

GENERAL CONTRACT. ALBRIGHT & MITTENDORF TO DO THE MANCHESTER PAVING. MONEY GIVEN TO THE POOR. The Council Places \$100 at the Citizens Committee's Disposal - The Shooting Case Dismissed - Personal and Other South-Side Items.

first street, Woodland Heights, and stole all of his fowls. Manchester Chapter of Royal Arch Masons met in the Masonic Temple Thursday. Monday evening, the Grand Lecturer of District No. 3, paid the usual official visit, in company with Companion C. Lewis, High Priest of Chapter No. 2, of Richmond. Companion English addressed the chapter, and after adjourning to the dining-hall, where an elegant supper was served by the Steward's Committee.

The City Council of Manchester met last evening in regular session. The fathers convened at 7:30 o'clock, and not only was every member of the city's governing body present, but the chamber was densely filled, as well, with citizens, who were deeply interested in its proceedings. In accordance with a resolution, passed in the mass-meeting of citizens on the evening of Monday, February 1st, his Honor, Mayor Maurice, and Rev. Dr. L. B. Thornhill were present, to urge upon the Council the expediency of voting an appropriation of \$100, to be used by the Executive Committee of the Citizens' Relief Board, for the relief of the city's suffering poor. This the Council agreed to do. Mayor Maurice pressed this action, as did Dr. Thornhill, as well.

Officers and Employees May Have to Wait for This Month's Pay. It now looks as if the officers and employees of the city will have to wait some little time for their February compensation. A resolution was offered in the Board of Aldermen at its January meeting on Finance to authorize the Committee on Finance to borrow a sum not to exceed \$50,000 to meet the current expenses of the city. Another resolution was presented instructing the City Auditor to pay the salaries and wages of the city officers and employees until the completion and adoption of the annual budget should have been accomplished. When the Common Council met afterwards, Mr. Jones offered an amendment to the resolution regarding the borrowing of money not to exceed \$50,000 so as to make this borrowed sum only applicable to the payment of the negotiable notes of the city drawn prior to February 1, 1897. This amendment was adopted. The Board has concurred in it, and it is at present law.

GET THE PAVING CONTRACT. The interest of the session, however, centered upon the matter of awarding the contract for paving Hull street. The decision lay between Messrs. Albright & Mittendorf, and Mr. E. R. Goodwin, and was rendered in favor of the former firm. The real question dates its birth back when, some months ago, the Council voted to pave the thoroughfare referred to, and bids were invited. In view of the fact that the Richmond Railway and Electric Company refused to pave its affairs would necessitate passing a law suit, there were no other bids presented for the work than that of Mr. Goodwin. Before the contract was signed, however, the Council decided to let the work be done by a recent meeting of the committee bids were again invited, and there were this time a number of bids, among which were those of Messrs. Albright & Mittendorf, and Mr. Goodwin, with the former as the lowest bidder. In consequence, the gentlemen claimed the work. This claim was met by Mr. Goodwin with the statement that the proceedings of eighteen months' standing were binding upon the City, and that the contract was awarded to him. The matter came recently before the Street Committee, and was referred to the Council for action. The decision was made by a vote of 9 to 3.

City-Hall Court News. The Hustings Court was engaged yesterday in the consideration of revenue cases. A suit was instituted in the Law and Equity Court by Messrs. Allan & Allan in favor of Messrs. Talliferro & Co., of the city, against Mr. DeWald M. Lea, formerly of this city, but now of Washington. The suit is to recover \$5,000 for building material furnished the defendant by the plaintiff company.

PERSONALS AND BRIEFS. Mrs. J. L. Eubank, of Washington, D. C., is stopping at the Mt. Vernon. Miss Florence A. Brown, of Culpeper, is visiting Miss Maria Gray, at the Mt. Vernon. Ex-Mayor W. H. Hyde and wife, of Hartford, Conn., are stopping at the Jefferson. Dr. P. T. DuVal, of No. 107-1/2 East Main street, is confined to the house with the grip. Miss Gertrude Bear, of Gordonsville, Va., is visiting Mr. and Mrs. A. Goldback, No. 14 East Main street. Miss Constance M. Page, of Albemarle county, is stopping with relatives at No. 705 West Grace street. Rev. J. E. Hutson, the evangelist, will preach at Grace-Street Baptist tabernacle on Sunday night. Mrs. John B. Davis, of West Point, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Roane, at No. 41 west Broad street. Dr. W. W. Parker and Mr. John Morton, both of whom have been ill for many weeks, are improving steadily. Mr. F. B. Thlow, the expert electrician of Philadelphia, Pa., is on a visit to his parents, No. 205 east Marshall street. Mr. Joseph H. Shepherd has been commissioned Deputy Supreme Commander of the "Order of Columbus," which has his chief offices in Baltimore. The rector of the Monumental church will preach to the medical students Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, by special request from some of the students. Mr. Jesse B. Minor, now of New York, but a native of Virginia, and during the war of the rebellion a member of the Richmond Howitzers, is in the city. Rev. Edward L. Pell will deliver his regular weekly lecture on the Sunday-school lesson at the Young Men's Christian Association this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock. Major E. F. Ekel, of Lewisburg, W. Va., for many years proprietor of the W. S. Sulphur Springs, is in the city, visiting his old friend, Colonel A. W. Archer, at the Imperial Hotel. The regular meeting of the Methodist Sunday-School Society will be held at the Fairmount Methodist church tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The meeting will be of importance. Rev. Jabez Hall, with the Junior Christian Society of Seventh-Street church, will hold a service at the Masonic Home Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The public is invited. The Baptist Sunday-School Association of Richmond and Manchester will hold its monthly meeting at Stockton-Street Baptist church, at Stockton street, Manchester, to-morrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The session promises to be a very interesting one. The Helping Circle of King's Daughters will hold a silver tea at the residence of Mr. T. W. Davis, No. 270 east Broad street, on Thursday evening, February 13, at 8 o'clock. An attractive programme of vocal and instrumental music and recitations will be rendered during the evening. Agent Emmett Taylor, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, killed two hounds on Thursday. One was a fine animal belonging to Mr. Joseph Biley, that had been kicked, and the other was owned by a negro at No. 15 west Leigh street, that was starving.

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A PLEASANT SURPRISE. There was a very pleasant surprise party at the residence of Mrs. J. Dunnavant, of Maury and Seventh streets, on Thursday evening. The young people took the house by storm, and the hostess determined minds to make their best with a nice time, and to have each themselves. Among those present were: Misses Pearl Dunnavant, Lizzie Cole, Maud Chatman, Maggie Dobbins, Susan Starks, Gertrude Evans, Edolie Bell, Gertrude Starks, Maggie Chatman, Ella McCulloch, Maggie Sharp, Allie Sharp, Bettie Nance, Estel Johnson. The gentlemen were: Messrs. James Valentine, John Murray, William Evans, Edolie Bell, John Starks, Lennie Starks, Will Beawell, Floyd Hendricks, John Roberts, Henry Cannon, Stoney Henry, Herbert Tuleaks, Walter Burchett, Charles Crawford, Russell Sharp, and Joe Elless.

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THE SHOOTING CASE DISMISSED. The case of Frank Harris, charged with shooting the Rev. J. B. Taylor, in "Saints Jones's" court, in Swansboro', yesterday, and the charge was dismissed on the ground that the shooting was accidental. Captain A. C. Attkisson represented the defence. Soon after Christmas, Harris and Tucker were working in a house on the Petersburg turnpike, when they came across an old gun. It was in the hands of the mechanic, when the revolver was discharged, hitting the arm of his companion to bleed. The shooting was proved to be purely accidental. The case was dismissed on the ground that the shooting was accidental. Captain A. C. Attkisson represented the defence. Soon after Christmas, Harris and Tucker were working in a house on the Petersburg turnpike, when they came across an old gun. It was in the hands of the mechanic, when the revolver was discharged, hitting the arm of his companion to bleed. The shooting was proved to be purely accidental.

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MR. ALCOCK'S DEATH. ONE OF THE CLERKS IN THE AUDITOR'S OFFICE PASSES AWAY. FOR MANY YEARS A PUBLIC SERVANT. A Native of Culpeper, and to Be Buried There - War Record of the Deceased - Other Deaths and Funerals Reported Yesterday.

Mr. A. R. Alcock, one of the clerks in the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts of Virginia, died at his residence, No. 512 east Chestnut street, yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock, from the effects of a severe attack of the grip. He had been ill for five or six weeks, and his death was unexpected. He had really been sick ever since Christmas, but did not like to give up to the disease which was making inroads upon his constitution. A severe and serious wound received by Mr. Alcock during the war augmented and complicated his troubles. Mr. Alcock was born in Culpeper county on June 23, 1844, and was, therefore, nearly 63 years of age. He was a son of Thomas Seidon Alcock and Mrs. Juliana Johnston Alcock. He married Mrs. Julia Mathews, a niece of General Kemper, once Governor of Virginia, and his wife died several years ago.

HIS WAR RECORD. Mr. Alcock entered the army in February, 1862, as a member of Company B, of the Thirteenth Virginia Regiment, and served with distinction until he was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg on July 27, 1862. His commandant was Colonel J. Catlett Gibson, until recently a resident of Virginia, but now living in New York. From the time of the receipt of his wound he either rode his horse or sat on crutches until May, 1863. He then enlisted again under General James G. Field, in the quartermaster's department. After that he was taken to Frederick, Md., where he was held as a prisoner of war until he was exchanged in January, 1864. He was then sent to the hospital at Washington, D. C., where he was discharged on June 1, 1864. He was then sent to the hospital at Washington, D. C., where he was discharged on June 1, 1864. He was then sent to the hospital at Washington, D. C., where he was discharged on June 1, 1864.

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Chess by Cable. MATCH BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES. TEN PLAYERS ON EACH SIDE. Britishers Playing at the Hotel Cecil, London; the Americans on the Stage of the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

NEW YORK, February 12.—This morning at 10 o'clock the second international chess-match between the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and the United States of America was begun, there being ten players on each side. While the Britishers were conducting their game at the Hotel Cecil, in London, the Americans were playing on the stage of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, where the Brooklyn Chess Club has made excellent arrangements for the players, the cable operators, the official scorers, and the spectators. During the morning and afternoon sittings there were about five hundred spectators. Functionally at 10 o'clock, Professor I. White, the British umpire, called time, and play began. The pairing and the openings adopted were as follows: Tables. Players. Opening. 1. Blackburn vs. Pillsbury. 2. Showalter vs. Loomis. 3. Atkins vs. Loomis. 4. Barry vs. Lawrence. 5. Mills vs. Hymes. 6. Hodges vs. Bellingham. 7. Blake vs. Delmar. 8. Helms vs. Jackson. 9. Cole vs. Tied. 10. McCutcheon vs. ...

THE BUSINESS SITUATION. Importance of Disruption of Steel-Rail Pool. NEW YORK, February 12.—Messrs. R. G. Dun & Co. will say in their weekly report of the week approaches in importance the disruption of the steel-rail pool. In two days after it a greater tonnage of rails was produced than the entire output of the industry in December and January, 1897 is now the price at which works East and West are seeking orders, the Carnegie Company even selling at 17, Chicago delivery. The rail pool, which has been in existence for many years, has been a source of much complaint, and an important decrease in the cost of track-laying or renewals to railroads. Even more important is the result that a reconstruction of the rail pool will be possible as long as the contract records, structural forms, bars, rods, wire, nails, tin plates, and many other products, has a chance to secure cheap material. In the near future, also, is being struck a blow in the war of the iron-ore industry. Messrs. Easton, Richardson and McMillin, of Tennessee; Stallings, of Alabama; Livingston, of Georgia; Senator Daniel, of Virginia, and others.

BIRTHDAY OF LINCOLN. It is Now a Legal Holiday in New York. NEW YORK, February 12.—Over all public buildings and schools and hundreds of other houses in the city to-day the Stars and Stripes floated in honor of Lincoln. It happens by the fortune of circumstances that in the month of February the State of New York celebrates the birthday of her greatest and most national hero—Washington and Lincoln. Perhaps more than any other city in the Union, the metropolis shows her appreciation by an almost general observance of the birthday of the great statesman. The stores were closed to-day, and business was almost entirely suspended, and the snow came to add to the general holiday air.

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THE WAR IN CUBA. Rebels Attack Spanish Gunboats - Fighting in Pinar del Rio. HABAÑA, February 12.—Advices have been received here that a party of rebels made an attack upon the Spanish steamer Fausto, at Media Luna, a port near Manzanillo, when Commander Pon, on board the Spanish gunboat Cuba Espanola, came up, and opened fire on the rebels, driving them away, and compelling them to leave their dead behind them. The Cuba Espanola then retired, but as the rebels came back after the gunboat left, Commander Pon returned and again opened fire upon them, this time dispersing them, with considerable loss. Pon then proceeded to the San Juan de los Rios, where he captured a party of rebels, and captured a boat, which they had used. Commander Cardera, commander of the Spanish gunboat Yumuril, has beaten and dispersed a party of rebels near Pinar del Rio, where he captured a number of rebels, and captured a boat, which they had used. Military-Commander Madruga has defeated a strong party of rebels in the Pinar del Rio province, where he captured a number of rebels, and captured a boat, which they had used. The rebels lost thirty men killed and wounded, and the troops lost five killed and two missing. The camp of the rebels was destroyed, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were captured. The rebels had been in the province for some time, and the insurgents had left behind them, were captured by the troops.

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THE PRESIDENT DUCK-SHOOTING. He is at Widewater To-Day - Weather Just Right. WASHINGTON, D. C., February 12.—The President left here at 11 o'clock to-night on the light-house tender Maple, for Widewater, Va., on the Potomac river, to enjoy a day's sport in duck-shooting. Captain Lambertson accompanied him. The weather is cold, with snow and sleet—just the weather for such sport. The Maple will reach the blinds early Saturday morning. The President is expected to return to-morrow night.