FOUR TRAMPS FROZE.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH IN A FLEA-ISLAND SHANTY.

Rescued by a Policeman—Remarkable February Weather—Ridley to Be Tried for His Life—Death of Mr. Joseph Hobson.

PETERSBURG, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—Four tramps—three negroes and one white—were nearly frozen to death last night on Flea Island, in the Appomattox river. When rescued this morning by Police-Officer James M. Young they were in a very bad condition, and apparently a little more exposure to the intense cold would have placed them beyond the hope of recovery. They were sent to jail for care and treatment. There is a small, dilapidated shanty on the island, sometimes used by fishermen. The unfortunate men say they were taken to the island in a boat by a white man last night, where they were told they could rest for the night. They kindled a fire with the little fuel they found there, and their friend left the premises to return very soon with both fuel and provisions. But he did not come back, and the men suffered intensely from the cold. They tried to attract attention of people in the city by their cries during the night but failed to do so. Early this morning, however, their cries were heard, and Officer Young procured a boat and rescued them. Their condition was pitiful.

REMARKABLE WEATHER.

The "oldest inhabitant" fails to recall such weather in this section in February as we have had this month. There has hardly been a day since the advent of the month that there has not been a heavy fall of snow. All last night and all of to-day there was a continuous fall of snow, with brief intervals of hail. The thermometer this morning registered fifteen degrees above zero. There is splendid sleighing to-day, and the merry ringing of the bells is heard everywhere through the city.

TAKEN TO SUSSEX FOR TRIAL.

Robert Ridley, the negro who some weeks ago murdered Mr. Williams near Holdens, in that county, without provocation as far as can be learned, was taken out to the county court-house this morning by Sheriff Grizzard to be tried for his life. It is not known that the accused had any counsel unless a lawyer was employed at the court-house to-day. Ridley's brother visited him at the jail yesterday, and told him that he would meet him at Sussex Courthouse to-day and try to employ counsel. The evidence against Ridley, however, independent of his voluntary confession, is such that counsel would hardly save him.

Mr. Joseph Hobson, a well-known citizen, for many years employed in the tobacco business, died at his home, on Bolt street, at an early hour this morning of consumption. He recently visited friends in Nottoway county with the hope of improving his health, but returned home to die.

VIRGINIA AND CAROLINA RAILROAD.

It is understood that the Finance Committee of the Common Council met last night to consider the matter of the Virginia and Carolina railroad and its sale. The session was secret, and nothing has been made public. Of course, whatever may be done or recommended by the Finance Committee will be reported to the Council.

This week is what is termed in the Methodist Church as "Do-Without-Week." Every member of the Church, as a matter of Christian duty, is requested to "do without" some luxury during the week, and to contribute the amount thus saved to missionary purposes.

TOO MANY CARRIERS.

It is reported that one or more of the letter-carriers at present employed in the Petersburg post-office may probably be dropped in the early future. The Postmaster-General recently expressed the opinion that Petersburg has too many carriers. But it is a fact that for the prompt and regular delivery of the mails there are not too many carriers. It is a fact also that without additional clerical force the postmaster and his present assistants cannot long stand up under the work forced upon them by the exclusion of the carriers from assistance.

SENT FOR TRIAL.

T. W. Abernathy, who was arrested here last evening on his arrival from Richmond, charged with alleged assault, was before the Mayor for examination this morning, and was sent on to the Hustings Court for trial.

Thirty years ago to-day, and in just such cold and stormy weather as this, Mahone's Brigade stood all day with arms in hand, at Hatcher's Run, in Dinwiddie county, to meet the attack of the Federal troops. The snow then was 5 or 6 inches deep.

Mr. E. A. Goodwyn, Jr., and bride, nee Miss Minnie Shepperson, who were married in Washington yesterday, returned home to-day.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. BLACK DEAD

Changes in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—Captain William H. Black, a well-known resident of this city, died at his home, on West street, yesterday. He had been a resident of Alexandria for about ten years, and before that had been a roaming man. He had had numberless adventures during his seaman's career, and had been shipwrecked on an island in the Pacific Ocean, and had lived there for some time. He was 76 years of age, and a prominent Mason.

At a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which has recently been organized in Alexandria, held at Peabody building, Messrs. M. D. Perry and I. H. Evans were appointed agents for the society, and Mrs. Frank Daley elected a director to fill a vacancy. Mrs. Fossel was named as collector for the society, and James R. Caton attorney. At the next meeting the by-laws will be revised.

Mae, a little 2-year-old daughter of Mr. S. L. Monroe, of this city, died at her parents' residence yesterday of membranous croup. Her funeral will take place to-morrow at 10 o'clock. The interment will be private.

At a meeting held by Golden Light Lodge, Independent Order of Good Templars, of this city, the following officers were elected: C. R. Herbert, chief templar; Mrs. George Lyles, vice templar; John Lucas, chaplain; S. W. Goodson, secretary; Edgar Thompson, assistant secretary; Flora Hartman, financial secretary; J. H. Trimyer, treasurer; John Jones, marshal; Laura Wilkins, deputy marshal; H. Baker, guard, and Charles Adams, sentinel.

THE RECEIVERS TAKE CHARGE.

No Changes On the Norfolk and Western—Pythian Orders.

ROANOKE, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—The receivers of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company issued a circular today in which they said they had taken charge; that there would be no change in the working force for the present, and that William G. MacDowell had been appointed treasurer.

Division No. 3, Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias, of this city, received orders to-day from Colonel Turner, of the First Virginia Regiment, to report at Staunton on February 19th, to act as an escort to the major-general commanding and the supreme chancellor, Knights of Pythias, who will be present at the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Virginia on that date.

A COMPROMISE.

Andrew Beckner, a street-car conductor, of this city, received $50 to-day from the World's Columbian Exposition. While going through the Liberal Arts building, Mr. Beckner fell through a trap, and was severely injured. He sued for $10,000, and compromised on $50.

A lively telephone war is on in this city, three companies being in the field. The people here demand better and cheaper service, and it looks as though they will get it.

The remains of W. H. Williamson, of this city, who died at Los Animos, Col., last Saturday, where he had gone for the benefit of his health, arrived here to-night.

THE GROUND-HOG NOT IN IT.

He Is Not Infallible, However—Local Tobacco Markets Active.

FORK UNION, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—One of our citizens, who enjoys a high reputation for careful statements, affirms that the tradition which represents the ground-hog as emerging from his hole on the 2d of February, is not a myth, but a fact well attested by keepers of zoological gardens. This citizen, however, scouts the idea that his hogship's annual peep from winter quarters should be taken as an infallible weather indication. Unless ground-hog-day works an early improvement in February weather this scribe's faith will be considerably jostled, too, and he will be most likely found on the side of the "forecasts" from Washington which the daily Dispatch gives us.

Despite the severity of the weather and badness of county roads our local tobacco markets at Central Plains, Columbia, and this place, have been unusually active, and fair prices are being realized for a product which is our farmers' chief reliance for the "root of all evil."

Severe weather and hard times increase the volubility of the Virginia planter on the financial problem, and after giving his plain solution of it rarely fails to anathematize the present Congress as a lot of "noggin-heads and political dead-beats." However, with his barns well filled with an abundance for man and beast, as the result of an abundant crop-year, and a plenty of native fuel for roaring fires, the Fluvanna farmer regards all national questions with as much placidity of temper as the man who doggedly "accepts the situation."

A HINT TO THE CITIES.

Or the Politico-Economic Julep—A Fish Story—Spring Election, &c.

OFFLEY, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—The weather-wise predict a good fruit- and crop-year after this long, hard winter, and any such compensation would be cheerfully submitted to. All the ice-houses have been well filled, and the local "assayers," whose credentials even the astute Tomlinson would doubtless accept, report the mint in satisfactory condition—when last inspected in the fall—with a good reserve to draw from. Sugar, too, is cheap, and, even despite Congress, we might yet be happy in the dog-days, under the umbrageous foliage of the lordly sassafras; but, alas! owing to the monumental, world-wide amount of politico-economic cussedness which the agriculturist has to "wrastle" with in those times of woe, an indispensable element in what would otherwise be a nectarian compound, bids fair to be lacking. For, in other works, the "horny-handed," while somewhat "long" on corn this year, is rather "short" on its "juice"; and so writer on these topics, from Adam Smith down to Edward Atkinson, shows him how an exchange of these two popular products can be effected without a pretty fair chance of the balance of trade, as it were, being against him. All of which facts our city cousins would do well to note, and govern themselves accordingly next summer, when packing up their toothbrushes and paper collars preparatory to gleefully hieing down the hill in the gladsome sunlight to the Broad-street oasis to take the luxurious and fleet-footed Chesapeake and Ohio "accommodation" to seek cooler breezes and rural delights westward.

AN OTTER'S GAME.

A fine, plump, German carp, weighing within a fraction of 9 pounds, was recently found in an old muskrat "house," in a marsh near Offley, where it had been carried and most ingeniously concealed in one of the compartments by an otter, whose tracks disclosed his cache to a hunter. The fish was untouched and still alive, and had apparently been dragged some distance by its gills, as you would "coerce" a man, so to speak, by the ear or side-whiskers, and the wonder is how the feat was so successfully accomplished, for these fish, though sluggish, are very strong, and to have so neatly hooked, landed, and stored away in his ice-house one of this size must have taxed Brer Otter's woodcraft transportation facilities and general resources pretty severely. The head of another carp, very much larger, was also found at this place. Further investigation showed that his ottership had his "residence," however, elsewhere, in a bank on terra firma—a more fashionable quarter, perhaps, in vermintdom.

COMING ELECTION.

Considerable interest is felt in the coming spring election for county officers. Nearly all the incumbents will, it is likely, be candidates again, and their administration of affairs has been generally satisfactory.

Mr. Walter Sydnor, who four years ago gave the incumbent, Mr. George P. Haw, a spirited contest for the Commonwealth's attorneyship, will measure his strength again. Both gentlemen are well-known Democrats, and lawyers of good standing, and have many friends.

Mr. Elisha Jackson was called to Richmond yesterday to the bedside of his wife, who was lately taken there for treatment at St. Luke's Home, and whose condition is reported as critical.

A DISASTER AT CURVE TANK.

The Engine Blew Up, and Both Engineer and Fireman Killed.

ROANOKE, VA., February 7.—As the east-bound freight-train was going into the switch at Curve Tank last night the engine blew up, and Fireman Dean Henry was instantly killed. Engineer John King died in an hour. He was blown to the river-banks, some distance, and his body was not found for thirty-five minutes. Both men resided in Roanoke. The fireman was a new man, on his second trip.

A Budget from Green Bay.

GREEN BAY, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—Mrs. George W. Hardy, wife of Hon. George W. Hardy, Superintendent of Public Schools of Lunenburg county, has been quite sick, but is at this time considered out of danger and convalescent.

Miss Lizzie Jones, who has been suffering some time with consumption, continues to grow weaker, having lost all hopes of her recovery.

Miss Maude Meredith, of Mt. Leigh, Va., is suffering with la grippe.

Mr. Willie Price, who has been so unfortunate as to lose one of his limbs, continues to improve, and will soon be out again.

Mrs. J. Thomas Goode, of Mecklenburg county, has been visiting her brother, Mr. L. D. Jones, of this place.

Miss Mary Hardy, of Lunenburg county, is visiting friends in Mecklenburg.

The political contest for county officers opened up early in this district, several candidates having already announced themselves as willing to serve the people.

Borland's Withdrawal.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—The friends here of Congressman Tyler are much pleased over the withdrawal of Mr. Borland, as many of his charges were against Newport News Democrats, whom he alleged were unfair in their zeal in trying to re-elect the Congressman.

The plant of the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry-Dock Company presents a busy appearance. About 2,000 men are now employed. Most of them are working on the government and Washington boats, and a large force is kept busy every night.

Politics in Greene County.

STANARDSVILLE, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—Much is being said of the spring election in this county. Indications are that we will have a lively scramble after the various county offices, especially that of Treasurer. T. P. Mayers, the present incumbent, holds the office under the appointment of Judge F. M. McMullan. Dr. E. W. Sims, George Price, Democrats, and W. B. Cole, Republican, will oppose him. Joseph Smith, the veteran Sheriff, finds formidable opposition in James A. Blakey and Castine Miller, but the old Sheriff has grown gray in the saddle and is wide awake.

Virginia News Items.

A telegram was received in Petersburg Wednesday morning announcing the marriage in Washington of Mr. E. A. Goodwyn, Jr., and Miss Minnie Shepperson, of that place.

Dr. Q. R. Hume, of Stannardsville, who was paralyzed Sunday night, has lost the use of one side. His physician, Dr. E. W. Sims, thinks there is some improvement in his condition.

A deed was filed in the office of the Clerk of Courts in Petersburg Wednesday from Simon Seward and wife to the Seward Bag and Trunk Company, conveying the brick factory on the south side of High street, that city, in consideration of $10,000 cash.

The large furniture-factory and the Mt. Vernon Hotel, at New Alexandria, will be sold under a deed of trust next month, but it is said that the sale will serve only to make a new arrangement, which will insure a renewal of work and an advance of New Alexandria.

The annual overhauling of the transatlantic steamship New York, of the American Line, which has been at the ship-yard at Newport News for nearly three weeks, was completed on Wednesday, and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon the ocean greyhound sailed for New York.

The scaffold on which John Brown was hanged is now in possession of Mr. Richard Leapley, of Centerville, Md. It has just been brought from Chicago, where it was on exhibition during the World's Fair. An offer of $15,000 has been made for it by a syndicate, but it will probably be refused.

MILK AND BUTTER.

SUGGESTIONS AND THE CARE OF MILK- AND BUTTER-MAKING.

Points Essential in the Management of Milk for Children, Invalids, and Milk-Drinkers Generally—How to Keep Dairy Utensils.

(Written for the Dispatch.)

In no department of domestic work is cleanliness more imperative or the lack of it more speedily detected than in milking, the care of milk, and in butter-making.

Having had the entire supervision of our dairy, and having at one time as many as forty cows in our herd, I have given many minutiae the closest attention, and believe that I can give some instructive suggestions and salient points to those keeping cows, as well as points most essential in the management of milk for infants, invalids, and milk-drinkers generally, who wish to keep in health.

Begin by requiring every care and neatness in the management of the cow-houses; never allowing the excretions to remain in the house to render the atmosphere foul and breed germs of diseases, which, being absorbed by the milk, are carried through it into the human system. Literally, a cow-house is a place that should be daily "swept and garnished," and always well-ventilated.

Comfortable bedding should be placed in each stall for the cows, and every morning removed to be renewed by a fresh supply at night. In handling the cows the milker should be particularly guarded against rough treatment, and never allowed to run or strike them, else the milk will surely deteriorate from such treatment. Every morning each milking-cow should be well curried and groomed, and turned out to graze or exercise. When the cows are brought up in the evening they should be tattered in their respective stalls, and they quickly learn their stalls; then after this is done place the hot mash, or food intended for them, in the trough before them, and proceed with the preparation for milking. The udder and teats should be carefully washed in water which has been boiled and allowed to cool, wiped dry with a clean cloth, then milked by slow and patient pressure and strokes.

I wish to impress on those milking or keeping more than one cow the inestimable importance of milking each and every cow in a separate pail or bucket. If once tried for a few weeks and the milk strained separately, this great necessity will impress itself upon those supervising the work.

UDDER TROUBLE.

When there a number of cows being milked, a week rarely passes that one of the number does not have some little trouble with the udder or teats. Perhaps it has been slightly horned by another cow, and the udder bruised and inflamed, and the milk will be bloody, or there is some scarification of the teats from briars or cracking from chapping, which often fester and fill with pus, and is only discernible when milked separately, but in each case the results are similar and the milk unfit for drinking or butter-making. Then there comes a period during gestation when the milk becomes stringy and thready, leaving these evidences of unfitness for use in the strainer, or there is a time when there is a sudden reduction in the usual lacteal flow, springing from natural causes in themselves, yet rendering the milk of doubtful nutrition, and especially undesirable for infants and invalids, for the causes that are sufficient to affect the secretion of milk are abundantly sufficient to cause the milk to affect the stomachs of infants and invalids. I have known calves to be given scours from just this cause, and why should not an infant be even more seriously affected? Then a cow may have a cough, and wheezing or labored breathing, and under no circumstances should the milk be used until it is definitely determined whether or not it is an ordinary cold, heaves, or tuberculosis, this dread malady frequently found in herds of valuable cows, and if it is the latter the animal should be at once killed, for if the milk is drunk incalculable evil effects follow to those drinking it, and if the cow lives and goes with the herd there is the greatest danger of the other cows contracting or being inoculated with this terrible disease. These are a few of the most imperative reasons why I urge separate milking and straining, for when cows are all milked in the same pail, or the milk poured together, these troubles and objections are not apparent, and many a child, I believe, has been made ill and lost its life, and many cases of tuberculosis of the bowels or pulmonary tuberculosis resulted from just this carelessness, ignorance, and indifference on the part of the milker or those managing dairies.

IMPURE MILK.

Some physicians may claim that the danger to milk drinkers is eliminated, or lessened, by taking milk from several cows that has been mixed, but I fail to see or understand why even an infinitesimal quantity of impure milk should be taken into the stomach when it is so easy to obtain a perfectly pure article, and I think that such reasoning is only in the interest of dairymen, and shows ignorance and indifference on the part of physicians who must arrive at their hypothesis by scant analysis of one or several specimens of milk all taken, perhaps, from the same cow, and without proper and a thorough investigation of the dairies and their surroundings and a careful analysis of each and every cow's milk, forgetting or ignoring the effect of improper care or feeding, impurities and uncleanliness, upon these animals, and through them the public health. As sure as the bacteria of the barn-yard getting into a wound will cause tetanus, or impure water can convey typhoid-fever into the human system, just so surely can unhealthy cows or their unhealthy condition, or improper attention, or milking, convey cholera-infantum, tuberculosis, or other diseases to our nursing darlings and to the before-healthy man, woman, or child.

Every cow in our dairy has a name and a separate pail, which is tagged with its name, and the milk is brought in that pail to the dairy, carefully examined, strained and measured, not weighed, then an entry of the quantity given by each cow is made in a book opposite the name of each cow. If there is any trouble with any one of the cows' milk it is readily detected and determined upon, and invariably rejected for drinking or butter-making, and the most successful results have followed. The milk for drinking purposes is strained separately, in cans or cocks, and as soon as sufficiently cooled, is put on ice or in an ice-box, where it is kept until is is needed.

BUTTER-MAKING.

The milk for butter-making is strained into a can holding not less than three, nor more than six gallons, and after it is cooled, or loses its animal heat, it is placed in the ice-box, where it remains for twelve hours, giving ample time for the cream to separate; then the can is taken into a room of about 60 or 70 degrees Farenheit, where it clabbers or scurs, and is churned daily. I find this process insures sweeter, better butter—butter that is never cheesy nor oily, and keeps better than if the cream is gathered for several days, and then allowed to sour, and is churned, yielding a cheesy paste, instead of the firm, beautiful, sweet granules that result from the former method, and the buttermilk is far more delicious. Those who enjoy rearing their own pork will find a more nutricious diet for the pigs in buttermilk than in skimmed milk, and these scavengers of the dairy and kitchen will amply repay this housewifely thoughtfulness by supplying the larder with astonishingly sweet, juicy hams the following winter in return. Before putting the milk in the churn see that it is scrupulously clean, rinse it thoroughly in hot brine, then cool the churn well with ice-cold water; pour the milk in, and with a quick, steady, oar-like stroke of the swing-churn you will in twenty minutes have made and gathered from two and a half to three pounds of butter from the six gallons of milk churned, provided the milk is from Jersey cows. In hot weather before removing the butter from the churn put in a lump of ice to cool the butter and avoid the oiling of the granules. Have a large bowl of strained salted water, ice-cold in the summer and fresh from the hydrant in winter; wash the butter well in this water, pressing out all buttermilk; then pour the water off and add more cold water. This second washing aids materially in the last working.

SALT IT.

Press all the water from the butter with a wooden paddle, salt the butter in proportion to one ounce of salt to the pound of butter; put it in a clean bowl, cover closely, set it away in an ice-box or cold room, preparatory to the second working, which can be better done when the butter is firm and cold. This second working is more to remove all motes or specks which may have gotten into the butter, as nearly all of the water was removed by the first working, and too much working the second time is not desirable, and rarely necessary, as it injures the butter, making it pasty and oily. I find the roller butter-worker far more expeditious and desirable than working with the paddle, whether, the quantity is small or large. I have tried a creamer, I have tried cooling the milk in large pans, then gathering the cream for butter-making, and I have tried keeping the milk in running water, but can conscientiously affirm that for perfect butter-making—I do not say labor-saving butter-making—some of the methods used by our forefathers and mothers far surpass more recent modes and inventions which may give quicker results, but an inferior and questionable quality of butter. Milk and butter are wonderfully absorbent, and must never be kept near meats, fish, vegetables, fruits, or pickles, or, indeed, near anything from which they can absorb taste or odors. The buckets used for milking should have covers, and as soon as a cow is milked each bucket should be covered, to avoid any dust that may arise from the hay, or otherwise getting into the milk. All buckets and pans used in the dairy should be washed most carefully immediately after being used in water that has been boiled, and rinsed or frequently boiled in water in which borax has been dissolved in proportion of a large tablespoonful of borax to one gallon of water. This is an excellent germicide, simple and obtainable, and as it is necessary that these utensils should be frequently treated antiseptically, borax is highly endorsed by bacteriologists. Milk-buckets and cans should not be piled up on each other, to become sour, but should be hung on a rack kept for this especial purpose, out in the sun.

HEALTHFUL ATTENDANTS.

Another most important matter in the management of dairies is the healthfulness of the attendants (milkers, or those driving milk-wagons). No man or boy with tubercula or scrofula troubles or diathesis (swollen glans, or running sores) should ever be employed as milkers or dairymen. The expectoration from the consumptive in the cow-house will surely dry and get into the atmosphere and be absorbed in the milk, and where there are scrofulous troubles there is danger of infecting the cows through scarifications from chaps or briars, producing ulcers or other sores. The first recommendation for a good milker is good health, and as far as possible I would urge that the milker be required to live on the places where he is hired, where the cleanliness of his room and surroundings can be supervised, thus lessening the danger of conveying contagious diseases to your farm. If milk-tickets are used in the delivery of milk to houses where the sickness of a contagious nature, the tickets should never be received by the milk-man, nor ever returned to the dairy to be again sent out, perhaps becoming messengers of deadly diseases, such as scarlet-fever, diphtheria, or typhoid-fever. When milk is to be sterilized it should be taken immediately after milking from the cow-house to the sterilizing-room, where it is at once sterilized and tightly bottled. All animal heat should be removed from milk before putting it on ice, or the taste and odor of the milk will be seriously affected. Eternal vigilance is the price of success in all domestic as well as business relations, and in nothing is it more absolutely obligatory than in the care of dairies, and until there is legislation requiring the inspection of the large dairies, and separate milking of all cows, from which thousands of city infants and invalids receive their sustenance, just so long will there be a cruel and reckless disregard and sacrifice of their lives.

If the system is ever adopted astonishingly good results must follow.

B. W. ROSSER.

IN OUR SISTER CITY.

News of a Snowy Day Gleaned on the Southside.

Mr. John A. Lester, of Chesterfield, has presented to Mr. William G. Owens, of this city, a splendidly-bred setter puppy. The dog is of the English strain, and is white, with liver-colored ears. He is by Willo, dam Juno, one of the finest hunting dogs ever owned in this State. Juno is out of Gussie, by Old Major. Gussie was imported by an Englishman, and fell into the hands of Mr. Logan Port, and afterwards to Mr. Lee R. Lester. Old Major belonged to Mr. J. A. Lester, the present owner of Juno, and was one of the finest hunters ever owned in the county. He was by J. Ellett's Don, out of Fisk, she by Jeff Davis, out of Susie. Ellett's Don was by T. M. Fendley's Don, out of Susie, he by Neco, out of Flora (imported), by Ivanhoe Cox's Macio, also imported. Neco belonged to Mr. Samuel Taylor, of Manchester, and twelve years ago was regarded as one of the best hunters of his day.

Willo, the sire of the puppy, is by Captain J. A. Lipscomb's Tego, dam Major R. M. Selly's imported dog Cora. Tego is by imported Don, out of Gip. Both of these dogs were exceptionally fine hunters. It will be seen from the above that the young setter traces back to imported blood on both his sire and dam's side.

While no positive information could be obtained yesterday in regard to the rumor of the death of Mr. Joseph La Prade, it was the general opinion that the report was without foundation. The gentleman lives near Clover Hill, in the county, and is not in convenient communication with the city, especially in weather like the present. It is said that Mr. La Prade's horse is dead, which may possibly have given cause for the rumor that Mr. La Prade had died from the effects of injuries resulting from his accident of last Saturday night.

Mr. Herbert Friend, who broke his leg while skating on the lake at Forest Hill Park Wednesday afternoon, was reported yesterday to be getting along as well as could be expected.

"Aunt Dinah's Quilting-Party" will be given at the residence of Mrs. L. R. Thornhill to-night.

The Council meets in regular session to-night at 7:30 o'clock. The Committee on Light will have a meeting at 7:15 o'clock.

There was not a case in the Police Court yesterday morning.

The german which was to have been given to-night by the Junior Club has been postponed.

The Clerk of the Hustings Court issued a marriage-license yesterday to a colored couple.

Miss Addie Vaden, of Danville, is visiting Mrs. J. T. Jewett, on Bainbridge street.

Mr. John M. Moore left yesterday for Staunton, where he will be in attendance upon the convention of the Young Men's Christian Association in that city.

Miss Gracie E. Williams, of Chesterfield, is visiting her cousin, Miss Lula Williams, No. 702 Hull street.

STOLE BRITISH GOLD.

James M. Keene and Wife Arrested at a New York Hotel.

(New York Press.)

James Matthew Keene, a young Englishman, and his wife, Catherine, were arrested at the Hotel Marlborough, Thirty-sixth street and Broadway, on Tuesday by the Central-Office police at the request received on Monday from the Head Constable of Police of Liverpool, Eng. Keene was accused in a cable dispatch of having embezzled £1,500, and the police were asked to hold the prisoners for extradition. Both husband and wife were arraigned before Justice Taintor, in Jefferson Market, where they were remanded.

CONFESSES HIS GUILT.

According to the story told at police headquarters last night, Keene confessed his guilt. He had been employed for ten years by the firm of Ebler, Dempster & Co., Liverpool, agents for the British and African Ocean and Transportation and African Steamship companies. He had lately been assistant cashier for the firm, and on January 10th last took £2,00 and fled. He was induced to steal to cover his losses at baccarat. He remained in England until January 19th, when he and his wife left Southampton in the steamer Berlin, and landed here on January 29th.

Detectives Reidy and Rymders traced the couple to the Hotel Marlborough yesterday, and arrested the man as he was sitting at the telephone. The woman they found in their apartments. All the property the pair had in their possession was confiscated, including a tin box containing $5,000 in gold. Keene said that he was about to start for South America, where he was to engage in coffee-raising.

HIS FRIEND VISITS HIM.

Since his arrival in this city Keene has been intimate with Holmes Agnew, now stopping at the Hotel Brunswick, who was a fellow-passenger on the Berlin. Mr. Agnew was at the Hotel Marlborough when the arrests were made, and called at police headquarters last evening to see his friend.

Keene is the son of a retired sea captain, who was for twenty-five years in the service of the firm by which the prisoner was employed. The couple have one child, 2 years old, now staying with its grandmother in Liverpool. Mrs. Keene had nothing to do with her husband's theft, it is said.

The River Schledt, in Holland, is frozen over so solidly as to enable people to cross on foot. Navigation is totally suspended above Austroweel.

VIRGINIA Y. M. C. A.

OPENING SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION.

Officers Chosen and Important Problems Discussed—Invitations and a Concert—Standing Committees Appointed—Cold Weather.

STAUNTON, VA., February 7.—(Special.)—The nineteenth annual convention of the Virginia Young Men's Christian Association convened this morning at the First Presyterian church, when a social service was conducted by Jacob Sallade, of Richmond College.

The following officers were chosen: President, R. M. Smith, Richmond; First Vice-President, P. A. Krise, Lynchburg; Second Vice-President, C. E. Vawter, of Miller School; Third Vice-President, F. A. Lamb, Manchester; Secretary, H. C. Snead, Lynchburg; First Assistant, T. S. Hamilton, Abingdon; Press Secretary, W. R. Haight, Manchester.

WELCOMED.

H. M. McIlhany, of Staunton, welcomed the delegates in the name of the local association and the citizens of Staunton, which address was fittingly replied to in behalf of the delegates by R. M. Smith, of Richmond. Jesse Blanton, of Roanoke, offered a resolution, which was adopted, inviting the ministers in the city belonging to evangelical churches anywhere and active Young Men's Christian Association members to seats in the convention as corresponding members.

TOPICS INTRODUCED.

State-Secretary Williams introduced the topic—"Problems confronting the Virginia association, and lessons from association reports"—and asked delegates to arise and introduce themselves, stating their positions in the work and their length of connection in the cause. Many prominent workers in Virginia and other States showed themselves. Rev. Theron H. Rice, of Alexandria, spoke on the theme, "Bible Study."

LOCAL COURTESIES.

The authorities of the Western State Hospital invited the convention to visit the hospital, and the Stonewall Brigade Band gives to-morrow a concert to the delegates. There are about 200 visitors in the city, and the weather is intensely cold, with snow falling all day long. The delegates see Staunton under dispiriting conditions. H. Thane Miller, "the blind man eloquent," from Cincinnati, delivered an admirable address, and Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., the prominent Presbyterian pulpiteer, of New York, also spoke to the convention.

THE COMMITTEES.

Standing committees were made as follows:

On Business—Messrs. J. R. Collingwood, of Roanoke; A. M. Hewison, of Staunton; J. T. Grubb, of Shenandoah; C. D. Owens, of Waynesboro; W. R. Hill, of University of Virginia.

On Resolutions—Messrs. W. W. Vicar, of Norfolk; Charles Hancock, Miller's School; W. S. McClanahan, Roanoke; W. O. Michaels, Richmond; A. J. Helbig, Washington and Lee University.

On Devotional Meetings—C. R. Towson, Roanoke; H. M. McIlhany, Staunton; Jesse Blanton, Roanoke; D. J. Weisiger, Manchester.

State Executive Committee Report—O. B. Morgan, Petersburg; R. W. Hilleary, Warrenton; R. W. Bond, Front Royal; G. G. Gooch, Staunton; W. W. Lyman, Roanoke.

On Credentials—G. W. Clymer, Radford; Julian E. Pleasants, Ambrose Page, Lynchburg. The first-named on each committee is chairman.

NOTABILITIES.

Among the notable gentlemen attending the convention are Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D., of Brooklyn, passed 73 years of age, and one of the most prominent men in the pulpit; H. Thane Miller, of Cincinnati; Rev. T. H. Rice, of Alexandria; Rev. R. W. Bond, D. D., president of Randolph-Macon Academy, Front Royal; C. E. Vawter, president Miller Manual School; Rev. R. J. McIlwaine, of Lexington; P. A. Krise, of Lynchburg; W. W. Vicar, of Norfolk; L. L. Marks, of Petersburg, and Rev. J. W. Lee, the Irish evangelist.

AND ALL ABOUT A PUPPY.

A Young Married Couple Arrested for Arguing Loudly in Broadway.

(New York Times.)

Young Mr. and Mrs. Henry Davidson live in Catskill. They have not been married very long, and yesterday, when the young man had to come to the city on business, he asked his wife to accompany him. That is where he made his first mistake, for if his wife had not been with him he would not have been arrested, and if he had not been arrested he would not have had to appear in the Jefferson-Market Court to answer to a charge of disorderly conduct, which was an extremely mortifying affair, of course.

The young couple had a very pleasant time, indeed, and Mr. Davidson enjoyed going into the big shops with his young wife and seeing her spend his money on pretty little trifles for the home which they are just establishing up in the country.

There was no sign of tribulation until the young couple went into Twenty-third street, and there they fell into the clutches of an old man with a pair of fox-terrier puppies and a command of persuasive language. Mrs. Davidson thought the puppies were cute, and her husband agreed with her, and so when she said she thought she would like to have one of the pups he asked the fancier what he wanted for the one with a black patch over one ear and a yellow one over the other.

"Well, Sor," said the dealer, "them pups can't be beat. I oughtn't sell 'em at all, but tolmes is very hoard. I wouldn't part with them, Sor, but rent is due an' I need the money, an' seein' as you want him, Sor, I'll let ye have him fer $15."

Mr. Davidson thought $15 was a good deal for a puppy, but his wife thought she wanted the dog, so the dealer got his price, which was about three times what the dog was worth.

PROBLEM OF A NAME.

Then came the problem of a name for doggie, and this is just where the trouble began. Mrs. Davidson thought Mab would be a nice name, but her husband did not think that would be exactly appropriate.

"How would you like to call him Jack?" he suggested.

Mrs. Davidson was distinctly disappointed, for she had made up her mind that if she ever had a pet she would call it Mab or Gladys or something romantic like that. Jack would not do at all, of that she was very sure, and then she suggested about a dozen names, all of which were very fine, but none of which would do, according to her husband's notion, for a fox-terrier.

Then he took a turn at suggesting names. Tom, Dick, Spot, Sport, Fun, Dash, and Nick were all discarded, after much discussion, as being of no use.

Then the young wife made up her mind that the dog must be called Hector.

"What?" shouted Mr. Davidson, who was cold and hungry, and consequently in no very amiable frame of mind, "you never would call a measly little beast like that Hector?"

"It's not a measly beast," said Mrs. Davidson, beginning to sob; "it's a dear, sweet little thing."

By this time the couple had walked up Broadway as far as Twenty-sixth street. There they stopped and renewed the discussion. Both were pretty angry, and neither was careful to speak with moderation.

"I say it's a little beast, and you can call it anything you like," shouted Mr. Davidson.

"It's you who are the beast," sobbed his wife.

A crowd began to gather, but neither husband nor wife cared about that. They were too much occupied with their own troubles and the dog to pay any attention to a New York crowd.

The man tried to pacify his wife, but he only made her angrier and more nervous, and finally she struck him a violent blow in the face. The crowd cheered and urged her to hit him again.

Just then a policeman came along and placed young Mr. and Mrs. Davidson under arrest. He took them and the puppy down to the Jefferson-Market Police Court, and before having the papers made out he brought the husband and wife and the $15-dog before Justice Taintor. The Justice, after hearing all the facts in the case, decided not to punish the young couple, and told them to go home.

Both were in a very penitent frame of mind, and said it was their first quarrel, and that they did not see how it had happend. They left the court-room beaming.

OLD KENTUCKY STORIES.

Some Humorous Bits of Bright Word-Painting.

(Joseph Noel Johnson in the Cincinnati Tribune.)

"When I give out that I would preach at the head o' Trace Fork," said the Rev. Lemuel Pennel yesterday, "my friends all up an' tole me I'd never git a congregashun. They said thar wuz never a rope of savin' grave made stout enough to drag them 'ar natives to the fear uv the Spirit.

"But I knowed better. Although you may think I wuz city-born, and have wore out the backs uv my coats against college walls, hits all er misteake. I wuz born and fotched up in the mountings. I know ye don't believe hit. Hit looks unreasonable, but, suh, I'm er self-made man. I edificated my'self. I han't got nobody but the Lord an' myse'f ter thank fur the work I hev done, suh.

"This is goin' er little out in the brush from the road I started on, but what I want ter 'splain iz that I knowed the people. I wuz born among 'em, an' I knew 'em through an' through.

"What did I do ter git the crowd? That's what I'm swingin' er round to. Wall, suh, I got me a spring wagin an' set six 4-gallon jugs in the back part uv it. Every house I'd pass on the way ter preachin' grounds I'd lift up a jug an' pretend ter be drinkin'. Then I'd sit down the jug, lift up mer voice, an' shout: 'Come, all ye that famish an' thrist, fer the blessed Spirit ter the head o' Injun, an' ye shall be filled!' The whole family an' all their visitors would take arter my wagin. I kept repeatin' this dose in front uv every house, an' when I got ter the place fer preachin' I had the biggest gatherin' thet ever hed been seen in thet neck o' the woods. A revival begun at once. Forty souls were brought ter Christ, an' only one man killed durin' that blessed week."

I was stopping for the night on Christy creek, in Carter county. The "ole man an' woman," six "gals," four "boys" (all grown), three hands, and myself made a semi-circle about a great, cavernous fireplace filled with roaring hickory beech logs.

One great, strapping young giant sat with his left shoulder against one jamb rack, while his sister Moll braced her right against the other. They faced each other, and I saw them frequently exchange smiling glances, which they well understood. They were holding a wordless conversation, and I expect it related to my very self-important self.

Finally the young man drew in his outstretched legs, making his big boot-heels scrape harsnly on the earth and puncheon floor as he did so. He stretched out his long arms, like wings, yawned, and rose up. He then crooked a long, dark-complexioned index-finger toward me and said:

"I want ter see ye outside a minit, stranger."

I went out with him. Little shivers played hide and seek up and down my spinal column as I stood, in frightened perplexity, below this tower of muscle and brawn. What could he want? My blood? or a drink from a flask I had in my pocket? He kept me in suspense several minutes—many minutes to me then. Then he drew in a deep inspiration and said:

"Stranger, don't ye want ter marry my sister Moll?"

"Why—I—er dont understand. What do you mean?"

"Wal, hit's jist this er way: Moll's bound ter marry, that's all ther iz erbout it. She's the best field hand on the place, but she swars she won't never strike another lick har. So we's all workin' ter git her satisfied. I thought Jim Stacey wuz goin' ter take her, but he went to log-rollin' soon arter they wuz ingaged, an' beat ever' man ther liften' at er han'spike. That got his name up, an'