CALM IN SOCIAL LIFE.

NEITHER GAYETIES NOR SACKCLOTH AND ASHES ENTIRELY IN VOGUE.

Reflections on How the Lenten Season Was Formerly Observed—Several Private Entertainments Given.

If there were any long faces among the gayly-inclined at the advent of Lent, its attending rigors and harsh measures of reform, they have begun to expand into bland smiles of pleasant surprise that there is still something left to live for by the worldly world. Although this is the season when fashionable folk seek straightway some change of scene, either in the far South or the sun-parlors of nearer winter resorts, there are numbers who still "abide a-we," either improving each shining hour or dispersing its tedium by small informal gatherings which "don't count." The truth is that times change and people with them, and there is a most decided difference in the view now taken and acted upon as to the exactions of this penitential period. Whether we are a generation of backsliders *en masse*, or our decadence in Puritanism is simply the influence of the age of realism in doing away with shams and putting to death hypocrisy, I wot not, but it is a fact that sackcloth and ashes are out of vogue.

The question of the days long past was, "What have you given up?" So universal was the custom and even fashion of self-denial, and whether it was candy, butter, fruit, the theatre, or some paradoxical penance like abstaining from such feasts as watermelons and peaches, and denying one's self early services and late hours, every one seemed to observe the custom. Some straight-laced young ladies would even avoid promenading upon the most fashionable streets, and two maidens-fair to see, who set much "sto" by their exquisite collection of rings, deriving a great deal of vain delight from them, determined not to wear them during Lent, which was a genuine deprivation.

But these things have passed away, and often the most delightful because the most exclusive and unique parties are those which are given during this period."

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During the week just passed there were several delightful events to mark it with pleasure, and the coming seven days hold quite as alluring a programme.

Mrs. Moncure Perkins had the first of her "At Homes" on Wednesday afternoon, which was charming in every detail. Her artistic apartments provoked open admiration, and the bevies of pretty girls and bright young married women, grouped among lamps and flowers, was as entrancing a *tableau vivant* as could be seen. Mrs. Perkins was an especially attractive young hostess, and was assisted in "doing" the honors by Miss Belle Perkins and Miss Bessie Martin. Mrs. C. D. Langhorne presided over the table temptingly laid with dainties and flowers, while Mrs. Frank Schell, of Annapolis, poured the tea in the cosiest of little "dens."

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Mrs. Charles Evelyn Smith gave two very elegant luncheons during the week in honor of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Hugh Hagan, of Augusta, Ga. On Tuesday the luncheon was *coleur de rose*, all the decoration being in pink. The centre of the table bore a white and gold canoe, seeming just from a flowery voyage, as it was ladened with a profusion of the handsomest Catherine Mermet roses. The chandeliers were tied with pink ribbons, which were brought down to this exquisite centre-piece, and the rooms were lavishly decorated with palms and cut flowers. After many courses of a superb *menu* the roses were handed in the drawing-room to the guests. Those present were: Mrs. Hugh Hagan, Mrs. Thomas Bolling, Mrs. Moncure Perkins, Mrs. Joseph R. Anderson, Mrs. Mattie Paul Myers, Mrs. Robert Boykin, Mrs. Charles Cowardin, Mrs. James Patterson, Mrs. William Talbott, Mrs. Allen Donnan, Mrs. E. D. T. Myers, Mrs. Levin Joynes, Mrs. Caskie Cabell, Mrs. James A. Welsh, Mrs. Bryden Tennant, Mrs. Charles Wortham, Jr., and Miss Berta Welford.

On Thursday Mrs. Smith was equally as delightful a hostess, dispensing her hospitality to another charming bevy of ladies. For this occasion the decorations in design were the same, only being yellow instead of pink, exquisite yellow roses exhaling their fragrance and shedding their beauty on the bright scene. Those present were Mrs. Hugh Hagan, Mrs. John Harrison, Mrs. R. C. Morton, Mrs. W. C. Mayo, Mrs. C. D. Langhorne, Mrs. Harry Tabb, Mrs. Garnett, Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Alfred Gray, Mrs. E. C. Mayo, Mrs. Samuel Martin, Mrs. Charles Rose, Mrs. Walter Grant, Mrs. Arthur Lefroy, Mrs. Henry Bohmer, Mrs. T. O. Barbour, and Mrs. Hunt.

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Invitations are out to a ladies' reception to be given by Mrs. Horace Hawes on Monday evening from 5 to 7 to the Daughters of the Revolution, to meet Mrs. Terhune, known in literature as Marion Harland.

Miss Florence Warwick will have "At Homes" on Tuesday afternoons during this month, which will be delightful affairs.

The Literary Club meets on next Friday at the residence of Mr. James Alfred Jones.

Miss Frances Scott is in New Orleans, the guest of Mrs. Bruns, *nee* Logan.

Mrs. Thomas H. Carter is the guest of Mrs. P. H. Mayo.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Potts, Miss Carrie Shields, Mr. Richard Pegram, and Mr. Thomas G. Glover left last week in a private car for a short visit to the Warm Springs.

Miss Netta Potts is in Atlanta, the guest of Mrs. Clark.

Miss Judith Carrington leaves to-morrow for a visit to Lynchburg.

The Misses Carmichael, who have been the guests of Mrs. Joseph Bryan, at "Laburnum," will return to Fredericksburg this week.

Miss Sallie Deane left yesterday for a visit to Halifax county.

Miss Eugenia Tennant will return to Petersburg this week.

Dr. and Mrs. George Ross and the Misses Ross have gone on an extended western trip, and will visit relatives in California.

Miss Robertson, of Saltville, Va., is the guest of Mrs. Thomas Bolling.

Miss Nannie Trigg, of Abingdon, is visiting Miss Coralie Johnson.

HONOR TO THE PATRON SAINT.

The Irish-Americans to Have an Imposing St. Patrick's-Day Celebration.

On next Thursday, the 17th instant, the Irish-Americans of Richmond and vicinity will parade in honor of Ireland's patron saint. All are earnestly invited and requested to take part, whether they belong to societies or not. There was a time not many years ago when a St. Patrick's-Day parade in Richmond was an imposing sight. It is intended now to revive this time-honored custom, and upon those interested, or who ought to be interested, will depend its success.

The programme for the day, as issued by Chief-Marshal William Rankin, is as follows:

ORDER OF PROCESSION.

The parade will move from the Cathedral Hall (corner Ninth and Marshall streets) promptly at 9 o'clock A. M. The societies will take their places in the following order:

St. Peter's Cadets (L. Lynch captain), east side of Ninth street, right resting on north side of Marshall.

Catholic Beneficial Society (John M. Higgins president), west side of Ninth street, right resting on north side of Marshall.

Catholic Knights of America, Branch 143 (F. Catogni president), east side of Ninth street, right resting on south side of Marshall.

Catholic Knights of America, Branch 162 (A. L. Masurier president), west side of Ninth street, right resting on south side of Marshall.

McGill Catholic Union (S. L. Kelley president), east side of Eighth street, right resting on north side of Marshall.

West-End C. S. and B. S. (J. J. Creamer president), west side of Eighth street, right resting on north side of Marshall.

Ancient Order of Hibernians (J. J. Daly president), east side of Eighth street, right resting on south side of Marshall.

St. Patrick's Beneficial (Thomas Davis president), west side of Eighth street, right resting on south side of Marshall.

The line of march will be up Marshall street to Fourth, thence to Grace and down to the episcopal residence, where the parade will be reviewed by the Bishop and clergy; thence through Capitol Square, where the Governor will also review it; thence to Broad, to St. Patrick's church, where services will be held and a panegyric preached by the Rev. Father Fallon, of Alexandria. After services the parade will reform and march down Twenty-fifth to Main, Main to Fifth, Fifth to Franklin, Franklin to First, First to Broad, Broad to Eighth, where the Chief Marshal and staff will review the parade.

THE MARSHAL'S AIDES.

The following gentlemen have been appointed on the chief Marshal's staff, and will report to him mounted at 8:30 o'clock on the morning of the 17th. They will wear silk hats, dark suits, and green sashes: F. J. Reilly, W. F. Reddy, J. L. Capston, John Murphy, D. J. Coleman, John M. Higgins, James J. Creamer, J. K. Molloy, William Daffron, Philip O'Neil, George A. Cunningham, Joseph W. Laube, James A. Nolan, Thomas Davis, S. L. Kelley, John J. Daly, F. W. Cunningham, A. L. Masurier, Michael Cox, Charles Brooks, Maurice Johnson, W. J. Quigley, Charles Taylor, Michael Byron, Charles Mahoney, James J. Rankin, John Moore, James T. Ferriter, John Ahern, Pat. McGovern, John Haley, James Melvin, James McDonough, Thomas Byrnes, John Sinnott, John McCreedy, John Keaveney, James Hayes, John McGovern, John D. O'Keeffe, D. F. Keenan, Peter T. Murphy, P. J. Ryan, James Haley, James Redmond, Daniel Higgins, John Kelley, John H. Neagle, James Bahen, A. J. Cavanaugh, E. J. Hogan, John McKinley, Felix Keegan, John Deasy, P. H. Donahoe, John M. Ryall, Ed. Donahoe, James Phillips, Thomas Barry, James L. O'Keeffe, M. J. Daly, Thomas O'Gorman, George Conners, James E. McKinney, Phil. Shea, A. W. Rosene, John Sledd, P. T. Martin, George Bannister, Thomas Muldowney, Lemuel Lynch, James Holleran, John Teepey, Pat. Rafter, P. M. O'Donnell, John Powers, John Mulcahey, and W. L. Finegan.

The banquet at night will be at Zimmermann's. A meeting of the marshal and staff and of the various committees having charge of the arrangements will be held at the Cathedral Hall at 3 o'clock this evening. Important business will be transacted and all are requested to attend.

THE STATE COMMITTEE TO MEET.

Members of This and the Executive Committee—The Convention's Work.

The State Central Committee of the Democratic party in Virginia will meet at the Exchange Hotel, in this city, at 12 M. on the 24th instant. The committee is constituted as follows:

First District: T. R. B. Wright, Tappahannock, (chairman); Lloyd T. Smyth, Heathsville; R. B. Merchant, Fredericksburg; Robert McCandlish, Saluda, and F. Fletcher, Jedkin's Bridge.

Second District: R. R. Prentis, Suffolk; J. T. Duke, Portsmouth; W. H. E. Morecock, Williamsburg; J. M. Willis, Hampton, and E. Thompson, Jr., Portsmouth.

Third District: E. L. C. Scott, Ashland; W. Ryan, Richmond; Meade Haskins, Richmond; J. D. O'Dell, New Kent, and F. C. D. Farmer, Manchester.

Fourth District: F. R. Lassiter, Petersburg, (chairman); T. N. Williams, Clarksville; N. S. Turnbull, Lawrenceville; L. P. Hargrove, Lumberton, and R. G. Southall, Amelia Courthouse.

Fifth District: Harry Wooding, Danville; Ben. Hatcher, Hale's Ford; P. P. Watson, Martinsville; D. W. Bolen, Hillsville, and J. W. Hackler, Independence.

Sixth District: P. A. Krise, Lynchburg (chairman); W. M. Ellis, Christiansburg; Wood Bouldin, Jr., Halifax Courthouse; Sam. Griffin, Liberty, and W. Glasgow, Jr., Fincastle.

Seventh District: S. H. Moffett, Harrisonburg (chairman); M. L. Walton, Woodstock; P. H. O'Bannon, Sperryville; T. S. Martin, Scottsville, and R. C. Byrd, Winchester.

Eighth District: L. Marbury, Alexandria; J. F. Ryan, Arcola; G. S. P. Triplett, Culpeper; T. H. Bevin, Edge Hill, and G. S. Shackleford, Orange.

Ninth District: J. P. Martin, Craig; T. A. Lynch, Tazewell Courthouse; J. M. Tate, Jonesville; S. W. Williams, Wytheville, and W. S. Ayers, Lebanon.

Tenth District: J. T. Coleman, Lovingston; S. F. Coleman, Oak Forest; Ed. Echols, Staunton; W. M. McAlister, Warm Springs, and W. A. Anderson, Lexington. J. TAYLOR ELLYSON, Chairman.

James R. Fisher, Secretary.

The Executive Committee will also be present. This committee consists of: W. A. Jones, of Warsaw, First District; M. Glennan, of Norfolk, Second District; C. V. Meredith, of Richmond, Third District; W. T. Atkins, of Boydton, Fourth District; W. T. Sutherlin, of Danville, Fifth District; Miles Martin, of Charlotte, Sixth District; T. S. Martin, of Scottsville, Seventh District; H. Shepperd, of Warrenton, Eighth District; R. A. Ayres, of Estillville, Ninth District; W. A. Anderson, of Lexington, Tenth District.

The committee will decide the basis of representation in the State Democratic Convention, and the time and place of meeting of that body. The representation in previous conventions has generally been one delegate for every 200 Democratic voters. The convention will elect four delegates at large and two delegates from each congressional district to the National Democratic Convention, choose presidential electors, and elect a State Central Committee and its chairman.

The plan of choosing delegates from the city to the State convention has not yet been decided upon by the City Committee. The scheme for voting in effect direct for delegates to Chicago, which was laid on the table at the last meeting of the committee, will, it is thought, be again brought up by its friends. It is also probable that a primary plan for electing delegates, but not involving a direct vote for the Chicago representatives, will be introduced.

To-Morrow Evening's Musicale.

The attraction at the *musicale* to-morrow evening will be the New York Philharmonic Club, with Eugene Weiner as director, and composed of the following artists: Miss Marian S. Weed, contralto; Eugene Weiner, flute; Ernst Mahr, violoncello; Friedhold Hammann, viola; John Marquardt, violin; Sebastian Laendner, violin; August Kalkhof, double bass.

This is the excellent programme arranged for the concert: 1. Sextette, "Pastoral," Op. 82, (Theo. Gouvy); "Rondo," (Theo. Gouvy)—composed for and dedicated to the New York Philharmonic Club. 2. Violoncello solo, (*a*) "In the Moonlight,) (C. Davidoff); (*b*) "At the Fountain," (C. Davidoff,) Mr. Ernst Mahr. 3. Canzone, "La Capinera," (J. Benedict,) (flute obligato, Mr. Weiner,) Miss Marian S. Weed. 4. (*a*) "Romanze," (G. Hollaender); (*b*) "Spanish Dance," (F. Corven,) New York Philharmonic Club. 5. Violin solo, Danses Friganes, (V. Nachez,) Mr. John Marquardt. 6. Quartette, Op. 59, (L. v. Beethoven,) (*a*) Menuetto gracioso, (*b*) Allegro molto, two violins, viola, and violoncello. 7. Flute solo, "Nightingale Serenade," (William Popp), Mr. Eugene Weiner. 8. (*a*) "Traumerei," (R. Schumann); (*b*) "Souvenir de Paris," (E. Gillet,) New York Philharmonic Club. 9. Songs, (*a*) Romanze, "Since First I Met Thee," (A. Rubinstein); (*b*) Ungeduld (Impatience), (Fr. Schubert,) Miss Marian S. Weed. 10. Tarantella, (Z. Godard,) New York Philharmonic Club.

Goethe at the College.

Professor Boatwright, of the school of modern languages, will give a lecture on Goethe on Tuesday night next at the college. This was promised when his successful evening on "Lessing" was given several weeks ago. That lecture was a success, and the one to come will doubtless be equally interesting. The Professor will not attempt a philosophical discussion, but will tell of the man Goethe, his personal characteristics, and the secret of his power as a man and writer. He will unfold the life of the great German who for fifty years lived in Weimar and made it the literary centre of Germany. But the work of the author will not be overlooked. From the sentimental age when Goethe produced the "Sorrows of Werther" to the crowning effort of his life in the production of "Faust," the development of his genius will be traced. One can thus get in an evening the history of one of the great intellects of the world and a correct summary of his marvellous productions.

The chapel will be opened at 7:30, the lecture will begin at 8, and the public are invited by the senior class and the college to hear the accomplished head of this growing and popular school.

The Virginia Safe-Deposit and Fidelity Company.

The books for subscription to the stock of this company were opened on the 1st instant at the office of the Planters' National Bank.

The corporators determined to organize when $500,000 should be subscribed, this being the minimum capital under the charter of the company, and it was expected that the amount would possibly be subscribed in fifteen days. The rapidity with which stock was taken caused the closing of the books at 12 o'clock yesterday, when the amount was reached.

Subsequent to the closing of the books many called in to subscribe, amounting to several hundred shares, to find that they were too late. The list of stockholders is said by those capable of judging, to be the best ever seen in this city, and from it can be selected a directory that will compare with any institution in this country. The total number of subscribers is about 240, among them being representatives from several sections of this country.

Mr. Pace has received many congratulations upon his success and the rapidity with which the stock was taken.

Electrical-Plant Site Purchased.

Johnson's Island, at the foot of Ninth street, has been purchased by the Richmond Railway and Electric Company. It will be raised about four feet, and will be used as a site for a new plant for the manufacture of electricity for arc-lights. The price paid was about $30,000, and the plant will cost about $125,000. The Seventh-street plant will also be operated as heretofore. All the contracts have been given out.

License-Taxes for 1892.

The license-taxes of 1892 have been assessed and placed in the Auditor's office, and will remain there for the inspection of all concerned until the 21st of this month. The Committee on Finance will meet in the Council chamber on Monday and Tuesday, the 21st and 22d of March, between the hours of 5 and 7 P. M., for the purpose of hearing and considering appeals from these assessments, and those interested are invited to be present.

THE CAPTAIN'S SIDE.

WITNESSES FOR THE DEFENCE BEING EXAMINED BY THE COURT.

The Effort Being Made to Impeach the Commander's Accuser and Equipment-Yeoman Fife.

When the naval court of inquiry met on board the monitor Ajax yesterday morning at 10 o'clock the examination of witnesses for Commander Graham was begun. A certain line of questioning was followed, the intent of counsel for the defence evidently being to break down the evidence for the prosecution by impeaching certain witnesses on that side.

George S. Davidson, paymaster's yeoman, was the first witness called. He testified that he recently heard Fife say: "The Captain is down now; let us turn in and down the Chief Engineer and the Doctor." He said he would not like to say that he would not believe Fife on his oath; but that if he (Fife) were the least under the influence of liquor and his personal interest at stake he (Davidson) would hate to believe him. The witness was asked why he did not report what he had heard Fife say to Commander Graham. He replied that he did communicate the information to the Chief Engineer, one of those against whom the threat was made, and that he was under the impression that this official would carry the matter before the Captain. In reply to a query Davidson stated that he knew of the existence of no combination to do injury to the Commander. He said Fife once said to him that he (Fife) had told Mate Fuller a story. "But I do not know," explained the witness, "whether or not this was done to bring Mr. Fuller back to the ships after he had been away beyond the usual time."

"THE CAPTAIN'S FIXED NOW."

Charles Reardon, ship's writer, testified in substance as follows: "I heard Fife say some time ago, 'The Captain's fixed now, and the Doctor and Chief Engineer ought to be fixed.' I could not believe Fife on his oath in anything that would greatly interest him. I do not know that he ever told me a lie."

George W. Brooke, the machinist, said he had known Equipment-Yeoman Fife since he came on board the monitors, and that he once heard him in speaking of Commander Graham say: "G—d d—n him, I will report him to the navy." The witness in continuing his evidence, said: "From what I know of Prentiss I would not believe him on oath. I was present when Fife threatened to report the commanding officer, but he was on such good terms with the Captain that I thought it would be useless for me to have said anything; and while I know it was my duty to have done so I felt that I would have made no impression. He said he knew of no reason why he could not believe Fife on oath."

Robert Conley, ward-room steward, was sworn and testified that he heard Fife, in speaking of Commander Graham's troubles, say: "We have downed old Jimmy, and we will down old Taylor." Conley said he reported the matter to the commanding officer.

James M. Edmonds, ship's painter, stated that he had said on the outside to the counsel for the accused that he would not believe Prentiss or Fife on their oaths, but that he would not like to say that upon his oath. A question then introduced by Lieutenant Waller, for the defence, was objected to by the Judge-Advocate on the grounds that the accused was endeavoring to shake the integrity of his own witness. This Lieutenant Waller denied. The court was cleared and failed to sustain the Judge-Advocate's objection. The question was then asked: "What were the exact words you used to my counsel concerning Fife and Prentiss?"

"I said I would not believe Fife or Prentiss, or very few men in the ships," replied the witness.

HE DID NOT STEAL.

Master-at-Arms Christian C. Larsen testified that, from Fife's general reputation on board the ships and from his (Larsen's) knowledge of the man, he would not believe him on oath. He was asked his reason, and stated that on one night in last August Fife came to him (the witness) and said: "I saw a man who had been a mail-carrier on the shore who told me that you and Machinist Smith have stolen certain things from the government." Continuing his testimony Larsen said: "I asked Fife what it was we had taken, but he would not say. He asked me to tell him what I had stolen and he would make it all right. I then told him that I had not taken anything belonging to the government, nor had the machinist (Smith) to my knowledge." Larsen then went on to explain that the witnesses in whose presence the conversation between the mail-carrier and Fife was alleged to have taken place, denied that the former had said any such thing concerning him and the machinist.

"PRENTISS A BAD MAN."

"Fife also said to me," stated the witness, "that this mail-carrier told him that Prentiss was a bad man and had been in the penitentiary. I base my reason upon the fact that the witnesses on shore failed to sustain the statements of Fife to me."

"Did Fife ever lie to you?" asked the Judge-Advocate.

"Only on that occasion," responded the witness. "Fife," the witness continued, "was at the time referred to doing the duty of equipment yeoman and was at the time taking the inventory of the stores. He did not tell me it would in any way affect the inventory."

Machinist Smith's evidence practically corroborated that of the master-at-arms, except that the former stated that Fife said he had been given the information regarding their conduct by a man named Bushel, who was formerly a second-class fireman on the ships. He said he did not know whether Fife ever lied to him at any other time or not.

THE BLACKSMITH TESTIFIES.

Blacksmith A. L. Ford was next introduced by the accused. He said: "I have known Equipment-Yeoman Fife since he first came here. I have heard him use language showing his feeling towards Commander Graham. He once said: '—— —— him; I will have him court-martialed and kicked out of the navy.' I once heard him say one of the petty officers should not be shipped over 'Jones, the machinist.' From my personal knowledge and his general reputation on these ships I would not believe him on oath. No, I do not see how Fife had the authority to say who should or should not re-enlist. Fife and I are not on friendly terms. I base my statement that I would not believe him upon my personal knowledge of the man. He accused me wrongly of things that I did not do."

Court adjourned until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

MR. WILLIAMS'S MEETINGS TO-DAY.

He Will Close His Services at Trinity—Other Church Notes.

Rev. M. B. Williams, whose meetings the past week at Trinity Methodist church were attended by immense congregations and resulted in over two hundred conversions, will conclude his labors here to-day.

At 10 o'clock this morning special services will be held in the Trinity Sunday school for the benefit of the children. Mr. Williams will make an address and spend the hour in efforts for the conversion of the scholars. At 11 the service will be in the main body of the church, at which time Mr. Williams will preach and have revival services at the close. New members will be taken into the church at this service.

At night Mr. Williams will preach again, his farewell sermon for the present, which will be followed by a grand after-meeting and an overflowing meeting in the lecture-room. Mr. Williams will leave on Monday for his home, in Georgia, but expects to return again in the spring or summer and continue the good work in our city.

"Death at a Frolic" will be the subject of Rev. Dr. H. M. Wharton's address to men and boys at Grove-Avenue Baptist church this afternoon at 4 o'clock. Dr. Wharton, whose labors during the week at this church have been so richly blessed, will also preach at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M., and will address the Sunday school this morning.

Revival service will be resumed at Union-Station to-day. Rev. George H. Ray will open the church for the reception of members at 11 A. M., and administer the ordinance of baptism. Rev. G. W. Carter will address the Sunday school at 10 A. M. and preach at 7:45 P. M.

There will be a special meeting of the recently-chartered Disciples' Union of Richmond and Manchester at the Seventh-Street Christian church this afternoon.

Bishop Peterkin, of West Virginia, will preach at St. John's church this morning at 11 o'clock.

The New Oratorio Society.

The history of singing societies in this city seems to have been ever attended with failure. One after another they have sung their songs and then passed away. But the singers of Richmond are apparently undaunted by failure, for quite a number of them have recently organized a new society for choral work.

The new society starts out under the most brilliant auspices, as it includes about sixty of the best chorous voices in the city, all of whom are trained church-choir singers. The director of the society is Mr. J. Emory Shaw and Mr. Edgar L. Justis is assistant director and accompanist. The chorus is now busily at work rehearsing "The Holy City," which is one of the best works of the celebrated English composer, A. R. Gual, and which was recently produced at the annual festival at Birmingham.

This work will be produced some time during the next two or three weeks for the benefit of one of the city churches, and the soloists on that occasion will be Mrs. J. Emory Shaw, Miss Maud Thompson, Mr. Haddon S. Watkins, and Mr. Douglass L. Leftwich.

QUEEN ESTHER THE IDEAL WOMAN.

Dr. Calisch Preaches a Special Sermon on This Interesting Subject.

In view of the fact that to-day is the Feast of Purim in the Jewish church, Rev. Dr. E. N. Calisch preached a special sermon at Beth Ahaba synagogue yesterday on "Queen Esther." The congregation was unusually large and the discourse was pronounced one of the most finished and eloquent ever delivered in the church.

Mr. Calisch began by saying that while some writers have considered that the story of Esther is simply a poetic fiction and written with the purpose of strengthening the people in their faith like the Book of Job and Solomon's Song, he was inclined to believe that it has a historical basis, and that the Ahasuerus of the Book of Esther is identical with Darius Hystaspes of history, who ruled from 485 to 521 B. C. The narrative is written in an unaffected manner, with a simplicity that denotes that the writer was evidently unacquainted and unfamiliar with the wealth of the court. The interest centres around Mordecai, Haman, and Esther. Haman is an unusual type of the ambitious prime minister—cruel, shrewd, and relentless. Mordecai is a character modest and unassuming, who does not put himself into the foreground because of the good fortune of his kinswoman, yet proves himself a hero in the hour of danger.

But the story hinges around Esther, whose name is honored and loved in Jewish annals. The various writers were full of her praise. Other women have been royal spouses like Zenobia, etc., but these, however, were almost unsexed.

Esther never stepped out of the sphere of womanly sweetness and dignity. She is an ideal that men have worshipped for centuries back.

The preacher then, in the beautiful language which usually characterizes his sermons, paid a graceful tribute to woman in her various capacities as mother, wife, and sister. He said that "the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world," and that woman is man's best preacher, teacher, and friend. When the artist desires to put his most beautiful ideas into form he puts it in the shape of woman. When the painter puts upon the canvas the idea of his soul he places there a woman. When the cradle of the world is moved, the hand that moves it is a woman's. Beautifully the Talmud says: "God could not be everywhere, therefore he created woman." Sweet are the thoughts that come to our minds as we read the story of Esther, and on this joyous Purim day we mingle in glad concourse the joyous songs that sing the praises of Queen Esther, the ideal.

GOSSIP AT THE ARMORY.

The New Troop—Court of Inquiry Asked For—Recent Enlistments.

The new cavalry troop, which was organized Friday night, bids fair to be one of the most flourishing military organizations in the city when fairly started. Of course the necessary papers, etc., have not as yet been obtained, but forty-one young men have already signified their intention to enlist, and Captain Edgerton S. Rogers has been elected commandant of the company. The lieutenants chosen are: Mr. T. P. Campbell, president of the Common Council, and Mr. Charles A. Rose, a well-known real estate agent of this city. The non-commissioned officers will be appointed at a later date by the captain-elect. It is expected that in a few weeks the troop will have at least sixty members.

During the session of the Legislature, and when the bill regarding the duties of the Adjutant-General, &c., was being considered, Colonel Jo Lane Stern, the Inspector-General, made statements before the committee concerning several of the officers which were objected to and caused considerable comment. He asserted that in his opinion the officers favoring the bill were guilty of a breach of discipline. Colonel G. Percy Hawes, one of the advocates of the measure, stated at the time that it was his intention to ask a court of inquiry, in order that the justice of the charge might be investigated. He straightway requested Governor McKinney to order a session of the court, but up to the present time no action in this direction has been taken. Colonel Hawes said last night that it was his intention to have the matter thoroughly ventilated, in order that the injustice of the allegation might be proven.

The following are the recent enlistments in the First Regiment of infantry:

Company A—C. H. Dyson and R. A. Talley.

Company B—E. H. Spott, A. L. Shelton, G. D. Rust, S. A. Weiss, and G. C. Thompson.

Company C—M. N. Anderson, C. P. Carlton, S. A. Wolf, L. S. Reise, V. Kidd, H. McG. Cardozo, and W. G. Winn.

Company D—F. T. Wilkinson.

Company E—W. A. Phillips.

Hospital Corps—H. L. Burrell.

Bal Masque on Church Hill.

An elegant *bal masque* was tendered by Miss Kate Powell, Fannie Montgomery, and Alma Jenkins to a large number of their friends at Powell's Hall Friday evening. Bright lights, varied costumes, sweet music, and pretty faces all went to make up a scene of rare interest and beauty. The entertainment opened with a grand march led by Mrs. Tompkins, gorgeously dressed as a poppy and Mr. Pierce in full dress. Miss Fannie Montgomery, a pretty blonde, represented a Snow Queen. Her costume, composed of fleecy white material with sparkling head dress to match and a very fair face beneath, made a highly appropriate and queenly representation. The following were among the most noticeable costumes: Miss Kate Powell as Twilight, in lavender lace with gold stars; Mrs. Bootwright as Japanese; Mrs. Jenkins, Night; Miss Maud Powell, Tulip; Miss M. A. Clayton, Buttercup; Miss Lee Smith, Topsy; Miss B. Montgomery as Broadway Dude; Miss Clara Smith, Huntsman's Daughter; Miss M. Floyd, Gipsy; Miss Carrie Floyd, Night; Miss M. Apperson, Gipsy; Miss E. Williams, Fairy; Miss J. Pennel, Nurse; Miss Mattie Nenzel, School Girl; Miss S. Apperson, Goddess of Liberty; Miss J. Thornton, Sailor Girl; Miss P. Gentry, Huntress; Miss L. Gentry, Old Woman; Miss L. Jenkins, Rainbow; Miss Eva Mack, Gipsy; Miss Blanche Cox and Miss Bond, Nurses; Miss H. Harrison, Peanut Girl. The gentlemen were also well costumed. J. Sanderlin, Santa Claus; Gilbert Salterwhite and Emmett Goodwin, Two Johns; H. Rose, Dude; B. Francis, Ragman; J. Sterling, Negro Dude; C. C. Ritter, Indian; Charles Mettert, Prince George; C. L. Tompkins, Hayseed; R. L. Smith, Leader of the German Band; R. Rhoades, Chinaman; J. W. Brauer, Hunter; H. L. Atkinson, Woodsawyer; C. Francis, Bootblack; M. Cobb, Baker; W. Shackleford, Jap; Lee Ferguson, Domino; N. Ferguson, Sport; J. B. Points, Farmer; John Jones, Prince; Percy Stewart, Dude; E. W. Pitterway and a number of others in costume and evening dress. At 10 o'clock the masks were removed.

A Leap-Year Hop.

A very pleasant leap-year hop was given Friday night last at the residence of Mr. W. H. Blunt, No. 508 east Clay street, by a number of young ladies to their gentlemen friends.

The company participated in dancing until 12 o'clock, when an elegant supper was served; after which the terpsichorean pleasures were resumed and kept up until a late hour.

The Committee of Arrangements were: Misses Lelia Blunt, Maggie Wells, and Norma Edwards. The other young ladies present were: Misses Verser, Proffitt, Jeter, Mallory, Winfree, Hirshberg, Puller, and Matthews. The gentlemen in attendance were as follows: Messrs. Foizey, Edwards, Sr., Blunt, Charleton, Traylor, Hazen, Patch, Garrett, Puller, Wells, Edwards, Jr., Anderson, Spence, and Libby. Mrs. Burfoot and Mrs. Foizey were the chaperons.

Monroe-Ward Democrats.

A largely-attended meeting of Monroe-Ward Democratic Club was held last night at Reid's Hall, on Second street. A number of candidates were present and speeches were made by Messrs. Lacy, Blankenship, and Graves, aspirants for the office of justice of the peace, and by Captain Epps and Mr. Smith, candidates for City Sergeant. Addresses were also delivered by Mr. Walter E. Orange, Colonel Spotswood, and Mr. Watson. The latter spoke on behalf of Commonwealth's-Attorney H. M. Smith. Captain Brock announced himself as a candidate for the City Council. The club adopted a resolution condemning candidates who failed to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Kendrick's Funeral.

The funeral of Mrs. Lucy King Kendrick took place from St. John's church yesterday at noon, and was largely attended. The services were conducted in an impressive manner by Rev. Dr. Burton, assisted by Rev. Dr. Newton.

The pall-bearers were: Messrs. Frank Sterns, Thomas Potts, R. S. Brown, James Hargrove, John F. Mayer, and Mr. Murray.

The interment was made in the section in the church-yard which has been owned by the King family for a number of years.

THE PLEA OF GRYMES

HE ASKS FOR PARDON AND THE REMOVAL OF HIS DISABILITIES.

The Petition Endorsed by Judge Aiken and the Jury—Repentant and Promises to Live a Better Life.

The petition for pardon and removal of the political disabilities of E. Buford Grymes was presented to the Governor yesterday afternoon by Mr. John A. Curtis, Colonel Alexander Archer, and Mr. Hay Thornton. The two last named were on the jury who convicted Grymes, Colonel Archer having been the foreman. The papers are quite bulky. They consist of the usual transcript from the court records, a petition from Grymes, a letter from Judge Aiken, who presided at the trial, and an appeal signed by the jury and Judge Witt.

GRYMES'S PETITION.

The petition of Grymes, which is written in a bold hand, is as follows:

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, VIRGINIA PENITENTIARY, RICHMOND, March 12, 1892.

To His Excellency P. W. McKinney, Governor:

I would respectfully petition your Excellency for release from imprisonment and the removal of my political disabilities. I have sincerely repented of the causes which led to my trial and conviction, and I desire to lead a better life, and earnestly wish upon my release from prison to be in a position to enter upon a new life under such circumstances as would better enable me to be a support to my dependent family and a useful citizen. I sincerely promise you that if this mercy is shown me I will never give you cause to regret it. Most respectfully,

[Signed] E. B. GRYMES.

THE JUDGE'S LETTER.

Judge Aiken's letter reads:

DANVILLE, VA., February 22, 1892.

His Excellency P. W. McKinney, Governor:

My Dear Sir,—The family and friends of E. B. Grymes desire to ask for his pardon a few days before the expiration of his sentence, which will be some time during the next spring. To relieve him so short a time before he would be entitled to a discharge I do not think would be a bad example, and I therefore hope you may see proper to do so, provided he will himself petition and ask it.

In an interview with his wife after the trial, in which she urged me to recommend his pardon, I was much impressed by her devotion and self-command, but a sense of duty would not permit me to comply with her request. Now, however, when he shall have served up to a few days of the penalty imposed, I feel that I may grant the unhappy woman's appeal. Should my recommendation enable you to pardon him I give it cheerfully.

With very much esteem and respect, I am yours, &c.,

[Signed] A. M. AIKEN.

The appeal of the jury is short and in about the usual form.

PLEASURE AT BARTON HEIGHTS.

An Elegant Reception Given by Mr. and Mrs. Bache.

Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Bache, of Barton Heights, gave an elegant reception to their friends last Tuesday evening from 8 to 12 o'clock.

The house, which is beautifully constructed for receiving, was profusely decorated with palms and ferns, and rich carnations were placed in rare pieces of *bric-a-brac* throughout the spacious halls and parlors. Myriads of lights from lamps of various hues shed their lustre over the rooms, which were perfumed with the odor of choice flowers. Punch was served in the hall. Music was discoursed throughout the entire evening, the musicians being concealed behind an elaborate wall of palms and ferns. An elegant supper was served.

The decorations were all red and white, the centre-piece being an immense bowl of hyacinths and tulips placed on a mirror, around which was twined a cord of smilax. Ropes of smilax were also suspended from the chandeliers. Mrs. Bache, very handsome in a gown of pink silk *en train* and diamonds, was assisted in receiving by Mrs. M. R. Hardin, in black silk and hyacinths; Mrs. J. E. Fitz, white silk *en train*, diamond ornaments, and hyacinths, and Mrs. George Minor, in cream silk *en train*. Among the guests were: Mr. and Mrs. Barton, Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Shelburne, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Sands, Mr. and Mrs. Winter, Mr. and Mrs. Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Luck, Mr. and Mrs. Lamb, Mrs. Irvin, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Snuitz, Miss Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Wheelwright, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Crouch, Professor and Mrs. Shaw, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. Sangster, Mr. and Mrs. Turpin, Mr. and Mrs. Johns, Mr. and Mrs. Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Minor, Captain and Mrs. Fitz, Captain and Mrs. Lee, Mr. Faulkner, and Mr. Caldwell.

Pleasant Reception in the West End.

The Y. L. L. Y. C. gave a very enjoyable entertainment at the residence of Mrs. H. Smith, on Grove avenue, Tuesday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, assisted by their daughters, Mrs. Cooke, Misses Lula and Emma Smith, received the guests in a very charming manner. Among those present were:

Miss Irene Jones, cream albatross, chiffon, flowers.

Miss Cornelia Bell, Nile-green silk, pearl passementerie.

Miss Lula Smith, blue silk.

Miss Lottie Napier, white silk, natural flowers.

Miss Ruth Harris, blue satin overdress of white lace.

Miss May Hatcher, Nile-green cashmere, chiffon.

Miss Becky Spitzer, black net, natural flowers.