The Times Dispatch

Business Office....Times-Dispatch Building
19 South Tenth Street.

South Richmond.....1020 Hull Street
Washington Bureau.....Munsey Building
Petersburg Bureau....109 N. Sycamore Street
Lynchburg Bureau.....218 Eighth Street

BY MAIL. POSTAGE PAID.	One Year.	Six Mos.	Three Mos.	One Mo.
Daily with Sunday.....	$6.00	$3.00	$1.50	.50
Daily without Sunday.....	4.00	2.00	1.00	.35
Sunday edition only.....	2.00	1.00	.50	.25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—

	One Week.
Daily with Sunday.....	15 cents
Daily without Sunday.....	10 cents
Sunday only.....	5 cents

Entered January 27, 1905, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 1914.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF ASSEMBLY.

The Times-Dispatch notes with pleasure that Delegate D. L. Toney has introduced a resolution calling for the appointment of a special joint committee on taxation to formulate and present a comprehensive plan of tax reform at this session of Assembly.

We are by no means convinced that this is feasible, but we are glad that Mr. Toney's proposal will be considered by the Assembly in connection with that made in the Baker-Land bill. The latter, as our readers remember, authorizes the appointment of a special joint committee to sit after the adjournment of the Assembly and to prepare a report for the consideration of the Assembly at an extra session which the Governor, in the bill, is requested to call when the work of the committee is done.

Thus we have two alternatives—to discuss and, temporarily at least, to dispose of taxation at this session or to make it the sole topic for the attention of an extra session. As between the two, the present situation of the Assembly and the expense of the work must both be considered. Manifestly, if it be possible to agree upon a tax reform bill at this session, it is far better to do so than to postpone the issue and to impose on the taxpayers the expense, not only of the investigation, but of the extra session to pass on the report. But can the Assembly, without prejudice to other important legislation, give to taxation the attention it will require before a satisfactory bill can be drafted? We are not prepared to answer our question at this time, but we are positive that unless the Assembly calls up the Baker-Land bill and the Toney resolution within the next few days, debate on them will be futile. It will then be too late to draw a tax bill at this session; we must have either an extra session or must postpone the issue for two more tedious years.

The Assembly has received more implicit instructions upon the subject of taxation than on any other save the enabling act. The people have demanded relief from the operation of our unequal assessment law and look to the legislators for relief. We do not believe that the Assembly will be recreant in its duty or will postpone that decision which is a prerequisite to action. Are we to have tax reform now or later? Let us have an answer before the end of the first week of Assembly!

Senator Featherston's bill for the establishment of a legislative commission to investigate certain fundamental social problems should be approved by the Assembly, if for no other reason than that the legislators are not prepared at this time to pass any one of the bills that will be presented on the subject involved.

The specific evil which Mr. Featherston proposes the Assembly should study is not one to be abated with the wishing. As old as society itself and a puzzle to every government since that of Justinian, its conquest is slow. Nor is it an isolated problem, to be solved by the application of well-defined principles to thoroughly-known conditions. It is interwoven with almost every other social question and with many of a medical character. The economic status of women, marriage laws, the high cost of living, divorce, feeblemindedness—all these questions and others unnumbered are involved.

To appreciate all these phases of the subject, investigations must be made. And these, to have weight with the Assembly, must be conducted, not by experts employed for the purpose, but by the legislators themselves. Any other report than one based on what members of the Assembly themselves have found to be facts will be viewed with suspicion.

We trust, therefore, that the means for such an investigation will be forthcoming, and we see no reason why the same committee should not be assigned the task of studying our feebleminded. Indeed, we can not believe they will find the one question distinct from the other.

A third commission proposed is one to relieve the Governor of the burden imposed on him by that section of the Constitution which vests him with power to grant pardons. It is reckoned, however, in the various proposals on the subject, that an amendment of the constitution would be unwise and that any commission appointed should be strictly advisory in character.

If a "pardon board" can be kept free of politics and can be so operated as to give the executive information beyond that contained in the pardon papers, it may be useful. If it fail in either of these respects and if—as is most likely to prove the case—it become purely perfunctory, we see no reason for dividing among half a dozen men the responsibility which the Constitution puts on the shoulders of the Governor.

HIS DAY.

The South to-day celebrates the birth of him who of all her sons is most alive. Though born 107 years ago and dead, as men reckon death, these forty years and more, Robert E. Lee lives more to-day than when he led his army into Pennsylvania or sprang like a tiger at Hooker in the Wilderness.

Had he lived in those brave days of the Greeks, they would have reared a monument to him while he lived and would have numbered him among their gods when dead. Had he lived during the Middle Ages, his virtues would have won him canonization before the sod were set upon his grave.

But living in a day when those whom he led were defeated, and those whom he served sat in ashes, he had to wait for time to measure him. Even as one approaching Karnak does not realize the majesty of that great pile until, against a pillar, some white-frocked Arab stands, so the world could not see how Lee loomed in loftiness until with distance he was measured by the standard of other men. We appreciate him now, but our children, gazing upon him through seven decades, will find him more colossal in genius, even nobler in perspective.

We of the South never weary of reading his biography, and every incident of moment in his career all of us know. Our fathers have told us of chance meetings with him—of his looks, his words, his kingly mien; our mothers have cherished through life little photographs which he was always willing to autograph at "the springs" for blushing girls. Scarcely may we hope to learn much more of him, or to gather further details to cherish.

But there is one story of his life that we think is new to our readers—a trite little story, but one that illumines the years of his youth. It is told, this little story, in a letter that is cherished as its most valuable treasure by an old, old Richmond family. Faintly written and dim with time, the letter was sent almost a hundred years ago to General Lee's mother by a kinswoman on James River.

Young Robert Edward, it appears, had been visiting to the home of the writer and had but recently returned to his mother. She, poble spirit, had written to her kinswoman her fear that Robert Edward—so she called him—would develop into a wayward boy. He had given her trouble, she had confided, and was a burden upon her heart. In answer, Mrs. Lee's kinswoman gave her a bit of homely advice: I am sorry to hear, she wrote in effect, that you are having trouble with Robert Edward, and I am surprised, for he seemed very obedient when he was with me. The only advice I can give you in dealing with him is that I have applied myself—"whip and pray, and pray and whip."

"Whip and pray, and pray and whip"—who knows how well the mother of Lee heeded that advice; who knows how much of the nobility of her great son's mighty spirit came from those whippings and those prayers?

For, as we view him, discipline and close communion with God seem the strongest traits of an all but faultless character. How many incidents of his career illustrate these qualities! Take that September day, when he stood at bay, his back to the river and his face toward the enemy beyond Antietam.

Jackson himself was almost daunted. Hood's Texas brigade, bravest of the brave, was withered to a fragment; capture or destruction seemed the fate of the army. And then, when, through the dust of a retiring battery, he saw a group of gunners, dragging their way to the rear, he stopped them with a sharp command. "Whose battery is this?" he asked. They told him. "And why are you leaving the front?" They had only one gun left, they said, and not enough men to serve it. "Go back—we can't spare you." And then it was—may a grateful people never forget it—that a begrimed and smoke-covered boy sprang forward. "General, you won't send us back, will you?" he pleaded. The old warrior looked, and beneath the sweat and powder grime he recognized his own son—his namesake, his youngest, his best-loved. Send his boy back to die where thousands had fallen, lose his favorite? The hero rose within him. "Yes, my boy," he said. "We must do all we can to drive those people back." What was it? A discipline born, perhaps, of that admonition to "whip and pray."

And prayer? Whether alone in his tent, with a battle to be fought on the morrow, or whether in the solitude of defeat, it was the rule of his life. How much it meant to him can only be understood by those who will read that matchless little biography written by his son, that cannoneer of Antietam. Read, if you would know Lee, that letter he wrote his wife when his daughter Annie died. In it one sees laid bare an anguished heart that only prayer could ease.

To him who ruled his own spirit and was better than he who taketh a city, to him who found the God of battles the guide of his own life, this day is sacred. And we to whom he left this heritage of virtue and valor may well thank God to-day.

To us was given a prince of men, the one among ten million.

Governor Glynn, of New York, promises to send grafters to jail, but has not yet authorized the building of a new annex for them at Sing Sing.

A street car conductor in South Bend, Indiana, says he will get $50,000,000 in time, but evidently he does not work on a "pay as you enter."

Paderewski has broken down. Some attribute his condition to the threat of the Black-Handers. Our opinion is that he sprained his arm lifting hundred dollar bills.

Taft's automobile that cost him $2,000 has been assessed at $4,950. We always thought that car was overburdened.

President Wilson plans to amend the "rule of reason" primarily because there was no reason for it.

CHANGE THE LAWS TO CONFORM.

It was very unfortunate for Frank Glass, but it was common sense to declare the appointment of the Birmingham editor by Governor O'Neal contrary to the provisions of the seventeenth amendment. By precisely the same standard, Blair Lee, of Maryland, deserves his seat.

Some confusion was reasonably to be expected when the amendment to the Constitution became effective, and popular elections took the place of the old method of naming Senators. With the laws of forty-eight States framed in accordance with the original terms of the Constitution, it was inevitable that some of these could not be changed in time to provide for the filling of vacancies caused by death.

In the case of Mr. Glass, Governor O'Neal held that the failure of the Alabama Legislature to provide for such a contingency made the old law still operative and that, in consequence, he was privileged to appoint a successor to Senator Johnston to hold office until the meeting of the Legislature. Governor Goldsborough, of Maryland, confronted with much the same situation, decided that he had no authority to appoint a Senator in plain violation of the constitutional amendment. And as he was not authorized by law to call a senatorial election, he did so on his own responsibility. The result was the selection of a Democrat, Blair Lee. The Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, in approving Governor Goldsborough's action, had no other alternative than to unseat Mr. Glass.

If the report of the committee is approved by the Senate—and there is every reason to believe it will be—we may lay it down as a settled principle that the seventeenth amendment is in effect, regardless of State laws, and no new Senators can be seated under temporary appointments unless they be chosen in open elections. This will require each Legislature either to provide for emergency elections in case of vacancies in the Senate, or else temporarily to lose one of its seats, unless, indeed, a Goldsborough comes to the rescue.

If Frank Glass will now enter the race and win the vacant seat in open campaign, everybody will be happy.

Queries and Answers

The Renaissance Coon Hunt.

With thanks to the sender, we give below the doggerel coon hunt verses asked for some days ago. We hope that others may find them as pleasing as they seem to us:

A DESCRIPTION OF A COON HUNT;
Or
A Weak Solution of Latin for College Rats.

(Written by Professor W. W. Legare, of Northern Georgia, in the '50's.)

The nox was lit by lux of luna,
And 'twas a nox most opportuna,
To catch a 'possum or a coona,
For nix was scattered o'er this mundus,
A shallow nix, et non profundus.
On sic a nox with canis unus,
Two boys went out to hunt for coonus,
Unus canis, duo puer,
Nunquam braver, nunquam truer,
Quard hoc trio unquam fult,
If true was I never knew it.
The corpus of this bonus canis
Was full as long as octo spans is,
But brevior legs had canis never,
Quam had hic dog, et hounus clever.
Some rise to say, in stultum jocum,
Quod field was much too small a locum.

For sic a dog to make a turnum
Circum himself from stem to sternum.
This bonus dog had one bad habit,
Amabat much to run a rabbit,
Amabat plus to chase a rattus,
Amabat bene to tree a cattus;
But on this nixy moonlight night,
This fine old canis did just right.
Nunquam treed a starving rattus,
Nunquam chased a prowling cattus,
But on cucurrit he intentus,
On the track and on the scentus,
Till he treed a 'possum strongum,
In a hollow trunkum longum.
Loud he barked in horrid bellum,
Seemed on terra venit pellum.
Quickly ran the duo puer,
Mess of 'possum to secure:
Quam venerunt, one began
To chop away like quisque man.
Soon the ax went through the trunkum,
Soon he hit it all kerchunkum.

Combat deepens, on, ye braves.
Canis, pueri, et slaves!
As his powers non longum tarry,
'Possum potest non longiare.
On the nix his corpus lieth.
Down to Hades spirit fleth.
Joyful pueri, canis bonus,
Think him dead as any stonus.
Now they seek his pater's domus,
Feeling proud as any hero,
Knowing certe they will blossum
Into heroes when, with 'possum,
They arrive, narrabant story,
Plenus blood et plenior glory—
Pompey, David, Samson, Caesar,
Cyrus, Blackhawk, Shalmanezer!
Tell me now where est the gloria,
Where the honors of Victoria?
Quum ad domum narrant story,
Plenius sanguine, tragic, gory,
Pater praiseth, likewise mater,
Wonders greatly younger frater.

'Possum, then, they leave on mundus,
Go themselves to sleep profundus.
Somnium 'possum furibundus,
When nox gives way to lux of morning,
Album terram much adorning,
Up they jump to see the varmen,
Of the which this is the carmen:
Lo! 'Possum est nunc resurrectum,
Ecce pueri dejectum.
Ne relinquit track behind him,
Neque pueri e'er can find him.
Cruel 'possum, bestia vilest,
How the pueros thou beguilest!
Pueri think non plus of Caesar;
Go ad Orcum, Shalmanezer!
Take your laurels, cum the honor,
Since Ista 'possum est a goner.

Ice Age Remains.

What likelihood is there that the discovery by scientists of Syracuse University in New York of petrified remains of bodies is reliable? The recent papers state that the two "finds" are considered to belong to the ice age.

This is not the first "discovery" of much the same sort in much the same region. The find is said to have been made near Casenova, and this part of New York is considered to represent the end of a great glacier in the ice age. We have been able to secure no reliable information as to the circumstances of the discovery, and doubt if such information will be obtainable for some time, as the find is but a few days old.

Lovingston.

Can you find for me the date of the act of the Virginia Assembly—about 1820—altering the street names, etc., in the town of Lovingston, in Nelson County? I especially desire to locate the old residence of William H. Digges in the town. A. S. D.

You will find the text of the act in the yearly Acts of Assembly for 1822-23, on pages 100, 101 and 102.

Good Roads.

Where may I get information about the making of "good roads"?
L. H. NORVELL.

Write for it to the State Highway Commissioner, Richmond, Va.

Various.

May a person be forced to pay for unordered continuation of a periodical after termination of subscription? What is the difference between the elevation of the mouth of the Rappahannock and the city of Fredericksburg? MANLY BROADDUS.

No. Forty-seven feet.

WHAT WAS NEWS FIFTY YEARS AGO

Reprinted from This Newspaper.

Sale of Arlington.

At the sale of confiscated property in Virginia by the United States government last week, Arlington, the home of General Robert E. Lee, was bid in by the Yankee government at $26,800. The Custis mill and farm sold for $4,100. What the government proposes to do with beautiful Arlington remains to be seen.

Arrested in New York.

W. Hilton was arrested in New York about ten days ago by Federal officers. He had in his possession $6,000,000 in Confederate bonds and $1,000,000 in Treasury notes, and was about to send the same to Secretary Memminger, in this city.

Died in Washington.

Lemuel Bowden, the bogus United States Senator, pretending to represent this State in that body, died in Washington last week.

Traitor Thomas's Dirty Work.

A dispatch from Nashville, Tenn., says General Thomas has levied a tax of $30,000 upon the people living within ten miles of the scene of the killing of three Union soldiers near the town of Mulberry, and the Yankee officials are busy collecting the same. It is alleged that the money when collected is to be divided among the families of the men who lost their lives.

A Maryland Senator.

Ex-Governor Thomas H. Hicks has been elected United States Senator from Maryland to succeed the late James A. Pearce, who died a few weeks ago.

Exchange Hitch.

The hopes that were entertained some time since that an exchange of prisoners would be effected seems likely to fail. Judge Ould was informed by Major Mulford of the flag of truce boat that the Yankee government was determined to adhere to its expressed purpose to allow no exchange to take place except through Beast Butler. It is not at all likely that our government will yield its opposition to his recognition as commissioner.

Substitute Principal Shot.

J. T. Weatherford was shot while being brought to Richmond from Petersburg yesterday by Frank Gilman, a guard from the Fifteenth Virginia Regiment. Weatherford claimed to have come under the operations of the recently enacted substitute law and thereby exempt from military duty, and was brought under arrest to Richmond. At Rice's Turnout he attempted to escape, and refusing to halt when ordered so to do by the guard, he was shot.

More Prisoners for Libby.

One hundred and forty-nine Yankee prisoners were landed in Libby Prison last night. These are the last of the 300 recently captured at Jonesboro, Tenn., by General W. E. Jones.

From Charleston.

One hundred and eighty-nine shells were fired into the city from 5 o'clock last evening to 8 this evening. Only one person was injured, although several houses were struck by some of the shells.

A Soldier's Marriage.

On Thursday, the 7th instant, at Mulberry Hill, in Charlotte County, Lieutenant-Colonel T. M. R. Talcott, of the Confederate States army, was united in marriage with Miss Nannie C. McPhail, daughter of John B. McPhail, Esq. The Rev. A. W. Miller was the officiating clergyman.

Senate Deadlocked.

Information has reached Richmond that Libby Prison is playing a hand in the Pennsylvania Legislature. That body is in a deadlock and business is suspended. Senator White, of the Pennsylvania Senate, who could break the deadlock if he could answer to roll call, is at present resting in Libby Prison, he having been captured three weeks ago at Winchester, and there is but little probability of his early exchange, and less of his escape.

Latest From the North.

Through the courtesy of Federal officers of the Exchange Bureau we have Northern papers of dates from December 23 to January 12, and we give an extended synopsis of the news we gather from them.

In the United States Senate Mr. Henderson introduced a joint resolution proposing to amend the Constitution of "the United States" to the effect that slavery shall not exist anywhere in the United States.

Wilson, of Massachusetts, submitted his threatened resolution for the expulsion from the Senate of Hon. Garrett Davis, of Kentucky, for alleged treasonable utterances in the Senate. The matter was dropped for the present, notwithstanding Mr. Davis's urgent appeal for immediate action.

The New York Herald says an official document giving Early's plan for operations in the Valley fell in the hands of the Yankees and caused the immediate sending of reinforcements to Martinsburg to protect the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Averill was already there with a large cavalry force.

The Tribune's Chattanooga correspondent telegraphs that all the signs indicate that Longstreet is engaged in gathering supplies in East Tennessee and hauling them to some point in Virginia. Longstreet is quoted as saying East Tennessee is "gone up," so far as the Confederacy is concerned, and he is stripping the country of supplies.

The same paper has a dispatch from New Orleans, which gives an account of the beginning of the trial of the negro soldiers at Fort Jackson for mutiny. Major Malony is presiding in the court-martial proceedings. It is certain that the result of the trials will be the making of several horrible examples to the end that the negro soldiers may be taught once for all that mutinous conduct is not one of the new privileges of freedom from slavery.

Lincoln has issued an amnesty proclamation, dated January 8th, in which he offers amnesty to Confederate officers from colonel down, who will come forward and take the oath of allegiance to the United States. This proclamation is being printed in bold type, and is to be circulated in all parts of the South that can be reached.

Thackeray is Dead.

London papers that have reached Richmond are filled with notices and anecdotes of William Makepeace Thackeray, who died less than a month ago.

Voice of the People

In Behalf of "Co-Ordination."

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Apparently the strongest reason that can be given by overanxious alumni, fearful students and their friends against the establishment of a woman's college in Charlottesville is that the influence of women would be detrimental to "the traditions and the virility" of the university. Since that seems to be the point of opposition, it is only fair and honest to specify just what is meant by those boasted and easily demolished "traditions."

One does not have to go many years back to find practices at the university that would not be desirable to perpetuate a college tradition. The writer recalls hearing one of the brightest young men in that institution, the son of a prominent Virginia divine, say in a moment of humiliation following his recovery from a drunken debauch: "It was at the university that I learned to drink and to do other things I ought not to do. It is no place for a parent to send a young boy." Since then an ordinance has been passed forbidding the sale of liquor in the neighborhood of the university—according to rumor, an ordinance made necessary by the libulous habits of the students. But even now they "can get all they want."

If you pin down a university alumnus very closely on the subject of his "traditions," though he may say, as one of them recently said, that he "stands with the gang," he usually will extricate himself from the difficulty by declaring that the proximity of a female college will arouse the susceptible natures of the boys and convert them all into enthusiastic Romeos, spending all their time and thought on college Juliets. This malign female influence evidently applies only to student women, for the boys already devote a goodly portion of their time to the Charlottesville girls, and remain uncontaminated thereby.

The alumni have made the mistake of judging the entire situation altogether from the standpoint of their own sex, and have overlooked several facts. To increase the number of females tends to reduce the interest of the males. College men learn to regard college women more as comrades, on the same broad level as themselves; and the women reciprocate the feeling. Hence, the superficial men in college are not so keen after the college women's society, but seek outsiders. And the thoughtful men are not likely to jeopardize their educational interests by giving too much time and attention to other things. In colleges where the standard is high young women are always less inclined than young men to indulge freely in social enjoyments, and their earnestness and determination often inspire the men to higher aspiration and greater effort.

What we really need is a greater degree of camaraderie between our young men and our young women—more interests in common, more association on common sense, normal lines. Friendships formed under such conditions are always helpful and inspiring. As to the superficial, habitual, temperamental Romeo, who sees in every woman a Juliet, and, to be fair, the woman who regards every man as a possible husband, they should be disciplined or eliminated for the good of all.

If a university of equal rank with that in Charlottesville could be assured to the women of Virginia they might not be so insistent about the matter of its location. But that is a financial impossibility. If not with respect to the teaching force, certainly with regard to the equipment. Mr. R. H. Dabney, of the university, in a recent letter to The Times-Dispatch seeks to distract attention from this obstacle to the establishment of a successful separate college by proposing that the 2,000,000 people in the State contribute 2 cents apiece in taxes to meet the extra expense. Does he not know that only a small percentage of those people already overburdened) pay any taxes, and that the majority of the others feel that the State owes them all they get and more besides?

The truth is, many Virginians take but little pride and interest in the university (some of them not even 2 cents' worth), because, as they see it, it does not touch their own lives. That many women feel this way should not cause surprise, especially since they are not only deprived of its advantages, but are held up to public notice as perilous to "the soul and spirit of the university," to "that splendid virility that has made the university what it is."

The sentiment of the student body regarding the college is not a matter of great importance, for they have evinced all along a spirit utterly opposed to any fair and reasonable discussion of the subject. Long ago they announced in College Topics that negro men had a better right than white women to attend the university; that only female riffraff would attend a coordinate school; that women would exert a demoralizing influence upon the university by their presence alone, and other similar nonsense.

The attitude of the opposition seems to be that the State shall give its women opportunities for higher education, if it can be done without infringing upon the antiquated ideals of the Virginia alumni and without inconveniencing the students. Mr. Dabney says it can be done, but fails to suggest any reasonable or practicable plan.

If the State would develop a citizenship capable of utilizing the vast possibilities of the future that lies before it, it must educate both sexes. Justice is better and more far-reaching than expediency; yet even expediency recommends the higher education of our women. The State cannot evade its responsibility. If it is financially unable to meet the situation just as it would like, it should do the best it can; not by furnishing a second-rate college somewhere for its women, but by giving them equal access to all the best educational advantages that already exist. Not the alumni nor the students, but the taxpayers and their representatives should decide this matter. J. R. H.

Against the Loan Sharks.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I wish to thank you for your editorial, "Harpooning the Loan Shark," which appeared in the issue of January 3 of your excellent paper.

Wisely and well have you stated that "the agents of these vampires visit the negro districts and distribute cards urging the poor to borrow money." Any one visiting the sections of our city in which colored people live will find hardly a single house missed by "loan shark canvassers," who style themselves "a friend in need." People who know nothing of interest or rates of percentage are often blind, and easily fall a prey to these evil agencies.

Not always do the poor borrow for adornment, but more often to keep the wolf from the door and to procure the bare necessities of life. I am informed by an employer to-day that many hundreds of colored "hands" working in the tobacco factories of this city went home without a penny, the rule being to hold back three days' pay. This compels that great army of workingmen and women to wait until next Saturday for their pay.

What is a poor mother to do who has three children, mere babes, who have been locked in a room and fed on dry bread while she toiled in one of these factories? Drenched to the skin, thinly clad, her own frame racked with a suspicious cough, she stands in a cold, bare room with nothing; no credit at the grocery (they don't usually credit these people), is she to be blamed for casting reason aside and appealing to this "friend in need"? Certainly he thrives; to-night hundreds of people will go to him because there is no other place where they may get relief.

Time moves on despite employers' rules; employes must pay rent, must have fuel, food and clothing; ofttimes the sheriff stands with a notice of dispossession, and in moments of sheer desperation, when one has completely failed to "make both ends meet," and those dependent upon them are suffering, anybody with relief would appear to them as an angel of light.

Hundreds of honest laboring men and women would hail with delight an institution such as you mentioned, which would place them beyond the clutches of the "loan shark."

ORA BROWN STOKES,
President Richmond Neighborhood Association.

A Matchmaking College.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In a recent editorial you remark: "America's greatest need is matchmaking." I rise to second the motion, and to contend that this need can now be supplied by co-ordination and coeducation—terms which are interchangeable, as will appear later on.

The greatest obstacle in the way of Cupid's advances is the lack of opportunities for cultivating sentimental acquaintance. Thousands who are now cooling their heels in the frigid field of single blessedness, and who would doubtless pass through life in that condition, can now have the matchmaking problem solved by the coeducation, which is getting a sure footing under the pseudonym of "co-ordination." To secure the Ph. D. of effectiveness for the State, the proposed female university should be located within a few hundred yards of the present University of Virginia, and the Legislature should at once proceed to provide suitable material for the constituency of the joint colleges in a system of preparatory schools, based, of course, on the accepted theories of eugenics; else the best standards of matrimony might be jeopardized in the hurly-burly of improved opportunities. Let the two universities, by all means, be of the same grade and class, but the reciprocal relation otherwise can be relied on to take care of itself.

Away with the nonsense of probable embarrassing circumstances, or such awkward incidents as might contravene the great purpose of co-ordination and ruin both universities. That's all bosh! Business is meant from the day of matriculation.

Confronted with these palpable assurances, the Legislature need not again concern itself about the policy of taxing bachelors to facilitate matrimony, but by a bill, entitled "A bill to facilitate matchmaking," or by a bill, entitled "A bill for short roads to matrimony," provide for the juxtaposition of the proposed universities.

Fifty years ago, while a student at the University of Virginia, the undersigned published in the daily Richmond Dispatch a communication advocating the establishment of a State university for girls of the same grade of the present one for boys, but it was not then contemplated that the two institutions would be located nearer each other than forty miles!

Tempora mutantur, etc., etc.
W. C. JONES.
Fork Union, Va.

Abe Martin

It ought t' please th' joy riders t' know that hell's paved. I don't think much of a dance where th' girl looks like she wuz bein' carried out o' a burnin' buildin'.

WHICH NEXT?

By John T. McCutcheon.

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Views of the Virginia Editors

Promising Signs.

We are glad to see from replies which our Richmond contemporary, The Times-Dispatch, is publishing daily that a large number of members of both branches, whose statements have so far appeared, are in favor of progressive legislation. It is particularly encouraging to note that sentiment of both Senators and delegates is favorable to reform of our election laws and our primary system. A number of those replying state unequivocally that they are in favor of holding all primaries under provisions of the general election laws; in other words, to remove them from party control. This is the only true position which can be maintained by those who are really friends to the primary. There is every reason why they should be held just as other elections are held under provisions of the general election laws. In other words, taken out of the power of State and local political committees and placed under the protection of the State. It seems that the chances are exceedingly bright for the passage by the General Assembly, about to meet, of a primary law which will not only be a vast improvement on the present one, but which will give a large measure of satisfaction to the electorate. This matter should receive the early and earnest consideration of every member.—Fredericksburg Star.

Two Good Bills.

Delegate Woodward, of this city, is quoted as being desirous of getting two laws upon the statute books that surely ought to be there, and which should be passed by the coming Legislature without opposition.

He desires to see legislation which will stop the dredging for crabs in the winter within one mile of the shore line. Mr. Woodward also desires to see legislation which will make election frauds felony, and punishable by confinement in the penitentiary, rather than simply misdemeanor with a jail punishment.

The dredging for crabs that seek refuge in the mud during the winter months is wrong from every possible point of view, and should not be tolerated. It is contrary to all ideas of preservation of food products, and is the taking of the crabs at a time when they are most unfit for food, and a destruction of them when they should remain unmolested. We hope Mr. Woodward will be able to secure that legislation.

No statute should be refused that has for its object the safeguarding of elections. No punishment is too severe for the deliberate debauchery of the election returns; the ballot box should be preserved inviolate.—Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch.

As to Tax Reform.

Governor Mann's suggestions as to tax reform may, on deeper consideration, appear more feasible, but we must admit that a casual reading of the recommendations along this line contained in his message to the General Assembly does not impress us with the advantages of the plan advocated by him.

In the first place it strikes us that the plan involves a most round-about way to assess property, and one which, in our opinion, is not at all practicable. In the next place, we do not see how the district commission suggested by the Governor is to secure information on which to base their findings except by long and expensive investigation involving much time and expense.—Fredericksburg Star.

Protect the Game.

It looks as though something might be done by this Legislature to protect wild life in Virginia. This State is one of the five at the bottom of the list in the matter of game and wild life conservation. The Hart-White game bill should become law.—Radford News.

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