



THE FACT that there has been a perceptible falling off in church attendance in recent years has caused many to speculate as to the cause.

THE BIBLE is treated as if it were a religious scrapbook, full of maxims or texts that may be pounded or expounded to the edification of the people.

THE INTER-STATE COMMERCE COMMISSIONERS have ordered a full examination of the accounts of the commission, on the strength of information which has reached them that the books are in an irregular condition.

THE GRADUATING CLASS of the Virginia Military Institute held a New Year's banquet at Hotel Lexington Thursday night.

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FROM WASHINGTON.

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NEWS OF THE DAY.

The known dead in the Chicago fire panic of Wednesday now number 582.

Emperor William will send the state silver service to the St. Louis Exposition.

The 3,000 employees of the Edgar Thomson Steel Works and eleven blast furnaces of the Carnegie Steel Company, at Braddock, Pa., yesterday accepted the reduction in wages offered them.

Three alarms were sent in yesterday afternoon for a fire that started in a room on the sixth floor of the Murray Hill Hotel, at Forty-first street and Park avenue, New York.

Three persons were killed and four others injured in a fire last night that destroyed the Lorraine Hotel, 3611-3623 Lake avenue Chicago.

The Inter-State Commerce Commissioners have ordered a full examination of the accounts of the commission, on the strength of information which has reached them that the books are in an irregular condition.

Customs receipts are now being paid almost wholly in gold.

In order to expedite the disposition of appeals for reappraisement, and for the general transaction of business, Secretary of the Treasury Shaw has divided the board of general appraisers at New York into three sub-boards.

The total National Bank circulation outstanding at the beginning of the new year was \$425,163,018, being an increase for the year of \$40,233,234.

Congress will resume its session next Monday, and many of the members who went home to spend the holidays have returned and are ready for the opening.

Brig. Gen. Gillespie, chief of army engineers, has been selected by the President for promotion to the grade of major general and duty as first assistant to the chief of staff.

Congressman W. W. Skiles, upon the eve of his departure from Shelby, O., for Washington, D. C., was stricken with pneumonia and but little hope is held out by his physicians.

Twenty-three Boston express companies will be merged into one corporation with a capitalization of \$1,000,000. These companies now serve the people in various towns and cities within ten miles of Boston.

The Sixteenth United States Infantry, stationed at Fort McPherson, near Atlanta, Georgia, has received orders from the War Department to hold themselves in readiness to start for the Republic of Panama on short notice.

About 1,400 conductors and motormen employed by the Providence, R. I., street railway company, have just received an advance of ten cents a day. This is in accordance with the wage schedule adopted last May.

As the result of slippery rails a street car got beyond control of the motorman while descending Monastery Hill at Pittsburgh, Pa. at 8:45 this morning.

George Mac Mullen, eleven years old, and John McCaulley, aged 19, were found dead in bed this morning, at 2122 Winter street, Philadelphia, the home of the former. Gas killed both of them.

Thomas Nicholls, aged 36, a teamster, of New Britain, Conn., threw himself in front of the east-bound passenger train at the Black Rock crossing, today and Engineer James Mulligan, who was in the cab, saw his fifty-first human victim ground to death beneath the engine wheels.

D. A. Willis, jumped from the wrong side of the theater train at Ashbury Park, N. J., last night, striking an iron fence. He tried to get back on the train but fell on the track near the station.

The posted reduction of wages at the Homestead Steel Mills, at Pittsburgh, Pa., has been the means of causing no little trouble, and more is anticipated.

A violent feud has broken out among the Jews in the Warsaw part of the Russian empire. One section is urging retaliation upon the government for its prosecution of them and are joining in a revolutionary movement.

According to a report received at the patent office, in Vienna, a technician in Japan has discovered a method of casting naval guns at one fifth of their ordinary weight.

A collision occurred this morning between a freight and a passenger train on the Franco-Spanish frontier. It is reported that a number of persons were killed.

Feastivities End in Tragedy. Chicago, Jan. 2.—In a row which started at a New Year's party, at the home of John Sabstok, in Ashland avenue, at one o'clock this morning, Sabstok was shot and killed.

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VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Jamestown Exposition directors will now try to induce the national government to appropriate \$5,000,000 for the exposition.

Mrs. Mattie E. Duke, widow of Robt. E. Duke, who was the local freight agent of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad, died on Thursday in her home in Richmond.

Mrs. Elizabeth Parks, wife of Capt. Richard S. Parks, commonwealth's attorney for Page county and member of the late Constitutional Convention of Virginia, died at the home of her husband, in Luray, at an early hour yesterday morning.

Mr. Andrew Burchell, the mail carrier, who did not return to King George with the mail on the Hampstead road last Saturday night, and who had not been found Monday morning, was finally found at the home of Mr. Ames Sullivan, in Stafford county, some two or three miles from Fredericksburg.

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TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

A More Peaceful Outlook. Trieste, Jan. 2.—The announcement was made today that three carloads of ammunition have been shipped from this point to Japan during the past few days and that larger quantities are to follow.

Pekin, Jan. 2.—The Chinese government today presented another formal demand to the Russian Minister to China, M. Paul Lesser, that Russia evacuate Manchuria.

Tokio, Jan. 2.—Orders were issued today for six cruisers to proceed to Masan-Pho tomorrow. Rumors are afloat that the object of the squadron is to seize Masan-Pho, but these cannot be traced to a reliable source.

Port Arthur, China, Jan. 2.—Novy Krai today holds out the last olive branch to Japan. In a leading article today the paper says: "If the Japanese will only consider Russia's reasonable interests, they will not make it possible for Russia to grant concessions. Japan will find a ready echo in Russian official circles."

St. Petersburg, Jan. 2.—It is reported that the czar and the minister of foreign affairs, Count Lamsdorf, have both declared that nothing has so far happened necessitating a war between Russia and Japan, and that Russia will not declare war as matters stand at present.

London, Jan. 2.—Although rumors of all kinds regarding an impending conflict between Japan and Russia were in circulation here today, Baron Hayashi, Japanese Minister to Great Britain, was still hopeful that hostilities between the two countries would be averted.

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New York Stock Market.

New York, Jan. 2.—The stock market this morning has been controlled by the apprehension of unfavorable reports of war between Russia and Japan.

Financial interests have apparently given up all hope of a peaceful settlement of the Russo-Japanese imbroglio, and believing that war would soon be declared, set about to dispose of stocks.

Within the past 30 hours nine deaths from typhoid fever have occurred at Butler, Pa.

MARSHALL-GLASS AFFAIR.—Circular letters have been issued by Capt. R. C. Marshall, of Portsmouth, which may lead to trouble between him and Congressman Carter Glass, of Lynchburg.

BURIED \$8,500 IN GOLD.—Following the instructions on the margin of the will of Benjamin A. Worrells, of Worrells, Southampton county, his heirs discovered a box filled with gold to the amount of \$8,500.

The Market. Georgetown, Jan. 2.—Wheat 78.85.

Saved From Terrible Death. The family of Mrs. M. L. Bobbitt, of Bartlett, Tenn., saw her lying and was unable to save her.

Blizzard, Snow, Ice. Reading, Pa., Jan. 2.—Ellis Hartz, the "goosebone" weather prognosticator, has at last secured a goosebone from which to forecast the weather.

Cured After Suffering 10 Years. B. F. Hare, Superintendent Miami Cycle and Manufacturing Company, Middletown, Pa., suffered for ten years with dyspepsia.

Demands Recall of Russian Embassy. Paris, Jan. 2.—It appears that the former Russian Ambassador to France, Prince Urussov, and two secretaries were recalled because they wrote articles to Russian newspapers in which they severely criticized the French government.

Saved from Destruction. New York, Jan. 2.—A fire broke out in the basement of the rectory of the Church of the Transfiguration—the "Little Church Around the Corner"—this morning, which threatened for a time to destroy the church.

Terrible Massacre Planned. Berlin, Jan. 2.—Despite the command of the czar to the Governor of Bessarabia, to preserve order, the Jews in Kishineff are in a state of panic over the discovery of designs of the Russians to be executed on the Russian New Year, which will fall on January 13.

Dislocated Her Shoulder. Mrs. Johanna Soderholm, of Fergus Falls, Minn., fell and dislocated her shoulder. She had a surgeon get it back in place as soon as possible, but it was quite sore and pained her very much.

Stockholders Meeting. Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the W. T. WALKER BRICK CO. will be held at 11 o'clock a. m. on WEDNESDAY, January 20, 1904.

OTTERBURN LITHIA WATER.—This water is indicated in all affections due to Uric Acid, Diarrhea, Gout, Rheumatism, Gravel, etc.

THE LION METAL POLISH for cleaning and polishing Brass, Copper, &c. Price 25c. For sale by E. S. LEADBEATER & SONS.

Very fine MOCHA AND JAVA COFFEE for sale by J. C. MILBURN.

ROASTED COFFEES.—Coffees carefully selected in green state, freshly roasted, for sale to 35c per pound. J. C. MILBURN.

FIVE CENTS.—The best fine grain AMERICAN GRANULATED SUGAR, for sale by J. C. MILBURN.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN ALEXANDRIA

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including Flour, Wheat, Corn, and other goods.

VIRGINIA.—In the Clerk's Office of the Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria, on the 31st day of December, 1903.

MEMO.—The object of this suit is to obtain a decree for the partition of the real estate in the city of Alexandria of which Eliza Swansbury died seized, if susceptible of partition in kind.

It appearing by an affidavit filed in this cause that the defendant, Laura Virginia Clark, is a non-resident of this State.

VIRGINIA.—In the Clerk's Office of the Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria, on the 10th day of December, 1903.

MEMO.—The object of this suit is to subject the following property, to the lien of the City of Alexandria, Virginia: Beginning on the east side of Pitt street, 90 feet south of Wilkes street.

It appearing by an affidavit filed in this cause that the defendants, the heirs of Littleton Page, deceased, are unknown.

VIRGINIA.—In the Clerk's Office of the Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria, on the 24th day of December, 1903.

MEMO.—The object of this suit is to subject the following property, in the City of Alexandria, Virginia: Beginning on Franklin street at a point 50 feet west of the east line of the lot