THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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BURNING QUESTIONS.

Will the Force Bill Be Passed by the Senate?

WILL BOYCOTTING AVAIL?

What Is the Great Duty of the South at This Moment?

ANSWERS GIVEN.

Telegrams from Washington and One or Two Other Points on the Subject.

RICHMOND INTERVIEWS.

Numbers of Our Prominent Citizens Express Their Opinions.

The danger of the force bill passing the Senate is fanning interest into excitement, excitement into anger, and anger into threats.

It would be strange if it were otherwise. Southern people see in the proposed measure a Radical device to throttle their voice in Congress, and in its companion-piece, the tariff bill, a deliberate design to crush out their industries.

From every one of our cities and counties indignant protests are heard, and in many instances Republicans join with Democrats in declaring their abhorrence of this scheme of violence.

Burning with a sense of the threatened injustice, some of our southern brethren have proposed a convention of commercial bodies of this section, and the talk is of boycotting all trade with the North.

Not for twenty years has the public mind been so much disturbed, and never was a land in the midst of peace and prosperity so forcibly menaced as ours is by the course in Congress of the majority party.

These are the uppermost thoughts of the hour. Our telegrams bring the latest intelligence from Washington and a few other places, and our local reporters present to the readers of the *Dispatch* several columns of readable interviews with gentlemen who are prominent in business, social, and political circles—the whole affording a picture of the situation as it existed yesterday.

OPINIONS OF RICHMOND PEOPLE.

Many of Them Express Their Views to the Dispatch's Reporters.

This obnoxious measure has no more bitter opponent than Hon. George D. Wise, whose seat in the present Congress was given to Judge Waddill, who both spoke in favor of the bill and voted for its passage. When asked by a *Dispatch* reporter yesterday what he thought of the bill, Captain Wise repeated the question with emphasis and said:

"I cannot command language strong enough in which to express my detestation of it. It is the burning question of the hour, and all others sink into insignificance in comparison with it. While it was designed almost entirely for the South, the broad and conservative citizens of the North, when aroused to its full significance and meaning, will resist it with as much spirit and energy as we do.

"Massachusetts in the act of ratifying and accepting the Constitution declared against the exercise by Congress of the power of prescribing the times, places, and manner of holding elections for representatives, except when a State shall neglect or refuse to make the necessary regulations. New York, Pennsylvania, and other States were no less explicit and emphatic in the declaration of their opposition to the exercise of such power by Congress.

A NATIONAL ISSUE.

"I am unwilling to believe that the people of those great Commonwealths are today less jealous of their liberties or the rights of the States than were their revolutionary fathers. In the effort to fasten upon the country the regulations prescribed in the force bill the issue presented is not sectional but national. All the people of all the states are interested. I have thought from the beginning that we should not treat this question as a matter about which we of the South are alone concerned. I am opposed to the idea of boycotting as a mean of resistance, but think that the conservative and solid citizens of every State should utter their condemnation in strong and vigorous resolutions and send them to Congress as their protest against such acts.

THEY WILL LISTEN.

"The representatives of freemen will listen to their mutterings of discontent. The solid men of the North will give ear to the appeals of their brethren of the South when spoken in sober and earnest language. I am in favor of resistance by all constitutional and legal means. Strong protests from such representative bodies as our Chamber of Commerce cannot fail to exert great influence on the Congress."

Hon. R. H. Cardwe

Hon. R. H. Cardwell, Speaker of the House of Delegates and one of a Democratic candidates for Congress, say: "The force bill is the most iniquitous political measure that was ever attempted by Congress. It is more radical in its provisions than the measure of a similar character defeated by a Republican Congress some twenty years ago when sectional bitterness was supposed to be at its height, and the worst feature of it all is, should the South haters succeed in fastening this measure upon us, it will be followed by other and still more radical and revolutionary ones.

IT IS TO BE DEPLORED.

"That such legislation should even be offered in Congress at this time (twenty years after the close of the war) is greatly to be deplored, and should it become law, which seems quite probable, it shows that the worst element of the Republican party is in control of national legislation and determined to humiliate and oppress the South as far as it may be in their power.

"In advance of the passage of the bill it is hard to outline the course that should be pursued by the southern people. Certain it is that they have heretofore extricated themselves from many shackles put on by Radicalism, and if cool judgment and prudence is allowed to guide, which will no doubt be the case, many, if not all, of the evil consequences contemplated by the force bill will be averted.

BE PATIENT BUT DETERMINED.

"The people of this as well as the other southern States should be patient and forbearing, but none the less determined, and the men of thrift and intelligence, realizing how much they have at stake, will stand so near together in future elections that the number of white men in the South who will be found lending their endorsement of such a blow aimed at this section will be very small.

"As has been well said by our Chamber of Commerce, 'let us cross the bridge when we get to it,' for no amount of strong talk as to what we will or will not do can accomplish anything towards staying the hand lifted against us."

General Joseph R. Anderson.

"I think the force bill is the greatest step towards centralism since the days of Alexander Hamilton," remarked General Joseph R. Anderson, president of the Tredegar Iron-Works. "Indeed, it is revolutionary. Its friends profess that it is designed for the good of the negro. I think it will be the worst day for the negro he has seen when it becomes a law. I hope still there will be enough calm and patriotic men in the Senate to defeat it. But if it becomes the law it behooves the South to receive it with dignity, but a calm resolution by all peaceful means to defeat its unfriendly purpose. Its passage must result in binding all white men in the South in one compact body to vote down all who favor Republican measures. I would not have the South resort to boycotting. The law will *itself* do great damage to our material interests. Boycotting will only increase the damage to us, for North and South are so closely united in business interests that what hurts one will necessarily damage the other section. Better hold meetings of the people and protest against the measure, and appeal to the reason and interest and sense of justice of the northern people, pointing out to them in temperate language the bad consequences of the measure to North and South, and especially to the negro."

Colonel A. S. Buford.

"I regard the proposed force bill, as it is called, as the most serious and dangerous assault on the rights and independent action of the several States that has been attempted by the Republican party since the days of reconstruction," said Colonel A. S. Buford, ex-member of the House of Delegates, and a prominent railroad-man. "I hope that the conservative elements of the party will by delays and other methods prevent its passage at the present session of Congress. If it fail to pass at the present session, the popular dissent which the fall elections will express will retire it forever.

THE NORTH AND WEST WILL HELP.

"If it passes and becomes law, a large portion of the northern and western people will resent it and help the *solid* South to repeal it. It may result in creating more Democratic States North and West. The McKinley bill and the force bill, with the enormous extravagances of administration that is equally their party policy, are more than the American people will stand long. I do not think that general popular agitation in the South now on the subject would avail. There is probably not time to make it universal and arousing as it should be to be effective.

WILL TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES.

"If the secret party councils have determined that the drill and party lash shall whip their reluctant members to the unwelcome work, it will be done and the southern people will then go to work by such ways and means as shall be found necessary to take care of ourselves, as we have always done as emergencies required.

"If the cloud shall pass by us, all well. If not, its fury and its damage will not result alone to the South or the Democratic party."

General Cooke.

General John R. Cooke, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, and was present at the meeting of that body Tuesday evening and voted in favor of the action taken, in regard to the telegram of Mr. Howell, said: "I think if the bill passes it will be in a very much modified form, and as we don't know in what form it is going to be, we can't tell at this time what is best to be done to meet it.

DELAY PROMISES WELL.

"The longer they put off getting on it the less chance it will have to pass. I think we had better wait until it does pass and see what it is before we take any steps about it. The North, of course, knows that we are very much opposed to it."

General Cooke, like many others, was strongly averse to any threats from the South, believing that menaces would serve rather to stimulate than prevent the determination of the Republicans to pass the bill. He was also of the opinion that it would be very injurious to the Republican party, and said that ultimately it would react severely upon them.

Mr. Arthur B. Clarke.

"I think the bill," said Mr. Arthur B. Clarke, president of the Old Dominion Iron- and Nail-Works Company, "is a great outrage on the southern people—an invasion of the Constitution of the United States—and it was for just such acts of tyranny that the American colonists took up arms against Great Britain, and we would be perfectly justified in the South in raising a revolution against this measure.

A GREAT OUTRAGE.

"It is an outrage at variance with every principle of liberty on which this country is founded, but while this is true it would be folly to speak of war at the present time. This country has had enough of war to last us for several generations, and the means to overcome the iniquity must be sought by other ways than force of arms. Just what measure I would advise I am not prepared to say at this time, but in case the bill passes I shall be in favor of taking some steps to overcome the evil.

NO RIGHT TO PASS IT.

"Congress has no right, moral or legal, to pass such a law, and it is a gross invasion of our rights.

"To counteract it we have a perfect right to use all our means. I can but think, however, that the best people of the North will raise such a sentiment against the bill that the Senate will not pass it."

Dr. R. A. Patterson.

"I am not very well versed on the subject," said Dr. R. A. Patterson, president of the Richmond Tobacco Trade, "as I have not given it much thought; but in my judgment the action of the Chamber of Commerce taken yesterday evening in regard to the telegram from Mr. Clark Howell, of the Atlanta *Constitution*, was exactly right."

This telegram, suggested by Judge George L. Christian, and sent in response to that of Mr. Howell, reads as follows:

"Whilst deprecating the passage of the force bill, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce think it unwise for the South to indicate in advance of its passage any course of action."

Mr. H. A. Tabb.

"I heartily approve of the action taken by the Chamber of Commerce Board, of which I am a member, at their meeting Tuesday evening in reference to the telegram of Mr. Howell and voted for it," said Mr. Harry Tabb, a prominent young business-man of this city and a member of the firm of P. L. Conquest & Co. "I think it would be impracticable," he continued, "for us to take any steps towards preventing the passage of the bill, and any menacing expressions concerning it on our part would only serve to increase the determination of the Republicans to pass it.

MAY BE TO YOUR GOOD.

"If the bill is passed I am of the opinion that it will ultimately redound to the injury of the Republican party and to the good of the southern people. Moreover it will create a greater line than ever between the two parties and draw the South together with closer bonds.

LET THE NORTH PROTEST.

"Instead of having meetings in the South to oppose this bill, in my opinion," said he, "it would be far better for the northern business-men (who are as kind in their feelings towards us as we are towards the people of Georgia) to protest against it and use their influence to prevent its passage."

Mr. Egbert G. Leigh, Jr.

Mr. E. G. Leigh, Jr., one of the leading wholesale grocers of the city and a profound thinker on questions involving the welfare of the South, expressed his opinion as follows: "I don't believe in the boycotting proposition or in promulgating anything of that sort. I don't think we ought to indulge in any threats as to what we are going to do. The sentiment of the South is very well known at Washington, and until the bill becomes a law I think we had best wait to determine how to meet it. A dignified silence on our part is the proper position for us to take, and will prove more advantageous to us than all the protestations we could make.

WILL DO THE REPUBLICANS HARM.

"It is my firm conviction that if this bill passes it will prove a damaging measure to the Republican party and create a division among all fair and decent minds in its ranks. Its passage means a solid South and more representatives in Congress and an increase in our electoral vote after the next presidential election. The entire South will be drawn together by ties of fellowship and will be more powerful than before, while a weakening of the Republican party will necessarily follow. In the next presidential election it will play a very important part."

WILL ENGENDER BAD FEELING.

Mr. Leigh said that the passage of this bill might probably cause a revival of ill-feeling between the two sections of the country, which had been completely obliterated after twenty five years, and considered this one of the most evil results of such legislation.

Colonel Thomas Whitehead.

"I believe the letter published by the *Manufacturers' Record*, signed 'Pig Iron,' and inferred for the Philadelphia *Press*, disclosed the real movement on the part of those Republicans who started and are leading in this move to be inaugurated by the Lodge force bill," said Colonel Thomas Whitehead, Commissioner of Agriculture. "The development of the minerals of the South, the marketing of its lumber, the utilization of its water-power, the manufacture of its raw material, and the occupation of its large areas of arable but uncultivated land are the wonderful prosperity of the South, and that means political power in the South means Democratic government in all the southern States, and that is a Democratic Administration for the country.

TO PREVENT MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT.

"The Lodge bill is intended," he continued, "to prevent all this and at all hazards, and only the ignorant character and class of men who outrage the country in the days of reconstruction, the carpet-bagger and the scalawag, will be found in the South approving and adhering this position. Ostracism of this class of reputable people North and South will be all these parasites with the cry of Horace Greeley, 'Go back thieves!' and it will do it again.

SHOULD PROTEST.

"How we are to meet it may not be seen now. 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' It will be met better and more fully than in 1868-'69. The Farmers' Alliance is composed mainly of natives or northern land-owners as good as natives, making a compact and easily-handled organization. This bill is a blow at their organization; a blow at all *unpurchasable* candidates for Congress or the Legislatures. All industrial organizations and every public meeting and convention ought to show its wrongs and evils and protest against its passage. The scalawag may think the political millenium is coming, but he will wake up with Dives trying to keep his head above the brimstone."

Mr. Jackson Guy.

This gentleman, who recently retired from the chairmanship of the City Democratic Committee, said:

"The Republicans look upon the newly-created negro suffragan as their 'meat,' and they are going to have him if they can. The object of the election bill, creating as it does returning boards out of Federal supervisors, is to prolong if not perpetuate Republican dominion in the government. It is surely to be deplored that such reconstruction legislation is to be forged for the South after she has entered upon a new era of prosperity—a prosperity to which our northern friends have contributed, and in which they share to so large an extent.

IS NOT THE WAR OVER?

"Verily, is not the war over? I went down the river. The Captain of the boat said: 'That is Drewry's Bluff.' I looked, and behold the pines springing up on the fort were full grown—a living monument which had grown over the grave in which lay buried the animosities, the hates, the strifes of war! It was a beautiful lesson, but its spell is now rudely broken by the news which comes to us from Washington that the peace and prosperity which prevail over our fair land are begrudged us by a Republican Government. It seems as if they envy our welfare and would do anything to humiliate us. Their action is certainly not consonant with the mild policy of reconstruction outlined by Mr. Lincoln; it certainly does not comport with the liberality which General Grant advocated towards us.

CAN STAND IT WITHOUT BOYCOTTING.

"It is suggested, I see, by the Atlanta *Constitution* and advocated by Governor Gordon, of Georgia, that in case of the passage of the force bill we should boycott the northern trade. Northern capital plays a big figure in the enterprises now established and that are being established in the South. We court its coming. We might as well acknowledge that in great part we are dependent on it for our continued prosperity. I am not prepared to do or say anything that would repel it. In case of the passage of this infamous law I do not despair but that with the experience gained in the ordeals through which we have passed since the war we shall be able to survive it."

Mr. F. H. McGuire.

"The force bill is a fitting capstone for the Republican pyramid of iniquities, now nearly completed, I trust," remarked Mr. F. H. McGuire. "It is perhaps the very worst piece of legislation the Republican party has yet been guilty of. It is a crime against the ballot and against the South, at which it is confessedly aimed. Politically it is worse than a crime; it is a blunder as stupendous as criminal. If passed, it must react on the Republican party and do much to drive it from power."

WORK OF THE PRESS.

"I do not see what the South can do to oppose its passage in the Senate except through her senators and the press. The latter is doing yeoman's service in that direction now. Doubtless our senators will do all that is possible.

"If passed it will, of course, be fought in every possible way. The question of its constitutionality I have had no opportunity to consider. No doubt it will be promptly tested.

DO NOT BOYCOTT.

"I do not like the word 'boycott.' I like the thing less. I am sorry to hear this talk about it, for it only tends further to divorce the two sections, and to alienate the good people of the North who are with us in this fight.

"The bill is not passed yet and I earnestly hope it never will be."

Hon. William Lovenstein.

Being asked for an expression of his views, Hon. William Lovenstein, a member of the State Senate, said:

"I think the passage of the force bill would be the most serious blow that has ever been aimed at the South since the war, and every possible effort should be made to defeat its passage. It will cause turmoil and strife where everything is getting along smoothly and peaceably. I fear that if passed the chances of our getting control of the House of Representatives will be very slim—not that we will not be able to elect a majority fairly, but as the House will be in the Returning Board and the Republican officials will have control they will take the returns not from the legally-appointed officers of the several States, but from their own supervisors and appointees.

LET BUSINESS-MEN WRITE NORTH.

"I do not favor waiting until the bill is passed and then taking action nor do I think much will be accomplished by meetings; but it should be the duty of every business-man to correspond with the business-men in the North with whom they are doing business, urging them to take action to defeat this infamous measure. Millions of dollars of northern capital are invested in the South and if this measure becomes a law I very much fear that the prosperity which now exists will soon fade away and investors will fare badly. We should urge upon the business community of the North the importance of the defeat of this bill and if we can get them to take decisive action I think the bill may be defeated."

Captain Sol. Cutchins.

"In a country theoretically free, inhabited by a people who know and who will maintain their rights, the enforcement of tyrannical laws is next to impossible, and so it will and should be with the force bill," said Captain Sol. Cutchins, a prominent lawyer and commander of the Richmond Light-Infantry Blues. "Its effect will be to draw the color line more intensely and to weld the South more solidly together, for nothing so unites a free-born people as tyrannical oppression.

FIGHT THE DEVIL WITH FIRE.

"But whatever its effect, there is no doubt as to the object of its supporters. I am a firm believer in 'fighting the devil with fire,' and if this bill is passed I think it should be opposed in the most vigorous manner possible.

"The idea of retaliation seems to me a good one. Let us spend with our own people the millions that we send annually to enrich the merchants and manufacturers of the North, and they will soon realize the fact that we have rights which the rabid South-haters must be made to respect."

Senator Conway R. Sands.

The views expressed by Hon. Conway R. Sands, member of the State Senate from Richmond and Henrico, are very conservative and show that he is like many others of a hopeful disposition.

"In my opinion it would be exceedingly injudicious at this time for us to take any public action against the passage of the *force* bill," he said. "Our opposition to this measure is fully known and appreciated by our northern friends, and by *them* the fight should be made. Our press has done and is doing all that it can to show the iniquity of this bill and the evil effects which will ensue should it become a law.

BUSINESS RELATIONS.

"The two sections, North and South, are now so closely allied in their business, social, and religious relations, and a large number of the citizens of the North are so deeply interested in the prosperity of the South, that they will not hesitate to bring the strongest pressure to bear on the Republican senators at Washington to defeat this odious measure, and in this way we may gain relief.

THE ENFORCEMENT.

"But even though this bill should pass I think our people need have no fear about its enforcement. Past experience has taught us that when the moral sentiment of a people is aroused it is impossible to execute bad laws, and as an example I refer to those odious reconstruction laws passed immediately after the war, which not even a standing army could enforce."

Mr. H. M. Smith, Jr.

The new Commonwealth's Attorney of Richmond is probably as well acquainted with election-laws as any member of the bar of this city. Of the force bill he said:

"I think the telegram sent by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce to the Atlanta *Constitution* was particularly well expressed. Governor Gordon's boycott idea is wrong in principle, and will be impolitic in its results if attempted. The North is too strong and too rich for us to attempt to influence its political action by threats of abandoning commercial relations with them. Such action would drive to the support of the politicians of the North an element which is now intensely interested in the development of the South, and seems to sympathize with the economic and political problems which confront us.

A WISE SUGGESTION.

"If the different Chambers of Commerce in the South would adopt short and pithy resolutions against the force bill and request their members to enclose copies to all northern and western correspondents, calling upon them in all kindness and fairness to use their influence and save us from this affliction, it would have a far better effect than any boycott could possibly have.

THE PART OF THE PRESS.

"The independent and unmuzzled press of the whole country is fighting a great battle for constitutional government and individual liberty, which must have its effect upon the Republican Senate, most of whose members are comparatively independent of party dictation.

"If they continue this good work we have much to hope for from the Senate.

WILL TEST ITS CONSTITUTIONALITY.

"If the bill passes we shall of course test its constitutionality in every legitimate manner, and we have much to hope for in that direction. In the mean while, it is right and proper, now that we are on the eve of congressional nominations, to select as candidates our ablest and strongest men, and that we should hold up to public execration and private scorn those who, born and raised among us, have been so lost to every sense of propriety and decency as to force upon us a measure which is repulsive to every right-thinking, liberty-loving southern man."

Mr. Preston Belvin.

"The force bill, as it is called and as intended by its promoters, should be termed the "farce" bill, so far as the South is concerned," said Alderman Preston Belvin, president of the Powhatan Club. "It is time that the Republicans should understand that the southern people are the most loyal in all this grand country of ours. They were loyal for independence, for the Revolution, for the Mexican War. They have always been loyal, even during the late civil war—loyal to their States, loyal to their wives and children, loyal to their property for which they fought, and they still propose to be loyal to the property that has always belonged to the Anglo-Saxon race since this country was discovered.

WHAT THE SOUTH WILL DO.

"This property has been handed down from generation to generation, and the southern people propose to be loyal in governing it. In selecting their representatives to make laws to govern them they will see that they are of the pure old southern type, and not a lot of ignorant plunderers that would have a yoke on every other southern State such as poor old South Carolina has had to carry ever since she was under negro rule.

WHO WILL RULE.

"The white people of the South propose to rule by peaceful methods if possible—if not, well, then, we *propose to rule*. The unconstitutional *force* bill will be a dead letter so far as the South is concerned."

Mr. Samuel Regester.

"I look upon this as the *most malicious* piece of legislation aimed at a *prosperous* and *peaceful* South by a malignant and jealous North in recent years," observed Mr. Samuel Regester, a working Democrat and member of the District Committee. "I have the most profound faith in the ability of the southern people to take care of themselves under any and all conditions. While I have great admiration for the judgment of the eminent gentlemen composing the Board of Directors of our efficient Chamber of Commerce, yet I have the temerity to differ with them.

IN FAVOR OF DEALING AT HOME.

"I most heartily endorse the plan suggested by the Atlanta *Constitution*, and that the present is the opportune time to show our hands and let 'our friends the enemy' understand that we *will* cross the bridge *when* we come to it. To my mind it is bad policy to wait until we are harassed with the enforced operation of this infamous bill.

SHOULD ACT PROMPTLY.

"We should act at once, and our only hope is through the *commercial North*, who should be informed that the passage of this bill will *strike them* as well as us. Let our Chamber of Commerce and other commercial bodies act promptly and in no uncertain way."

Clerk Charles W. Goddin.

The Clerk of our Chancery Court is one of the most conservative men in the city, but he always has a clearly-formed opinion on political and other matters and is willing to state them. "The Lodge force bill, if concurred in by the Senate of the United States, will, in my humble opinion, be one of the most iniquitous measures ever thrust upon the American people," he remarked to a *Dispatch* reporter, "but I believe it will cause the southern people to solidify themselves more than ever and with proper organization on our part we will return a larger Democratic majority in this State and the South than ever before known."

Judge George P. Hughes.

This gentleman was at one time Commonwealth's attorney of Goochland county, and when the Readjusters came into power they elected him to preside over his judicial circuit. Since his retirement from the bench he has moved to Richmond and opened a law-office. He said yesterday to a *Dispatch* reporter: "If the Lodge or force bill becomes a law it will be a blessing to us and the entire South. My reasons briefly stated are these:

"It will compel the South to so amend the organic law as to rid us of the ignorant and corrupt voter, as should have been done long ago. When this is done every excuse for such a law will be taken away, and every advantage sought to be gained will be lost to its advocates.

DANGEROUS VOTERS.

"It will open the eyes of the intelligent, patriotic people of the South to the danger to every State from an ignorant, corrupt voting class in the hands of the corrupt politicians of the present day, who may so frame election-laws to result as they choose. It will open the eyes of the people all over our country to similar dangers to the Federal as to the State governments and set them to thinking and devising measures to prevent them from being made secure in the organic law. It is in this sense only that I think it will be a benefit.

A DEPLORABLE EVENT.

"The passage of such a law, or even its advocacy by any considerable number of prominent men, I consider one of the most deplorable events in our national history, but I fear we have given too much excuse for it. It is the entering wedge, the precedent for politicians to follow in the future elections of President and members of Congress under laws so framed that they can perpetuate themselves in power regardless of the voters.

CAN'T BE ENFORCED.

"But if it becomes a law I do not believe that you could find enough intelligent men in the State who would help to execute it. It would be left unexecuted, or if carried out, it will be done by men (except in few instances) willing tools in the hands of the corrupt politicians of the present day.

"To amend our Constitution is our only safety.

Captain Frank Cunningham.

"The Chamber of Commerce did the wise thing," said City-Collector Frank Cunningham. "Virginia is slow generally in expressing herself, but when the time for action comes she manages to make her wishes known."

Colonel John Bell Bigger.

"I confess that I have not carefully studied every provision of the force bill," said the genial Clerk of the House of Delegates, "but I know from the fact that the united Democracy of the North, East, South, and West have entered their solemn protest against it that it is subversive of the principle of State rights and the freedom of the elective franchise as guaranteed to us by the founders of our Government and tends towards centralization, which is repugnant to all liberty-loving people. My mind has not yet fully comprehended the remedial agencies which we should bring to bear against its execution or what we shall do as lex talinis to avert or counteract the intended insult to our honesty and fair dealing should it become a law.

AIMED AT THE SOUTH.

"If the appeals of our Democratic senators shall fail to stop the majority in the Senate from passing this bill, we may then be well assured that the constituencies which the Republican senators represent are antagonistic to the good order of government and society which distinctly mark the communities of our dear sunny Southland, for, attempt to disguise it as you may, it is a blow directed against our onward and upward march to greatness and power, they hoping by their oppression to create discord between two races, which, without strife-stirring legislation, would live on in their respective contented spheres, and thereby become the power in the land."

THE MOVE A WISE ONE.

"What lack of wisdom is there in the movement of our Atlanta brethren to meet this half-hatched legislation, monstrous in its conception, with some action that will show that we have at least the spirit of manly resentment? It is not unreasonable to

OPINIONS IN WASHINGTON.

Views of the Virginia Delegation in Congress on the Subject.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

WASHINGTON, July 23.—With a view of ascertaining their opinions regarding the prospects of the passage of the force bill the *Dispatch* correspondent called to-night on all the Democratic members of the Virginia delegation now in the city, but expressions from only four were received, as only that number could be found. Senators Barbour and Daniel are out of the city, and so are all of the Democratic members of the House except Representatives O'Ferrall, Buchanan, Edmunds, and Lester.

COLONEL O'FERRALL.

Colonel O'Ferrall thinks that the probability of the bill not passing is increasing day by day, though he admits that Republican appearances are not to be too much relied on. He seems to think that the business interests of the country will be heard from to an extent that will put a check on the schemes of the radical Republicans and the lateness of the session and the backward state of other congressional business may prevent action on the force bill this session.

Colonel O'Ferrall for the past several days has had conversations with Democratic senators, and several have expressed the opinion that the prospect of the passage of the bill is lessening each day, and one southern senator positively expressed the belief that the bill would not pass the Senate. Colonel O'Ferrall, in speaking of the report of the sentiment in Richmond regarding the proposed boycott if the bill should be passed, said that he thought the Richmond people were rather too mild. For his own part he believed in the boycott, and if this infamous bill were forced upon the people of the South he would favor the withdrawal of patronage from the North, and that the South should make its own goods, live on its own products, and keep its money at home at any inconvenience or go to any cost to buy from others than the persecutors of the South. He thought the South should protect itself, being the only kind of protection he really did believe in.

MR. BUCHANAN.

Representative Buchanan said that the only way he could form an opinion was from what he heard and read, and the statements were so conflicting that he hardly knew what the prospects of the bill were. He thought that there were some conservative Republican senators who did not favor extreme measures, but whether they would be bold enough to stand up independently of any action that the majority caucus in the Senate might take on the force bill he was not prepared to say. It looked to him, however, as if the conservative business element of the North might ultimately assert itself, and in that case it would have a tendency to prevent the passage of the bill. He was gratified to observe that some of the strongest Republican papers in Philadelphia were advising the Senate to drop the bill. There was Philadelphia capital invested in Virginia, and it seemed to him that the fair-minded business-men of the North would not want a law calculated to impede the industrial development of the South. Mr. Buchanan admitted that the Republicans had the power to pass the bill, and if they should decide at the next caucus held by the senators to put the bill through he feared that the conservative Republicans would be whipped into line.

MR. EDMUNDS.

Representative Edmunds said he took no stock in the talk that was being indulged in to the effect that some of the Republican senators are going to vote against the bill. He believed they intended to pass the measure, and added: "The Republicans have the power, and they are mean enough to do anything."

MR. LESTER.

Representative Lester could not be seen, but a friend of his who has talked with him says that he is prepared to believe that the Republicans will probably pass the bill if they conclude to take it up this session.

THE OUTLOOK IN GENERAL.

The conclusions of the *Dispatch* correspondent are that the radical Republican senators will do their utmost to have the force bill passed this session, and they are backed by President Harrison with the whole power of the Administration, Secretary Blaine excepted. Until the next Republican caucus is held, however, no one can predict accurately just what the leaders propose to do. Undoubtedly ten or more of the more conservative Republican senators are throwing every obstacle possible in the way of the infamous bill, and for various reasons. Some earnestly believe that such a law would be the worst experiment ever tried by their party, and others, who would like to see the South punished, are nevertheless such sticklers for the present Senate rules that they are unwilling to order a gag-law in that body in order to pass this or any other bill. Still others want to get away from Washington, and do not think it advisable to attempt the passage of the bill at this late stage of the session. The prospects for the passage of the bill are poorer now than they were two weeks ago, but it would be risky to express any pronounced opinion until after the next caucus, as there is no telling what changes may occur under the strong party pressure now being applied.

OUR CHAMBER DID RIGHT.

Major Sutherlin Heartily Approves President Purcell's Reply.

[Special telegram to the Dispatch.]

DANVILLE, VA., July 23.—Major Sutherlin, acting chairman of the State Democratic Committee, requests the publication of the following card, not as chairman of the committee, but as a business-man of Virginia:

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

I have read in the Richmond papers of to-day the telegram sent from the Atlanta *Constitution* to the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, asking if that body would cooperate in the proposed boycott movement on the part of the commercial South in case the Federal election bill should become a law, and I most heartily approve the action of the Chamber of Commerce of Richmond in declining to take part in the boycott movement at this time.

W. T. SUTHERLIN.

PRESIDENT HEALD'S REPLY.

The Baltimore Corn Exchange Cannot Act as a Body.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

BALTIMORE, July 23.—E. C. Heald, president of the Corn and Flour Exchange, has received a telegram from Clark Howell, editor of the Atlanta *Constitution*, inviting an expression of his views upon the suggestion to hold a convention of southern business-men to consider what is best for the South to do if the force bill becomes a law. President Heald made answer that he did not think the exchange could act as a body. Mr. Heald said to a reporter today:

"The charter of the Corn and Flour Exchange mentions certain things not to be dabbled with, as far as the official action of the Exchange is concerned. One of these things prohibited is politics. The charter expressly forbids any interference in political matters whatever, although the members of the Exchange may take what action they please as individuals. As the presiding officer of this body I answered the telegram sent me in the only way possible."

Louisiana on the Proposed Boycott.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

NEW ORLEANS, July 23.—The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Louisiana, the largest commercial body in the South, having been asked for its views of the suggestion to hold a convention of southern business-men to consider what is best for the South to do if the "force bill" now before Congress should become a law, replied as follows:

"It is our opinion that the commercial South should at once meet in convention to deliberate and decide upon the course it will adopt in the event that our northern fellow-countrymen should elect to dissolve the brotherly ties which have grown up between us during a quarter of a century of the profoundest peace and to establish a Poland or an Ireland on this Western Hemisphere in place of the prosperous land now extending a hearty welcome to northern capital and northern muscle. Should any considerable number of commercial bodies of the South share our views we shall at once appoint delegates to attend any convention which may be appointed to consider the situation.

"ROBERT BLEAKELY, Secretary."

THE R. L. I. BLUES.

An Old Paper with Reference to Their Organization Found.

The original manuscript of the following was lately found among the old papers at the Capitol:

Lawrence B. Wills, Robert Gwathmey, Edward Johnston, Committee, to the Governor.

At a meeting of a number of the citizens of Richmond, on the evening of the 28th June, 1798—met for the purpose of associating and forming themselves into a company of infantry—the undersigned were appointed a committee to notify you of the same and to solicit your appointing and commissioning the necessary officers for commanding them. In pursuance whereof we have the pleasure of stating to you that the association is now composed of fifty-five members, who beg you may recognize them by the name of "The Richmond Light Infantry Blues," and who also beg leave to recommend to the notice of the Executive and solicit the appointment of the following persons to the offices respectively affixed to their names: William Richardson, captain; Bennett Taylor, lieutenant; John Davidson, ensign. We are, &c.

The records kept by this company indicate that William Richardson, the first captain, was commissioned on May 10, 1798, and the published history of the organization shows that it was in existence in 1793, and it is not known why this communication was sent to the Governor five years later.

DEALINGS IN PROPERTY.

Conveyances of Realty Made in the City and County.

The following deeds of bargain and sale were recorded in the Clerk's office of the Chancery Court yesterday:

Margaret S. Cabell's heirs and Robert G. Cabell's devisees to Pauline McIntire's trustee, 34½ feet on the south side of Grace street between Fifth and Sixth, $7,500.

Mary T Goddin's trustee to Alonzo M. Page, 16½ feet on the east side of Lester street between Nicholson and Denny, $675.

Mary E. Harvie to A. D. Gordon, 150¼ feet on the east side of Randolph street, $752.50.

J. Samuel Parrish, special commissioner, to Jane Brown, 26¾ feet on the west side of Buchanan street between Christian and Richard, $560.

COUNTY COURT OF HENRICO.

C. U. Williams, special commissioner, to Philip G. Bartlett, 2,807 acres about twelve miles from Richmond on Deep Run, Meredith, and other creeks, $5,000.

Police Court.

The following were among the most important cases before the Police Court yesterday:

Lizzie Anderson, charged with unlawfully stealing one silver watch, the property of R. P. Rogers. Continued till July 24th.

Mary White (colored), charged with fighting and creating a disturbance on the street. Continued until July 24th.

Maggie Branch *alias* Watkins, charged with assaulting and abusing Julia Gray on the street. Continued until July 24th.

Julia Gray (colored), charged with unlawfully assaulting, cursing, and abusing Maggie Watkins. Continued until July 24th.

Richard James (colored), charged with unlawfully trespassing on the premises of and assaulting Charles Smith. Fined $5 and costs.

W. M. Gorrin, charged with being a common vagrant. Required to give security in the sum of $100 for thirty days.

Lee Section, Universal Order of Security, Organized.

On Tuesday night last there was quite a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen at Springfield Hall (corner of Twenty-sixth and M streets), where Deputy Supreme Presidents R. L. King and R. C. Travlor instituted a section of the Universal Order of Security numbering twenty-three members. The following officers were elected: James Booker, president; J. H. C. Walker, vice-president; W. A. Creekmore, secretary; John A. Carter, treasurer; J. B. Daniel, medical examiner; J. T. Boroughs, prelate; George Preston, outside guard; J. W. Williams, inside guard; Claiborne Carter, conductor; George Preston, S. Weinstien, and John A. Carter, trustees.

Will Only Pay to Conductors.

The City Railway Company having discontinued the sale of tickets on the Broad-street line, the only part of the system on which electricity is not used as a motive power, some of the most regular patrons of that part of the road have determined not to pay their fare unless there is a conductor to receive it. Tickets were never sold on the electric road but were on both Broad and Main-street cars until the introduction of electricity on the latter, when their sale was discontinued entirely. The patrons referred to say they were willing to take the trouble of depositing their fares and those of ladies as long as tickets were sold, but that now having to pay the same fare charged on the electric cars they should also have a conductor to collect the money.

A Widow and Two Children Homeless.

Among the passengers on the train that arrived here yesterday morning over the James-River Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway were Mrs. Mollie Loan, a widow living at Milboro', Bath county, and her two little children. Mrs. Loan was a Miss Mason, whose father, Mr. Henry Mason, a carpenter by trade, formerly lived on Eighth street near Cary. She was married twelve years ago and went to Bath county to live. Her husband died in June, leaving her entirely destitute, and she came here to try and find her father, failing in which she called to see Major Poe, Chief of Police, and related the above facts, and he sent her and her children out to the city almshouse, where they will be provided for temporarily.

Law Library for Richmond College.

It is learned from Professor Puryear, chairman of the faculty, that Mrs. Rodney Purcell, sister and legatee of the late Senator Heaton, of Loudoun county, has donated his large and valuable law library to Richmond College.

The committee appointed by the trustees of the college to select a professor for the law school founded by the liberal gift of the family of the late T. C. Williams have not yet made their choice. They have under consideration the names of several gentlemen of fine legal attainments.

Ambulance Calls.

The following calls were made for the ambulance yesterday:

At 11:05 to the Richmond Ice Company's to see a colored man who in unloading ice from a vessel in the dock was severely cut over the head by a falling lump. He was treated and carried to his home.

At 5:15 to Eighteenth and Franklin streets to see a white man who had fallen in the street and cut his head over the eye. The wound was dressed and the man taken home.

Norfolk and Western Offices.

The building at the northwest corner of Main and Ninth streets has been nicely fitted up for offices for the Norfolk and Western road and will be opened to-day. Mr. R. W. Courtney, the efficient passenger agent, invites the public to call between 12 and 2 o'clock to inspect the new quarters.

A DIRECT WAY TO GO.

SEVENTH STREET TO BE EXTENDED TO THE RICHMOND LOCOMOTIVE-WORKS.

The New Section Will Be Twenty Feet Wide, and Will Be Finished by Late Fall.

One of the most important public improvements now in progress in Richmond, and one that will give daily benefit and convenience to a great number of our honest wage-earning citizens, is the extension of Seventh street from its present terminus, just beyond Preston, to the corporate limits.

The new section of the street is only to be twenty feet wide for the present, and will be made on one side with the proper decline, so that when the city is ready to broaden the thoroughfare to its full width the addition can be made with economy and convenience.

It will have the proper street grade from the hill near Preston to