabouts, and many who are now unable to procure employment will then find plenty of it and good wages.

On dit, that a gallant son of Mars is soon to be sacrificed to Hyemeu through the conquest of his heart by a charming young lady of the county.

Homer, son of Mr. W. N. Reed, of Arlington, died last Thursday, and was buried Saturday afternoon. Homer was a bright and beautiful lad, whom every one loved, a member of the Baptist Church and a Good Templar. Several years ago he was awarded the first prize at the commencement of the Columbia School. Of late he has been a great sufferer from delicate health, superinduced by spasms.

Rev. Mr. Phelps (Methodist) preached an earnest sermon to a large congregation, in Arlington, last Sunday night.

On the first Sunday in April there is to be confirmation at Trinity Chapel, in Arlington, by Bishop Johns.

CLARKE COUNTY ITEMS.—There have been several forced sales of real estate in the county the past week. Among them the farm of Dr. J. W. Stevenson, four and a half miles from Berryville, on the Castleman's ferry pike; 200 acres with good improvements, at \$35 per acre, and 66 acres at \$16 per acre, to Mr. Baugher, of Frederick county, Md. Also the farm of Dr. F. J. Kiriout, on the Millwood turnpike, two and a half miles from Berryville, at \$25 per acre. There is a good large stone dwelling on this farm, a fine orchard, with a fine running stream through it.

Primary elections for county officers took place on Thursday last, when about one thousand votes were cast, and resulted as follows: For county clerk, J. M. Gibson and George Glass, present incumbent, were contestants, and the contest being close, Gibson received the nomination by 15 majority only. For treasurer, J. McK. Kennerly and E. C. Marshall were contestants, and Marshall was nominated by about 50 majority. For sheriff, three contestants, J. R. Nunn, Wm. Taylor and J. T. Crow, and the latter nominated by 36 majority. For commissioner of the revenue, W. F. Meade and W. T. Milton, and the latter nominated by 105 majority.

The second trial of Lycurus Little, of Clarke county, for the murder of his brother, of which one other brother has heretofore been convicted and is now undergoing punishment in the penitentiary, has commenced at Winchester, the case having been removed to Frederick county.

Our City's Debt and Taxation. From various communications which have recently appeared on the above subject it is evident that this important question is agitating the public mind, and that a strong disposition exists to make a struggle with the monster which should have been grappled with in 1865. It is beyond dispute, and we might as well deal frankly with the question, that this Corporation can no longer endure even the present rate of taxation, say nothing about an increase, as predicted by the Finance Committee of the City Council. Our business is prostrate, our people are becoming poorer every day, and their ability to meet demands upon them correspondingly diminished. Now, what is to be done? The solution of this important matter is a proposition which deeply interests the tax payers, and should demand the earnest consideration of Council.

It is not a thoughtful man who knows that the property of this town, under existing circumstances, cannot stand an annual tax sufficient to raise \$100,000, about the amount required for the payment of interest and for carrying on the machinery of government, without impoverishing the people, and as effectually excluding capital which would otherwise be brought here for investment. A town struggling against adversity, as we are, will be crushed out altogether if these burdens, which would be comparatively light to more prosperous communities, are continued.

The first thing a physician does when called in to see a patient is to properly diagnose his case, and then apply the most certain remedies. Now our case, financially considered, is more easily diagnosed than cured. Various remedies have been suggested which might properly be termed homeopathic or mild cures. They peradventure will do, if rigidly adhered to, but they will not succeed in reducing the next hundred years, but our case demands more speedy treatment. To come to the point, we cannot pay six per cent interest on our debt, and run the Corporation machinery. I deny that our Corporation officers are paid too much for their services. The proposition that we are, too many of them. If such be the case, consolidate the duties and have fewer officers; but to require men to perform work without equitable compensation would be wrong in principle and destructive of the Corporation interests. Judicious legislation in the direction indicated might save a few thousand dollars a year, but would not reach the seat of the disease. To do this we must scale our debt or reduce the rate of interest. Holders of Corporation bonds, many of which were purchased as low as 28 per cent would not be laid.

No government in our sea heavily involved in debt as we are can pay 6 per cent interest. European governments have undertaken it and failed; the United States government undertook it, and though it held the purse strings of the nation, was compelled to reduce its interest rate of much of its indebtedness. Our own State has provided 6 per cent and cannot pay four. Then how can a poor Corporation like ours be expected to accomplish more? At a time when it was thought advantageous to invest in canal and railroad stocks, our city, like a helpless spectator, "went in" and though these burdens were placed upon us by a migratory class of voters, having no substantial interests at stake, our very vitals are now being extracted to meet obligations then incurred, and at a time when the very corporations which we assisted in building up are turned against us.

In 1865 a bill providing for the scaling of our public debt, introduced by Jno. B. Smoot, esq., passed the Common Council, but failed in the Board of Aldermen. At that time, when all interests in the South lay prostrate, compromise was the order of the day, and there would have been but little difficulty in carrying out the provisions of the bill. Now there will be more after the act of consolidation in the issuing of new bonds, a process now going on.

Let the City Council inaugurate a judicious system of reform in all the departments; not by paying starvation salaries, but by dispensing with some of the officers and giving others more to do, and watching closely all expenditures. Then let it reduce the interest on our public debt and risk the consequences. Then, and not until then, will prosperity return and the exorbitant prices of our property, like a worm in the past fifty years be in some degree realized.

Another matter pertinent to the subject and deserving the attention of Council is the question of the release by the City Council of the city's interest in the Manassas Gap R. R. stock. Although not vested in the law, it appears to me to be a common sense proposition that we should require a direct vote of the people to give validity to these bonds, the City Council, by a simple resolution, could not release our ownership therein, and leave a perpetual claim against us for interest thereon.

The above hints are simply thrown out as the result of much reflection on the subject, in the hope that more experienced minds will take hold and assist in its proper solution. H.

COMMERCIAL.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, March 23.—Wheat is active and unchanged; offerings of 1416 bushels, with sales of a choice lot of white at 121, and red at 125, 127, 128, 130 and 131 for prime to choice. Corn is firm at yesterday's quotations; offerings of 570 bushels, with sales of a prime lot of white at 84, mixed at 82 and 83 and yellow at 83.

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA, MARCH 23. Sun rose.....5 59, Moon set.....8 4 Sun sets.....6 14, High water.....0 00

ARRIVED. Schr R W Go-freay, New York, to master. PASSED UP. Schr Enoch Moore, New York, for Washington.

ARRIVED. Schr Nelli C Payne, Georgetown, by W A Smoot. PASSED DOWN. Schr Fanny, from Georgetown for Norfolk.

MEMORANDA. The tug boat Potomac, with lighters, sailed to-day to the relief of the tug General Geddy, heretofore reported ashore by Deane's shoals. Schr Mathias Dumock, hence, at Richmond 20th.

DIED. In Bowling Green, Caroline county, on the 17th of March, of typhoid pneumonia, ROBERT F. RICHARDSON, third son of Wm. Richardson, esq., in the 21st year of his age.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY.

NEW BOOKS, MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS. (American and Foreign.) For sale at FRENCH'S, 95 KING STREET.

Daily received New Books. Was She Knave?, by Jonquil. \$1.50. The Fair Puritan, by Frank Forrester. \$1.50. Health, a handbook for householders. \$1. Alice Brand, a Romance of the Capital. \$1.50. Heart Life, by Fannie H. Hart. \$1.50. The Blossoming of an Aloe, by Mrs. Cashel Hoey. 50c. The Law and the Lady, by Wilkie Collins. 75 cents. Other People's Money, from the French of Emile Gaboriau. 75c. Too Much Alone, by Mrs. J. H. Rid. 41c. Narrative of Messrs. Moody & Sankey's Labors in Scotland and Ireland. 50c. The Woman of Fire, by Adolphe Billet. 50c. Old Middleton's Money, by Cecil Bay. 50c. Nationalism, an Answer to Hopwood and Kipling, by Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M. P. 40 cents.

Just received a full line of BLANK BOOKS, all sizes—Journals, Ledgers, Day Books, Cash Books, Medium, Demys, Crown and Cap, full and half bound, Menus, Pass Books, Indexes. Owing to the new postal law in raising the postage on packages of merchandise from half cent to one cent per ounce, which goes into effect April 1st, the price of lot No. 1 5 quires Note Paper prepaid will be 35c; lot No. 2 500; lot No. 3 60c; lot No. 4 80c and St. French Quadrille same price.

Writing the most varied variety of styles and prices. Pierie's 81st French Copy Papers and Envelopes to match.

Paper, Envelopes, Books, Magazines, Reviews, etc., mailed to any part of the country. GEO. E. FRENCH, mh 22 95 King st., Alexandria, Va.

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Dealer in Fresh and Salted Potomac Shad & Herrings, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

I am prepared to fill orders for all varieties of FRESH and SALT POTOMAC FISH at lowest market rates. Orders accompanied by cash, or good reference, will be promptly filled, and satisfaction guaranteed. mh 18-30 JAS. E. MCGRAW.

WASHINGTON AND NORFOLK STEAMBOAT LINE. SPECIAL NOTICE.—The Washington and Norfolk Steamboat Line having purchased the new and elegant steambot JANE MOSLEY, will resume their business on THURSDAY, April 1st. The Mosley will run as follows: Leave Norfolk THURSDAY, April 1st, and Washington on MONDAY morning at the principal river landings, EVERY MONDAY and THURSDAY thereafter at 3 p. m. Returning, leave Norfolk EVERY TUESDAY and FRIDAY at 3 p. m.

For freight or passage, having superior accommodations, apply to F. A. REED, Agent, Janney's wharf. mh 22

POTOMAC FERRY COMPANY.

On and after SUNDAY, March 21st, regular BOAT TRIPS OF BOTH FERRY BOATS will be resumed on the route between Alexandria and Washington.

On April 1st and thereafter the trips of the Boats will be made from either city according to the following schedule: 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30 and 11.30 a.m., and 12.30, 1.30, 2.30, 3.30, 4.30, 5.30 and 6.10 p. m.

The Sunday trips will be as usual. S. S. HOBSON, President Pot