THE INITIAL SESSION.

SENATE EFFECTS ITS ORGANIZATION FOR ITS COMING SESSION.

Messrs. Button, Watkins, and Gunter Assume Their Duties—Governor's Message Received—Bills Introduced.

The initial session of the Senate, 1895-'96, was called to order promptly at 12 o'clock yesterday by Lieutenant-Governor Kent, and the opening prayer was delivered by Rev. Dr. George W. Cooper, who prayed fervently that the members might be guided by divine wisdom in the discharge of their duties. The Senate then settled down to work.

A communication was read by the clerk from Secretary of the Commonwealth Lawless, presenting the names of the members of the Senate certified in his office as duly elected.

WORK OF ORGANIZATIONS.

The work of organization was then taken up. The roll was called, and senators, as their names were called, came forward and took the oath of office. The following senators were present and subscribed to the oath:

Manly H. Barnes, R. E. Boykin, J. Thompson Brown, B. F. Buchanan, M. H. Clayton, Adam Clement, Edward Echols, Henry Fairfax, W. M. Flannagan, H. D. Flood, W. H. Hale, James Hay, E. H. Jackson, G. W. Jackson, Charles P. Jones, W. I. Jordan, Henry S. Kane, George R. Kessell, George W. LeCato, William A. Little, Jr., William Lovenstein, Henry C. Lowry, J. E. Mason, H. L. Maynard, J. G. McClure, W. B. McIlwaine, George W. Morris, George A. Mushbach, Edmond Parr, Conway R. Sands, George T. Snead, Joseph W. Southall, Alexander St. Clair, James N. Stubbs, James L. Tredway, Robert Turnbull, Henry T. Wickham, T. N. Williams, Eugene Withers.

The election of officers was then gone into, and Senator James N. Stubbs, as in the caucus of Tuesday night, presented in an eloquent speech the name of Senator Wm. Lovenstein as President pro tem. This nomination was eloquently seconded by Senator Conway R. Sands, of Richmond, and he was unanimously elected.

The Clerk was the next Senate officer chosen, and the name of Mr. Joseph Button, of Appomattox, having been placed in nomination by Senator H. D. Flood, he was unanimously elected in accordance with the decrees of the caucus nomination.

The name of Mr. F. R. Watkins, of Charlotte, was proposed by Senator T. N. Williams for Sergeant-at-Arms, and he was chosen without dissent.

The next officer elected was Doorkeeper, Mr. Jas. E. Gunter, of Accomac, being nominated by Senator LeCato, and receiving a unanimous vote.

At this point a message was received from the House of Delegates informing the Senate that that body was organized and ready for business, and a similar message was sent to the House from the Senate.

Senator Stubbs offered a resolution that the four pages mentioned by the caucus be elected. It was carried. The names are as follows: Leroy M. Lee, of Ashland; Edgar Whitehead, of Pittsylvania; Morris Parr, of Amherst; Albert Woods, of Charlotte.

The Senate concurred in a joint resolution appointing a committee of eight—three from the Senate and five from the House—to inform the Governor that they were ready to consider any matters that he might think proper to lay before them. The Chair appointed on this committee from the Senate, Senators Jas. N. Stubbs, G. W. Jackson, and C. P. Jones.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The committee shortly reported that their duty had been performed, and Mr. Evan R. Chesterman, the Governor's private secretary, appeared and presented to the Senate the annual message of the Governor. The Clerk began to read the message, but upon motion of Senator Mushbach, it was laid upon the table, and copies ordered printed.

An invitation was received from Messrs. A. Saks & Co., inviting the members of the Senate to view their magnificent picture "After the Storm," and this evening at 6 o'clock, was set by the Senate to visit the store.

The following bills were then introduced and referred to the proper committees:

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Senator Maynard: A bill to authorize the United States Government to acquire title and jurisdiction to a tract of land in the county of Norfolk, on the southern branch.

By Senator Echols: A bill to amend and re-enact chapter 473, Session Acts 1893-4, entitled "An act to regulate the killing and capturing of deer and other game in the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Highland and Augusta, approved February 25, 1894.

By Senator Echols: A bill to amend and re-enact section 1 of an act passed January 30, 1885, entitled "An act to incorporate the Augusta Female Seminary."

By Senator Little: A bill to incorporate the Bridgewater and Forge Granite and Lumber Company.

By Senator Little: A bill to incorporate the Bridgewater Construction Company.

By Senator Little: A bill to fix the number of a board of directors in a joint stock company, where the capital stock does not exceed $10,000. The bill provides that the number shall be three, including the president.

ACCOUNTS OF TREASURERS.

Senator James N. Stubbs asked permission to use the Senate chamber at 4 o'clock in the afternoon for the meeting of the Historical Committee of the Grand Camps, Confederate Veterans, and extended an invitation to all senators to be present. The request was unanimously granted.

The following resolution was offered by Senator Kessell, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved by the Senate, That the Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby requested to furnish this body with a statement showing the indebtedness, if any, of each of the treasurers of the counties and cities of the Commonwealth on the 1st day of August, 1895. Also what indebtedness, if any, existed from said treasurers to the Commonwealth on the 1st day of December, 1895.

Mr. E. R. Chesterman, Governor O'Ferrall's private secretary, again appeared in the Senate chamber, and presented a communication from the Governor in regard to the Board of Education. Upon motion the matter was considered in executive session.

After the ending of the executive session Senator Lovenstein took his seat as President pro tem., and in so doing made a most happy speech.

The Senate then adjourned at 1:30 o'clock until 12 o'clock to-day.

SENATE NOTICE.

The organization of the Senate was completed with the exception of the appointment of standing committees for the session, the nomination of which was relegated to a committee of five by the caucus of Monday night, which committee will not be ready to report until to-day's session.

A beautiful gift of fragrant roses and carnations was found on his desk by Senator Robert Turnbull, of Brunswick, on entering the Senate chamber yesterday morning. A card was attached to the pretty bouquet, bearing the words: "From his Brunswick friends."

Dr. J. D. Pendleton, the retiring Clerk, was in charge until the new Clerk, Mr. Button, was confirmed by the Senate. He then gracefully gave way to Mr. Button, who took charge of his new position in a confident manner, and made a favorable impression, as did General Watkins, the new Sergeant-at-Arms, and Major Gunter, the Doorkeeper.

HOUSE ORGANIZED.

The Decree of the Caucus Confirmed—The First Bills Introduced.

An immense audience filled every available space in the big hall of the House of Delegates yesterday, and the galleries were also densely crowded with spectators, who had come to witness the opening of the session of the House. The fair sex was well represented, and ladies could be seen sitting in every part of the hall, even on the steps of the Speaker's platform.

Promptly at 12 o'clock Colonel John Bell Bigger, Clerk of the House for many sessions, brought down the gavel, and said: "The hour having arrived for the meeting of the General Assembly, by the authority which I have, I call this House to order. The session will be opened with prayer by Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D."

Dr. HOGE'S PRAYER.

Dr. Hoge, who for quite a number of sessions, has offered the opening prayer in the House of Delegates, then arose and presented the following prayer:

Almighty God! Creator, Preserver, and rightful Ruler of men, to whom we owe all allegiance, love, and service, accept our humble homage.

We come to worship and adore Thee; to glorify Thee, as God over all, blessed forevermore.

We recognize Thy goodness in permitting Thy servants once more to assemble here for the discharge of the great duties entrusted to them.

And since nothing is wise, nothing safe, nothing strong without Thy favor, we feel it to be our first duty and highest privilege to implore Thy guidance and benediction.

Continue to us, we beseech Thee, the blessings of civil and religious liberty, the benefits of well-considered legislation, of laws wisely framed and justly executed. May we remember that all successes gained by fraud or by measures which enlightened conscience condemns are but temporary triumphs and result only in demoralizing the people and in subverting the only true and safe foundations of the public welfare.

Great God, in this world of vicissitude, while the outward conditions and circumstances of men are perpetually changing, we bless Thee that the great principles which underlie all duty are unchanging, and that to the end of time, truth, honor, and justice will be the only foundations on which good government can rest. Grant that it may be our supreme aim to maintain these principles, that we may perpetuate and transmit to those who shall come after us, the institutions bequeathed to us by brave and pious forefathers.

Bless, we beseech Thee, the President of the United States and the Governor of this Commonwealth; our judges and magistrates, our schools, colleges, and universities, and all those industrial pursuits and enterprises upon which the prosperity of the people depends, and to God, most High, we will ascribe all honor and glory, forever. Amen.

THE ORGANIZATION.

Colonel Bigger next called the roll, and ninety-six members answered to their names. The absentees were Messrs. J. Alston Cabell, of Richmond; J. F. Ryan, of Loudoun; Rhinehart, of Alleghany, and E. W. Saunders, of Franklin. The members present were then sworn by Colonel Bigger, whereupon the latter announced as the first business in order the election of a speaker.

Mr. Randolph Harrison, of Lynchburg, in a few well-chosen words, nominated Hon. John F. Ryan, of Loudoun, who, he said, was especially fitted to perform the responsible and delicate duties connected with that office.

While the ballot was being taken, no other nomination having been presented, some members of the opposition did not vote, while Mr. H. J. Wale, of Louisa county, voted for Mr. J. B. Stovall, of Halifax, and Mr. Stovall, for Mr. Wale. The number of votes cast was 95, of which Mr. Ryan received 85, and was declared duly elected.

Messrs. Randolph Harrison, of Lynchburg; John S. Harwood, of Richmond, and Carter H. Harrison, of Chesterfield, as a committee escorted Mr. Ryan into the hall and to the Speaker's chair.

Mr. Ryan, in thanking for the honor conferred upon him, said that he had but little to add to what he had said the previous evening. He assured the members that in the discharge of his duties he would endeavor to carry out the rules without partiality, and to extend equal courtesies to all. In return he expected the same courtesies to be shown him by the members. He cautioned the members to weigh well the measures that would come before them, and to guard carefully the treasury of the State. In closing, he announced that the Chair was ready to proceed to business, and called for nominations for the position of Clerk.

COLONEL BIGGER RE-ELECTED.

Mr. William E. Foster, of Norfolk, here arose, and said: In looking around among the members of this body I see many new faces, none of whom go back to the session of the House twenty-five years ago. I, therefore, feel it to be my privilege to make the nomination for Clerk of the House of Delegates. I place in nomination for that position Colonel John Bell Bigger. In 1858 he commenced his apprenticeship in this House as one of the assistant clerks, and served for ten years in that capacity. In 1869 he was elevated to the position of Clerk of the House of Delegates, which he has occupied ever since, with the exception of two terms. During all this time he has won the confidence, esteem, and love of those whom he came in contact with. He has never failed in his duty here, and comes from a stock that has been making the annals of this Commonwealth famous. It is a duty devolving upon this body to elect Colonel Bigger Clerk, because of his knowledge, his skill, his promptness, and his ability.

On motion of Mr. Carter H. Harrison Colonel Bigger was elected by nomination, and Messrs. Foster and C. H. Harrison were appointed a committee to inform Colonel Bigger of his election. In returning, Mr. Foster introduced Colonel Bigger to the Speaker, and the re-elected Clerk of the House thanked the members for his election in the following words:

"Mr. Speaker and members of the House of Delegates:

"Providence has spared me to low my acknowledgments to you for the honor you have conferred. I have stood here for these many years, and received the plaudits of generous constituencies at the end of every session, and if attention to the varied and onerous duties of the positions I hold will win your commendation I shall receive a certificate of merit at your hands." Questions of interest will come up before you. Our grand old University has been the victim of merciless flames, she will ask for aid. Our public schools should be well provided for. Our Confederate veterans, heroes of a Lost Cause, dear as the silver locks of hair of departed mother, will need our fostering care. Monuments of gratitude which have been reared in commemoration of their gallant deeds, will crumble into dust before the pulsations of the hearts of a grateful people will cease to cherish their patriotic devotion. And gentlemen, you must give some personal attention to the ladies. Some of you are doubtless pining away through the lonely days of celibacy. If you are looking for help-mates you can find no better or prettier girls than here in our beautiful capital city. The sparkling brightness of their flashing eyes enshrine the virtue and the sweet music of their voices hath charms to soothe the statesman's breast.

"The members of the House who are styled the Opposition, have supported me. I thank them for their confidence, and shall prove worthy of it, officially. I know no party, but I know that the Opposition know that when a campaign opens, and upon a field of contest, the flag of my party is floating on the breeze. There will I be found battling for the principles of Jeffersonian Democracy, a heritage of our forefathers."

The following other officers were then elected by acclamation: J. W. Johnston, of Rockbridge, Sergeant-at-Arms; A. O. Sullivan, of Montgomery, First Doorkeeper; P. E. Lipscomb, of King and Queen, Second Doorkeeper.

THE GOVERNOR NOTIFIED.

Mr. Bryant, of Richmond, was requested to notify the Senate that the House was ready for business, and on motion of Colonel Harwood, the rules of last session were adopted for the present session.

Senator Echols having informed the House that the Senate was ready for business, a resolution was adopted, on motion of Mr. Cooke, of Norfolk, providing for a joint committee of five members of the House and three of the Senate to wait upon the Governor and inform him that the General Assembly had organized and was ready to receive any communication he might wish to submit.

The Speaker appointed as members of the committee on the part of the House Messrs. Cooke, of Norfolk; Powell, of Warwick; Willard, of Fairfax; Harrison, of Amherst, and Simms, of Augusta.

Subsequently, Mr. E. R. Chesterman, private secretary of the Governor, appeared and presented a copy of the Governor's message to the General Assembly, which will be found elsewhere in to-day's issue of The Times.

On motion of Mr. McRae, of Petersburg, the reading of the message was dispensed with, and the usual number of copies of the same were ordered to be printed.

The House then adjourned until to-day at noon.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

The first bill introduced was handed to the Clerk by Mr. Pilcher, of Pauquier county, entitled "A bill to fix the number of the board of directors in joint stock companies when the capital stock is less than ten thousand dollars."

Other bills introduced were:

By Mr. McRae, of Petersburg: A bill to amend and re-enact an act entitled "An act to make husband and wife competent witnesses for or against each other in civil cases," approved March 2, 1894, and the title of said act. Referred to the Committee of Courts of Justice.

By Mr. Charles T. Bland, of Portsmouth: A bill providing for the copying from the muster rolls in the War Department at Washington the names of the Virginia soldiers in the Confederate army. The bill provides for an appropriation of $5,000 for that purpose. It was referred to the Finance Committee.

PRESERVATION OF JAMESTOWN.

Mr. May, of Alexandria, presented the following bill, which was referred to the Finance Committee:

A Bill to Appropriate Ten Thousand Dollars Towards the Restoration and Preservation of Jamestown, Va.

Whereas the settlement of the colony of Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 has resulted in the foundation of America and the establishment of this great and glorious republic, where the blessings of religious liberty, political franchise, freedom of the press, and untrammeled personal independence, under wise and beneficent laws have grown and flourished; and

Whereas the equal and common benefits of the settlement of Jamestown having been diffused throughout the length and breadth of this favored land, and these consequences having been fully recognized by the Congress of the United States in an appropriation of $10,000 to preserve this ancient landmark from destruction; and

Whereas this fund has been exhausted and the encroachments of the James river are daily endangering the work already done in part to save this historic spot, therefore, be it

Enacted, That as Jamestown is upon the soil of the Old Dominion, a peculiar duty rests upon the General Assembly of Virginia to assist in its restoration and preservation, so that in common with all Americans they can point with pride to the place from which the star of empire rose in the western world; and be it further

Enacted, That this General Assembly hereby appropriates the sum of one thousand dollars annually for ten years to the furtherance of this noble end; and be it further

Enacted, That these moneys shall be annually paid as hereinbefore provided, and for this purpose only, to the "Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities," a society originated, organized and operated by the women of this Commonwealth, located in the city of Richmond, Va., with branches throughout the State, possessing a membership which knows no North, no South, no East, no West, but inviting all who venerate the early history of this country to its ranks, which, by gift and purchase, has acquired the Old Powder House at Williamsburg, the Mary Washington House at Fredericksburg, the Nelson House at Yorktown, and which owns in fee-simple twenty-two and a half acres of the most hallowed and consecrated portion of Jamestown, that portion for which the appropriation made in this bill is specially intended.

PRESENTED WITH FLOWERS.

Colonel John S. Harwood, of this city, was the member of the House receiving the greatest honors yesterday. He entered the hall of that body rather late, and was greatly surprised to find in front of his seat, which is in the front row on the right of the Speaker, a beautiful floral design in the shape of a chair. The edges were represented by white roses and chrysanthemums, and in the centre, on a black ground of ivy leaves, was the following inscription in blue violets: "Our choice—J. S. H.; 4,015; on to Washington. Choice—J. S. H.; 4,015; on to Washington." A card was attached to this floral tribute bearing in artificial lettering the words: "Colonel John S. Harwood, from his Democratic and Republican friends."

Colonel Harwood also received from some other admirer a large bunch of magnificent American Beauties.

The only other member of the House who was honored with the donation of flowers was Mr. William F. Rieffy, who found upon his desk, which is in the same row with Colonel Harwood, a huge bouquet of American Beauties.

OPPOSITION LEADERS.

Among the other members who created some attraction was Mr. Wale, of Louisa, one of the thirty-two members of the Opposition, whose snow-white hair and beard give him a picturesque appearance. He was a member of the House during the session of 1859-'60.

Mr. J. Brack Stovall, of Halifax, another Opposition member, entered the hall early and was pointed out by friends as the probable leader of the Opposition. Both anti-Democrats created the first merriment in the House by the manner in which they bedoubled with each other in casting the vote for each other for the office of Speaker of the House.

Mr. McRae, of Petersburg, has lost no time to make good an oversight that happened during the last session of the Legislature in the passage of the act making husband and wife competent witnesses for or against each other, so as to make the act apply to criminal as well as civil cases. The act, which was originated by Mr. McRae during the last session, was drawn to that effect and passed in that shape, but in its passage the title of a Senate bill, which applied only to civil cases, was retained, and this fact prevented the act from bearing on criminal cases.

TO-NIGHT'S CAUCUS.

The joint Democratic caucus of the two houses will be called this morning to meet to-night at 8 o'clock in the hall of the House of Delegates for the purpose of making nominations for the officers in charge of the various State departments. It seems that the members of the General Assembly are anxious to dispose of this matter as quickly as possible, so that they might no longer be button-holed by people who have aspirations in the line of holding office under the State Government. The Democratic members of the Senate were desirous to have the matter settled last night, and had a paper calling for a joint caucus for last evening circulated during yesterday's session. By the time this paper reached the House the latter body had already adjourned, and the matter had, of course, to go over until to-day.

A careful observer of the situation became convinced last night, while sounding the various statesmen who gathered around the lobby of the Exchange Hotel, that there will be but little fighting for the various nominations, and it was conceded by those who have any experience in such matters that the nominations will be practically unanimous. The office for which the hardest fight has been heralded during the past few days is that of the Superintendent of the Penitentiary, now held by Major Lynn, of Loudoun county, and which Mr. Helm, of Pittsylvania county, would like to secure. The most careful inquiries among the delegates and senators who could be found about the hotel made it appear that only the Fifth congressional district would be solid for Mr. Helm, while all the other districts will give large majorities for Major Lynn.

MR. CLAYTER'S CASE.

There is, however, one subject that, it is said, will take up a good deal of time and attention in the joint caucus to-night. It is understood that Mr. Clayter, of Roanoke, who ran as an Independent candidate for Mr. Watt's seat in the Senate, and defeated the latter, will apply for admittance to the deliberations of the Democratic caucus. The prevailing opinion among the regular Democrats is to refuse him admittance, for the same reasons that Judge Buford, of Brunswick, was excluded from the caucus during the past session and Colonel Goode, of Mecklenburg, during the preceding session.

The members of the opposition in the House of Delegates held a conference in one of the committee rooms on the upper floor of the Capitol building yesterday morning, but without coming to any tangible result.

Colonel Bigger's Assistants.

Following will compose the official staff of Colonel J. Bell Bigger, Clerk of the House of Delegates:

Assistant Clerk and Private Secretary, Samuel W. Bigger.

Enrolling Clerk, H. T. Washington, of Westmoreland.

Clerks of committees: John T. Loving, formerly of Nelson; J. N. Brennaman, of Shenandoah; Charles B. Mann, of Petersburg; John W. Williams, of Giles; W. S. Gooch, of Louisa; James H. Tyler, Jr., of Montgomery.

House Snap Shots.

Mr. T. C. Pilcher does not seem to grow any older. He is the same ruddy, hardy old Democrat that he has always been.

Hon. Howard Hathaway has grown a mustache and is considerably stouter than he was two years ago.

Mr. Willard, of Fairfax, has also grown a mustache. The top of his head is beginning to show through his hair.

Hon. Baker P. Lee, the courtly old Virginia gentleman, does not grow any older apparently. He has friends on both sides of the House.

Friends of Hon. J. E. Booker, say he begins to resemble Bill Nye.

Hon. John F. Ryan is beginning to show streaks of gray in his beard.

Hon. Julian Bryant is still wanting a match to light his cigar.

Hon. Merritt T. Cooke sets as erect as a man could. He is on the lookout for raisers on the treasury.

Hon. W. P. McRae is probably the closest student in the House. He will undoubtedly be on the Judiciary Committee.

Hon. John S. Harwood sits and smiles and bows—he knows every body in Virginia.

"Mutual Admiration Society" said a member yesterday when Mr. Stovall voted for Mr. Wale for Speaker and Mr. Wale returned the compliment.

Hon. M. S. Newberrie's speech, nominating Mr. A. O. Sullivan for Doorkeeper, was the shortest ever made in the House.

Why did everybody look at Speaker Ryan yesterday when Col. Bigger made his reference to bachelors? Even the opposition could not oppose Colonel Bigger for Clerk. How's that for popularity?

Hon. John Utz was present at the opening yesterday.

Old Father Time has taken the place of "Uncle Sam" this session.

The House is composed of younger members this session than last.

"The Earl of Culpeper"—the terror of the average new member—will be missed this year.

Hon. C. T. Bland, of Portsmouth, is on a back seat. Queer place for a hustling newspaper reporter. Move up, Brother Bland.

There are three preachers in the House—one from the Southwest, one from Halifax, and one from Charlotte.

Senator Eugene Withers, of Danville, came over to the House yesterday and spent some time.

SYCAMORE CHURCH.

Mr. Sutton Says That the Sum Paid Was $500 Advance on the Purchase Price.

Mr. C. H. Sutton was seen yesterday morning by a reporter regarding the transfer to Messrs. F. T. and C. H. Sutton and L. C. Jenkins, of the old Supreme Court building, known formerly as the "Sycamore" church, and lately purchased from the State of Virginia by Messrs. Granor Neal and Fritz Sittering.

Mr. Sutton said that the gentlemen named and himself did not buy the property because they wanted it, but because, owning as they did, adjacent property, they naturally did not wish the value of it depreciated by the contemplated, or actual, presence of a colored congregation.

Mr. Sutton said further that he offered Mr. Neal $200 cash on the spot not to consider even any offer from these colored church people, which he refused, and then an offer of $300, in addition to the first $200 was made Mr. Neal, making an advance of $500 on the purchase price for the property, and this offer was promptly accepted.

Mr. Sutton says that his neighborhood sentiment was very strong against having any colored church there, and he would have paid the whole amount out of his own pocket rather than have such a thing occur.

STAR COURSE Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Livingston Barbour the Humorist and Dramatic Reciter Appears To-Night.

Again the members of the Star Course are to enjoy a treat. To-night Mr. Barbour, professor of elocution and oratory at Rutgers College, New Jersey, will appear in "A Christmas Carol." As hearts young and old begin to look to the coming of the great day of joy, it is fitting that the theme of this entertainer should be so fittingly selected. Both the first and second number of this year's course attracted good audiences, and the reserved seat chart predicts an excellent audience for to-night. Good seats can be secured at the office to-day or at the box-office to-night.

Mr. Barbour has established a wide reputation in his line, and the fact that the distinguished Rev. Dr. Willitucham will introduce him will add pleasure to the event.

ENGINEER INJURED.

Mr. D. S. B. Jones Frightfully Scalded at Crewe.

Mr. D. S. B. Jones, an engineer on the Norfolk and Western railway, and brother of Justine F. B. Jones, of this city, sustained a painful accident, which will probably result in the loss of his left eye, while on his engine at Crewe Tuesday afternoon. The engineer was standing in the cab when a defective lubricator exploded. His face was scalded by the escaping steam in a frightful manner. After receiving some relief at the hands of a local physician, the engineer was brought to Richmond, and is now under the treatment of Dr. White. Mr. Jones is one of the best-known engineers in Virginia, and was to have attended the session of the Grand Lodge of Masons, now in session here, being Master of the Masonic lodge at Crewe. His family residence is in Petersburg.

A $1,000 GIFT.

A Handsome Donation to the Richmond Theological Seminary.

The Richmond Theological Seminary, familiarly known as Dr. Corey's School, receives, under the will of the late Rev. Dr. S. F. Smith, of Boston, $1,000.

Dr. Smith is well known to every American as the author of the hymn, "My Country, 'tis of Thee."

He was a philanthropist as well as poet, and makes this handsome donation to the theological training school for the negro preachers of the South located here.

A Big Deed of Trust.

A deed of trust was recorded yesterday in the clerk's office of the Chancery Court by the Mason Telephone and Manufacturing Company as trustees to secure the payment of bonds amounting to $5,000. The bonds are for $500 each, and bear 6 per cent. interest per annum.

Look Out for Forgeries.

Some unknown person is flooding the city with orders purporting to be signed by Captain Thomas C. Cunningham, of the firm Thomas Cunningham, Sr. The Captain hopes that some one will arrest the party presenting orders purporting to be signed by him.

A BICYCLE ORDINANCE.

WHEELMEN TO USE LANTERNS AND NOT RIDE TOO FAST.

The Resolution Donating to Company F Association the Broad Street Lot Adopted—Other Matters.

An adjourned meeting of the Common Council was held in the Council chamber last night at 8 o'clock for the purpose of disposing of the unfinished business. The following members answered to the roll-call: Messrs. Blanks, Briggs, Brook, Carter, Cauble, Cottrell, Davis, Deane, Epps, Grimes, Gunst, Lauderkin, Lawder, McDowell, Trower, Wallerstein, Woody, and President Glover.

The Council concurred in the action of the Board of Aldermen, providing that the City Attorney shall prepare a bill of betterments to be submitted to the Council before it is presented to the Legislature.

The same action was taken in regard to an ordinance providing the persons or companies applying for the use of the streets of the city shall deposit a bond with the city authorities for $10,000, which bond is to be forfeited if the privilege asked for is not made use of in a reasonable time.

BICYCLE ORDINANCE.

The following ordinance in regard to the riding of bicycles or trikycles was submitted by the City Attorney:

1. Every person over ten years of age is prohibited from riding a bicycle or tricycle on any highway in the city, or in a public park or square of the city, within or without its limits, without having attached to the handle thereof a gong or bell, which can be distinctly heard at a distance of thirty yards, from riding on any sidewalk or footway in such highway, park, or square; from riding after dark without having attached to said tricycle or bicycle a lighted lamp; from riding at a greater rate of speed than six miles an hour when turning a corner or more than eight miles an hour at any other time; from riding crosswise or carrying to and fro on any such highway or foot-path; from riding without having his or her feet on the pedals and proper control of the machine with his or her hands; from riding with more than two other persons abreast.

2. Every person over ten years of age shall ring the bell attached to his or her machine when about to turn a corner or whenever necessary to warn a person of the approach of said machine. Every person shall pass to the right of any vehicle going in an opposite direction, and pass to the left of a vehicle going in the same direction.

3. A person on horseback or the driver of any vehicle shall ride or drive to the right when meeting a tricycle or tricycle and to the left when going in the same direction.

4. Any person violating any provision or requirement of this ordinance shall be liable to a fine of not less than two nor more than one hundred dollars.

On motion of Mr. Gunst, the matter was referred to the Committee on Ordinances, to report the same at the next regular meeting.

ADVERSE REPORT.

President Glover submitted the resignation of Mr. Thomas B. Murphy as member of the Council from Jefferson Ward, which was accepted.

He also submitted a communication from the School Board, stating that it would not be advisable to erect a branch high school building on Church Hill. An estimate was enclosed setting forth that the erection of a building like the Central School building, with fourteen rooms, would cost $35,500 and its running expenses $1,500 per year, while a structure like the Randolph-Street building, with eight rooms, would cost $22,500, and its running expenses $1,100 per year.

President Glover also presented an invitation from A. Saks & Co. to view their wonderful oil painting, "After the Storm." The invitation was accepted.

Mr. Blanks offered a resolution asking the Board of Police Commissioners to report on the expediency of erecting a new station-house for the Third Police precinct, and to suggest a site and present an estimate of the cost. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Blanks also presented a resolution providing for a special committee of three members of the Common Council and two members of the Board of Aldermen, who, with the City Attorney, should prepare an ordinance providing for an increase of the number of the wards in the city by dividing City ward. It was adopted.

Mr. Blanks, at his request, was relieved from further service on the Committee on Third Market.

Mr. Briggs presented an ordinance providing that licensed dealers in the three markets shall be allowed during the months of November, December, and January to sell fresh meats, such as spare ribs, etc. The matter was referred to a joint session of the three market committees.

Mr. Cottrell offered a resolution providing that $1,500 be appropriated for the continuent fund to be used in paying the semi-annual interest on the debt of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical Society. The matter was referred to the Finance Committee.

COMPANY F'S LOT.

Mr. Epps, on behalf of the Committee on Grounds and Buildings, presented a resolution recommending that the lot owned by the city at the intersection of Broad and Adams streets and Brook avenue be set aside for a site where Company F Association may be permitted to erect a monument. Mr. Epps stated that the Board of Fire Commissioners had declined the lot as a site for an engine-house. A motion to lay the matter on the table was lost and the resolution adopted.

Mr. Grimes presented a petition from a large number of property owners on Lester street, Fulton, who ask that that thoroughfare be widened from Ash to Louisiana street. The matter was referred to the Committee on Streets.

Mr. Wallerstein offered a resolution instructing the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance revoking the franchise of the Manchester Railway and Improvement Company as far as the route on Fourteenth, College, and Marshall streets is concerned. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Wallerstein offered a resolution presenting to the management of the Southern Railway Company the necessity of erecting a new passenger building in this city.

The Council then adjourned on account of the lack of a quorum.

Lieutenant Starke Resigned.

The resignation of Lieutenant Thomas H. Starke as junior first lieutenant of the Richmond Howitzers has been accepted by the Governor, and Corporal Frederick D. Minson has been elected secretary of the battery, which position has been held by Lieutenant Starke.

Lieutenant Starke has been a member of the Howitzers for about fourteen years, and has served in regular order from a private to his late position. He was a typical soldier, and both the battery and the volunteer forces of the State lose a valuable officer. The Lieutenant says that he has long contemplated this move, but could not bring himself to the point of parting with his old comrades until he found that it was absolutely impossible for him to continue longer in the service on account of his accumulated business.

While he would no longer be an officer in active service, yet he would always cherish the memories of his connection with the battery, and intended entering on the retired list, which would still identify him with the battery.

A Secretary of Commerce.

Hon. John A. Harwood, chairman of the National Legislative Committee of the Travellers' Protective Association of America, is now engaged in preparing an interesting bill which will be presented to Congress. Congress will be petitioned to create a cabinet portfolio whose duty it shall be to guard the domestic and foreign commercial interests of the United States, to collect information and statistics to that end and in every way to promote commercial interests in this country, and commercial relations between this and all foreign countries. The travelling men want a special department or bureau created to be presided over by a secretary of commerce.

RECEIVER AND THIEF.

Both in the Clutches of the Law for Their Misdeeds—Other Arrests.

A. Koplan, who conducts a small second-hand clothing store on Seventeenth street, near Main, was arrested yesterday by Officers Hall, Gibson, and Wren, on the charge of receiving stolen goods. Ever since the robbery of the store of A. Marks, in Manchester, these officers have been at work on the case. While looking for these they found in Koplan's place a lot of goods belonging to the Jefferson Hotel.

Mr. Ainslie, of the firm of managers of the hotel, was notified, and promptly identified them as his property. Most of the haul embraced table-cloths, sheets, bed-spreads, pillow-cases, and other linen. In several pieces, the beautifully marked goods were cutand mutilated so as to avoid identification.

Koplan is locked up in the First police station charged with receiving stolen goods.

About 7:15 last night a negro named Alexander Holden was arrested by Officers Johnson and Hulcher while attempting to sell a lot of table-cloths, also the property of the Jefferson, to Koplan. He was taken to the First station and locked up.

A man named Grant Sims was also arrested yesterday by Officers Hall, Gibson, and Wren, charged with stealing a lot of hats some time since from the store of Stokes & Simmons, on Fourteenth street. He was locked up at the Second station.

Lloyd Sales was also arrested yesterday and lodged in the First station by Officer Goodman, charged with stealing a silver watch and overcoat from Robert Brown.

A. M. Folkes came in yesterday at the First station, complaining that he was bitten by a dog while passing the house of Josephine Jones (colored), who lives at 418 Seventeenth street, the dog belonging to the woman. The dog bit Mr. Folkes through his trousers, shoe, and stocking on the angle. He left the station for a physician, and will report the dog to the authorities to be killed.

THE NELSON CASE DISMISSED.

Commonwealth Attorney Smith Makes a Motion to That Effect in Police Court.

When the case of Samuel B. Nelson was called in the Police Court yesterday Commonwealth's Attorney H. M. Smith, Jr., moved that the charge recorded against Mr. Nelson, the larceny of $3,136.25 from the State Bank, be dismissed. Justice Crutchfield complied with the request.

In speaking of the case later in the day, Mr. Smith said: "I do not think it is right for me to prosecute this man," said he, "and further prosecution on my part would be nothing less than that. I have presented three indictments, and two grand juries have declined to return a true bill against him. In the court of this city since the war has there occurred the case of a man being investigated on charges by a second grand jury, after the failure of one grand jury to indict him, until now."

Other cases disposed of in the Police Court yesterday were as follows:

The case of Delia Dupes and Ed. Dupes, charged with harboring the wife and children of W. T. Burnett, was dismissed.

Jack McDonough was fined $2.50 for being drunk and disorderly in Kelley's bar-room.

W. T. Burnett was fined $10 for assaulting and beating Mrs. C. E. Burnett, his wife.

Monroe Haskins (colored) was also fined $10 for a similar offence.

Lewis Ellis (colored) was fined $10 for fast driving.

Homeopathic Clinical Club.

The Homeopathic Clinical Club met on last Tuesday evening at the office of Dr. A. L. Marcy, No. 112 east Main street. The meeting was called to order by President Stone. All the members were present at the roll-call. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved, after which several business propositions were introduced and disposed of.

Dr. E. C. Williams then took the floor and introduced several clinical cases, all of which proved to be of much interest and very edifying to the members of the club. Each case was discussed at length, and the hours slipped by so pleasantly that it lacked not one hour of midnight when the club adjourned.

Dr. George L. Stone was appointed as essayist for the next meeting night, the first Tuesday in January, in the office of Dr. E. C. Williams, 406 east Grace street.

Bare Convicts.

The following convicts were delivered at the penitentiary yesterday:

By Sheriff J. A. Switzer, of Rockingham—John Beales (colored), sentenced to four years' imprisonment for grand larceny; Turner Green (colored), sentenced to one year for third conviction of petit larceny.

By Sheriff R. R. Turnbull, of Brunswick county—Samuel Jones (colored), sentenced to two years for house-breaking.

By Sheriff J. W. Hontenstine, of Washington county—Lizzie Brownlow, sentenced to two years for malicious assault.

By City Sergeant C. W. Rogers, of Charlottesville: James Johnson (colored), sentenced to two years for grand larceny; Alex. Clarke (colored), sentenced to two years for felony.

"Ways and Means."

At the regular meeting of the Ladies' Board of the Virginia Hospital on Monday last the following ladies were appointed a committee on ways and means: Mrs. Dr. Cowardin, Mrs. Edgar Taylor, Mrs. Stephen Putney, Mrs. J. Bell Bigger, Mrs. Charles L. Todd, Mrs. H. D. Hotchkiss, Mrs. George R. McAdams, Mrs. Hugh M. Taylor, Mrs. Scott Parrish, Mrs. Thos. F. Jeffress, Mrs. J. Allison Hodges, with Mrs. Ashby Weller as chairman.

The Ways and Means Committee of the Virginia Hospital will meet at Mrs. Stephen Putney's, 821 west Franklin street, at 12 M. Thursday, December 5th. Business of immediate importance. Mrs. Ashby Weller is chairman.

Confederate Memorial Society.

The next regular meeting of the Confederate Memorial Literary Society will be held on Friday, December 6th, at 12 M., in the building which will hereafter be its home, the residence of the late President Jefferson Davis during the war.

THE WOMAN'S BIBLE.

THE W. C. T. U. TAKE NO STOCK IN THE NEW FANGLED BOOK.

The Old One is Good Enough for Them. Proceedings of the Quarterly District Conference of the Order Yesterday.

The District Convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union met in the parlors of the Y. M. C. A. in quarterly session yesterday morning at 10:30 o'clock. Mrs. J. T. Jelson, district president, was in the chair. The opening religious services were conducted by Mrs. M. B. Lee. The attendance was large, both morning and afternoon, and reports of work most satisfactory.

THE FLOWER MISSION.

At 11:30 Mrs. Whitehead read a paper on "Spirituality in the Flower Mission." At 12 the noonday hour of prayer was observed, led by Mrs. W. H. Pleasants.

Other outline work was taken up, and great enthusiasm was manifested. Dinner was served on the picnic plan, the convention being entertained by the Richmond W. C. T. U.

The afternoon was taken up by singing by the children and an address by Miss Dyer on the subject of health.

THE OLD ONE GOOD ENOUGH.

A resolution was adopted deploring the issuing of what is known as the "Woman's Bible," emphasizing a determination to have nothing to do with any effort, for personal or sex aggrandisement or otherwise, to amend the Holy