THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

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SUNDAY.....DECEMBER 23, 1894.

Religious Secular Dailies.

In the Central Presbyterian, edited in part by the Rev. W. T. Richardson, D. D., who had a letter in Tuesday's Dispatch, we find the following paragraph:

"Some of our best daily papers are already conducted by Christian men who are in full sympathy with Christian enterprises and work, and who are certainly ready to deal just as fairly with all religious news and ecclesiastical events as they are with political questions and secular affairs. But whether a much more decided and larger use could not be made of the daily press in the cause of evangelical Christianity is certainly worthy of the most earnest consideration. The Church has too much neglected this mighty agency, hesitating, hopeless, perhaps, of using it for her great work."

If our memory is not at fault, the New York World was started as a religious daily. After spending much money upon it, the owners came to the conclusion that the experiment had been a failure, and thereupon sold the paper.

We fear that the religious daily would "fall from grace" before it had long been in existence. We can read the speeches made by distinguished religious evangelists, and imagine what sort of newspaper controversies would result from having so-called religious daily papers discussing all the questions which are now discussed by the secular dailies.

At present we have clergymen who confine themselves to their clerical duties. Under the new arrangement, we should have preachers who would discuss all sorts of propositions in the religious dailies, and, necessarily, get into all sorts of difficulties. The preachers thus engaged in unprofitable quarrels and endless disputes would soon lose their influence if they should ever secure any. The hypocritical, conscienceless money-seeker might be the first to set up a religious daily. Who is to decide what paper professing to be religious is entitled to the confidence of the religious community?

If there ought to be religious papers to discuss all secular questions, the editors of these papers must either neglect their duties or else must discuss what they will necessarily have to concede to be more important questions—namely, their denominational peculiarities. So there would be Methodist religious dailies, Presbyterian religious dailies, Baptist religious dailies, Roman Catholic religious dailies, Protestant Episcopal religious dailies, Lutheran religious dailies, and so on to the end of the chapter. If we could use the word "Church" and thus describe all the denominations of Christians the establishment of daily papers by the "Church" would be easy work.

The Church has neglected another mighty agency—to-wit, the bar. If religious secular papers ought to be included among the "mighty agencies" of the Church, it seems to us that the lawyers should not be overlooked. They are, as a rule, more eloquent speakers than clergymen. People listen to them for two or three hours at a time who cannot be induced to hear with patience a one-hour sermon.

There is nothing, we think, that can supersede the Church, as it is. There is nothing that can be substituted for it, just as we find it.

Enjoyment of Christmas.

This is not a puritanical community. The general wish is that every man, woman, and child may enjoy Christmas as he or she desires, so long as the rights and happiness of others are not interfered with.

There is no public sentiment which would compel the police to interfere with little children who blow little horns or fire "pop-crackers" on the sidewalks on Christmas-eve or Christmas-day, provided that there are no very sick persons in the immediate neighborhood.

For those two days the people are willing for the city ordinances to be relaxed in favor of the juvenile members of our community; but there is little disposition to countenance uproarious or riotous conduct on the part of any one, nor to permit any one to disturb congregations in their worship, or fire "cannon-crackers" near private residences or parade through the streets blowing monster tin horns.

In other words, Richmonders, as a rule, are disposed to be tolerant with children, especially where it is evident that they are not maliciously disturbing the peace and comfort of others. But never again will our quiet and respectable citizens consent to such orgies as we had here a decade or two ago. Indeed, our Christmas observances have been very much improved since then. The improvement has been steady, noticeable, and gratifying. And we would have our people aim to make the observance of this year better than ever before.

Every city in the country has been subjected to the annoyances of which we have complained in the past, and some of them have found it necessary to prohibit at all times, absolutely and entirely, the use of fire-crackers, torpedoes, and tin horns on the public thoroughfares. We have not gotten to that desperate extremity, and we hope we never may. We feel sure that if parents will but aid the police authorities in preserving order and decorum we shall never be necessitated to deprive our young folks of the liberty which they have always enjoyed here. But there are parents who have complained to the police of the doings of other people's children, while their own children were on the streets engaged in worse mischief. It is the old story: Every crow thinks its own young white.

It is in the power of parents to do more than the police can do to effect the reforms desired. The police are always prompt enough to "call down" young men who are misbehaving on the streets, but they are loth to interfere with children. And they have good reasons for this. The popular stage caricature of a 6-foot policeman marching down the street with a 2-foot boy under arrest has made a never-fading impression upon the minds of the public, the police included. So the policeman who arrests a little boy is apt to become an object of ridicule. Then, too, parents are nearly always ready to fight when a policeman even so much as warns their boy that he is doing wrong. So it goes. The thing for parents to do is to look after their own boys. We do not enjoin parents to look "after their own bad boys," because nearly every parent would then assume that his own boys were excluded from the category of those who should be watched.

Under the rules which public opinion establishes here, there is latitude enough for us all to have a jolly, fine Christmas. It is not asked that the boys be tied to their mothers' apron-strings, but that they should remember that they are entitled to use the public streets only so long as they do not interfere with the rights of others. This is a principle in which our youth cannot be grounded too early. It goes to the root of personal liberty; it touches the conscience of every honest and thoughtful person.

The Negro Problem.

The trustees of the Slater fund have published an interesting pamphlet entitled "Statistics of the Negroes of the United States." The Slater fund was left by a northern man to be expended in the interest of the negroes. The pamphlet is by Henry Gannett, of the United States Geological Survey. The Post, of that city, says:

"The object of the publication, as stated by the trustees of the Slater fund, is to furnish authoritative data to correct the varied and often erroneous statements made by press, pulpit, and in general conversation. The facts and figures set forth have been submitted to Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Superintendent of the Census, and have received his approval."

The final summing up of Mr. Gannett's study is stated in the propositions following—to wit:

"The negroes, while increasing rapidly in this country, are diminishing in numbers relative to the whites.

"They are moving southward from the border States into those of the South Atlantic and the Gulf.

"They prefer rural life rather than urban life.

"The proportion of criminals among the negroes is much greater than among the whites, and that of paupers is at least as great.

"In the matter of education, the number of negro attendants at school is far behind the number of whites, but is gaining rapidly upon that race."

The first conclusion has no value that we can see. It is a self-evident proposition that in a country having say sixty million whites and not one seventh as many negroes the latter, however rapidly they may increase, must diminish in numbers relatively to the whites.

The second conclusion is no doubt true. The negroes might have been expected to migrate southwardly.

We doubt that the negroes prefer rural life to city life. They accept that life which is kept open to them by the whites.

The fourth conclusion is true.

The fifth conclusion is not true as stated, perhaps, but is true as it was meant to be stated.

The total number of each race at each decennial enumeration is shown in the following table:

Census Year.	White.	Negro.
1790	3,172,006	757,208
1808	4,306,446	1,002,037
1810	5,862,073	1,377,808
1820	7,862,166	1,771,656
1830	10,537,378	2,328,642
1840	14,195,805	2,873,648
1850	19,553,068	3,638,808
1860	26,922,537	4,441,830
1870	33,589,377	4,880,009
1880	43,402,970	6,580,793
1890	54,983,890	7,470,040

From this, says Mr. Gannett, it appears that the whites have increased in a century from a little over 3,000,000 to nearly 55,000,000, and the negroes from three fourths of a million to about seven and one half millions. The whites were in 1890 nearly eighteen times as numerous as in 1790, the negroes nearly ten times as numerous.

The following table shows the rates of increase of the negroes during each of the ten-year periods for the last century, and placed in juxtaposition therewith for comparison are the rates of increase of the whites of the entire country:

Decade.	Percentage of Increase. White.	Negro.
1790 to 1800	35.76	32.23
1800 to 1810	36.12	37.50
1810 to 1820	34.12	28.59
1820 to 1830	34.03	31.44
1830 to 1840	34.72	23.40
1840 to 1850	37.74	26.63
1850 to 1860	37.69	22.07
1860 to 1870	24.76	9.86
1870 to 1880	29.22	34.85
1880 to 1890	26.68	13.51

In the State of Virginia the negroes constituted in 1790 not less than 41 per cent. of the inhabitants, and their proportion increased slightly for twenty years, reaching a maximum in 1810 of over 43 per cent. Since that time it has diminished steadily and in 1890 constituted but 27 1-2 per cent., taking the States of Virginia and West Virginia together.

We further learn from Mr. Gannett that in the cotton States the proportion of the negro element has in nearly all cases increased until a very recent time. Indeed, in two or three of them it has increased up to the time of the last census, while in most of them the only diminution in the proportion has occurred during the last ten years. "All this indicates in the most unmistakable terms a general southward migration of this race. As compared with the whites, the border States have lost in proportion of negroes for the past half century, while the cotton States have continued to gain until very recently."

A Subsidized Press.

One of our exchanges has made a discovery. Read:

"The metropolitan press of the country seems to be engaged in an effort to secure the repeal of the income-tax feature of the new tariff law, and to that end is endeavoring to work up a sentiment against its enforcement. Of course, the papers which are making this crusade against this most just and equal system of taxation have either enormous incomes of their own, which they do not wish to see taxed, or else they have been subsidized by the great moneyed interest of the country."

Our contemporary is mistaken. If the "moneyed interest" of the country begins the work of buying up the press, shrewd speculators in newspapers ready to sell out will be discovered to be numerous, and will not find it difficult to lay their hands upon what pretend to be journalists. But ninety-nine papers out of a hundred are unpurchasable. There is no more possibility of subsidizing the papers than of subsidizing the lawyers; and there is no danger whatever that either the press or the bar will be found where our contemporary thinks they may be seen—namely, dancing attendance upon men with long purses.

Financial Schemes.

To our Missouri correspondent who sends to us a currency-and-banking scheme, we would say that the questions he discusses, and the suggestions he makes will receive due attention in Washington very soon. The people do not desire enlightenment on abstract questions, but to get the benefit of the best possible financial scheme; and amongst the congressmen are not a few very able financiers. So we ask to be excused from publishing the Missouri letter mentioned above.

All southerners will be glad to hear that the charges against District-Attorney John R. Fellows have been dismissed by Governor Flower, after a thorough examination.

The Christmas Turkey.

Happy the turkey that has outlived Thanksgiving-Day and will escape the Christmas sacrifice. No statistician that we know of has yet computed the number of these birds (they are birds, not fowls) that is annually served on the tables of the American people, but it must be very large indeed.

Other peoples enjoy turkeys, too, but none use them so lavishly as we do. In foreign lands the goose still holds the conspicuous place on the Christmas tables of many families. But the turkey is known and highly esteemed the world over. The turkey and tobacco are two of the distinctive products of America which all nations have been ready to adopt and use.

It is not known whence the turkey was introduced to Europe, but it is thought that he was carried there by the Spaniards who had occupied Mexico. From Spain, probably, he was carried to Turkey and thrived mightily in the congenial atmosphere of that polygamous empire. In England he made his appearance about the sixteenth century and "turkey" was his name.

Our domestic turkeys, we dare say, have come to us from Mexico via Spain, Turkey, and England, and this, notwithstanding the fact that there never has been a time when a "gang" of turkeys could not be "started up" within ten or twelve miles of Richmond. Indeed, but recently a daring but misguided gobbler invaded the suburbs of the city, coming as near Richmond as the fields immediately west of the Exposition grounds. Whether his purpose was to present himself at the grounds for exhibition or he was in search of missing members of his family we know not, but he fell a victim to a sportsman and furnished forth a feast, where, we doubt not, that old question was discussed—whether the wild or the domesticated turkey is the better. Certain it is that more of pheasant-like flavor is discoverable in the wild turkeys than in domesticated ones. Epicures prefer the wild turkey when it has had proper foraging ground. But what was once true of the excellence of the wild turkey may not be so true now. He hasn't the same "range" that he had in colonial days.

Times have altered, both for the turkey and for the Indian. The Indian is now hemmed in by the fast tightening belt of civilization. The turkey that values his life must hide in our swamps and new pine lands. He can no longer strut over the whole State as he used to do, using his wings to supplement the power to his long legs. So the old-time wild turkey, doubtless, made a better dish than the domesticated turkey did; but since then it may be that the former has been deteriorating while the latter has been improving.

Virginia and the Carolinas were blessed with wild turkeys in abundance in the early days of English settlement. Then the farmer had no need to raise turkeys. All that he had to do was to build a blind, imitate a turkey hen's cry, and soon he would have a whole gang within the range of his gun. Sometimes the turkey would be cooked on a spit near a fire of oak or hickory coals; or, if not on a spit, then in an oven, to which hard-wood coals were applied top and bottom.

Beyond the Rocky Mountains the turkey was never known in his aboriginal state. His habitat was east of that sterile and forbidding range. Long as are his strides, he never voluntarily ventured to cross the Rockies.

When the day of domesticated turkeys came in Virginia they were raised—as they are now—in great numbers in the country. It was formerly the custom to collect them in droves in the interior and drive them to Richmond. Droves of turkeys numbering 500 or 600 have come here from counties as distant as Patrick and Henry.

Turkeys are as obedient to the drover as cows, sheep, or hogs, and are excellent walkers, but they will stop at night-fall. When instinct tells them that it is time to go to roost, go they will if trees and fences are at hand. Thus on one occasion a drover who was hurrying his turkeys through this city, hoping to get them to Bacon's Quarter branch before dusk, got along well enough until he turned from Governor street into Capitol street, when the turkeys, seeing the trees and fences of the Capitol Square, became altogether unmanageable. "Here we rest" is what their action said, and from the Square they could not be stirred until next morning, when the cheerful "gobble, gobble" of the leader gave notice that they were ready to start, more especially as the drover, who was their guide and friend, dropped many grains of corn as he led the way towards Brook avenue.

Whether we Americans would have better adopted the turkey instead of the cruel and rapacious eagle as our national bird we cannot say, but certainly the turkey is a gracious gift of Providence. It has come to be suggestive of good cheer, of festivity, and of the happy family circle. But we have to remember that there are many families in this land today that will have no Christmas turkey, unless kind friends provide it. There are families, indeed, that would be glad enough to go without the turkey if they could but be provided with bread and bacon. We commend all such to the charity of those who are blessed with abundance. What we have heretofore written on the subject of Christmas turkeys for the poor has, we know, done some good. We know of many persons who have already opened their pockets to provide turkeys or other food for poor families, and we feel sure that hundreds of others, having been reminded of their duty, have quietly resolved to look out for and relieve the wants of their poor neighbors. We shall enjoy our own Christmas turkey and the cheer of our own table and fireside in proportion as we have contributed to the comfort and happiness of less fortunate persons.

Japan and Peace.

The news that China has sued for peace is confirmed, yet it does not follow that there will be a speedy actual conclusion of peace. Nor, considering the Port Arthur Saturnalia of butchery, does it follow that there will be a cessation of hostilities pending negotiations. Japan is very apt to hold the territory she has overrun as security for any indemnity she may demand, and it is not unlikely that, while the peace commissioners are dickering over terms, she will continue her march upon Peking

Again: Ever since the war began it has been generally conceded that the final adjustment of the relations of China and Japan to Korea, to each other, and to the European powers, would involve the settlement of many side issues; and it must now be recognized that Japan, by throwing off the guise of civilization, has further complicated the problem.

Immediately after the first Japanese victories it was given out that Japan would be willing to settle the trouble on the bases of Chinese recognition of the independence of Korea, the erection of Manchuria into a buffer State, and the payment by China of a reasonable war indemnity. The Island Empire undertook to be the light that would lead Korea out of the night of ignorance and degradation into which Chinese influence had plunged the Hermit Kingdom. The Japanese posed as the would-be deliverers of the Koreans from Chinese oppression, intrigue, and rapacity, making the commercial relations with Korea they had at stake a secondary consideration. By this means they secured the sympathy of the masses, if not of the diplomats of the civilized powers.

But how sadly has Japan fallen from grace. How soon has success stripped her of the veneer under cover of which she entered upon the struggle. The Port Arthur massacre has demonstrated that to scratch a nineteenth century Japanese is to discover a fifteenth century barbarian. It has also demonstrated, it may be remarked in passing, that the civilized powers were entirely too premature in the movement for the relinquishment of extra-territorial jurisdiction in Japan.

As has been frequently said, the intervention of England and Russia in the treaty of peace between China and Japan would seem almost a necessity. The latest phase of Japanese warfare emphasizes this conclusion. The civilized world, when confronted with the picture of the Port Arthur atrocities, will be slow to accept Japan as sponsor for the civilization, enlightenment, and advancement of Korea. What then will be done with the Hermit Kingdom? The logic of the situation would seem to point that England and Russia must finally decide that issue, as well as several others growing out of the war, and before the decision is reached we may expect that an interesting game of diplomacy between London and St. Petersburg will have been played.

What Is a National Bank Note?

The Baltimore Sun gives the following answer to this question. We quote:

"The national bank note is not a legal tender for debt, but for practical purposes is just as good. It is the promissory note of a banking corporation, payable in legal-tender currency upon demand, and this payment is guaranteed by the government, which has bonds owned by the banks on deposit with the Comptroller of the Currency to hold the government harmless from loss by reason of its suretyship."

According to the New York Tribune the honorary title "Father of the House" was first bestowed upon Lewis Williams, of North Carolina, who served in fourteen consecutive congresses, from December 4, 1815, to February 23, 1842. His successors were Dixon H. Lewis, of Maryland; John Quincy Adams, of Massachusetts; Joshua R. Giddings, of Ohio; John S. Phelps, of Missouri; Elihu B. Washburne, of Illinois; Henry L. Dawes, of Massachusetts; William D. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, and W. S. Holman, of Indiana, the present bearer of the title. David B. Culberson, of Texas, will be the Father of the next House.

We think Mr. Sickles, of New York, made a sensible, as well as amusing remark when he said in the House of Representatives on Friday that whilst not approving many of the provisions of the Carlisle bill, nor concurring in the reasons given for its passage, and reserving to himself the right to vote as he pleased, he was nevertheless in favor of the bill.

Santy & Co.

'Twas just before Christmas; the down of its wing
Already dropped softly o'er peasant and king;
And the winds seemed to throb, as they eddied and swirled,
With an anthem of joy from the heart of the world.

The roofs were all fleece, and each post, you'd have said,
Had a spotless-white comforter tied 'round its head;
While windows of cottages blinked 'neath their wraps,
Like drowsy eyes under some grandmothers' caps.

The cotes, where the plump pigeons nestled; the coops,
Where the one-legged chickens were posing in groups,
The sheds and the shelters that shielded the sheep,
Seemed pillowed with plumes from the pinions of sleep.

But out in the age-wrinkled barn, tho' its crown
Was quilted with slumberland's mantle of down,
Thro' the wide-open door gleamed the wide-a-wake eyes
Of Tommie and Teddy and Tot; you'd surmise,

As they snuggled there, deep in their burrows of hay,
Looking out at the flakes as they flurried away,
They were talking 'bout Christmas; but Tommie and Ted
Were the spokesmen, and they'd other thoughts in their head.

They were chatting of what sort of business-places
They'd fill when from school they jumped into the traces;
And all the world's callings they'd studied throughout,
Till Tom was a soldier, and Teddy a scout.

Then tender-eyed Tot, who had heard all they said,
Tho' her glances seemed fixed on the flakes as they fled,
'Fore the doorway, looked 'round, gave her head a wee jerk,
And said: "I'm a-go'nter be Santy Claus' clerk!"

"Ho, ho!" shouted Tommie. "Ha, ha!" shouted Ted;
"What put that queer trick in your bonnie, brown head?"
"Nebber min'," answered Tot, with a cute little wink;
"It's fun to be makin' fokes happy, I t'ink.

"My! Wouldn't I like eb'ry Chris'mas to go
Wid Santy, to gib to de poor fokes, you know;
An' I'd laugh till I guess I'd be mos-outer breff,
At de way dem poor souls'd be tickled to deff."

"Hurrah!" came from Teddy. "Hurrah!" shouted Tom,
While a kiss found the lips that the words flitted from;
"You've got the idea, little Tot; it's a go,
We'll join you, and make the firm Santy & Co."

Ah! dear little friends, tho' you may not have known
That the tendrils of Christmas your hearts had o'ergrown,
Sweet charity bloomed at your lips but to say,
You had breathed of the breath of the hallowing day!

The day when good-will all its banners unfurled,
The day that gave God's only Son to the world,
Whose birth gave to hope a release from its thrall,
Whose dying gave life everlasting to all.

WADE WHIPPLE.

So They Say!

Custom, so the legend says,
Makes the recompense a kiss
If beneath the mistletoe
You do chance to find a miss.

Now, where'er the custom holds,
Fired by mischievous spark
Where they hang the mistletoe
There the miss'll toe the mark.

With One Accord.

Christmas comes but once a year,
Verified by fact and rhyme,
And ne'er comes the hallowing time,
To this sublunary sphere,
But recalling how deficient
Is our purse when speeds the day,
We in unison do say—
"Once a year is quite sufficient."

No Doubt About the Action.

Lawyer: Well, sir! What can I do for you?

Client: I want to commence suit against Mr. Harshman. I called on his daughter last evening, and he kicked me out of the house.

Lawyer: Do you think you have good cause for action?

Client: Well, I certainly felt so at the time.

The Mecca of Spendthrifts.

"Funny about Noggins. He seems to have plenty of money, and yet I never hear of his spending any of it in town."

"None to speak of."

"Where do you think he spends most of it—in Europe?

"No; in reveiry.

Pat's Preference.

"Well, Pat, do you intend hanging up your stocking to-night?"

"Mebbe, sor!"

"And if you do, you hope to get it full, I suppose?"

"Indade, sor, an' o'ld rather have the manes of gettin' full myself."

Right in His Line.

Doodleman: Somehow or other I can't grasp this story about Santy Claus and this chimney business.

Rasher: That's funny. You ought to have just the head for that, for I assure you there's nothing in it.

Witty Willie.

Teacher: You have read something about pearls, haven't you, Willie?

Willie: Yes, sir!

Teacher: Where are they found?

Willie: In divers' countries.

Is He Right?

The skeptic poet, much we fear,
The sacredness of fable mocking,
Thinks 'tis the yarn of Santa Claus
We use to darn the Christmas stocking.

At this season the average bowler feels that he has made a strike if he's given a chance at the wassail-bowl.

The girl who pretends to wear a No. 2 gaiter rarely hangs up her stocking for fear she'll "put her foot in it."

Will-power is a great promoter of wealth, but it depends much on who makes the will.

Music may be the food of love, but the average lover's appetite seems to run to vocal music.

Quite proper—driving a dead-beat in a skeleton-wagon.

Literary Notes.

Speaking of General Bradley T. Johnson's "General Washington," and General Fitzhugh Lee's "General Lee," the New York Critic says they are "biographies of Virginia's two greatest soldiers. Both books are entertaining and instructive, giving, as they do, an insight into the characters of two of the purest men and ablest soldiers whose names adorn American history." "The character of Washington," says the Critic, "as portrayed by his biographer, is one to challenge the admiration of every reader." "The book," it says, "is especially well written in easily flowing language, which carries one along in a pleasant way." Some minor defects are pointed out. Of General Lee's book the Critic says: "It is impossible even for the love and pride of a near relative and trusted subordinate to place Robert E. Lee on a higher pedestal than that to which he is entitled by his genius and valor. Like Washington, Lee was one of the purest and noblest characters of modern times." As a literary work, the Critic thinks "it is not up to the standard," but adds, very justly, that "perhaps it is not fair to expect high literary excellence from the pen of a soldier." The Critic is the leading literary paper of this country, and is inferior to few, if any, foreign journals of its kind.

"The Religions of Japan" is the title of a volume in the Scribner press, which is said to be the first work wholly devoted to the subject. It is by Dr. William Elliot Griffis.

The advance orders for Mrs. Burnett's "Piccino" numbered 10,000. Those for F. Marion Crawford's "The Ralstons," which will be published in January, already number 20,000.

"The Story of Ung," by Rudyard Kipling, is published by D. Appleton & Co.

George Moore's new book, "Celibates," will be published in this country by Macmillan & Co.

"The Veiled Doctor" is the title of a novel which has just been completed by Miss "Winnie" Davis. It tells the story of an over-sensitive man, whose married life with a not very sensitive young woman was a tragedy to both of them. "It is a strange story," says the New York Critic, "and one likely to attract attention, as it is quite out of the line which is so popular at the present time."

The Prince de Joinville's "Souvenirs" are published by Macmillan & Co. The Prince was the third son of Louis Philippe, and was born in 1813. He served during the late war under General McClellan in the Peninsular campaign, and later in the Franco-Prussian war. His book covers the period from his birth to 1848, and includes a most interesting description of the bringing of Napoleon's body from St. Helena to Paris, a duty allotted to him by his father, the King.

The fourth volume of John Bach McMaster's "History of the People of the United States" will be ready for publication by D. Appleton & Co. early in the new year.

Zola has again been defeated for membership in the French Academy, receiving this time not a single vote. The Queen of Italy gave an audience to him on December 4th at Rome, and, as he declared later, proved herself perfectly conversant with his works.

Bret Harte will have a new ballad in the February Scribner. It is called "A Question of Privilege Reported by Truthful James," and tells of the doleful fate that befell a man who stuttered. It is said to be in his earliest manner. The January Scribner will contain a poem by A. Conan Doyle, entitled "A Forgotten Tale."

The Publishers' Circular prints an anecdote of a gentleman who went into a bookshop at a well-known seaside town in England and asked for "The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table," and was told that they had it not, the vender being quite sure, as all the cookery books were kept together!

Harper & Brothers announce "The Borderland of Czar and Kaiser," a new book by Poultney Bigelow.

Macmillan & Co. are arranging to publish, in two volumes, a new edition of the poetical works of Scott, selected and edited by Andrew Lang.

The Century will publish during the coming year a series of five short novels, each complete in a single number. The first will appear in the January number, and is called "A Lady of New York." It is by Robert Stewart, an entirely new writer.

Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes asks that any person having letters of his father will send them to Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, with reference to their use by J. T. Morse, Jr., in "Life and Letters of Dr. Holmes." These letters will be carefully returned to their owners after copies have been made of such as are found to be available.

"The Presidents of the United States" is the title of an elaborately illustrated volume by John Fiske, Carl Schurz, William E. Russell, D. C. Gilman, John Hay, and others, to be published immediately by D. Appleton & Co.

"Social Evolution" is the title of a book by Benjamin Kidd, of which it is said that it has gone through so many editions that the original plates are worn out. A new edition has been printed from new type, and issued in more convenient shape. The author was practically unknown in England before his book appeared.

Postal Cable to Old Point.

FORT MONROE, VA., December 22.—(Special.)—Mr. Fuller, of New York, was here yesterday laying a new cable across the Roads to Sewell's Point for the Postal Telegraph Company. This will be used to connect with their lines at Norfolk when the new hotel opens for business.

Governor Woodfin secured the services of Grau's Opera Company for two performances at the Soldiers' Home Theatre, which was very highly appreciated by his friends. On Thursday they presented "Paul Jones" and "Tar and Tartar" Friday night to large and fashionable audiences.

Miss Bessie Waller, who is attending the Boston Conservatory of music, arrived home this morning for the holiday vacation.

BEDFORD'S ENTERTAINMENTS

For Benevolent Christian Purposes—Personal.

BEDFORD CITY, VA., December 22.—(Special.)—Coming events cast their shadows before them. The festivities of Christmas have had their prelude in various entertainments, mainly for benevolent purposes. The Willing Workers, a society of the Baptist church, rendered the cantata of "Santa Claus & Co." at the Opera-house on Tuesday evening in fine style and with beautiful effect. They realized about $40 from the entertainment.

The young ladies of Belmont Institute gave a concert in the hall of the school on Thursday evening, in which the music reflected much credit on Professor Haas and his pupils. There were several recitations by Miss Mary Hill, the instructor in elocution. By the by, this young lady will spend the holiday in Richmond.

All of the Sunday schools will give entertainments in honor of the joyous Christmas-tide.

Fifteen couples this week have entered into the holy estate of matrimony, all of them in the country, while there has not been one in the town.

HIS FRIENDS CONVINCED.

Mr. Updike, who shot a man named Buffalow at Pocahontas a few days ago, was reared here, and much esteemed. His friends are convinced that he would not have taken such a step except in self-defence.

Rev. W. H. Christian took possession of the house he has rented on Bedford avenue on Tuesday. That evening the members of his congregation called to extend welcome and good wishes, and left many substantial tokens of regard, consisting of household articles and supplies of various kinds.

On Sunday last Rev. T. W. Jones, of St. John's church, took occasion to return very hearty thanks for valuable gifts that had been sent him in view of the coming Christmas. He said that he also wished to express his appreciation of the action of the Card Club in abandoning the habit of playing for prizes, in deference to his request made the Sunday previous.

A musical club has been organized for improvement and pleasure, to meet twice a month. It is styled the Recital Club, and will be conducive of much enjoyment, as there are quite a number of musical people, both ladies and gentlemen, in the town.

Mr. J. M. Berry has returned from an extensive southern trip.

Mrs. T. D. Berry, Rosalie Smith, and Mr. S. A. Berry returned to-day from a visit to New York.

Charley O'Hara, of Bethel Academy, is at home for the holiday.

Mrs. Agusta Hume has returned from a visit to Richmond.

Misses Virginia Anspach and Belle Buford went to Lexington to attend the marriage of Professor Samuel G. Anspach on Wednesday.

SALE OF THE PROPERTY ORDERED.

A Revival That Results in Conversions—Turner-Roberts Nuptials.

LOVINGSTON, VA., December 22.—(Special.)—The Judge of the Circuit Court, in vacation, heard this week the chancery cause of Osgood vs. The Buffalo River Soapstone Company, and handed down a decree confirming the report of the master commissioner, and directing a sale of the company's property to pay the debts, as reported.

An interesting revival-meeting which has been conducted at Rockfish for nearly two weeks was closed on Wednesday night. It had large congregations, and much interest was manifested throughout. The eloquent sermons by the conducting ministers were very effective, and the meeting resulted in a number of conversions.

A very pretty wedding took place this week at the beautiful country residence of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Roberts, near Poplars, when their youngest daughter, Miss Cinthia Lee Roberts, and Mr. Henry Turner were united in the holy bonds of matrimony by the Rev. W. E. Gwatkin, of Charlottesville.

Rev. Mr. Blankenship, the new Methodist preacher for the Nelson circuit, preached his first sermon at Centenary last Sunday. He was greeted by a large congregation, who were greatly pleased with his able and instructive sermon.

Massie's Mills is very much excited over the contest for the post-office at that place, which is one of the most remunerative in the county. The contest will be decided by an election after Christmas.

HER TERRIBLE MISFORTUNE.

Little Sanona Meyers, the 7-year-old daughter of Mr. Benjamin Meyers, of this place, is again in Baltimore for treatment of a tumor upon her eye. The tumor made its appearance some time since, and about a month ago it was removed by an operation by a Baltimore physician, who, however, had little hope of affording permanent relief. The tumor immediately began to reappear, and the little girl was taken to Richmond for treatment. No hope was entertained of the child's recovery, but recently the physicians have come to the conclusion that there is some chance of saving her life. The little girl is a remarkably interesting child.

The many friends of Captain S. A. Paul will learn with regret that he was paralyzed this week at his residence, near Lodebar.

Mr. D. A. Hughes and Miss Myrtle Everett were married yesterday (Friday) at the residence of the bride's father, near Massie's Mills.

Mr. J. P. Carter, of Massie's Mills, left on Thursday for Augusta, where he was married yesterday to Miss Maupen.

SPREAD OF THE MARRIAGE FEVER.

A Wooden Wedding Celebrated and Another About to Take Place.

SPOTSYLVANIA, VA., December 22.—(Special.)—The near approach of the Christmas holidays seems to have provoked the marriage-fever among the people. On Wednesday Mr. A. B. Cunningham and Miss Dora Carnoham were married, and the same night Mr. Ro. D. Wilson and Miss Alice M. Wilson also took upon themselves the sacred vows which are made at hymen's altar.

Invitations have been out for some days from Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Andrews to friends and acquaintances to celebrate with them their wooden wedding at their elegant home, "Kenmore," in this county. Long before twilight had gone, the resounding of horses' hoofs and humming vehicles told that the numerous friends of these two happy people were going to join them in the pleasures of the evening, and by 7 o'clock the house was crowded with merry, happy hearts, whose ringing laugh and voices told of the enjoyment that was in reserve for each and every one present. At 10:30 o'clock the company was invited to an elegant supper, beneath which the tables groaned, and after which dancing was resumed till 1 o'clock, when the company broke, after many good wishes and congratulations from all to Mr. and Mrs. Andrews for a long and prosperous life. The presents were many and handsome, and the occasion one long to be remembered.

PREVIOUS COVENANT.

Mr. Joseph Bittle, formerly of this place, but now of New York, is on a visit here, and rumor has it that when he returns to New York the happy consummation of a prearranged covenant will cause him to take Mrs. Bittle with him. Mr. Bittle is a native of Virginia, and is a most estimable gentleman.

Mr. Charles M. Chewning, of this county, is the veteran school teacher of this entire section. He has taught school every year, without exception, since 1853, save the four years of the war, when he served as a volunteer in the Confederate army. If, in the course of events, this class of persons should ever be pensioned, Mr. Chewning would rank first around here.

The Courtland Literary Association of the county will give an oyster supper in the historic hotel here on New-Year's night.

The Board of Supervisors of the county held their last meeting for the year on the 19th instant. They made the levy for 1895, and it is due to them to state that the finances of the county are in better condition now than at any time preceding this since the war.

THE DISPATCH AS A MEDIUM.

Another Virginia Couple from Dinwiddie Made Happy at Weldon.

WELDON, N. C., December 22.—(Special.)—And still another runaway Virginia couple were made man and wife here yesterday, Rev. P. N. Stainback, of course, tying the knot. The happy pair arrived here last night from Dinwiddie county, Va.—Mr. W. R. Cornet and Miss Susie L. Riddle. Yesterday morning a license was procured, and they returned home happily united. Rev. Mr. Stainback married his first couple here about two years ago. The fact was mentioned in this correspondence. Since that time all the runaway couples inquire for him, and the result has been he has had a wonderful experience since that time in hitching those who come here with matrimonial intentions. It shows that the Dispatch is a great advertising medium, and that the people read it.

Four stores were broken open here last night by burglars. Two of them were entered, and goods were missing this morning. The other two were not entered, as the thieves must have been frightened off before they could enter after breaking the windows.

Available.

Many good remedies are unavailable because they need the direction of a physician.

Allcock's Porous Plaster

can be used by anybody, and it is always effective for sprains, strains, weak back and soreness in the chest or muscles.

Do Not Be Duped into taking an imitation. Insist upon having the genuine "ALLCOCK'S."

Allcock's Corn Shields,
Allcock's Bunion Shields,
Have no equal as a relief and cure for corns and bunions.

Brandreth's Pills

renovate the system by purifying the blood. They do not weaken.

(Su,Tu,Th&w)

TO-DAY the clergy of the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches will complete the official census of those religious bodies.

The Episcopalians have 4,323 clergymen, 4,870 parishes, and 580,507 communicants, besides 44,385 Sunday school teachers and 400,566 scholars. The Catholic church has 6,307 clergymen, 5,911 parishes, and 7,963,000 communicants, or 10,000,000, counting all children and lapsed members.

Come to-morrow and help take another census of our bargains in

CHEAP, DURABLE, AND SENSIBLE

XMAS - PRESENTS.

DRESS SUITS,
OVERCOATS,
SMOKING JACKETS,
BATH-ROBES,
COLLARS AND CUFFS,
DRESS SHIRTS,
CUFF-BUTTONS,
SCARF-PINS,

and everything necessary for a man's or boy's comfort and wear.

McADAMS & BERRY.

Have You $2 Ready-Made Legs?

If you have, ready-made pants are plenty good enough. But if your legs *were made for you*, have your pants made for you, too. Then they'll fit. When you can get

Pants $3 FOR Made to Measure,

all-wool, full of style and wear, why put up with ready-mades that pinch here and bag there? We make a whole