

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH. BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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All letters and telegrams must be addressed to THE DISPATCH COMPANY. Rejected communications will not be returned. All letters recommending candidates for office must be paid for to insure their publication. This is a long standing rule of ours.

Resolutions of respect to deceased members passed by societies, corporations, associations, or other organizations will be charged for as advertising matter. UP-TOWN OFFICE, BROAD-STREET PHARMACY, 515 EAST BROAD STREET. MANCHESTER OFFICE, 1203 HULL STREET.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1897. THE FINANCE COMMISSION. The Common Council will meet tonight, and the chief business before it will be the consideration of the proposed change in the city charter to provide for the creation of a board of finance.

VACCINATION. Small-pox has prevailed at Atlanta for some months past, but not in a way to create general alarm. The newspapers of the city have discussed the presence of the disease there in the most matter-of-fact way, instead of trying to conceal the truth, as some would have had them do. The result of this wise course is that the situation is thoroughly understood at home and elsewhere.

OUR DUTY. Discussing the financial condition of this State the Petersburg Index-Appeal speaks as follows: "There should be no delay, and we are gratified to note that there seems to be no disposition to delay, on the part of the Legislature, in starting the work of reducing State expenses and inaugurating a uniform system of retrenchment and reform."

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Much may be saved there, but cuts will also have to be made in many other directions. Mr. Opte's proposition will have friends and enemies. It contemplates a scheme of reduction graded according to salaries. No matter what plan is adopted to put retrenchment into effect, the work of the Legislature will be difficult and disagreeable. It would be obviously unfair to cut the pay of the officers and employees of the State Government at proper, and not to cut that of the officers and employees of the institutions that are supported by State funds. Yet we may see some of the members representing the districts in which these institutions are located strenuously opposed to reducing these appropriations, while supporting cuts in other directions.

Other directions. We speak from experience, not from knowledge of the position of any member of the present Legislature. Human nature is pretty much the same the world over, and at all times, and it is put to a particularly severe strain when retrenchment measures are under consideration. So it was here in Richmond, when our Council undertook, when the Legislature undertakes its ungracious task.

It is the duty of the Legislature in the effort it purposes making to adjust the State's expenses to its future income. We have to remember that in the year 1900 there will be a reassessment of the real estate in this Commonwealth. It would also be well to remember that each citizen and each community may best show the sincerity of his or its retrenchment faith by offering to submit to retrenchment where he or it is particularly interested. "Don't send the collector off to your next door neighbor; say what you yourself will give to the cause."

We repeat, that some time may elapse before there will be the necessary crystallization of opinion as to the method to be adopted; but we hope that it will, if members are sustained by their constituents in the manner we have indicated as desirable.

If this Legislature fails to do the work expected of it; if the year 1900 shows a large reduction in land values, there will be a popular demand for a constitutional convention which nothing can defeat. And then— However, we refuse to take that as a prophetic utterance. We prefer to think that from every quarter of the Old Dominion encouragement and sympathy will come to the Legislature, and that every individual and every interest will express willingness to make sacrifices to lighten our good ship of state over the shoals that are in its way.

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SENATOR CHANDLER'S LETTER. Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, has written a letter to the Washington Post, in which he opposes legislation by the present Congress in the matter of currency reform. Mr. Chandler takes the position that the Gage scheme of reform is impracticable. He quotes Mr. Gage's own language to show that the object of the Secretary's bill is to commit the country more thoroughly to the single gold standard, and after arguing that the immediate effect of agitating the Secretary's recommendations would be to throw doubt upon the sincerity of the President's declaration in favor of continuous efforts to secure bimetallicism, proceeds to enumerate many other results "disastrous" to the Republican party, which he thinks will follow any attempts at currency legislation.

In Senator Chandler's opinion, if Congress takes the subject political turmoil will arise, and with it the dawn approached, which he has become strong. Or, to employ his own vivid and picturesque imagery, "Achilles should not have sulked in his tent, and when all was doubt and darkness, but should have promptly sallied forth, smiting the shadows, and doing battle with the intrinsech air."

While, when the evidence has gathered strength, and when the dawn approached, responsive to demands of sarcasm, swiftly changes shape into Jupiter tonans, and thus, by a more or less dexterous artifice, the filling of the Treasury by the normal workings soon to be seen of the new tariff law.

Mr. Chandler's letter contains many violent assumptions. One of these is that the public ever had any confidence in President McKinley's declarations in favor of continued efforts to secure bimetallicism. The bimetallicism subterfuge, as worked by Mr. McKinley and his advisers, both through the informal representative that was sent to Europe and the commission, was too thin to deceive any thoughtful man on either side of the ocean. Mr. McKinley's declarations, past and more recent, have no more credence in the eyes of the people than had this dodge. Another violent assumption is that the Dingley tariff law will ever fill the Treasury. Still another is that the business of the country expects the existing Congress to do anything with the currency question. Fortunately, the business of the country expects nothing of the kind, and has largely discounted the juggling with the matter that will probably take place.

It will not do to encourage the hope that agitation of the currency problem by Congress will be entirely unaccompanied by unsettlement of values and business disturbances. The speculative element may be trusted to see that no such desirable condition prevails. But by long odds there will be no such demoralization as Senator Chandler foresees, or professes to foresee. Senator Chandler has been communing rather with his political fears than with his knowledge of the business situation. However, business can well afford to take the risks of all disturbance the futile agitation may involve, if the agitation shall eventually in the realization of Senator Chandler's crowning fear—the sweeping of the Republicans out of power in 1900 and the election of a Democratic President and Congress; and for the reason that we shall never have genuine currency reform, guarantee against business disturbance, and permanent business progress and prosperity until that consummation shall have been attained.

BAD MAIL SERVICE. There is great complaint among our people on account of the delay to which we are subjected in receiving the Richmond papers. It is hard to locate the blame, but somebody is responsible, and we intend to find out who it is, if this thing keeps up.

Government officials are supposed to have furnished us the facilities for getting printed, and Richmond papers had better assist us in seeing that we do so, or their subscription lists will be greatly curtailed.—Mathews-Middlesex Herald.

We suffer from the same inconvenience that you do, Brother Herald, and for a month now we have been tracing you down. The postmaster at Richmond writes that it is frequently because the papers are not mailed in time at his office. We have requested the Richmond press to try to overcome this difficulty. Then, again, it is often the case that the Shackelford carrier does not wait for the West Point mail. The government has promised to remedy this difficulty, if possible. So, hereafter, we think the Richmond papers will show up on time.—Irvington Citizen.

In this connection, we wish to state that while at times in the past we have failed to catch this early mail, we believe we have now, in all human probability, provided against slips of this character in the future. We will take as a kindness any complaint of tardiness in the delivery of the Dispatch.

St. Louis had another costly conflagration Sunday morning. The Mermod & Jaccard retail jewelry-store, one of the largest establishments of its kind in the world, was burned, and a quarter of a million dollars' worth of gems and works of art is buried in the ruins.

Liebig's Compound Extract of Beef. Absolutely the best preparation of its kind. Unapproachable for purity and fine flavor. It never spoils nor wastes. Genuine bears signature of Justus von Liebig. Send address for free Cook Book to Liebig Co., P. O. Box 215, New York.

for me to have accused his client would have been when the evidence was weak; and with it the season of action, Achilles, accusation altogether when the evidence had become strong. Or, to employ his own vivid and picturesque imagery, "Achilles should not have sulked in his tent, and when all was doubt and darkness, but should have promptly sallied forth, smiting the shadows, and doing battle with the intrinsech air."

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The Thrifty Explorer. (Chicago Post.) "Do you know why it is that so many explorers seek the Arctic and so few the Antarctic regions?" "Well, I think I could make a pretty good guess."

Method in His Madness. (Life.) Jabbers: Going to get married on the 26th? Well, you are a chump! Havers: Why? "Because all your friends will make one gift for both wedding and Christmas presents."

No Long-Felt Want. (Chicago Evening News.) Mrs. Maiden: What are you going to give your husband for Christmas? Mrs. Atkins: Really, I don't know what to give him. I've been looking through the house this morning, and I can't think of a thing we need in the way of furniture or decorations that is within our means.

A Scientific Experiment. (Caroly Wells in Judge.) I took some heroine of romance from Ouida's romance, and to view with scientific glance through my microscope.

Nothing was left of each fair girl except some diamond tears, Two rows of teeth of shining pearl, A pair of shell-like ears.

LUMSDEN'S, 731 Main street. Open Evenings Till 9 o'clock. Christmas-Day Till Noon.

NOLTING. BLACK FENDERS AND FIRE SEETS. MEETINGS. ELECTION NOTICE. Notice is hereby given that an election for directors of the Rosney Iron and Lumber Company (Limited), according to the by-laws of said company, will be held at the office of said company, at Rosney, Buckingham county, Va., on MONDAY, between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock P. M.

WHISKEY. -WHISKEY—OLD AND GOOD. AT the low price of \$2 per gallon—Old Monongahela, Old Standard, Pride of Virginia, Old Mountain Dew, Golden Eagle, Kentucky Bourbon, also, Pure Apple Brandy, Corn Whiskey, Fine Gin, and Medford Rum at the same price. Dixie Rye Whiskey at \$1.50 and Good Whiskey at \$2.50.

WE INVITE YOU ALL TO OUR GREAT SALE OF Holiday and Housefurnishings. Read carefully all about our prices. You may think nothing can astonish you—these prices will.

Table listing various household items and their prices. Includes categories like DOLLS AND TOYS, CUTLERY AND SPOONS, CHINAWARE, and STOVES. Items include dolls, spoons, plates, and stoves with prices ranging from 50 cents to \$1.00.

The Bear Jewelry Co., Leading Broad-Street Jewellers and Opticians, 609 East Broad Street. To give the public the advantage of the low prices at which we have been selling our Silver Novelties,

Table listing silver novelties and their prices. Items include Sterling Silver Hooks and Files, Sterling Silver Tooth-Brushes, Sterling Silver Soap-Dishes, etc. Prices range from 50 cents to \$1.00.

J. A. Gilmore & Co., FURNITURE, NO. 7 EAST BROAD STREET. In Holiday Attire.

Our buyer has just returned from the northern market, where he has selected the Most Artistic Line of Christmas Presents at exceedingly low prices, and as we are always satisfied with very small profit, we are able to show you Christmas presents that will satisfy your taste and pocket-book.

HARVEY & CO., FLORISTS, No. 5 West Broad Street. ROSES, VIOLETS, CUT-FLOWERS, FLORAL DESIGNS, AND DECORATIONS. Orders by mail or wire promptly attended to.

Liver Is Hood's Pills. Like biliousness, dyspepsia, headache, constipation, sour stomach, indigestion are promptly cured by Hood's Pills. They do their work easily and thoroughly. Best after dinner pills. Prepared by Dr. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. The only pill to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.