



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRIWEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN. THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 10, 1877.

FRANCIS L. SMITH, esq., long a prominent and leading citizen of this city, died suddenly, this morning, at his residence. For a year or more his health had been in some degree impaired, but the community was wholly unprepared for the intelligence of his death. It has fallen, therefore, with a shock, upon the very large circle of acquaintances and friends, among whom he had been long and intimately known. Born in Fauquier county, he commenced the study of law at an early age, as a student of the law school at Winchester, and after a few years practice in Virginia removed to Louisville, Ky., where he continued the practice of his profession until 1842. About that time he located in this city, and has ever since been one of its most conspicuous and influential citizens. Soon after the retrocession of Alexandria to Virginia Mr. Smith was elected to represent the city in the Virginia House of Delegates, and whilst there served on some of its most important committees. For many years he was active and prominent in our municipal affairs, serving in both branches of the Council, and as the Attorney for the city. He was especially prominent and successful in his profession, and was employed in all or most of the important cases which came before our Courts, both before and since the period of retrocession. He was among the last of a body of lawyers who, twenty years ago, were well known in this section of the State as the leading men in their profession, and as leading men in public affairs. His career as a private citizen was an example of industry, integrity and purity, and the charm of his genial and singularly attractive manners fitted him specially for the social circle, where, of latter years, he seemed to find his chief pleasure. The entire city sympathizes with us in the feeling of sadness with which we received his death.

Under the most favorable circumstances, and even when apparently crowned with success, labor "strikes" are not only indiscreet, on the part of the strikers, but positively baneful to their permanent interests; for, upon future occasions, if discharges have to be made, the victims are naturally always selected from among those who have been engaged in previous strikes; but a "strike" when industry in all its branches is prostrated and labor either entirely suspended or employed on half time, and when there are a thousand applicants for every vacant place, seems, to those who look at the labor question in the same light in which they view other things, not only foolish, but really wickedly so, as it necessarily entails suffering on the innocent families of those who thus deliberately throw away the only means they have of providing those dependent upon them with meat and bread, and that, too, when they have no prospect of obtaining employment elsewhere. As illustrative of our opinion upon this subject we append the following notice of the late strike of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers on the Reading Railroad from the Philadelphia Bulletin:

"The strike virtually ended some time ago, and some of the employees of the company who are now without situations in consequence of their enthusiasm on behalf of the Brotherhood now complain bitterly that the promises held out to them have not been fulfilled. These men can never obtain employment again from the company. General Manager Wooten said last evening: 'I had on my office-table in Philadelphia to day between 1,500 and 1,600 applications for positions on the road, of which 500 were from engineers. I do not fear any further trouble from our employees. The road is running smoothly, and we have not had a single accident caused by our new men.' The general opinion here is that it is over now. 'The places of the discharged engineers have been filled, and filled by men who are to be retained permanently. A more hopeless case for strikers probably was never presented.'

President Hayes says his intelligence from South Carolina is to the effect that the democratic party in that State is already breaking up, and he thinks Hampton's course is such that in two years from now he will receive the republican nomination for Governor and be elected. We are sorry to say that Governor Hampton's late course has prepared us for crediting the President's remark—so far as it relates to the nomination—but the assertion that a republican Governor will ever be again elected in South Carolina will have to be made by a greater prophet than Mr. Hayes before it obtains our belief.

The Secretary of War has issued an order directing that 2,500 enlisted men of the army be discharged between this date and the 1st of July. If the postponement of the extra session of Congress from June to October, in order to give the radicals time for further efforts to organize the House of Representatives upon a radical basis, even though such postponement is a constructive infraction of the Constitution if the army be kept up, be productive of such a diminution in the military force of the country, many persons will begin to estimate the possible advantage of prolonging the postponement.

It is to be hoped that good results will flow from the action of the citizens' meeting, held at the Commercial Exchange, this morning. In addition to the formation of a Board of Trade, a committee was appointed, at the instance of Mr. J. S. Barbour, to report some definite proposition for the advancement of the interest of the city. Now that the ball has been put in motion, let there be no looking back, but, with a long pull and a strong pull and a pull altogether, let no stone be left unturned by which the desired object can be attained.

News of the Day.

A terrible tragedy occurred three days ago near Brittsville, Cloud county, Kan. Andrew Edwards loved the wife of his uncle, Albert Edwards, and succeeded in alienating the affections of the woman from her husband. She left him, and for some time the couple lived apart. On Sunday last Andrew went to the house where the wife was residing, and was refused admittance. The following day the wife was found in the yard bleeding from three deadly wounds, one in the neck and two in the body. Since the shooting the nephew has not been seen, and suspicion is strong that he fired the fatal shots. The thought that the husband and wife were about to settle their difficulties amicably was the motive for the deed.

The marriage ceremony of Miss Nellie Porter, daughter of Admiral Porter, and Lieutenant L. C. Logan, of the navy, took place in Epiphany Church, Washington, last evening. The church was crowded to its fullest extent with the guests of the wedding, all of whom were admitted by card. Floral decorations of the choicest kind profusely adorned the church. The army and navy were represented by a large number of officers in full uniform. Mrs. Hayes was present, escorted by General Sherman. Several foreign Ministers and a numerous throng of prominent citizens were also present to do honor to the joyful occasion.

About 150 business men of Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, Indianapolis, Evansville, Peoria, Memphis and other points in the West left Cincinnati last night via Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad route to the seaboard. They are on an excursion to the principal Southern cities, and will reach Richmond, Va., to-morrow. Committees of various commercial bodies of Richmond and of the city council left that city this morning to meet the excursion party at Greenbrier White Sulphur Springs. The whole party will remain to-night at the springs.

At Martinsville, Ind., Tuesday night, Major E. M. Woody, a dry goods merchant, and his clerk, John K. Knight, slept in the same room over the store. Woody hearing burglars trying to effect an entrance got up and took a position by the window without disturbing Knight. Subsequently Knight awoke, and getting no reply to his inquiry as to who was in the room fired a pistol, the ball lodging in Woody's side, inflicting a serious, but not necessarily fatal wound.

Samuel Morris and Wm. Stuart, convicted in Washington city of manslaughter, in having on the 1st of February last caused the death of Chas. Boque, a pencil pedler, were yesterday sentenced, the former to six and the latter to four years in the penitentiary.

The conservatives of Lynchburg have nominated the following municipal ticket. For Mayor, Capt. Samuel A. Bailey, present chief of police; Clerk Hastings Court, S. D. Preston; Treasurer, V. G. Duoinington, Commissioner of Revenue, C. W. Price; City Sergeant, H. Hughes.

The Supreme Court of Illinois yesterday decided, in the case of certain Chicago national banks who sought to restrain the collection of taxes on their shares, that the tax was a just one, the notice sufficient and that their application for an injunction be refused.

Kate Claxton and troupe had engaged rooms for to-morrow at the Greenbank House, in St. Paul, Minn., which was burned on Monday morning.

The Williams and Guion line steamer Dakota which sailed from Liverpool yesterday for New York, went ashore on North Wales. Her crew and passengers were safely landed.

During an altercation at Moversville, near Pottsville, yesterday, John Jones stabbed Philip Kelly, killing him instantly. Jones is in custody.

Commodore Benjamin J. Totten, of the U. S. Navy, died at New Bedford, Mass., Monday at the age of seventy-one years. Commodore Totten was a native of the West Indies.

Dirt was broken on the Milton and Sutherland Narrow Gauge Railroad yesterday. Major Southern made a speech upon the occasion.

Foreign News.

It is reported from Vienna that a meeting of Polish agitators was held at Lemberg on May 4 to determine the policy of the Poles in the present crisis. It was at this meeting that the organization of a Polish legion was decided upon. Count Plater will shortly publish a proclamation to the Poles in the names of the Secret National Committee. The Polish leaders have resolved to abstain from exercising any trouble with Austria.

Accounts are received of a terrible drought which has prevailed in the Argentine Republic for many weeks. The crops in the upper provinces are almost entirely destroyed, and great suffering, it is apprehended, will result among the people. Extensive fires have broken out, and passenger steamers find it impossible to navigate the Uruguay river on account of the heat and smoke.

A Paris dispatch announces that four thousand French pilgrims on Monday presented the Pope seventy-nine thousand francs.

South Carolina.

In the State Senate yesterday an amendment to the constitution was adopted providing that an annual tax of not less than two mills on the dollar shall be levied on all the taxable property in each county for the support of the public schools. The regular poll tax of \$1 per capita is also devoted exclusively to educational purposes, with a proviso that no person shall ever be deprived of the right of suffrage for the non-payment of such tax. It is further provided that no religious sect shall control any part of the school funds, and no sectarian principles shall be taught in the public schools. No doubt is entertained of its passing the House.

A new sensation has been brought to light by the committee appointed to inquire about certain portraits ordered to be painted for the republican Senate Hall a year or two ago. The paintings were of President Lincoln and Charles Sumner. For these paintings the sum of \$4,500 was appropriated, to be paid upon their completion, by the artist, Mr. Matthews, of New York city. Ex-Congressman, now State Senator, Whittemore was chairman of the committee interested with the purchase of the paintings. Mr. Whittemore exhibited a receipt from Matthews for \$1,400. The late State Treasurer, Mr. Cardozo, testified later on that he had paid to Mr. Whittemore \$3,500 on warrants drawn on this account. Mr. Whittemore was then recalled, and in reply to the question what he had done with the remaining \$2,100 said he had deposited it in the notorious Solaon's bank, of that State, where it disappeared. He could exhibit no certificate of deposit. The paintings have never been delivered. Mr. Whittemore is chairman of the Judiciary Committee, intrusted with the investigation of Justice Willard.

It is understood that the committee appointed to investigate the colored Associated Justice J. J. Wright, charged with habitual drunkenness on the streets and on the bench, have concluded their investigation and will report recommending his removal by impeachment. This rumor is followed closely by another to the effect that Wright has prepared his resignation, in anticipation of the committee's report, and that it will be made public to day.

Judge R. W. Hughes, of the United States District Court, has appointed Capt. R. G. Pegram, of Petersburg, receiver of the Petersburg Railroad Company. Almost all the roads in the State are now in the hands of receivers.

The Eastern War.

The army clothing factory in England, is particularly animated and busy at present. Work is carried on without intermission day and night, and numerous shifts of work people are being employed. There is a general conviction in both military and naval official circles that they are on the immediate brink of war. Arrangements have been made by which twenty-five thousand men can be embarked within six days if necessary, and twenty thousand to twenty-five thousand more within a fortnight after.

The greatest activity prevails at the Deptford victualling yard, in England. The production and issue of naval stores and provisions are proceeding at an extraordinary rate. New machinery has been erected and the work people have been employed over hours for some time back. Soon after the fleet was sent to the Mediterranean it was deemed advisable to replenish the stores at Malta and Gibraltar, which are now victualled sufficiently to supply not only their own garrison, but a considerable proportion of the army and navy for at least a year.

To avoid unnecessary observation or misconception stores are sent in private vessels as ordinary cargo. It has been decided to add the iron clads Valiant, Lord Warden, Thunderer and Achilles to the Channel squadron. It is probable an additional admiral will be appointed to this squadron, which will assemble at Davenport ready for sea on May 25.

The Russian telegraphic agency, while declaring that Russia will not reply to Earl Derby's note, publishes a statement which may be considered Russia's informal reply. It says the Powers which seriously desire to establish an understanding and a guarantee of general peace must seek a new basis more in conformity with circumstances without further dwelling on mistaken views of past results, which are the best refutation of the English dispatch as respects the treaty of 1871, appealed to in this dispute.

It may be asked if the Porte was not the first to break the engagement of the preceding treaty of 1856. If the English Cabinet maintains that the Porte was not bound by it, then that treaty would only have served to guarantee to the Porte entire immunity. All the documents of that period prove, on the contrary, that the Christian Powers did not mean to defend a regime oppressive for Christians. They simply decided against the exclusive protection of Russia.

They substituted for it the common protection of Europe. The rights and duties attaching thereto they have often exercised. The agency cites instances of intervention such as the Andriassy note; the Berlin memorandum, &c., and adds: "Results have proved that these platonic interventions led to nothing."

If the English Cabinet regards the treaty of 1856 as inoperative, that interpretation will hardly be accepted by Europe, or even by the Russian Government or nation. In the interest of this treaty, the common action and pressure of Europe should have been exerted. Russia has done everything for this purpose. Her efforts were fruitless.

Only remained for Russia to execute alone the duty which the other Cabinets agreeing with her in principle hesitated to assume in practice. The Imperial Cabinet is justified in affirming that it is acting in conformity with the sentiments and interests of Europe.

The English Cabinet cannot extricate itself from this dilemma except by proclaiming that England is the first Mussulman Power in the world, and that she consequently wishes for the maintenance of the Turkish dominion over the Christians, even at the cost of their extermination. We held the English nation in too great esteem to believe it would sanction such a policy.

A Bucharest dispatch reports that at Beket the Turkish irregulars burned and sunk several lighters, amongst which were those that belonged to Messrs. Watt & Milner, of London, and had the British flag hoisted. They poured pitch on the decks and set fire to them. They also captured at Logos, Colonel Mansfield, British Consul General at Bucharest, his armed British ambassadors at Vienna and Constantinople of these occurrences by telegraph, in order that steps may be taken to oblige the Ottoman Government to stop such wanton and objectionable raiding for the future. The Odessa correspondent of the London Globe says a commissariat officer there has been summarily shot for adulterating flour for the army.

In a few days the annual holy pilgrim caravan will leave Constantinople for Mecca, laden with costly presents for the Mohammedan shrines. The Sheik ul Islam gave to the leader, who has been this time appointed by the Sultan himself, instructions to proclaim in all the cities he passes through that Russia, who persecutes the Christians herself for not conforming to the Orthodox faith, was now intent upon driving all believers in Islamism from Europe. The Sultan has therefore resolved to call all the faithful to a holy war against infidel Russia, and promises to go on a pilgrimage himself if the war proves successful to his arms.

A dispatch from Bucharest reports that in a private conference of Senators and Deputies on Tuesday it was decided that the independence of Roumania should be proclaimed in the public sitting on Wednesday. After the proclamation of independence war will be declared. M. Bradino, president of the Ministry, was present at the meeting. Several Russian deserters, nearly all of whom were Jews, were shot at Orszay during the week. It is said the Chief Rabbi at Constantinople has ordered prayers to be offered for the success of the Turks in all the synagogues of Roumania.

Monday afternoon two Turkish monitors, supported by the shore batteries at Ghiaout, opened a murderous fire upon the Russian batteries at Ibrahil, which replied vigorously. The cannonade lasted three hours. Ibrahil was unharmed. All last night there was great activity in the Russian camp, showing that the Russians are about to assume the offensive. Early yesterday morning the Russian batteries recommenced cannonading Ghiaout, and at 9 a. m. a brisk musketry fire was audible at all points.

Turkish gunboats have seized four vessels sailing under the Greek flag in the Danube. Two Austrian vessels were ordered to leave within an hour, under threats that they would be fired into if they remained. A Turkish monitor on Wednesday bombarded Sataonw ten hours. A French gunboat has arrived at the Sulina mouth of the Danube, to protect French subjects in the Dobruddesha.

The artillery engagement was renewed with vigor Monday afternoon between the Turkish batteries at Widin and the Roumanian batteries at Kalafat, which only ceased at night fall. The barracks and custom house at Kalafat were destroyed and the church injured. Widin was set on fire. The Turks again fired yesterday, but the Roumanian batteries were silent.

It is reported that the Roumanian army is to form the right wing of the Russian army, and will be increased by one Russian division. A majority of the Roumanian Senate are still, however, opposed to war.

A vigorous contest is expected between Kalafat and Widin. The Russians propose to cross there because the Turks have been greatly weakened by sending troops to the Dobruddesha. Various accounts have been received of a skirmish opposite Ibrahil on Wednesday. One

of the Russians landed there, but returned to Ibrahil of their own accord, after destroying the earthworks. Another account says the Russians were driven off by Turkish monitors. All the special dispatches state that heavy rains have recommenced in Roumania, a vessel which clandestinely left the Piraeus was pursued by the authorities and captured. A crew of twenty-one was found on board, all armed. The vessel was brought back to Athens, and an investigation commenced. The Greek iron-clad Olga captured the vessel. The crew are pirates and notorious criminals from Asia Minor.

A financial rising has taken place in the Tebetchensi county in consequence of the Turkish war. One band of five hundred insurgents was dispersed by the troops, and fifty-nine were killed and two hundred and fifty wounded. The Russian loss was three killed and eleven wounded. Martial law has been declared in the province of Terek.

The Times, in its financial article, says:—Various particulars are circulated in the city as to the advance which the Russian Government obtains from the Paris and German bankers with a view to insure punctual payment of coupons on the Russian debt next falling due. Some accounts place the advance at \$20,000,000 and state that the bankers retain the right to double it. A more probable assumption, however, is that the advance is \$15,000,000 and that the Syndicate retain the right of making a further advance of half as much again. The terms of this advance are rather curious. The Syndicate, it seems, gets 8 per cent, and 2 per cent commission and as security hold Russian bonds of the 1875 loan at 5 per cent of their nominal value. It is also said the syndicate has the call of this stock at 70 for periods variously stated as six or twelve months. These are briefly the particulars as circulated among members of the Stock Exchange and known to sundry foreign bankers. They are probably near the truth. The fact of the borrowing is beyond question, and is significant enough of the precarious state of Russian finances before war was heard of.

A telegram from Constantinople, dated Wednesday evening, says that no news of any engagement in Armenia has been received there. A Vienna dispatch says: "The rumored agitation in Servia has been grossly exaggerated. Prince Milan and the Ministers have formally assured Count Andriassy that Servia will not disturb peace."

LONDON, May 10.—A Bucharest dispatch says: "The Prince of Roumania issued a decree to-day announcing that he assumes command of the Roumanian army, designating the Chief of Staff and the commanders of the first corps (at Craiova) and the second (at Bucharest and Giurgewo) and appointing members of the staff and commanders of divisions and brigades in each corps."

Note.—This is conclusive of Roumania's hostile determination.

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 10.—The journals of this city report that the Russians before Kars and Ardahan have retreated toward the frontier.

Letter from Leesburg.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.] LEESBURG, VA., May 9.—The country round about the "burg" is looking beautifully verdant, the growing crops presenting a most luxuriant appearance, and the earth teeming with vegetation—although vegetables are very scarce.

The "burg" may be as verdant as the fields, but is not so prepossessing in its appearance, and as the fruiting rain came pattering down yesterday, and everybody who, or whose relations, had a share of W. & O. R. R. stock had gone down to the stockholders' meeting, it certainly did present about as near an approach to a deserted village as could well be depicted.

All the women and all the children, save one; all the merchants, lawyers, doctors, save one; generals, colonels, captains, editors, and other titled gentry, save our noble Irish Lord—all went down—for it was a free ride, and oh! how the women prayed that the road would not be sold out, and that Mr. McKenzie might continue president *ad infinitum*, for it was "so good in the dear old man to give us all this fun."

It rained hard; most people would have been deterred from journeying in such weather, but whoever heard of Leesburgers standing back for "a slight shower," though the water was up to their—chins; and so, true to their tradition, off they all started. It brought all the rolling stock of the road into requisition to haul the living freight.

Ever since last January, when there was a similar exodus, every odd cent, unwittingly dropped into the grasp of any of the people—old or young—has been assiduously hoarded for the May excursion "to town," and it is not thought by experienced judges that anybody here will be able to travel for the next six months, so great has been the drain; while the revenues of the road must, *ex necessitate*, fall off in the passenger traffic. The merchants declare that it would repay them to present every female in the place with a new calico dress, made in Mrs. McCabe's latest style, rather than let them attend a stockholders' meeting, for few purchases there will be here for some time to come, Alexandria and Washington—the latter mostly—reaping all the small change.

Our people are great on a frolic, and like the boy with the cent, they generally don't care a cent for the expense; that is, most of 'em don't, but of course there are honorable exceptions, as there are in all communities. It is not intended to intimate that there are any "close" people here, but the most ludicrous incident that ever occurred in the State is reported to have taken place not long ago just outside of its borders, when two creditors starting from a given point, had a foot race to a lawyer's office to get a judgment recorded to secure a debt; and it is reported, upon tradition, that eggs were once measured in this place. But this is a digression, for neither the judgment nor the eggs have anything to do with the frolic. The rain descended in torrents, but the ladies did not seem to mind it, for though their skirts were dripping their ardor was in no wise abated, and in and out of the train the fun was fast and furious.

Whether anybody attended the meeting is not known by deponent, but that Cooney in Alexandria and Harvey in Washington were well patronized, no one will doubt who saw the uncounted "tip-tilted" expression upon the countenances of many as they returned to "hog meat."

Every lady who went down vowed that not a bundle would be brought back, yet one of Padeley's double teams would have been required to haul the united purchases. Five cent cans, deviled crabs, peanuts, bananas, hoop skirts, children's wagons, cardinal hose, hats, candy, cakes and pies were heterogeneously commingled, and how they were ever assorted will long remain a mystery.

Many visited Corcoran's Art Gallery to there admire the beauties of nature, done in plaster, and one of the exuberant visitors declared, after closely scrutinizing the various Venuses, that he had seen "everything but a ship in full sail." It is natural for people away from home to affiliate, and so on this occasion the high and low, rich and poor, cast aside all distinction and fraternized in the most liberal manner, especially the females. It put one in mind of poor old Major Dixon, who after his conversion at a camp meeting, met one of his neighbors, with whom he was not on friendly terms, on the road, and saluting him, said: "Good morning Mr.—, I feel humble enough

to day to speak to a dog." There was a difference between the Major and the excursionists—The latter all felt so delirious that, with few exceptions, they didn't feel humbled by a general fraternization, and so they were all happy together, and not a box of peppermint drops was purchased on the train.

How pleasant it would be to note the many little amusing incidents that occurred on the trip; to mention the bright and lovely faces of some of Loudoun's fair mamas and daughters, and the demure husbands and fathers, but "time and space fail." Of course some of the party remained to spend a day or two with their friends. Once a lady left to spend a day "in town" and did not return for three months. But

From Washington.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.] WASHINGTON, May 10, 1877. The absence of the President from the city does not, as might be supposed, prevent business from being transacted at the executive office. There are still callers on the clerks for information as to the determination of the President in deferred cases, &c. Of course, the large crowd was absent from the room this morning.

VIRGINIA NOTES. Should the Richmond postoffice remain much longer unsettled, an enterprising gentleman might make something handsome by getting up an excursion train to bring all the candidates to Washington. Among the latest candidates to succeed Miss Van Lew are Joseph Marsh and H. L. Pellouze, of Richmond.

It is understood that the difficulties in respect to the Winchester postoffice have been all settled.

There are 1,458 postoffices in Virginia, and all these except eighteen are within the appointment of the Postmaster General. The President appoints eighteen.

NATIONAL BRIEFS. There is some discussion now at the State Department in regard to the propriety of issuing a proclamation of neutrality in the Russo-Turkish war, but it is the general opinion that no proclamation will be issued, not, at least, until events demonstrate the necessity of some public utterance of this character.

All the members of the Cabinet except Secretary Thompson, Secretary Schurz, and Postmaster Key have accompanied the President to Philadelphia.

The jury in the Ellison-Small homicide case were discharged to-day.

The erection of the naval monument at the foot of the northwest Capital entrance is being pushed forward.

The Secretary of the Navy has issued a circular expressing his regret at his inability to make the current payments for April May and June. Any officer who may desire it will be furnished with a transferable duplicate showing the amount due by the Government.

BOARD OF VISITORS.

Commodore R. H. Wyman, Captain S. R. Franklin, Pay Director G. R. Cutler, U. S. N.; Gen. W. H. Emory, Gen. R. P. Buckland and Hon. C. A. Curtis, of Massachusetts; Professor W. C. Hammond, of Iowa, and S. F. Quay, of N. Y.; Bishop W. J. Kim, of Cal.; Hon. L. C. Hoek, Tenn. and Hon. J. A. Leonard, of Minn., have been appointed by the President the Board of Visitors for the June examination of the Naval Academy.

The Governorship.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette: As the time approaches when we shall be called on to select a standard-bearer who will lead the conservative forces of Virginia to victory in the coming campaign, it behooves us to reflect seriously upon the qualities which should be possessed by the choice of the convention which meets in August.

There are perhaps many of her true and loyal sons who would wear well and worthily the distinguished honor of filling the executive chair of the mother of States under ordinary circumstances. But I respectfully suggest that we are now entering upon a new era—untried waters are to be explored by the Ship of State. Let us discard local prejudices and sacrifices personal preferences in the earnest effort to secure a pilot at the helm who is equal to any emergency which may occur.

Unquestionably there should be selected one who has demonstrated the fact that, if it were demanded, he was ready to offer his life as a sacrifice on the altar of his country. Of these there may be not a few, but other qualifications should receive due weight.

Should the convention deem it proper to desire the services of one who, by his bold and fearless course, has already proven "he knows the right, and, knowing, does maintain," and, besides, is rendered peculiarly fitted for the responsible duties which will devolve upon him by an experience of years of faithful service in the cause of his State in the national legislature, during the times "that tried men's souls," we take pleasure in presenting him, the true soldier, the honored statesman, General Wm. Terry, of Wythe. "PLUS."

The Permanent Centennial.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., May 10.—The city put on a holiday attire to-day and the streets were crowded with people bent upon visiting the open ceremonies at the permanent exhibition. The various lines of steam and street cars were going to the exhibition grounds filled with people. The prominent buildings and nearly all the private dwellings in town were covered with bunting. The horse cars and many vehicles were similarly decorated.

At the grounds, after music, the President was received, when prayer was offered by Bishop Stevens. An address was then delivered by C. M. Diddle, the president of the exhibition company, when the President formally opened the exhibition. Addresses were then delivered by John Welsh, president of the centennial board of finance, and A. B. Goshorn, director general, and after more music the benediction was pronounced by Bishop Simpson. The whole was a great success.

The Mine Explosion.

POTTSVILLE, PA., May 10.—The last of the victims of the Wadesville disaster, Benjamin Mosley, was found between twelve and one o'clock this morning lying in a breast about one hundred yards away from where the force of miners had been searching for him. Mosley's body was neither burned nor scared, and it is supposed that he was smothered to death by the fatal "chokedamp," which invariably follows an explosion of gas and is as much dreaded as the explosion itself. James Leddy, one of the men reported dead yesterday is still alive though his recovery is doubtful. All the rest of the wounded men will probably recover. Work has been suspended at the mines for a week.

CITY AFFAIRS.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette: Can the property of this town longer stand an annual tax of one hundred and twenty-three cents dollars, is a question which vitally concerns Alexandria at this moment, and the present Council is anxiously looked to for a solution of it as will redound to our profit. Two years ago, when a member of Council, the writer advocated a reduction in the rate of taxation, believing it to be our only salvation, and still conclude, most emphatically, after having further studied the subject in all its bearings, both with reference to present ability to pay and our future prospects, that we must not make a part of the burden, let the consequences be what they may. We must reduce our interest, if only for a few years, to give us a little breathing spell. Twenty years hard struggle have demonstrated the fact that we can't meet our running expenses and pay six per cent interest on a million and quarter of dollars, or one dollar and eleven cents on every hundred dollar worth of property, for interest alone, on an indebtedness, much of which, to say the least, of doubtful legality. The State doesn't pay the whole of her interest, and holders of State bonds are obliged to take what they can get. Few corporations, either North or South, now paying in full, and investors a-sore at these risks when they put their money in depreciated securities of this kind and character. Now suppose our creditors appeal to the court, and a special levy be directed by the court in obedience to the court's mandate, would you know that the corporation could raise a valid title to property confiscated to the State under a court's process, and then sell the same, and leave the taxpayer in the lurch? That most prominent lawyer, late Judge Scott, gave to a gentleman of this city a written opinion on this subject, in which he held that while a State, when a foreign, might confer title to property, as taxes, a corporation, being a mere creature, possessed no such power, or could not be held thereto. Again our municipal government is too embroiled and expensively for a municipality to run like ours. Our city is not only too costly; they expend ideas of extravagance beyond our reach. Our current expenses are, therefore to be reduced to the lowest minimum consistent with judicious government, and to within two thirds of what they now amount to, not by reducing salaries so low as to make it impossible for a man to live, and not by a considerable margin to be saved even in that way, without doing injustice, but by economizing the offices and guarding every cent upon our corporation account. Finally, some encouragement ought to be extended to the city and the citizens generally to maintain a city for Alexandria is ever to prosper, and by a practical realization of the natural advantages which obtain here as a location for mechanical enterprises. Let it be put forth throughout the country that Alexandria offers superior inducements in the shape of an exemption from all taxation for a more than ten years of everything connected with an establishment in manufacturing, and if necessary, in the ground, as many cities do, on whom money, buildings, &c. This is our only hope of successful competition in other lines of trade, and it is out of the question. We will not do anything to bring money here. We will be devoting each other, and therefore our population follows; wealth follows. "It is by liberal encouragement we will attract capital in money, labor and brains, we will increase the value of our property. Swell the bank of taxable values, distribute the burden of taxation more generally, and with honest and efficient administration lift part of the load that seems man must bear." We are of the opinion that no place is better located for manufacturing than Alexandria. We have a deep river and a good harbor, and inexhaustible coal beds within easy reach, but we need something to give us a start. If it became a national rallying point we should, if it became a national rallying point, it will pay. Other cities, far in advance of ours in everything which tends to progress, owe their success to the liberality with which they have dealt with this subject, and which hooves us to be up and doing. One Department on the Potomac is enough for all the way of this portion of Virginia, but unless something is done, and that right speedily, in the way of Alexandria will have been given over to the here and there a sale of minor specialties, and still waiting our departure, and the loss of our business and ancestral superiority.

The Mayor's Message.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette: Mayor Johnson, in his message of May 10, 1877, to the City Council, says:—"There have been four cases of felony sent to the penitentiary during the last ten months," when the records show there have been sixteen delinquents for felony found true bills by the grand jury during the last ten months, and fifteen of them were sent on by Justices of the Peace, and the sixteenth originated with the grand jury. Mayor Johnson may have wanted to tell the City Council that he had only one or two cases of felony; but, if he did, he would have used different language.

Mayor Johnson, in the same communication to the City Council, further says:—"The cases of petit larceny have been disposed of by the police department without one delinquent being committed to the penitentiary, by the disposition, to the city Treasury, of not less than three thousand dollars." Mayor Johnson meant to assert that fifteen cases of petit larceny had been disposed of by the court, the City Treasury having been depleted three thousand dollars. He does, he is mistaken; for the State of Virginia, not the city of Alexandria, pays the cost of criminal cases.

The average cost of a petit larceny case in the court, is about twelve dollars, and the said fifty petit larceny cases had been disposed of by it, the costs would have amounted to the sum of six hundred dollars; but the city of Alexandria would not have paid one cent of this amount.

If Mayor Johnson had said, in his communication that, by his disposition of the cases of petit larceny, instead of sending them to court, which he might have done, he had, before it, he saved to the State of Virginia about six hundred dollars, he would have been correct; but, when he says, he saved the city by his disposition of them, he is mistaken, for more than three thousand dollars Mayor Johnson had sent the said cases to court, and the city would not have paid one cent of this amount.

There have been only two cases of petit larceny tried before the court since July 1st, and they cost the State about twenty dollars, or, in other words, the petit larceny cases sent to court for disposition of all the petit larceny cases for the last two years, which the State has paid, is about that sum. Of course the cost of keeping prisoners in jail is not included in this amount.

The Mayor and the Justices of the Peace have jurisdiction to try cases of petit larceny, and it may be said, all cases of petit larceny have been, for the last three years, disposed of by the court during that time, disposed of without any costs to the State, and that three thousand dollars Mayor Johnson had sent to save the city, by disposing of the petit larceny cases during the last ten months, is simply imaginary.