thanks to the enterprise of some capitalists, who are willing to invest largely in rebuilding this portion of the city, and others would do likewise if the landholders would only show any liberality in regard to rents, which it is said they hold at such exhorbitant terms, that few capitalists can be found foolhardy enough to venture upon an investment. It is to be hoped these gentlemen will see the folly of their course, and become tractable and liberal—if not for their own sakes, why for that of their beautiful city. A great many wooden shanties have been put up at different points in the ruins in which the proprietors are doing a small business in a small way, selling lemonade, spruce beer, green apples, sour oranges and molasses candy.

In passing up Main or Cary street to the Spotswood, we walk for half a mile amid ruins surrounding us on all sides, and go groping our way through broken granite and piles of blackened bricks, now avoiding a tottering wall that sways in the wind, and threatens to fall out and crush the careless pedestrian, now drawing back on the verge of a cellar or other yawning abyss. How different the picture four years ago, when these great thoroughfares were crowded by the *elite* and fashion of the city, its wealth and "solidity." How have the mighty fallen! Ruins of Richmond, ye are fit emblems of its ruined denizens! Broken bricks are broken merchants, tattered and torn walls fit representatives of its impoverished people. Fallen and prostrate columns, that once stood forth in graceful beauty, ye are the beauty and fashion of the Southern capital, whose glory has departed!

These ruins do not include in the area we have given the State Court House nor the War Department, the former of which is in the public grounds, and is a complete wreck, nothing but the walls being left—and it now serves as a kitchen for the soldiers, where we judge some "judicious" cooking is executed. The War office was at the upper angle of the square, on the block opposite the Spotswood Hotel. It was a fine large brick building, of which scarce one brick was left upon another. The offices of war being at an end, the War Office, went quietly and quickly out of existence, and the Secretary started on a visit to Cuba, where, it is to be hoped, he will enjoy himself and the flavor of an occasional fine "Havana" while he meditates upon the grief he caused the people of Richmond by the destruction of their beautiful city. As the fire was blown in great flakes to different parts of the city, houses were destroyed, or partially so, far from the scene of the great conflagration, and many were with difficulty saved by the exertions of the owners and their employees. The *Whig* newspaper office, and also the *Sentinel*, were several times on fire, but escaped with but little damage. All unite in declaring that droves of negroes joined with the Penitentiary convicts in breaking open the stores and exchange offices and firing them, after having secured all that was portable and valuable. All likewise, unite in giving credit to the Federal soldiers, under Weitzel, for their noble efforts to stop the conflagration, and admit, freely and thankfully, that *but for* them the entire city would have been destroyed.

But I must now carry the reader to the upper ruins, caused by the burning of the Petersburg railroad bridge.

This noble and useful structure, eleven hundred yards in length, spans the James River at the foot of 8th street, and was a very costly work. Preparations had been made on Sunday to burn it, and the timbers were completely saturated with turpentine. At seven o'clock on Monday morning, and while the fire lower down was raging, Breckenridge rode up to this bridge on his war horse, and directed the torch to be applied, which was instantly done, and then accompanied by his brilliant staff the Secretary of War galloped to the rear, taking the road leading to the North-west. The flames from the bridge soon communicated to the railroad depot, and the government works on either side of 8th street. The laboratory, a large three-story building, was the first to take fire, and as this was full of shell, and shot and grape and canister and prepared ammunition, the pyrotechnic display soon became grand and terrible. The loaded shell with which the building was filled, began to explode, and were thrown to a great distance, causing much havoc among houses situated several squares distant, and greatly frightening the remaining inhabitants, though fortunately injuring no one. For nine hours the explosions from the shells in the laboratory were continuous and unceasing, sounding like the fearful wage of terrific battle. The fire continued to rage in this locality till it had destroyed all the warehouses and arsenals between Eighth and Fifth streets, and the river and canal, and crossing the canal destroyed several buildings on the opposite hillside. Many of these houses were occupied by poor families, who are very much incensed against the authors of their woes. They lost all they possessed and were compelled to flee for their lives to avoid the shell which were flying in all directions and exploding. The Virginia State Armory, a fine building used by the Confederacy as an arsenal, was among the most valuable buildings destroyed in this quarter. It joins the extensive and celebrated establishment known as the Tredegar Works, which escaped without injury. Several large tobacco warehouses were destroyed here together with many fine buildings, and the ruins present a very gloomy appearance. Where the laboratory stood are heaped up tons upon tons of round shot, shell, grape shot and canister, and pieces of bursted shell, old iron, *debris* of every description cover the ground for squares. The loss of property and the appearance of the ruins in this part of the city would be appalling indeed but for the greater calamity which; commencing on the opposite bank of the canal extends through the heart of the city and includes its most valuable property.

From Gamble's Hill, the highest eminence in the west end of the city, these ruins and the surroundings present an appearance at once grand and picturesque. There, at our very feet, rolls the majestic James, over whose rocky bed and amid whose thousand green isles, the clear waters flow with ceaseless roar. The soft music of their thousand tuneful tongues is borne to the ear by the balmy breezes of the South, and it seems like a dream of fairy land. How enchanting the scene! In the back-ground a small castellated dwelling, built to suit the fancy of some admirer of the olden time romances, guards the rear, while far away in the front looking southward and eastward, and all round the visual line, a succession of hills and vales, covered by soft verdure and trees of luxuriant foliage, meet the enraptured glance far as the eye can reach. Dotted over with beautiful cottages and gardens, and meadows, and cooling shade-places, superb mansions upon lofty hills, pleasant cottages hidden amid roses and lillies in the lowly valleys! "Fair as a garden of the Lord,"—more beautiful than the famed valleys of Greece—where nymphs and fawns were wont to sport with the fair keepers of the Thesalian flocks—are the suburbs of unhappy Richmond. The eye falls nearer, and rests upon the pretty little town of Manchester nestled amid the thick foliage of a thousand trees, and its mills continually humming the cheerful tune of industry. Then comes the James River, with its fiercely rolling and foaming and sporting rapids, causing a myriad of miniature Niagaras, as its waters sport over the rocky bed; and now right under the eye lie the ruins of the upper district, reaching to the iron-works in the west, and to Eighth street towards the rising of the sun, and there almost joining with the Main street portion of the ruins, and making the scene of desolation continuous from Fourth to Fifteenth streets.

These are the principal ruins of the city, but away down towards Rocketts, in the vicinity of the notorious Libby, and the somewhat renowned Castle Thunder, there was another incendiary drama enacted, and two or three squares suffered more or less, all because there chanced to be a tobacco warehouse situated in the vicinity.

The area of the conflagrations, it is estimated, includes about thirty-five squares, in the most business portion of the city—the very centre of trade and financial operations. All the banks, insurance and brokers' offices, and several hundred fine stores, warehouses, hotels, restaurants and other buildings, were the victims to this mad act. The entire loss in money is estimated at twenty million dollars; and we think this calculation will fall short of the truth. In 1845, the writer witnessed the great fire in Pittsburg, by which nearly one half of the business part of the city was destroyed, together with steamers in port, and as he now remembers, he is not prepared to say that the disaster at Richmond is at all equal to that most terrible conflagration. But the people of Richmond feel it more heavily, and it has a very depressing influence upon them, as it comes at a time when they are wholly unprepared, and unable to bear the loss.

Never before in this nation has there been a community so impoverished, so pauperized, we might say, as the people composing the old inhabitants of the capital of Virginia. The evidences of poverty are to be met with everywhere. In the mansions of the aristocracy, as well as in the hovels of the lower orders. In their dress; the shabby appearance of their houses; the carpetless floors, and unfurnished parlors; the empty shelves in their shops and stores; and the universal evidences of ruin and dilapidation to be met with on all sides, prove the fact, which they do not attempt to conceal, that money is almost a stranger to the pockets of the people; nor have they anything left that can be turned into currency. Even Midas, would find it difficult to comply with the demands of Bacchus, and transmute all he touched into gold; though could such a miracle be performed in their favor, a heavy load of care would be removed from the minds of this sorely-tried people. Shop-keepers on Main and Broad streets stand in their doors and gaze longingly up and down the streets, looking in vain for a customer; and should a chance visitor from the North, with pockets plethoric of greenbacks, or a recently paid soldier, chance to favor them with a call, it is looked upon as a special God-send, and they make the most out of his custom—for their prices in most articles are enormous. They have not got over Confederate times and the high rates that then ruled—and if you go into a place of business, a citizen is disposed to charge you a dollar for looking at him. Vegetables and garden truck and flour are abundant, and quite low, but living keeps up to the Confederate standard. They drive away all who come hither, either to settle or do business, by their exorbitant exactions.

Everything but newspapers, is dear—and these are cheaper than in any other city in the Union. Rents too are beyond all reason, and amount to a prohibition of attempting to do business even by the heaviest capitalists. The people who own the houses and lands are apparently indisposed to encourage capitalists, and seem determined to pursue the dog-in-the-manger policy against all new comers. Some idea may be formed of the poverty of the people and their utter helplessness when the fact is remembered that all the means they possessed was in Confederate scrip, worth two cents per dollar. In a moment this became more worthless than blank paper, and the little wealth they had took to itself wings and was gone. Depreciated as was this currency, still it served them a good purpose, and from all accounts they were not as badly off as one unacquainted with the facts would naturally suppose. It is amusing to hear men talk about receiving salaries of five hundred to a thousand dollars per week, and they will inform you that with these salaries they could obtain more of the necessaries of life than they can now for forty or fifty dollars per week in greenbacks. We see many farmers from the country, and they mostly appear cheerful and hopeful of the future. Their only trouble is the indisposition of the negroes to work and the scarcity of money to renew their stock and farming implements, still they do not despair of being able to produce someting like order from the present chaotic state of affairs. Some of the merchants are furnishing them with the necessary implements of industry on a pledge of their crops, which is a very good as well as a very old plan in the South. Long before the war it was the custom of planters to mortgage their growing crops for supplies.

In political affairs there is very little discussion among the people. They were of course all secessionists, and gave full faith and credit to their leaders, as long as they had a soldier in the field; but when the crash came, and further resistance was shown to be hopeless, they quietly and gracefully succumbed to what they accept as the fate of war, and yield with scarcely a murmur. There is but little of that sullenness that we hear spoken of displayed by any class. They are more sorrowful than angry. A settled gloom or melancholy pervades the souls of the people; they mourn for their heroes slain, and their departed wealth; but they will not admit that they have lost anything on the score of honor, or that any should be attainted with treason. They wish to return quietly to the walks of private life, and desire never to hear the beat of drum, blast of bugle, or roar of gun again. They want no more war—nor will they have it, if in their power to prevent such a calamity in future. They think, however, that the people of the North should cease to mock at their calamity, and that a magnanimous nation should treat a fallen and conquered, but gallant and heroic foe, with less severity than some are disposed to do. Their respect for Generals Lee and Johnston, is veneration itself, and they are grieved lest Davis, whom they all esteem, should be treated with undue harshness. Although they acquiesce in the fact that they have been overcome, and express a willingness to perform all the duties of good and law-abiding citizens, they do not express any sorrow or regret for the part they have taken in the past. They are Union men now, but do not desire to make any hasty or boisterous display of their renewed loyalty, or loud-mouthed recantation of their late alleged errors. They are satisfied with the restored Union, but would have preferred Southern Independence; they acknowledge slavery to be dead, but would rather it had lived. All they ask is that they may be let alone in their sorrows, till the days of their mourning be finished—and that none shall intrude upon the privacy of their grief. With opening trade and closer connection with the people of the North, and with the establishment of a sympathizing political party, and a gradual decay of the hatred engendered by the late bloody strife, good feeling may again return—but the people of the North must bide their time with patience, while they continue the work of conciliation, which a majority of them have so happily begun and with such good results.

There are but few negroes in Richmond, and those here are mostly employed. They are quite temperate in spirit and fast returning to reason. The soldiers treat them sometimes a little harshly, and Sambo consequently tries to keep out of the way of the blue-jackets. We have no police, and no civil authority, save that of Governor Pierpont, and he does not pretend to exercise any police jurisdiction. A mounted patroll occasionally rides through the city, and here and there a sentinel slowly walks his post; but they do not interfere with any of the citizens. Thousands of returned Confederates are in the city, who have doffed the grey, and quietly retired to the walks of private life, and are seeking employment as a means for gaining a livelihood. The people and the Federal soldiers and the returned prisoners fraternize, and freely associate, and the best feeling seems to exist. Every soldier in Richmond might safely be removed and no disturbance would take place. The rights of all would be respected, and Governor Pierpont would need no other protection or body-guard than the fast increasing respect of the people.

In the neighborhood of the Spotswood Hotel business is quite brisk, and things generally have a lively appearance. A good many new buildings are being erected in the vicinity, and a number of enterprising capitalists from the North are opening stores and preparing for business. On Broad street, where the centre of traffic has been established since the fire, considerable trade is done. Here, too, there is a magnificent theatre, the new Richmond, built during the war under the management of Mr. Ogden, a fine comedian, where a good company hold forth nightly to very respectable houses.

The churches, of which the city can boast many that are truly magnificent in architectural design and finish, are thronged every Sunday with devout worshippers. The ladies are generally dressed plainly but neatly, and the gentlemen in a becoming manner. Three of these edifices stand near the Capitol grounds, and their tall spires are the most prominent objects that meet the eye in the city. Each vies with the other to get an inch nearer Heaven, and they all apparently succeed. In one of these churches, on every Sunday, Gen. Robert E. Lee may be seen, dressed in a simple suit of gray without any insignia of rank. He lives very retired, is never seen upon the street, and keeps strictly to the terms of his parole.

The press of Richmond is the most lively feature in the city. There are four daily papers, all doing a very respectable business. The *Times*, edited by Mr. Pollard, seems to take the lead. They are all good enough Union papers, but are strongly opposed to hanging, to confiscation, and to negro suffrage; and in these questions are fair representatives of public opinion in Richmond. The *Whig* is owned by W. Ira Smith, who made a fortune here in the clothing business, and being from the North, to avoid conscription, he bought into the paper during the war. When the Federal troops arrived, he at once changed his course, took full charge of the paper, and came out for the Union. The *Commercial Bulletin* is a very excellent paper, but is more decidedly Southern in its tone than the other journals. Its editors are Mr. Wedderburn, son of Dr. Wedderburn, of New Orleans, and Mr. Dimitry, son of Alexander Dimitry, of the same city, well known in the Republic of Letters, and Nicaraguan Diplomacy. The *Republic* is under the control of Mr. Lewellyn, and is said to be in the editorial charge of Mr. Hamilton, formerly of the New York *Times*, and who established the New Orleans *Times*. He occasionally invokes the muses under the *nomme de plume* of Aaron Bang, and is a good writer and very sterling Union man; but liberal as could be desired in his sentiments, and the personification of a conciliator. So much for the Press of Richmond. Its ability in former times was not doubted, and there appears to have been no falling off in that respect in the hands of its present conductors.

The Legislature is now in session in the State House, which unfortunate building is in a very decayed and dilapidated condition, and needs a complete renovation. It is very much in the same condition that the State is at present, and is therefore a fitting representative of the ancient Dominion.

And thus ends my first epistle from this once beautiful, but now almost ruined city. Seated, like Rome, upon seven hills, and surrounded by the most enchanting scenery. I have never seen a more delightful town, or one better adapted to be the seat of fashion, refinement and empire. A. P. B.

Restoration of the Rights of Voters.

The following is a copy of the bill restoring the rights of voters, which was passed by the Virginia Legislature on Thursday:—

"AN ACT entitled an Act prescribing means by which persons, who have been disfranchised by the third article of the Constitution, may be restored to the rights of voters.

"*Whereas*, in the opinion of this General Assembly, the time has arrived when it would be safe and expedient to restore to the rights of voters certain persons who are disfranchised by the provisions of the third article of the Constitution; now, for the purpose of so restoring such persons,

"*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia*, That every person possessing in other respects the qualifications of a voter under the Constitution and laws of the State, who has taken, or shall hereafter take, the oath prescribed by the Amnesty Proclamation of the President of the United States of the 29th of May, 1865, which oath is in the following words, to wit: 'I do solemnly swear [or affirm], in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States thereunder; and that I will, in like manner, abide by, and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves." And an oth to uphold and defend the government of Virginia, as restored by the Convention which assembled at Wheeling on the 11th of June, 1861, which oath is in the following words: "I do solemnly swear [or affirm] that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof, as the supreme law of the land, anything in the Constitution and laws of the State of Virginia, or in the ordinances of the Convention which assembled at Richmond, on the fifteenth day of February, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, to the contrary, notwithstanding; and that I will uphold and defend the Government of Virginia as restored by the Convention which assembled at Wheeling on the eleventh day of June, eighteen hundred and sixty-one;' shall be entitled and qualified to vote for members of the General Assembly, and all officers elective by the people, subject, always, to the laws in regard to voters and voting not inconsistent with this act: *Provided, however*, that the persons excluded by the terms of the said proclamation from the benefits thereof, excepting those embraced in the thirteenth class of such excluded persons, shall not be entitled or qualified to vote as aforesaid, unless pardoned by the President, as provided for by said proclamation.

"SECTION 2. This act shall be in force from its passage."

We copy the following card from the Richmond *Times* of yesterday. The editor is not in a good humor:—

TO OUR READERS.—Having been sent for, and notified by the proper military authority, that our editorials for the past month, and more especially for the last few days, are offensive, and are only calculated to incite "anger" and bitterness, [never so designed by us,) and that unless the "tone" and "policy" of the TIMES are *changed*, it will be suppressed; and preferring still to commune with our many readers and patrons, rather than *stop*, (*for money is not our aim*,) we ask their kind indulgence for the absence of matter pertaining to National and State public policy.

Our effort will still be to please and entertain our readers, though views of "great pith and moment" may not be discussed at this time in our columns.

Satisfied that our embarrassed position will be appreciated, we will endeavor to conform to the DEMANDS MADE OF US.

C. H. WYNNE,
Proprietor Times.

THE RATE OF INTEREST.—One of the important questions now engaging the attention of the Legislature is that of the legal rate of interest. The legal rate is now six per cent., and any contract for more than that is invalid. This is universally agreed to be absurd. The law was passed professedly to protect the ignorant against the usuries, and failed wofully of its object, as all business men know. There was more shaving done under it than if it had not existed. As much as ten per cent. a month has been paid in this community. Another bad effect was that capital in the hands of law-abiding persons was drawn out of the State to places where interest was higher. The proper plan is to fix the legal rate of interest only where there is no contract, but to legalize all contracts for no matter what rate. If the people of this State can pay high interest, money will flow hither until the market is stocked. What we want now is capital, and there is no more reason why we should attempt to regulate the price of money than of other articles.—*Richmond Republic of yesterday.*

Colonel Robert Ould, Lieutenant-Colonel Hatch, Major Carrington (late Confederate Provost Marshal of Richmond), and Captain Moffit, who have been confined in the Libby for some time back upon charges well known to the public, were on Tuesday afternoon removed to Castle Thunder, where they are now sojourning.

The Norfolk Post.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 1865.

All communications relating to business matters connected with this paper should be addressed to E. M Brown, Norfolk Post. All communications pertaining to Editorial matters, and all correspondence intended for the paper should be addressed to John Clark, Editor.

Advertisers are requested to hand in their advertisements before six o'clock in the evening, previous to publication.

Newsmen and newsboys desiring papers will please leave their orders at the counting-room the evening previous, before six o'clock.

Mayhew & Brothers, Booksellers and Stationers, are authorized agents to sell the Norfolk *Post*, and all orders left with them will be attended to the same as if left at the office of publication.

S. M. Pettergill & Co. are authorized Advertising Agents for the *Post* in New York and Boston.

WATER FOR NORFOLK.

We trust there is some body and purpose in the discussion upon the subject of supplying the city of Norfolk with pure water. Water is a necessity and the city itself should take the matter in hand, and push it to completion. The building of the works would give employment to laborers—to the returned soldiers—and that is a consideration just now. That the water is needed, is beyond dispute. Half the cisterns and nearly all the pumps run dry during the summer, and people are obliged to encounter very serious inconvenience in their searches among their neighbors for water for cooking purposes.

Plans and estimates and surveys are already in existence, and little else is needed beyond energy.

We venture to say, that the water could have been introduced long ago for less than the cost of the rain-water cisterns; and we venture further to say, that the taxes on the water debt would not exceed the sum now expended annually to keep the cisterns in repair.—Let us have a supply of water, by all means, and at once.

THE CITY ELECTION,

Which takes place to-morrow, promises to be a lively canvass. The friends of the candidates are working vigorously, and both sides are confident of success. Mr. Tabb, the candidate of one of the parties, is a lawer and a very acceptable gentleman. Mr. Stone, too, is an upright citizen, and his election is urged by enthusiastic supporters.

The Provisional Brigade, 24th Army Corps, Army of the James, Brevet Brig. Gen. M. T. Donohoe, commanding, has been mustered out of the service, and are now sailing Eastward, in the direction of their mountain homes. The brigade consists of the 10th, 12th and 13th New Hampshire volunteers. These regiments have done good service during last year's campaigning in Virginia, and Gen. Donahoe now returns to civil life, attended with all the honors that distinguish a brave and generous soldier. The 148th New York, Col. Murray, has also been mustered out, and are on their way home. Brevet Colonel F. L. Manning, late Provost Marshal of Richmond, is the Lieutenant Colonel of this regiment, and has gone North with his companions in arms.

The beautiful and usually quiet little town of Flushing, Long Island, was the scene of a terrible firemen's riot on Tuesday. The various fire companies of the Long Island villages, together with delegations from New York and Brooklyn, had assembled to have a trial of their engines, and thousands of spectators, men, women and children, were collected in the main street of the town to witness the sport. Soon after the commencement of the proceedings an attack was made on one of the machines, and instantly a wild scene ensued, pistols, knives and stones being freely used by the combatants. The fight lasted for a considerable time, and it is reported, that during its continuance, three persons were killed and forty or fifty wounded.

We publish, to-day, a most complete description of THE RUINS at Richmond. Our correspondent has spent several days on the ground, in order to fully inform himself, and the story he tells is at once graphic and sad. This is, we believe, the most comprehensive description yet given of the ruins.

European News.

The steamship Asia, which touched at Halifax on Tuesday, brings two days later news from Europe.

The reported threats of the French government with regard to Mexican emigration were confirmed and placed in a stronger light.

The Emperor Napoleon has returned to Paris.

Railroad slaughter in America was finding a parellel in England.

United States five-twenties remained stationary at 67. British consols closed on the 10th at 90½ a 90¼.

END OF THE REBELLION ABROAD.—The rebellion has been officially buried in Europe. Earl Russell has pronounced its brief funeral oration in England, and the "confederate" flag will no more be known upon the seas.

It is a curious coincidence that Holland and France, the first powers to recognize the independence of these States, should be the first powers also to recognize the end of the rebellion and the reconstruction of the Union.

The Lynchburg (Va.) *Republican* of Wednesday, publishes the following statement of the amount of tobacco in that city:

"Leaf tobacco in public and private warehouses in the city, about 10,000 hogsheads; in the hands of producers and others, not included in the above, about 500 hogsheads. Manufactured tobacco of all grades, about 40,000 packages, fully three-fourths or four-fifths of which is not in merchantable condition. This, averaging the leaf tobacco at 1,259 pounds per hogshead, and the manufactured at 100 pounds per package, gives us a total of 17,125,000 pounds. So much of the manufactured tobacco is in irregular hands that it is impossible to make an accurate statement of the amount; but it is the opinion of those best informed upon the subject that the above estimate is as nearly correct as can be made under the circumstances.

The fee of ten dollars heretofore charged by the Government on all vessels arriving at the port of Richmond, has been remitted on all vessels entering the dock, but still remains on vessels loading and unloading outside.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

MEETING OF NORTHERN MEN.—A large and respectable meeting of merchants and business men from the North, resident and citizens of Norfolk, convened last evening at the City Hall, for the purpose of giving expression to their sentiments with regard to the approaching charter election, and to tender their cordial support to those candidates for city office who most truly represent the loyal citizens of Norfolk. C. Pepper, Esq., was called to the chair, and the ticket which had been nominated and perfected the previous night by the "simon pure" Union Convention was read. Mr. Lockhart said he hoped some gentlemen present, who were gifted with the powers of oratory, would give expression to the sentiments by which the Northern men in Norfolk, who were destined ere long to be the ruling power in the city, were animated, whereupon Mr. Peter Schleicker, an oratorical gentleman, of great power, strength of lungs, facial expression and perfection in gesticulation, sprang to his feet, and proposed that somebody make a speech—that half a dozen persons make a speech, and finally that it was absolutely neccessary that Judge Snead should speak. Mr. Schliecker was greeted with tremendous applause, which he seemed greatly to relish, though we should not suspect him of vanity; nor does he appear to be fond of notoriety. He is decidedly a modest man, and rarely permits himself to be heard in political gatherings. In fact, he is a quiet, unostentatious gentleman, much given to attending to his own business—and meddles but seldom in affairs of state or of his neighbors. Being one of our first citizens, it is not easy to be seen how Norfolk could do without him. A few more such gentlemen as Mr. S. in our city, and political safety would be as secure as our commercial prosperity is certain. Judge Snead said that as he was not a Northern man, but a Virginian, he could'nt see that he had anything to do with the present assemblage, and would prefer to hear some gentleman from the North—and he refused to speak. After several ineffectual attempts on the part of Mr. Schleicker to induce somebody else to speak, it was finally suggested that there would be no impropriety in Judge Snead's speaking, as the call did not confine the meeting exclusively to gentlemen from the North It was then unanimously voted that the Judge should make a speech. He took the stand, and in a brief and eloquent address reviewed the status of the several candidates for the Mayoralty, and arrived at the conclusion that Colonel Simon Stone was the only "simon pure" Union man now up for that office, and as such was entitled to the support of all loyal men, whether of the North or South. He called upon the Northern men to ratify his nomination, because the fact of their espousing his cause would have a salutary effect at the North, and prove to the press and people there who were the real Union men of Norfolk. He denounced Col. Tabb, as an unsafe and unreliable man, who had been either on the fence or in fellowship with the enemies of the country throughout the war, and who would receive the undivided support of the entire disloyal element in the city. He thought there was great danger to be apprehended should the secessionists, who had failed with the bayonet, succeed with the ballot. In such an event the prosperity of the State would be retarded, and Northern men and capital excluded by legislation from her borders. The rebel Virginia debt would be paid, and the United States debt repudiated.

Judge Snead's remarks were enthusiastically applauded, and he was several times interrupted by Mr. Schliecker, with the Solon Shinglish, exclamation, "just so!" "just so!" all of which was in keeping with his quiet and unobtrusive character.

Mr. Lockart then introduced a series of resolutions, which were ordered to be published, ratifying the ticket headed by Col. Stone, expressing full confidence in his patriotism and ability, and pledging the men of the North to his support at the polls on Saturday.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted, and then a motion was made to adjourn—when Mr. Schliecker, again arose gracefully from his seat—which was a front seat—and in his usual modest and quiet way, proposed the appointment of any number of committees, and the collection of large sums of money to carry on the election in the true and legitimate Baltimore fashion.

Considerable discussion arose on this point, but after Mr. Lockhart very sensibly and energetically remarked that he did not think the Northern residents ought to take any prominent part in the election, but that modesty would be more becoming in them, at least until they had become better acquainted with the people; and also that he thought it a duty that properly devolved upon the Union people proper of the city to provide ways and means for carrying on the election, and to see that the polls were properly attended to, a vote was taken and Mr. Schleicker's various propositions were laid on the table.

Mr. Lockhart then said he was willing and ready to contribute towards paying the expenses of the canvass, and after the adjournment would carry round a subscription list for that purpose.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet at the polls on Saturday next.

INNOCENT, VERY.—A villainous looking negro was arrested yesterday, and brought before Mayor Belote at the instance of the colored keeper of a respectable ball, on a charge of stealing a linen coat, a pair of pants and an overcoat from him. The keeper of the ball-room answered to the name of Owens—a fact that goes far to establish his Celtic origin—and in his testimony he was suported by a blushing mulatto Chloe and a coal-black Rose. The facts set forth were, that the alleged thief, Benjamin Davis, "cum to de ball, an' ax to go in on de free lis, kase he were free—and de door-keeper luf him in. He went up stairs into de ballroom, and he make mighty free dancing wid de colored ladies. De nex mornin' dis child went to look for his bundle of close, and de close want dar, no how. Dey was clean done gone—had disappeared substantially. De nex day I see dat dar nigger in de street, big as life, wid de very same identical close on what he hav on now—and dase mine. But de overcoat was no whar." The colored ladies from the respectable and fashionable dance-house fully corroborated this story, and identified the clothes.

Davis, on being questioned, insisted that he was an innocent and injured man. Said he had been a soldier; had come down from City Point, and bought the clothes from a man on the steeet; but could give no further account of himself. His old clothes he had thrown into the river after donning the stolen ones. His guilt was evident, and the Mayor told him if he would return the clothes he would not prosecute him, in consideration of his having been a soldier. Benjamin still persisted that he was innocent, but, when he was told that the clothes he had on would be taken from him he caved in, acknowledged the theft, went with an officer, procured the overcoat and his old clothes—a suit of ragged blue regimentals—and returned to court. Owen received his garments, and left, rejoicing in his recovered property—while Benjamin was let slide with a gentle hint to make himself scarce, as there were already too many thieves in Norfolk to admit of any augmentation of the number.

GENERAL BUTLER'S SWORD.—We called, on yesterday evening, at the store of Messrs. Lockhart & Stiner, on Main street, and were gratified with a sight of the sword which the colored men of Norfolk and Fortress Monroe have had manufactured as a present to Major General Benjaman F. Butler, who, during his administration of this department, won the veneration of the colored race by the impartiality of his course towards them. The weapon is a fine specimen of mechanical skill, and reflects credit alike on the artizan and the donors. It is a staff sword, the hilt of silver, ornamented with gold, and a knight's head set in knightly arms, and the guard of gold ingeniously carved, and surmounted with one very large diamond and an amythist of fair proportions. The blade, which is one of Salingen's manufacture, and almost equal to the famous Toledo, so much admired by the Spanish Knights of old, is handsomely ornamented with battle scenes on the one side, and on the other with the American Coat-of-Arms and other emblems. The scabbard is plated with gold, adorned with flowers, a figure of the warlike Pallas, and the word "Butler," in a field of azure set with diamonds. There is also the following inscription on the scabbard: "To Major General B. F. Butler, from the colored men of Fortress Monroe and Norfolk." It is a very proper method the colored people have adopted to show their appreciation of the General's kind actions in their behalf, but it comes a little late for this war, and will have to be hung up as a monument—which it will be to the justice and humanity of a good man.

THE CIRCUS.—Nixon's great New York Circus is the only amusement we have now except an occasional meeting at the City Hall, and it is sufficient, both in quality and quantity. We have rarely seen so excellent and talted a combination in an equestrian company, and we have been an occasional visitor to the circus, off and on, for quite a number of years—we won't say how many, as we wish to conceal our age from the fair and gentle readers of the *Post*. The horses are in better condition, appearance, spirit, mettle and quality than is generally the case; the riders perform their acts with as much grace as agility; the clowns are more than usually witty and possess the novelty of originality, while the Delevanti Brothers surpass most of the performers in the trapeze that we have witnessed elsewhere. This trapeze business is very fearful to behold, and although there is a certain kind of fascination about it which rivets the eyes to the daring actors, still one cannot help shuddering at every movement they make lest they should fall to the earth and be dashed to death. It is difficult to say whether a thing that gives pain can be called amusement. Their acts are very beautiful and very bold, however, and if they can stand the consequences, why we have no right to object. The most wonderful part of the performance is the astonishing acting of the beautiful white horse, General Scott. Had we not seen it we would scarcely have believed that a horse, or any other quadruped, could be brought to such perfection of training. The entire performance is excellent and our citizens should promptly avail themselves of the opportunity to witness it.

AFFECTING.—A poor colored female applied to the Mayor yesterday, for a warrant to have her daughter, a girl only nineteen years old, arrested and returned to the maternal domicil, as she had left home to lead a life of depravity. The Mayor informed her that under such circumstances the law could afford her no relief; and if it could it would be a useless task to endeavor to restrain the girl from the course she had adopted. He related that only the day before the husband of a woman who had been living a depraved life, in this city, for nine months, had come down from Petersburg and applied to him to compel the woman to return home to him and her four children. He advised the forgiving and sorrowing husband to disard the worthless thing and return home—which he concluded to do. The colored woman listened to the Mayor, and plead for official aid; but when she found there was no help for her, she left the court weeping and showing great maternal anguish.

THE SERENADE TO MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES K. GRAHAM, at his residence at Portsmouth, last evening, was a grand affair. Indeed, it was more like a great-leave-taking than a serenade. It was known, that the General and Mrs. Graham were to set out for New York to-day—to be gone, "it may be for years and it may be forever"—and their numerous friends insisted upon paying their personal respects to him as an officer and a gentleman, and he is both. Contrasted with other military exits, the scene was very marked. All wish Gen. Graham all happinese in the future.

THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Governor, Frances H. Pierpont, Marion County.
Lieutenant Governor, L. C. P. Cowper, Portsmouth.
State Auditor, L. U. Webb, Norfolk.
State Treasurer, W. W. Wing, Norfolk.
Secretary Commonwealth, C. H. Lewis, Rockingham.
Attorney General, Thos. R. Bowden.

AIDS TO THE GOVERNOR.

Colonel D. H. Strother.
Colonel George H. Hart.

SENATE.

Lieutenant Governor L. C. P. Cowper, President of the Senate, Portsmouth, Va.
Chas. H. Whitehurst, Norfolk City.
F. W. Lemosey, Princess Anne and Norfolk.
S. W. Powell, Accomac and Northampton.
Wm. F. Mercier, Loudon.
Thos. P. Brown, Alexandria and Fairfax.
T. S. Tennis, Elizabeth City, Warwick and York.

HOUSE OF DEDEGATES.

J. Madison Downey, Speaker, Loudon
A. L. Hill, Norfolk City.
R. B. Wood, Elizabeth City.
T. H. Kellan, Accomac.
Wm. H. Gibbons, Accomac.
I. R. Birch, Northampton.
Reuben Johnson, Alexandria.
Allen Harmon, Alexandria.
Job Hauxhurst, Fairfax.
J. J. Henshaw, Loudon.
Enoch Haislip, Prince William.
R. F. Nash, Norfolk.
J. W. Brownley, Portsmouth City.

SKETCH OF GOVERNOR PIERPONT.

Hon. Francis Harrison Pierpont, Governor of Virginia, is a native of Virginia, and in the fiftieth year of his age. He was educated at Meadville College, Pennsylvania, and after his admission to the bar removed to Mississippi, where he continued until the year 1840, when he returned to Fairmount, Virginia, his native village, where the breaking out of the rebellion found him. Governor Pierpont's subsequent career in the construction of the State of West Virginia, his Governorship of that State and his subsequent accession to his present position, are all quite familiar to the public. Governor Pierpont is both an able and an honest man, and is in all regrds equal to the arduous responsibilities of his present position.

LIEUT. GOV. L. C. P. COWPER

is a native of Isle of Wight county, Virginia, a lawyer by profession, and is fifty years of age. He has heretofore served several sessions in the General Assembly of the State, and was formerly an old line whig, of the Henry Clay and John Minor Botts school.

COL. CHARLES H. LEWIS,

Secretary of State, is a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, and a direct descendant of the Lewis family, so famed in the annals of the State for copious intellect and broad statesmanship. Colonel Lewis is a lawyer by profession, and at one time was editor of the *National American*, wherein he displayed generous abilities as an able and vigorous writer. He belonged to the old whig school of politics, and has through life been a staunch upholder of the Union. In person, Col. Lewis has been described as being tall without being ungraceful, has dignified and courteous manners, while his intelligent and manly countenance is calculated to inspire confidence and command respect.

HON. WARREN W. WING.

Treasurer of Virginia, wherein he has lived for twenty years, is not a native of the State; but the beginning of the rebellion found him a resident of Norfolk, whence he was elected to Congress, after which he was appointed Postmaster of Norfolk. Colonel Wing is an able and intelligent financier, and his ability and industry will largely conspire to successfully rejuvenate the shattered pecuniary resources of the Commonwealth.

THE GOVERNOR'S CONFIDENTIAL AIDS.

Col. David H. Strother (Porte Crayon) aid to his Excellency the Governor, is a native of Martinsburg, Virginia, and was educated in Philadelphia and Carmonsburg, Pa,, and studied painting in New York, under S. F. B. Moore, in the years 1836 and 1837. Col. Strother went abroad in 1840, visiting France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and England. Returning, from 1853 to 1860 he contributed a series of brilliant sketches to *Harper's Magazine*. He participated in the late rebellion as a Union Lieutenant Colonel in the engineer service, as an Adjutant General and as chief of staff, returning in the fall of 1864, from which time, till his accession to the Governor's staff, he was in private life.

COL. GEO. H. HART,

Private Secretary and Aid-de-Camp to the Governor, is a native of New York city, about twenty-five years of age, and came to Virginia in 1862, and is an exceedingly active, intelligent and polished gentleman. He is the youngest member of the State government, and has served in the rebellion with valor and fidelity in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, being made a prisoner

Byron Laflin, formerly Colonel of the Thirty-fourth New York volunteers, has been appointed United States Marshal for this district. Colonel Laflin is at present a resident of the State of New York.

Arrivals at the Atlantic Hot[el]

H. Sterns, Richmond; W. H. Ballard ... eon, N. C.; B. P. Baker, N. C.; L. R. B... Jacobs, N. C.; Wm. W. Whiting, U. ... hart, U. S. N.; A. P. Cherry, U. S. N ... T. Smith, Balt.; B. C. Bibb, Mrs. Bibb ... Balt.; John Jay Ward, Phila.; Mr. and ... Wm. H. Soule, Va.; O. S. Hend, Wis. ... A. Talmadge; T. J. Woodbridge, Va. ... John Coneopa, Va.; John G. Willia... N. Y.; Thomas Donnley; D. H. Murdo... Jacobs, N. C.; G. Halstead, N. C.; J. H... Art'y; T. N. Crandall, U. S. N.; H. D. Wils... and Son, N. Y.; P. T. Hassler, Maj. 13th N. ... Morgan, Princess Anne; C. Taylor, N. Y.; Dr. R... city; Chas. E. C. Upshur, city; Wm. A. Parh... Smith; Wm. A. Barber, Ga.; Wm. T. Pierd, ... Whitehead, Va.; Edwin Baker, Pa.; Fred. ... mond.