THE LABOR QUESTION.

DEBATE BEGUN IN THE HOUSE.

Bill to Put the Penitentiary Convicts at Work on Public Roads and Local Railroads—Amendments and Speeches, &c., &c.

About half-past 1 o'clock yesterday House reached, as its fourth special order, Mr. Van Doran's bill in relation to convict labor, reported from the House Committee on Prisons and Asylums (Mr. Echols chairman) in the form following:

A BILL TO EMPLOY CONVICT LABOR ON COUNTY ROADS AND OTHER WORKS OF INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

Whereas the convicts in the State penitentiary should be so employed as to lessen the burdens of the tax-payer and to relieve the free workingman of unjust competition; and whereas good county roads, and roads, are most potent factors in the development of the resources of a State, and therefore add more than any other means to her taxable value; now, therefore,

1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That the Governor be, and he is hereby authorized to furnish to the board of supervisors of any county in the State convicts whose terms of service at the time of the application for them do not exceed five years to work on the public roads of the counties, under such conditions as to safe-keeping as the Governor and said boards of supervisors may agree upon.

2. The said convicts shall be transported from and returned to the penitentiary, and shall be fed, guarded, and furnished with medical attention at the expense of the counties while in their charge.

3. The said boards of supervisors shall have power to employ such agents, overseers, and guards as they may deem necessary for the safe-keeping and proper management of the convicts in their charge, and such agents, overseers, and guards shall have the same authority to compel labor, to enforce obedience, and to prevent escape as the agents or officers of the same grade in the State penitentiary.

4. After providing for all demands under the foregoing sections, the Governor is hereby authorized to hire to any railroad company in this State to which counties are subscribers any convicts which may be in the penitentiary, or who may be employed in any quarry or on any railroad to which counties are not subscribers, whose term of service at the time of application for them does not exceed ten years: Provided existing contracts can be lawfully cancelled.

5. The said convicts shall be fed, clothed, guarded and furnished with medical attention and medicine by the State while at work for said companies, and the said companies shall pay the cost of transporting said convicts from and returning them to the penitentiary, and shall furnish suitable quarters for them while on their works, and in addition shall pay forty cents for each day's labor actually performed; and the State shall receive the amount ascertained to be due at the end of each quarter in the bonds of the counties subscribed to said companies.

6. The railroads projected to run through counties without railroads, and through those having the least number of miles of taxable railroad shall be first supplied. After all demands coming under the foregoing provisions have been filled the Governor may hire, at his discretion, all remaining convicts, should there be any, to any contractor, to be employed on any work of internal improvement in the State on the same conditions, except that the State shall receive as compensation therefor not less than eighty cents per day, in lawful money, for each day's labor actually performed.

7. All railroad companies or other works of internal improvement which may avail themselves of the provisions of this act thereby agree to pay all taxes, dues, and demands due to the State that may hereafter be assessed against them in lawful money of the United States, and not in coupons.

8. All taxes levied on and collected from the aforesaid county bonds by the counties whose bonds have been paid to the State as hereinbefore provided shall be turned into the Treasury of the State and placed to the credit of the interest and principal of the aforesaid county bonds, and all bonds received by the State under the provisions of this act shall be set apart for the public-school fund, and shall be used for no other purpose.

9. All acts and parts of acts that conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

10. This act shall be in force from its passage.

MR. WADDILL DISLIKES THE BILL.

Mr. Waddill offered a substitute for the whole bill. He proposed to allow the counties to have the convicts to work on their public roads because that is a sort of labor which poor men are now forced to do, but he was opposed to allowing railroad corporations to have use of them, and that to the exclusion of honest labor. He spoke at great length, claiming that this question is of more interest than any now before this Legislature. He did not think the bill proposed worth the paper it is written on, as its passage would only perpetuate the curse that should be destroyed. He hoped the mechanics would be protected, but it could not be done by the Van Doran bill.

MR. WADDILL AND MR. CARTER.

Mr. Carter, of Richmond: May I interrupt the gentleman?

Mr. Waddill: Certainly.

Mr. Carter: You appear to be such a warm friend of the mechanic and the workingman, may I venture to ask why is it that you do not propose to abrogate the present contracts? It does not seem to me that the gentleman deals very clearly with that subject.

Mr. Waddill: It simply shows that the gentleman has not read my bill. I do provide for that.

Mr. Waddill read from his substitute a provision that it shall be the duty of the Governor to declare the contracts null and void under certain regulations. His idea was that every contract that could be abrogated should be abrogated, and every contract that hasn't been carried out in good faith and according to its terms shall be forfeited.

A PUZZLE.

Mr. Munford: May I interrupt the gentleman?

Mr. Waddill: Certainly.

Mr. Munford: Then I ask whence comes this new-born zeal on the part of the Republicans of this House? How is it that they are now such zealous friends of the workingmen? Was it not your Governor, was it not your Republican Board of Directors, that two years before these contracts were out renewed them for five years? Now, will the gentleman answer that?

Mr. Waddill: What he asks is a mere make-shift to relieve him. If it was a Republican Board and a Republican Governor that renewed these contracts, there was a Democratic Superintendent equally responsible. But, suppose Governor Cameron did make that contract and it is wrong, are we not to correct it? The Democratic party—either by fair means or foul—has had possession of this State government for two years and passed everything they wanted to pass, and during all that time contracts were in force. Why did they not abrogate them?

Mr. Munford: But why does your platform endorse the management of the party and claim that it was under Republican management that it was (by means of these contracts) made self-supporting?

Mr. Waddill answered that Governor Cameron had done well, and it was but proper that his official course should be approved by his party.

Mr. Waddill's substitute was rejected by the following vote:

AYES.—Messrs. Acker, Addington, Bandy, Faulcon, Hurt, Jones, W. H. Jordan, McCandlish, Marsh, Southworth, Waddill, Webb, and Wise—13.

NOES.—Messrs. Arnold, Black, Bolen, Brown, Buchanan, Burks, Cardwell, Carter, Chalmers, Cornett, Crismond, Dabney, Downing, Dunlop, Dupuy, Echols, Fentress, Figgat, L. D. Fulkerson, Hay, Holladay, C. F. Jordan, W. I. Jordan, Leftwich, Lightner, Moss, Miller, Munford, Noblin, O'Bannon, Payne, Peters, Pollard, Rice, Roberts, Row, Ryan, Saunders, Schoolfield, Smith, Starke, Stribling, Taliaferro, Terry, Tillar, Turner, and Mr. Speaker—47.

COUNTY JUDGE.

Mr. Cardwell moved an amendment which provided that all contracts made by the board of supervisors of any county shall be approved by the judge of the County Court. Agreed to.

MACADAMIZED ROADS, &C.

Mr. Fulkerson, of Washington county, moved an amendment so to provide (in substance) that counties to which convicts have been furnished may, if they are so disposed, make arrangements by which the convicts they have obtained can be worked on turnpikes or macadamized roads.

It might be, he said, that a county, after doing what work it could on *public* roads—or possibly in preference to doing any work on public roads—would prefer to put half-finished or disused turnpikes or macadamized roads in condition. Back of his county, for instance, are a number of counties that have no railroads, and the roads which lead from these counties to the nearest railroads are wretched affairs. Now, if a county wishes to use convicts to improve their communication with railroads, he desired that they should have that privilege.

A member: Are those roads to charge tolls?

Mr. Fulkerson: That depends; they may or may not.

Mr. Echols observed that it seemed to him that the amendment was so latitudinous that it would allow in the most direct way the employment of convict labor in competition with, and to the exclusion of honest labor.

NO "PARLOR BOARDERS."

Mr. Buchanan: If you go to that, you can't work a convict anywhere that he will not interfere with the honest laborer. Now, in this case if, for example, Russell county has no railroad, and has no money to pay honest labor to open up her highways to the railroads, why shouldn't she have the use of these convicts in the only way possible to benefit her? In our section we are willing to take them and work them, and who has got any right to object?

Mr. Buchanan went on to declare that these convicts must be made to work in some way. The State could not maintain them as "parlor boarders." He thought the object aimed at was to take the convicts away from competition with the skilled labor of the cities. We must do something. All labor is honest and honorable whether skilled or unskilled, and I would have the convict worked where he will do the least damage, *but he must work somewhere!* To support him in idleness our people will never agree.

Mr. Echols: I was referring to such turnpike companies as the Valley and the Parkersburg companies. I did not have in mind the section of the State to which the gentlemen refers and my objection does not lie in that quarter.

HOW "TIMES HAVE CHANGED."

Mr. Saunders, of Franklin, said that inside and outside of this House he had heard advanced many impracticable ideas on the subject of convict labor. There is now a great clamor against convict labor. Gentlemen old as he is could not fail to observe what a change of sentiment there had been on this question. He could well remember when the penitentiary was regarded as a valuable institution; when the people were encouraged to feel a pride in it, because they were told that the convicts would go there and learn a trade, and when they were discharged would come out and return to their homes with something to depend upon, and would become useful citizens. It was looked upon in those days as a reformatory. Now all is changed. The gentlemen from the cities say "do not let the convicts come into competition with skilled labor," and yet if there is any labor in the world that needs protection it is the unskilled labor. The penitentiary is a burden, and the simple question is, "How shall we get rid of this burden?"

A few years ago we were called upon by the Republicans to admire their statesmanship in making the penitentiary a "self-sustaining institution"; they claimed that they had done it. Now they come here singing another tune.

For one, Mr. Sanders was not to be moved by this clamor. If he were to go back to his constituents—to those plain, hard-working, countrymen—and tell them that he had voted to stop the convicts from working they would be tempted to say, "D—n the Knights of Labor: we must take care of ourselves and they must take of themselves." [Great laughter.] It is not a local question at all; it is a great State question, and we must so employ the convict as to do the most public good. If they can do most good on the railroads why put them there, but he had sometimes thought that a better plan would be to employ them in the penitentiary and give what they earn above expenses to the aid of the communities that most need it.

"I utterly repudiate," said Mr. Saunders, "the idea that we have got to work the convicts where they won't come into conflict with some form of honest labor. It can't be done, and the two political parties in this State could have better employed their time than in putting this plank in their platform."

At the conclusion of Mr. Saunders's speech—at 2:45—the House adjourned to meet at 11 o'clock to-morrow.

The Convict-Labor Bill in the Senate.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Ellyson moved that the Committee on Public Institutions be discharged from the further consideration of his bill to prevent the competition of convict with skilled labor, and that it be made the special order for next Thursday at 1 o'clock.

Mr. Rhea opposed the motion, and said the bill was under consideration by a special sub-committee which would report in a day or two.

Mr. Heaton said that he hoped the motion would not prevail. He thought that the bill would get along faster in the committee than it would if presented at this time in the Senate.

Mr. Ellyson in support of his motion said that on the second day of the session he had introduced a resolution requesting the committee to prepare a bill on this subject. He had waited six weeks and nothing was done. On the 19th of January he had introduced a bill to prevent this injurious and unfair competition of convict with free labor. That bill was referred to the Committee on Public Institutions, where it has been three weeks, and yet the committee is not ready to report. He thought the committee had had time enough to consider this subject and he wanted the bill discussed in the Senate. It was a most important question and should have the prompt and favorable consideration of the Senate.

A vote was taken and the motion of Mr. Ellyson was lost. It is understood, however, that the committee will report to-morrow.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

Big Meeting Held Last Night—Conference Proposed.

A largely-attended meeting of Knights of Labor was held at Wilkinson Hall last night, and the boycott of Baughman Brothers by the Typographical Union was discussed and fully approved.

A letter was received from a committee signing themselves "The Business Committee" of the citizens' meeting, asking for a conference with representatives of the Knights of Labor at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday night at 6 o'clock, and the Knights decided to accept the invitation, and a committee of the Assembly was appointed to meet them.

Leading men of the Assembly state that they have always been ready and, indeed, eager to confer with the business people upon all matters of public interest, and they regret that the merchants did not take action of this nature before the recent proceedings in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce.

It is to be hoped that the two committees will have a friendly and pleasant meeting, and that great good will grow out of it.

It is *not* the Chamber of Commerce the Knights are dealing with. The Chamber has never had this subject under consideration, beyond giving the use of their rooms to the merchants' meeting Thursday night.

CAPTAIN OSCAR F. WEISIGER.

Sudden Death of This Worthy Citizen; Aged Sixty-six Years.

Yesterday morning at 8 o'clock Captain O. F. Weisiger, an old and respected citizen of Richmond, died at his residence, No. 904 east Marshall street. He had been complaining for several days, but no serious results were apprehended. He was on the street Thursday in apparently good health. Friday night he retired about 9 o'clock, and as morning approached he grew much worse and became unconscious about 4 o'clock. Drs. Beale and Moore were sent for, and they used every possible means to restore consciousness, but without avail, and at 8 o'clock he died. His death was caused by apoplexy.

Mr. Weisiger had been in the clothing business in this city for about thirty-five years, and at the time of his death was the senior member of the firm of Messrs. O. F. Weisiger & Co., doing business on Governor street.

Deceased was born in this city on the 28th of April, 1820. When about eighteen years of age he engaged in the dry-goods business as a clerk with Mr. Mann S. Valentine, on Broad street. After that he was for a number of years in the shoe business. He then went into the clothing business with Mr. Silas Merchant, from Newark, N. J., under the firm-name of Merchant & Weisiger. Just before the war he and Mr. Q. M. Wood conducted a dry-goods business. After the war the firm became Weisiger & Co., composed of O. F. Weisiger and Charles Stebbins. This firm finally (about ten years ago) gave way to the present partnership of O. F. Weisiger & Co., composed of O. F. Weisiger, W. H. Weisiger (his son), and D. O. Tiffany, of Plainfield, N. J.

During the war Mr. Weisiger was captain in the Quartermaster's Department, and had charge of the Manufacturing Bureau of Clothing for the Confederate troops.

He was one of the oldest survivors of what was known as the Shockoe church, which merged into the present Centenary Methodist church, of which he had been a consistent member for forty-seven years.

In disposition Mr. Weisiger was cheerful, affectionate, and gentle. His aim was to make his home pleasant and cheerful for his family. His children looked upon him as a companion, and his entrance into his home always tended to dismiss care and trouble. He leaves a family of ten children—six sons and four daughters. His wife died during the war. Four of the sons are married—William H., Oscar F., Herbert E., and Charles.

Mr. Weisiger was a member of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Bible Society and a director of the National Bank of Virginia.

In his death Richmond loses one of her most prominent citizens—one who had the interest of the city at heart, and his demise will be mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives.

His funeral will take place to-morrow at 12 o'clock from Centenary church. The funeral will be attended by Joppa Lodge, No. 2, of Masons, and Richmond Commandery, No. 2, Knights Templars, of both of which orders deceased was a member.

LETTERS OF GEN. R. E. LEE.

Interesting Documents Showing His Purpose to Free Certain Slaves.

The originals of the following readable papers are the property of C. F. Johnston, Esq., of this city, who has also the envelope in which they were mailed. On the upper right-hand corner was written "*R. E. Lee, General*," which was a frank that would have carried the letter through the mails free; but General Lee, as if seeming to remember that it was on private and not public business, and with that conscientiousness which distinguished his life, attached beneath the frank two five-cent Confederate postage-stamps, which were duly cancelled by the postmaster:

CAMP FREDERICKSBURG,
January 3, 1863.

My Dear Sir.—Mr. Charles Scott telegraphed me from Lynchburg yesterday that he had there six of the men belonging to the estate of G. W. P. Custis. I have requested him to send them to you. Will you be kind enough to send me their names and endeavor to aid them in getting employment for their support? It is my intention to liberate them as soon as the papers can be prepared. Their wages are for their use. Will you inform them and give them such advice as may tend to their benefit?

I have written also to Mr. James K. Caskie to aid me in this matter, and will be obliged to you for any suggestion you can give me. I have sent to Mr. Caskie an emancipation deed to have properly recorded on which are the names of all these men as well as the women hired in Richmond. I believe my son, Colonel Custis Lee, spoke to you on this subject, and he may have given you their names and the bonds of those to whom they were hired.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. E. LEE,
Executor G. W. P. Custis.

Mr. E. D. Eacho.

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA.

Know all men by these presents, that I, Robert E. Lee, executor of G. W. P. Custis, do hereby constitute and appoint Mr. E. D. Eacho my true and lawful attorney to collect for me and in my behalf the amounts due for the hire of the negroes of the estate, and to give receipts for the same; and I hereby ratify and confirm his legal acts in the premises as fully as if done by myself. Given under my hand and seal this twenty-seventh day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three.

R. E. LEE. [Seal]
Executor of G. W. P. Custis.

Mr. E. D. Eacho, Richmond, Va.:

Dear Sir.—I send you a power of attorney to collect the hire of negroes belonging to the estate of G. W. P. Custis, which, as stated by my son, you have been kind enough to express your willingness to undertake. Three of the men—Harrison, Reuben, and Parks—have not yet been returned to Richmond, as far as I know. Will you endeavor to ascertain where they are, and get them to Richmond and procure them their free papers? Please place amount collected to my credit in the Bank of Virginia.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
E. E. LEE.

Falling West of Lynchburg.

The river continued to rise all of Friday night and yesterday, and in the afternoon was over the lower James-river wharves and had reached the floor of the Old Dominion freight-sheds. At 10 o'clock last night the water at Lynchburg was 9 feet, at Scottsville 12 feet, and at Columbia 18 feet 7 inches above the usual height. At these points it was at a standstill, and west of Lynchburg was falling.

Mozart To-Morrow Evening.

1. Overture, "Otello," (Rossini,) orchestra. 2. Soprano solo, "Mia Piccirrellar," (Gomez,) Miss A. V. Chappell, of Washington, D.C. 3. Flute solo—Fantasia, "Russian National Air," (Heinemeyer,) Mr. H. L. Farmer. 4. "Adagio and Finale" of the 13th Symphony, (Haydn,) orchestra. 5. Soprano solo, "Wooing," (Streleyki,) Miss A. V. Chappell. 6. Duo—Clarinet and trombone, "Armida," (Rossini,) Messrs. Jardella and Equi. 7. "Fantasia" on German songs, (Strauss,) orchestra.

It is very poor economy to endeavor to relieve a cold by neglecting it, when a 25-cent bottle of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will cure it at once.

OLD POINT.

NEWS IN AND AROUND THE HYGEIA HOTEL.

Phœbus's Latest Improvements—Winter and Spring Season—Army and Naval News—Personal, &c.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

OLD POINT COMFORT, VA.,
February 13, 1886.

The spring season at the Hygeia Hotel is now fairly inaugurated, and gives promise of being the most brilliant in its history. A formal opening took place on the 1st instant, when a ball was given, at which the officers and ladies of the garrison joined with the guests and had a most enjoyable evening. The fine band of the Artillery School has been engaged for the season and now affords nightly music for the guests who may desire to dance. The ice embargo has delayed to some extent the arrivals anticipated during the past week; but now that navigation is open the house will be crowded before the end of the month.

There have been a number of changes—and all for the better—made here since the close of the summer season. The old Turkish-bath room has been torn away, and a new one, with all the latest improvements and about three times as large, replaces it. This also includes a handsome marble pool for a plunge-bath, and is now one of the most complete to be found anywhere. The intermediate parlor adjoining the pavilion—where the chaperons sit and chat, while their charges dance and flirt with the officers—has been greatly enlarged. The pool-room and music-room have been torn away and their space utilized; a new chimney of a triangular form replaces the old one; the windows are furnished with handsome stained glass, giving it "a dim, religious light," and the room is handsomely carpeted and furnished throughout. The front of the hotel has also been very much improved by a concrete pavement, extending from the wharf past the house and across the street, while the roadway has been filled in with crushed granite, giving it a clean and neat appearance. In addition to this the house has been repainted inside and out, and is as clean as a new pin from cellar to garret.

Matters at the post have been quiet during the winter, the officers pursuing their studies closely—the only break in the monotony being an occasional theatrical performance given by the officers and ladies of the garrison in the hop-room.

Governor Woodfin, at the Soldier's Home, is looking after the sixteen hundred odd inmates now at that institution and using his best efforts to hurry up the new hospital-building, which is approaching completion as rapidly as the weather will admit.

The Normal School at Hampton has a large attendance, and is pursuing the ever tenor of its way. General Armstrong, the energetic principal, is always glad to see visitors, and takes a pardonable pride in the progress made by the scholars.

The sad news of General Hancock's death was a shock to his many friends at the post, both in and out of the army. He was personally known to nearly every officer at the post, and there is but one expression among them—that of regret at the loss of so gallant an officer and heartfelt sympathy for his bereaved family. The writer of these lines served for six months as cipher operator at his headquarters, and always found him "a plain, blunt man, who loved his friends."

Right Rev. Bishop Stevens, of Philadelphia, accompanied by his wife and daughter and Dr. Mitchell and daughter, arrived here this morning on a visit. The Bishop has been ill for some time, and a change being advisable, the physician ordered him to come here. In order that he might accomplish the journey with as little fatigue as possible President Roberts, of the Pennsylvania Central, tendered him the use of his private car, which the party entered last evening in Philadelphia and stepped out of at the wharf here this morning, the car being on board the steamer Cape Charles.

Colonel Richard Lodor, Third artillery, a classmate of Governor Lee, and one of the efficient corps of instructors at the Artillery School, has been ordered to New York as a member of a board to examine and report upon the merits of the Zalinsky dynamite gun, with a view to its adoption by the Government. Colonel Lodor is not the kind of a man to submit a report that is not in strict accordance with the facts, and if the gun has merit or demerit it will be known.

Captain Charles A. Rooth, assistant quartermaster, left last Monday for Cincinnati to attend a meeting of the Loyal Legion of Honor, now in session in that city.

Dr. J. C. Bailey, post surgeon, left last evening for Westchester, Pa., to visit his aged father, who is in delicate health.

Mr. Charles Bliver, of Portsmouth, Va., has been awarded the contract for making repairs to the wharves at the post, the consideration being about $6,000; work to commence April 1st. Mr. Libbey, member of Congress from this district, is endeavoring to secure an appropriation sufficient to rebuild the main wharf, with iron piles, stone piers, &c., which is very much needed, as the tide makes short work of the wooden piles in these waters. He also has a bill to erect a new post-office here, and I think any of your readers who have seen the old one, will join me in saying "'tis a consummation devoutly to be wished." B.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

Mr. Carlisle and Internal-Revenue Reform—The Education Bill—House Employees—Personal Notes.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 13.

A southern congressman whose opinion is worth repeating says he has carefully sought to ascertain the prospect for legislation by this Congress for reforms in the internal-revenue laws, or for their repeal, and he is confident nothing can be hoped for. Mr. Carlisle has told him, almost in the very words, that he does not expect or desire a reduction of internal-revenue taxes by this Congress; and he appears to have framed the Ways and Means Committee with especial reference to avoiding the least risk of its being done. Only two Democratic members of that committee are known to be in favor of affording any relief in that direction, and with the chairman of the committee and the Speaker against them, they can do nothing. "In this matter," he continued, "in which Virginia, North Carolina, and other States are so deeply interested, far more than they are in the tariff revision, Mr. Randall is and has been our faithful friend, as he has been on many other important questions. Yet I see some of our southern papers never lose an opportunity to abuse Randall and magnify Carlisle. Now, I am a friend of Carlisle's—I voted for him for Speaker—but the South never had a truer friend, or one with more courage and ability to bring to the support of our interests, than Mr. Randall."

THE EDUCATION BILL.

I have also tried to ascertain the outlook for the passage of the educational bill, and I am not encouraged. Virginians want the General Government to aid the States in the cause of education. The whole South is in favor of it—needs it. But so far as I can ascertain the Speaker is opposed to it, and has appointed a committee that will smother it. I shall be glad if it turns out that I am mistaken, but I believe my view of the situation is correct. It is certain that the Blair bill would have been passed by the Forty-eighth Congress if Mr. Carlisle had not refused to recognize members who were anxious to call it up.

HOUSE EMPLOYEES.

The House has ordered a committee to report a plan for a reorganization of all of the branches of the Doorkeeper's department of the House of Representatives. Tucker, Trigg, and Wise voted against the order. But a want of system and lack of business methods in the Doorkeeper's department has existed for years, and the need for reformation therein is believed to be very desirable. The reorganization was ordered at the suggestion of Mr. Cox, of North Carolina.

MINOR MATTERS.

A distinguished southern representative, who mentally and physically resembles the late General Toombs, has received the following letter: "Dear Colonel,—Bust the coinage bill, use every economy for the Government, but send me more seed and occasionally something interesting to read."

P. Gallagher, of Wythe, has been confirmed by the Senate as Indian agent at Fort Hall, Idaho, and has gone home to arrange his bond and prepare to go to his post of duty.

George Lafferty, son of Rev. Dr. Lafferty, being an applicant for appointment as one of the official stenographers to committees of the House, was put to the test by being assigned to report a speech delivered before the Naval Committee by Captain Lundberg, a Swede, who rapidly addressed the committee in broken English. Captain Lundberg has received Lafferty's report and expresses his entire satisfaction with its accuracy. Mr. Tucker has taken great interest in young Lafferty's appointment.

W. H. Travers, Esq., a prominent lawyer of Charlestown, West Va., was in the city to-day on professional business.

DROPPED DEAD.

Sad Death of a Lady Near Abingdon.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

ABINGDON, VA., February 13.—Miss Kate Ackland, a cousin of ex-Congressman Ackland, of Louisiana, dropped dead this evening about 8 o'clock near town. She was in apparent good health, and was in the family circle of her brother-in-law, Mr. Caleb Baugh, in whose family she had resided for a number of years. She complained of a sudden and severe pain in her forehead. She arose to go to her room and remarked that the pain had left her forehead and gone to the back of her neck. She went to her room, just across the hall, and soon was heard to fall upon the floor. Her sister went to her at once and found her lying upon the floor on her face. Medical aid was called, but she had breathed her last before the physician arrived.

Fire in Accomack.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

ONANCOCK, February 12, 1886.

News received from Leemont, a thriving village some miles north of Accomack Courthouse, reports that the storehouse of D. H. Johnson caught fire there several nights ago and narrowly escaped being entirely destroyed. Timely assistance saved the building, but the stock of goods was damaged to the amount of several thousand dollars, which was partially insured. The fire was accidental.

Sheriff Wise left yesterday for Richmond with J. Revell Sturgis, recently sentenced to five years in the penitentiary for killing G. S. G. Mears.

KALLIAS.

Death of Rev. D. B. Ewing, D. D.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

PETERSBURG, February 13, 1886.

Rev. Daniel B. Ewing, D. D., an eminent divine of the Presbyterian Church, died at his residence, in this city, about noon to-day, of pneumonia. His illness was only of a few days' duration, having contracted a cold and chill by exposure on Thursday of last week.

Parnell Means what He Says.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

LONDON, February 13.—The *News* states that Mr. Parnell, at Galway, threatened that if Healey and Biggar did not permit him to have his own way in giving the party nomination to Captain O'Shea instead of to Lynch, the local choice, he would resign and retire from public life. Commenting on this fact the *News* says that the Irish leader made it clear that he meant just what he said. The paper adds: "But this game cannot be played too often. This threat is Parnell's last card, and it may some day be trumped by acceptance, and followed of necessity by resignation."

Flood in the Shenandoah.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

HARRISONBURG, VA., February 13.

Rain and warm weather are carrying off immense quantities of snow in the mountains, and it has caused a great rise in all tributaries of the Shenandoah river, and a damaging flood is imminent.

Treasurer Sterling's Shortage.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

HARRISONBURG, VA., February 13.

The shortage in the accounts of S. R. Sterling, late treasurer of this county, it is now thought, will approximate $100,000.

LATE WEATHER REPORT.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, February 14—1 *A. M.—For the Middle Atlantic States, fair weather, slightly warmer in the southern portion, stationary temperature in the northern portion, followed by slightly warmer weather and again during Monday by slightly colder weather, winds generally westerly, preceded by southerly winds.*

For the South Atlantic States, fair, warmer weather, winds generally southwesterly.

For Richmond and vicinity, fair, slightly warmer weather.

The weather in Richmond yesterday was cloudy in the forenoon, followed by clear weather in the afternoon.

Range of Thermometer Yesterday.

6 A. M.	46
9 A. M.	48
Noon	50
3 P. M.	55
6 P. M.	49
Midnight	44
Mean temperature	48⅞

The Academy.

Miss Ethel Tucker closed a successful engagement at the Academy last night, having during the past week appeared in "Queena," "Fanchon," and "The Orphans."

This week, commencing Tuesday, Mr. King Hedley, will appear in Boucicault's sensational melodrama "Bohemians of London; or, After Dark."

THE DEAD SOLDIER.

GEN. HANCOCK'S FUNERAL.

Imposing Parade—Leaving Governor's Island—The Mourners—Signs of Sorrow—Services at the Church.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, February 13.—Between 7 and 8 o'clock this morning a guard of honor detailed by Major Richard H. Jackson, consisting of four sergeants and seven corporals, drew up in front of the General's mansion on Governor's Island. Then came a detachment of 200 soldiers from the several forts and drew up behind them. In the mean time the widow of General Hancock, accompanied by Mrs. Lieutenant Griffin and Mrs. Bouvier, entered the room in which the hero lay and took a parting look at his face. Mrs. Hancock's grief was pitiful.

The coffin-lid was then put in its place and a laurel wreath, brought to this city by Colonel John H. Weeks from the Philadelphia division of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, laid upon it. Six soldiers bearing a black cloth-covered bier came into the room, and placing the coffin upon it bore the body out of the house. A detachment of troops drawn up outside then moved down the path to the "Chester A. Arthur," which, contrary to expectation, was to receive the party instead of the "Osseo."

The army officers who followed the body were Lieutenants Eugene Griffin, Henry Lumley, and John Dupray; Aide-de-Camp, Colonel W. O. B. Beck, Adjutant-General W. B. Whipple, Lieutenant W. B. M. Cullum, General Richard H. Jackson, Colonel J. P. Nicholson, Colonel John Hamilton, Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, Captain Charles Shaler, Judge-Advocate A. B. Gardner, Colonel John H. Weeks, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Avery, Commander T. C. Watson, Chief-Engineer E. D. Robie, and General Swartelle.

The mourners were Lieutenant and Mrs. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Merriam, Mr. and Mrs. Bouvier, Colonel Russell and wife, Mrs. W. F. Ludlow, Mrs. Hancock, on the advice of her friends, did not leave home. Mrs. Bouvier remained with her. It was precisely 9 o'clock when the first gun was fired at Castle William and boomed out over the bay, announcing that the boat was ready to leave her dock. The body had been placed in the cabin; near it sat the mourners and a few of the officers. On deck were gathered officers and soldiers. A moment later the Chester A. Arthur swung out into the stream and steered for the New York shore.

The funeral passed through the lower part of Whitehall street, through State street, passing to the west of Bowling Green; thence up Broadway, and reached Trinity Church at exactly 10 o'clock.

As early as 8 o'clock large crowds had gathered in the neighborhood of Trinity church, and at 9 A. M. almost every seat in the church except those which had been especially reserved was occupied. The edifice bore no traces of mourning save a white cross on a black border which rested upon the pulpit. Various floral gifts were tastefully arranged on the altar-rail, and the interstices of the reading-desk were filled with small floral designs. Among the flower-pieces were a massive star made of roses, the gift of the Loyal Legion, of Brooklyn; a handsome pillow of colored roses from the Old Guard; an elegant cross from Camp No. 1, W. S. Hancock Legion, and a small star, made of violet and roses, the gift of the dead General's three aides-de-camp. A number of eminent civilians began to throng into the church shortly after 9 o'clock. Shortly before 10 o'clock the vestry door was opened, and Sexton Brown emerged at the head of a procession of white-robed choristers, who marched solemnly to their seats within the chancel. Following them came Revs. Arthur, Hill, and Anketell, of Trinity parish

The booming of cannon and solemn pealing of the church-bells announced the arrival of the *cortege* at 10 o'clock, and Sexton Brown preceded Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix and Rev. E. D. Goodwin down the main aisle to the front door, where the casket and pall-bearers were. The procession moved along slowly up the aisle to the altar, the clergymen in front of the casket, and immediately behind them came General Sherman and Secretary-of-State Bayard. As they ascended their way to the chancel the words "I am the resurrection and the life," which came from the minister's lips, were distinctly heard throughout the structure. After the four gentlemen above mentioned came eight stalwart soldiers bearing the magnificent casket, and on either side of the "Boys in Blue" marched the other pall-bearers in the following order: General P. H. Sheridan, General W. B. Franklin, General A. H. Terry, General Nelson A. Miles, General W. F. (Baldy) Smith, General John Newton, General James B. Fry, General J. M. Schofield, General O. B. Wilcox, General Francis Walker, Mr. J. M. Hartshorne, Colonel W. P. Wilson, and Major W. D. W. Miller.

On the casket was the American flag, and on the top of this was General Hancock's sword in its gold scabbard and his major-general's chapeau. Following the pall-bearers came Lieutenant Griffin and his wife, who were dressed in deep mourning, and who led her four-year-old daughter by the hand. With them was little Russell Hancock, grandson of the dead hero. The casket was deposited on the catafalque in front of the altar, and the pall-bearers were allotted the first two pews on either side of the main aisle. The choir then chanted "Lord, Let Me Know My End," after which Rev. E. H. C. Goodwin, of Governor's Island, read the lesson, which was taken from the First Epistle to the Corinthians, 20th verse. The choir then sang "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me," and then gathered around the coffin, where "Croft's" burial-service was rendered in an impressive manner. The anthem "I Heard a Voice from Heaven" was sung by a quartette. Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix then read the Lord's Prayer, after which the funeral procession reformed, and to the strains of the "Dead March in Saul," which was feelingly played by Organist Messiter, marched down the aisle to the main entrance, where the casket was once more placed in the hearse. After the services eight non-commissioned officers lifted the steel casket to their shoulders and replaced it in the hearse. The funeral *cortege* then returned in the same order as before to the Barge office, where the Osseo was in waiting to convey the funeral party to Jersey City, where a special train was waiting to convey the party to Norristown, Pa.

ARRIVAL AT NORRISTOWN.

NORRISTOWN, PA., February 13.—The funeral-train arrived at the Pennsylvania depot at 2:41, draped in mourning.

The procession began to form immediately, and little time was lost in starting to the cemetery. B. E. Chain, Esq., in his private carriage, led the way, followed by the pall-bearers, including Secretaries Bayard and Endicott. Then came the hearse, preceding Burgess White and the Town Council.

The services at the grave consisted simply of a salute of thirteen guns, followed by three salvos. The body was quietly placed in the catacomb by the pall-bearers; after which the mourners dispersed.

HORATIO SEYMOUR.

The Funeral—Telegrams of Condolence.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

UTICA, N. Y., February 13.—The funeral of ex-Governor Seymour will take place from Trinity church, Utica, at 2 P. M. Tuesday, February 16th. President Cleveland telegraphs as follows:

"*Washington, D. C.*, February 13.

I wish the grief of a people who mourn a citizen of national fame and a Christian gentleman of the purest example might lighten the sad bereavement and assuage the sacred sorrow of his stricken wife.

"GROVER CLEVELAND."

Hon. S. J. Tilden telegraphs the following to Hon. John F. Seymour:

New York, February 13.—I learn this morning the sorrowful intelligence that the mortal career of your illustrious brother is closed. Convey to his relatives, and when suitable occasion arrives to Mrs. Seymour, my warm sympathies at their loss. We have the consolation of knowing that he passed away without suffering, in the fulness of years and mind, and amid the largest homage of public esteem.

S. J. TILDEN.

Arrested on the Charge of Embezzlement.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

CINCINNATI, February 13.—John B. Mannix, a lawyer, and until recently assignee of the estate of Archbishop Purcell, deceased, was arrested this afternoon on warrants sworn out by Peter Dwyer, a creditor of the archbishop, in which charges are made of embezzling $350,000 of the estate, and perjury in making false statements in the Probate Court in connection with his report. Mannix was taken before a magistrate, who required bail in the sum of $110,000, and this not being furnished, the prisoner was lodged in the county jail. Some time ago an examination into Mannix's management of the affairs of the Archbishop's estate revealed the fact that a large sum had been lost in the purchase of stock which afterwards depreciated in price. Mannix was removed from his position by the Probate Court at the conclusion of this examination.

Violent Attack on Bismarck.

[By Anglo-American cable to the Dispatch.]

VIENNA, February 13.—Herr Hausner, Galician deputy in the Reichsrath, last evening made a violent attack upon Prince Bismarck's expulsion of the Poles from Prussia. The speech was loudly applauded. This excited Herr Wenger, German deputy, who arose and remarked upon the significance of the fact that Herr Hausner, who was accepted as spokesman of his party, which was conspicuous for pretending to advocate Austro-German alliance, should receive applause from that same party for publicly abusing the German Chancellor. Herr Wenger declared that he could not but regard the occurrence as the inauguration of a war against the German side of the house.

High Water in Pennsylvania.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

HARRISBURG, PA., February 13.—A break in the ice in the Susquehanna at this point occurred this morning.