CARD FROM MR. CORCORAN.

HE REPLIES TO THE MEMORIAL OF GOVERNOR SHEPHERD.

WHAT AMOUNT OF TAX HE HAS PAID, AND HOW HE PAID IT—HIS VIEWS OF PROPER IMPROVEMENTS, AND HOW THEY SHOULD NOT BE MADE.

To My Fellow-Citizens of the District of Columbia:

However averse I may be to any public statement of whatever injustice may have been done me, I feel that the events of the past few days, and transpiring in our midst, render such course necessary, that my self-respect may be maintained, and that you may receive correct information in regard to certain charges made against me.

Within the past two weeks I affixed my name to a petition couched in respectful terms, and containing no charges; alleging simply that certain grave charges had been made of irregularities in our District government, which, whether true or false, were doing us great harm, and should be examined into.

I declined to sign the petition first presented to the Senate, by reason of the fact that it contained charges the truth or falsity of which I would not assert in the absence of the necessary proofs, and which were not submitted to me.

The sequel you well know, and to have been an actor in it is not to the credit of any gentleman who knows the proprieties of his profession, and has its honor and well-being at heart.

The abuse which has been heaped upon me by the press of this District has been such as it has rarely fallen even to the lot of a felon to receive, and not one of them has even done me the kindness to ask a suspension of public opinion until I could be heard.

But with a full chorus, and abuse of me, when it does come, is about the only song in which they heartily unite; they have, for more than a week, in the daily, as also the weekly issues, ventilated my past life and its doings, questioning the motives with which certain enterprises have been undertaken by me, when these same enterprises have received the indorsement of the same press which now decries me for spending my money in a way that seemed, after advice from safe counselors, proper, and for the beauty and advantage of this District.

Why I am selected for this work I can't conceive. I am one of two score or more who signed the petition, when as many hundreds could have been obtained, and if I am guilty, others are certainly equally so.

But this misrepresentation has not been confined to the public press.

On Friday last there was presented to the Senate a memorial of the Governor of this District, who, as stated, "in common with other officers of this District," had been arraigned on charges made by "certain pretended taxpayers."

That memorial it is not my purpose to notice, except so far as the statements made therein may affect me. To show that I am defiantly refusing to pay my taxes, it is stated that I am one of the largest property holders, have personally paid nothing on account of the improvements against which I protest, in defiance of the law of Congress approved February 21, 1871, providing that upon the property adjoining, and to be especially benefited by the improvements authorized by law, there shall be assessed a reasonable proportion of the cost, not exceeding one third part thereof. To this document is appended an exhibit of assessments imposed for improvements, pretended to have been made under said act, of $17,326.42 still due by me.

I would state here that I am unequivocally in favor of the real and substantial improvement of this District, and every part thereof, and that at no time have I used either my means or influence in opposition thereto. But I as emphatically decline to allow my honest convictions as to the manner in which the work has been done in this District to be stifled by the outcry that has as yet been attempted to be made, and that the flimsy one that no objection or examination should be made on account of the beautifying work that has been done, and because such course will defeat appropriations by Congress.

The act quoted by the official who presented the memorial provides that a reasonable proportion of the cost, not exceeding one third part, shall be assessed upon the property adjoining and especially benefited by improvements authorized by law. Under this act certain laws have been passed by our local Legislature providing for improvements. It is the opinion of many (and no court, as I am advised, has as yet decided to the contrary) that the operations conducted thereunder have not been in compliance with the organic act, and one of the principal reasons that no such decision has been made is that the law officers of our District have interposed technical objections which have prevented a full hearing by the court.

Time alone can furnish the circumstances upon which a standing in court can be obtained in many of these cases.

The mode in which this work has been done: the absence of competition; the fact that the prices were fixed by the Board of Public Works, and the work given to be done by persons of its own choosing; the large bills that have been presented in all quarters for an inconsiderable proportion of the work done, give rise to a very well-grounded suspicion, at least, that the assessment upon adjoining property has been made to exceed the cost for the whole work. This work has been, in a great degree, improperly done, the charge for the same often double its value, and the system of assessment is a high degree onerous, in some cases amounting to more than the value of the property.

While the useless changes in the grades of some of the streets, and particularly in Georgetown and on its principal thoroughfares, where in some places filling up and cutting down has been made to the extent of almost thirteen or fourteen feet, and that, too, against the almost unanimous protest of all interested, shows the arbitrary conduct of those under whose direction this work has been done.

The tax for this work is a burden sufficiently onerous, but when there is added thereto the much larger cost of adapting the houses to these new grades, the wonder is how persons of moderate means will be able to meet these charges without relief from the courts or assistance from Congress, in a way that will prevent the sacrifice now existing. The home will in many cases have to be sold, and I need not tell you that that work has even now begun.

Great odium has been attempted to be cast upon me by this statement of the failure to pay special taxes, and it is supposed, by some at least, who cannot distinguish one tax collector from another under our present system, that I am at this time entirely in default for all public dues; and had the official who so diligently paraded to the public gaze my indebtedness on one account been prompted, instead, by the same diligence, to a moderate degree of fairness, he could, by an inspection of the entries made in the office of the collector of general taxes" for this District, on the 20th day of November, 1873, have ascertained and informed the public that there was paid by me $22,301.07 in full of my individual and fiduciary account for general taxes for the year ending June 30, 1874.

This payment was made with my check, payable on the instant in current funds, and with the allowance of the then legal discount of six per cent., and that, too, after I had been approached by an editor and proprietor of one of the daily papers of this District, and prominent in the late assault upon me, with a request that he be allowed to take my general tax bills and return them to me receipted, asking for that generous and patriotic service the amount of them, less sixteen per cent., when tax-payers were then, as now, only allowed six per cent. discount; and I tender myself ready, when properly called on, to name other taxes in which general taxes for the current year have been paid subject to this excessive discount. I have no consument to make upon this new way of paying taxes. I can only say that mine were paid in full in currency, and I ask no credit for doing what was simply my duty.

And in regard to the charge that by this refusal to pay special taxes so much distress has been caused to the laborers of the District: It is certainly not the purpose of those who make this charge to divert the mind of the public from what we all know: the fact that certificates of lien have been issued against nearly all property upon which assessments have been made, and which are unpaid within a certain time; that the authorities have hypothecated or sold these certificates, and received the money therefor; that contractors have received, in lieu of currency, certificates, or bonds, towards the payment of the interest upon which bonds the receipts of general taxes are contributed.

If the laborers are unpaid, I am not to blame; for against my property there has been issued a lien, which, *if legal*, is a charge upon the same, and is now held, presumably at a large discount by some capitalist, perhaps in this city, or elsewhere. Were I to pay those liens to-day, no one would be benefited but the holder of the certificate, who holds the same not only at a discount from the face, but with the high rate of ten per cent. interest thereon.

I doubt whether in any other community on the face of this broad earth, and not under the government of an absolute monarchy, the disbursement of millions of money is entrusted to one man or set of men, who in their own way, and without restraint or check, contract indebtedness and give out work to be done without competition, to whom they please, at their own prices, paying therefor in whatever forms they choose, either in certificates, bonds or cash, modes of payment varying in value from forty-five cents to one hundred cents on the dollar, and thus creating a debt to be paid at some future time by the property of this District.

And in regard to the sewer taxes, certificates for which are now issued and are being used as a kind of currency to pay the laborers and all others whose necessities are urgent enough to make them welcome, an assessment that in certain localities, where no sewers have been made, imposes a tax of two cents per foot on property hardly worth four cents per foot; while if built as lightly as others, and particularly that section of the city which has furnished the occasion of so much comment, both as to the manner of large payment therein made, and the great improvement subsequently done there, the tax bills eleven mills per foot on real estate worth one dollar per foot.

This great irregularity cannot certainly be attributed by any principle of law, and should induce a thoughtful examination by all citizens.

No government ever began with a fairer prospect than this. Despite the obstacles which, as alleged, "till all the old people" have passed away, when the $4,000,000 loan" was offered in the stock markets of Europe, that amount was readily taken at or near par, and three times the sum rented when it was offered; and has ever been well managed, and the money expended only as received, our six per cent. securities would be as-day in high favor for local investments; whereas we are now borrowing in New York large sums of money for the payment of interest on our debt, raising $100 at a high rate of interest, and pledging as collateral security therefor $200 of our eight per cent. securities.

No opposition so very factious, and entirely devoid of merit as the one in our midst is characterized to be could do the damage it is charged with, and especially in the face of the indorsement, executive, legislative, judicial and popular, claimed for this District government.

There has been trouble at the root of the whole system, showing itself in a variety of maladministration, and resulting in the financial troubles which have surrounded it.

W. W. CORCORAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 4, 1874.

ON TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Joe Sypher, of Cincinnati, is an anomaly. After he had raved and stormed about the Metropolitan hotel until he was put to bed by some policemen he got up and hired a horse for the avowed purpose of making a raid on the White House. He charged up the carriageway on the north front portion of the mansion, dashed up the steps, and was about galloping through the open front door, when Lieut. Hurlay and a special policeman intercepted him. He wiggled about on the horse and begged them to let him pass in. He said he'd got urgent business that must be performed on horseback, but the officers were about two seconds in taking him from the horse, and not many more in searching his person, upon which was found a loaded revolver. He was subsequently taken before Judge Snell, who fined him $50 and costs for carrying concealed weapons.

INDIAN BOUNTY.

THE WRIGHT CASE.

This case was resumed in the Criminal Court yesterday, and the following witnesses called:

Henry C. Meigs, a witness for the defence, was recalled and cross-examined by Mr. Harrington: Witness identified his signature to a paper purporting to be the application of Parthas Harsyee, company A, 1st regiment, for bounty. Witness did not know an Indian by that name; did not know whether he was dead or not; the body of the application he thinks was filled in by Mr. Brown Wright, a son of defendant.

Re-direct by Mr. Stanton: Witness does not know that Judge Wright was in the Indian country at the date of the application, April 1, 1867. Witness knows that it was the custom for the widow or other heir to sign the deceased Indian's name, and he had witnessed such signatures. This is one of the cases he referred to when he said that he witnessed papers in the cases of dead Indians. He considered it an honest transaction, and it was the custom in that country to pay the money to the legal representatives of the deceased.

Philo Wright, sworn: Witness was at Fort Gibson from May 25 or 26 to June 5, 1869, with his father when the latter paid the bounties. There were 600 or 700 Indians present, who called did not receive their drafts, (they could not be found,) and in such cases they were paid their money, leaving a power of attorney, there were not more than ten of such cases. Witness noticed traders present at the time, who were collecting debts due to them by the Indians; did not see any draft paid into the hands of merchants; they were each handed to the Indians. Witness identified the book of Clapperton, and explained that it contained the names of Indians, and when they were paid the number of the receipt taken was placed opposite the name. Witness identified a book of a similar character kept by his father in the same manner.

Wm. P. Ross: Witness is chief of the Cherokee Nation; resides at Fort Gibson; recollects seeing Judge Wright making payments of drafts to the Indians; recollects that his house (Ross & Co.) had some business transactions with defendant, in which there were from six to eight thousand dollars' worth of drafts used; recollects that the use of the council chamber was given to the arbitrators in the case of the United States against Wright. Hawkins was a member of the council at the time. Witness identified his signature to a power of attorney, as also the signatures of his brothers to others.

Dr. John R. McKay sworn: Witness knows Alexander Clapperton; recollects he came to witnesses' office in 1872, and said Wright had never been guilty of forgeries; that W. had enemies in the Indian country who were doing him all the harm they could.

H. C. Harmon sworn: Witness is attached to the Second Auditor's office; identified a draft as paid for additional bounty by the assistant treasurer at New York in 1866; witness explained that the bounty was paid by a paymaster by check, and there was no occasion for the filing of a receipt of this kind in the settlement of accounts.

Leon F. Boudinot: Witness is a lawyer and also a farmer in the Cherokee nation; recognized the impression of the seal of the District court for Illinois district of the Cherokee nation; it was used by him when clerk of the court.

Cross-examined: Witness' office was in the store of Nash, and he left the seal there. Witness recognized the purported signature of Judge Thornton as an application in the case of a party named in his own writing. Judge Thornton authorized witness to use his signature. Don't know that the party was present; does not know the party; they transacted business there a little judge.

Mr. Harmon recalled: In cases of discharged soldiers (living) it was requisite that the discharge papers should be produced, but not when there was an application.

Mr. Stanton proposed to introduce a witness to testify that the same way of doing business in the Cherokee nation prevailed in Florida, but the Court ruled out such evidence.

Bernard Burns sworn: Witness testified that Clapperton, after coming from New York in 1872, came in his place, (a restaurant on Seventh street,) and in the course of conversation spoke very high of Mr. W., saying that he (W.) had trusted him as if he were a son; some time after he came in and spoke very hard against Wright, saying that he had given him but $10 to go home; a week or two ago Clapperton came in his place and said Wright was a big fool; that if he would give him (C.) $4,000 to $5,000 he would go to his home in the old country, and the case would never be called up again.

Irving R. Wright. Witness is a son of defendant; an attorney; resides in Cincinnati; was one of the sureties on his father's bond; witness had nothing to do with the payments; in October, 1871, when he heard of the difficulty, he came here and went to the Indian country. Witness made the preliminary arrangements, and the Judge Government made out its case he went to the Indian country to take testimony; the court-room was tendered to those taking testimony by the council. Witness found placards posted about camp on Indians who had not received their bounty to appear before Mr. Eglin; none of the Indians complained that they had not been paid, but some complained of the time they had to wait; that they were then about five weeks in the Indian country. Witness explained that he took possession of his papers without any special directions or consent from him, and included the receipt purporting to be signed by Lacy Hawkins.

Benjamin Eglin testified that he is a clerk under the Government; that he was sent to the Indian Territory to obtain the names of all the Indian soldiers who had not received bounty; intelligence of his mission was generally diffused.

The court at this point adjourned until this morning.

PASSING AWAY.

DEATH OF ANOTHER OF THE OLDEST INHABITANTS.

The small number of our oldest inhabitants who remember when the site of the nation's capital was an almost unbroken wilderness are rapidly passing away, and in a few short years, in the natural course of human events, none of them will be left to tell the story of primitive times, when the smoke of the wigwam was seen curling upward where the lofty dome of the Capitol now rises in majestic proportions.

Yesterday morning, at 5 o'clock, the venerable Noble Hurdle, one of the oldest of our old and respected citizens, died at his residence in Georgetown, after a brief illness from pneumonia. He was in the ninety-fourth year of his age, and until the present winter attended quite regularly the meetings of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, which he was one of the original members. Until the old gentleman's eyes lighted up with pride when he mentioned the remarkable fact—that he had shaken hands with every President of the United States from Washington to Grant. He had lived in the District—most of the time in Georgetown—for nearly a century, and his mind was well stored with interesting reminiscences of the times when the tired man roamed on the banks of the Potomac—when "What was Goose creek once is Tiber now." The old gentleman used to describe with much earnestness of manner the Indian battles and tomahawks of the olden time, when one of the latter, nearly corresponding with the line of Pennsylvania avenue, was the chief line of travel between Washington and Georgetown, and he used to tell the journey on foot from Capitol Hill to the latter town to get a pair of shoes mended, there being no shoe shops or shoemakers between those two points.

Mr. Hurdle, he was a soldier of the war of 1812, and had a vivid recollection of all the stirring incidents of the battle of Bladensburg, the burning of the Capitol and other public buildings, and many other interesting historic events. He was a man of remarkably vigorous health and vivacious temperament, and until within a few days of his death manifested his usual cheerfulness and activity. He was perfectly conscious until within a few minutes of his demise, and passed quietly and peacefully away, surrounded by sorrowing relatives and sympathizing friends.

The venerable deceased leaves behind him many descendants, including several great-great-grandchildren. He will be buried from the Congress-street Methodist Protestant church, Georgetown, on Sunday afternoon next, at half o'clock. The Oldest Inhabitants' Association will attend the funeral in a body.

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5. In small refreshment, commonly called collation, it is allowed in the evening; no general rule as to the quantity of food permitted at this time is or can be made; but the practice of the most regular Christian is never to let it exceed the fourth part of an ordinary meal.

6. The quality of food allowed at a collation is, in this diocese, bread, cheese, butter, cheese, all kinds of fruits, salads, vegetables and fish. Milk and eggs are prohibited.

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8. Necessity and custom have authorized the use of hog's lard instead of butter in preparing fish, vegetables, &c.

9. The following persons are exempted from the obligations of fasting: Young persons under twenty-one years of age, the sick, nursing women, those who are obliged to do hard labor, all who through weakness cannot fast without great prejudice to their health.

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11. Persons dispensed from the obligation of fasting, on account of tender or advanced age, or any other cause, are bound by the restriction of using meat only at one meal on days on which its use is granted by dispensation. Others dispensed from the fast for other causes, as well as those who are obliged to fast, are permitted to use meat only at one meal.

THE NATION'S SHAME.

MEETING OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT SOCIETY.

The Washington Monument Society held their regular monthly meeting yesterday at the City Hall; Third Vice President W. W. Corcoran, esq., in the chair, and J. Dowell Brent, esq., secretary. Present, Dr. J. B. Blake, Edward Clark, General Babcock, W. Walker and S. Cox.

The secretary submitted the financial reports of the treasurer and secretary for the year 1873, which were referred to the auditing committee.

Mr. Brent also submitted a letter from Hon. N. P. Chipman, of the select committee of thirteen, House of Representatives, of the 43d Congress, with the copy of a communication of the same to the Secretary of War.

The secretary was directed to reply to the letter, and furnish the committee with the information called for, as the purpose of the select committee is an effort of co-operation with the society on the part of Congress to secure the completion of the monument in some more imposing manner than the Centennial celebration will take place.

The society then adjourned.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

All the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court held the General Term yesterday and were occupied as follows:

No. 17. Henry J. Austin and Robert B. Towles vs. Edward M. Wentworth. Suit to recover possession of a tract of land in Prince George's county, and for damages for the wrongful detention of the property. Judgment affirmed, with costs, and the cause remanded to the Circuit Court of Prince George's county, with the mandate of this court to be entered thereon.

No. 18. Ann Elizabeth Clark, plaintiff in error, vs. Thomas Clark. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. Judgment affirmed, with costs, and the cause remanded to the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, with the mandate of this court to be entered thereon.

No. 19. Ann Elizabeth Clark, appellant, vs. Thomas Clark. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. Judgment affirmed, with costs, and the cause remanded to the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, with the mandate of this court to be entered thereon.

SOCIETY NEWS.

Mrs. Alexander Jeffrey and daughter receive on Fridays.

Mrs. General Paul receives at her residence, No. 1833 G street.

Mrs. Rear Rear receives on Fridays at her elegant residence, No. 1336 F street.

Mrs. General Ricketts holds her weekly reception to-day at her house on G street.

Madame Bergen has discontinued her agreeable Saturday receptions for the present.

Secretary and Mrs. Richardson's next reception will be given on Monday evening.

Mrs. General Wm. Myers gives a dancing reception to-day at No. 1728 G street.

Mrs. Dayton Ward was among the many elegant ladies making calls yesterday.

Mrs. Beckley and her mother receive on Fridays, corner Four-and-a-half and G streets.

Mrs. Senator Clayton's reception was, like its predecessors, very pleasant and beauty attended.

Mrs. Evans and daughters are at home to callers on Fridays at their residence, No. 923 M street.

Mrs. Senator Robertson received her accustomed large number of callers at her weekly reception.

Mrs. Senator Morrill entertained an unusually large number of visitors at her usual weekly reception.

Mrs. S. P. Brown and the Misses Brown receive on Fridays at their beautiful home at Mount Pleasant.

Mrs. Dom Platt, one of society's favorites, will receive to-day at her pleasant home, No. 601 Eighteenth street.

Mrs. Spencer L. Baird receives on Fridays, and callers may be sure of meeting a cordial and sincere reception.

Mrs. Admiral Powell's weekly receptions are always pleasant, and attended by a majority of the Thursday callers.

Mrs. Senator Sherman, assisted by lady friends, entertained a large list of callers in her accustomed agreeable manner.

Mrs. Redfern received a large number of visitors yesterday, all of whom were entertained with her accustomed cordiality.

Mrs. Senator Boutwell's reception was one of the most pleasant of the week, and attended by the leaders of polite society.

Mrs. William R. Hibbard is passing the winter in Georgetown in company with her husband, Hon. Mr. Hibbard, of Illinois.

Miss Orth, daughter of Hon. Mr. Orth, of Indiana, is among the many attractive young ladies adding to the pleasures of society.

Mrs. Senator Schurz, assisted by her daughter, Miss Agatha, was the recipient of a large number of calls at her usual weekly reception.

The Minnesota soirée taken place this evening, and bids fair to be one of the most pleasant entertainments of the kind of the season.

Mrs. Senator Sargent's receptions are always very agreeable, being rendered additionally pleasant by the presence of her daughter.

Mrs. William P. Sprague, wife of the member from Ohio, is among the many pleasant ladies passing the winter at the National hotel.

Mrs. Senator Thurman, assisted by her lady-like and vivacious daughter, Mrs. Cowles, entertained her large circle of friends yesterday.

Mrs. James B. Lofland and her attractive and agreeable daughter, Miss Lofland, are among the most delightful of our young society.

Mrs. Senator Tipton, one of the most agreeable ladies in society, was the recipient of a large number of calls at her cosy home on I street yesterday.

Mrs. and the Misses Lamport, family of the Hon. Henry H. Lamport, of New York, are among the distinguished visitors at the National, and are residing at No. 614 I street.

Mrs. Merriam and Miss Merriam, wife and daughter of Hon. Clinton L. Merriam, are among the pleasant ladies passing the season in Washington.

Mrs. Senator Conover's receptions are rendered unusually delightful by the charmingly unaffected manner of the beautiful and accomplished hostess.

In consequence of the death of his father, Judge Conkling, the reception of Senator and Mrs. Conkling, which was to have taken place to-night, has been postponed.

Mrs. S. V. Niles' pleasant home is one of the Thursday rendezvous of the pleasant people in society, all of whom are entertained by the hostess in aladylike and agreeable manner.

Mrs. Senator Stockton's residence was the scene of a brilliant and fashionable reception and gentlemen, last evening, assembled for the purpose of doing honor to Miss Oldfield, Mrs. Stockton's guest.

Mrs. Senator Lewis received on Thursday at her pleasant home in Kalorama. The lady is noted for her extreme good sense, and for her freedom from the conventional style of entertaining prevalent in society.

Mrs. Senator Scott and her daughters, the Misses Scott, were at home to their friends, as usual, on Thursday, and charmed a large number of callers by a hearty welcome and by their pleasant manner of entertaining.

Mrs. Senator Merrimon at the Ebbitt were thronged during the afternoon by the leaders of polite society. Mrs. Morton is highly esteemed by a large circle of friends, who are always welcomed in a sincere and hearty manner.

Mrs. Senator Frelinghuysen's reception was one of the largest of the week. The hostess was assisted by her accomplished daughters, the Misses Frelinghuysen, who are justly considered among the most agreeable members of fashionable society.

Mrs. Senator Patterson's cosy parlors, on Fifteen-and-a-half street, were the scene of many happy reunions yesterday between the hostess and her friends. Mrs. Patterson, assisted by Miss Moore, entertained callers in a lady-like and pleasing manner.

Mrs. Senator Hamlin's parlors at Willard's are always crowded at her Thursday reception by some of the most delightful and fashionable leaders of society. Mrs. Hamlin is a favorite in Washington, and her receptions are always cordial and her greetings hearty and sincere.

This winter certainly has been the season for surprise parties, and one of the most enjoyable was given last evening at the residence of B. H. Stoddard to his accomplished daughter, Miss Annie. The spacious parlors were filled with young ladies and gentlemen, and a most agreeable time was spent.

Mrs. Senator Conkling's parlors were crowded during her hours of reception by the *elite* of the capital, for whom a call at her home is one of the chief pleasures of the week. Mrs. Conkling possesses a quiet dignity of manner, a perfect not of stiffness, is at the same time proper and becoming. Miss Bessie Conkling assists her mother at her receptions, and charms all who are presented.

Mrs. Senator Dorsey's beautiful home was the scene of a very pleasant reunion of friends in the capital yesterday. Mrs. Dorsey is one of the most charming ladies in society, and is rapidly becoming a leading favorite. Miss Week, the accomplished daughter of the olden time, when one of the latter, nearly corresponding with the line of Pennsylvania avenue, was the chief line of travel between Washington and Georgetown, was in the habit of making the journey on foot from Capitol Hill to the latter town to get a pair of shoes mended, there being no shoe shops or shoemakers between those two points.

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The secretary submitted the financial reports of the treasurer and secretary for the year 1873, which were referred to the auditing committee.

Mr. Brent also submitted a letter from Hon. N. P. Chipman, of the select committee of thirteen, House of Representatives, of the 43d Congress, with the copy of a communication of the same to the Secretary of War.

The secretary was directed to reply to the letter, and furnish the committee with the information called for, as the purpose of the select committee is an effort of co-operation with the society on the part of Congress to secure the completion of the monument in some more imposing manner than the Centennial celebration will take place.

The society then adjourned.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

All the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court held the General Term yesterday and were occupied as follows:

No. 17. Henry J. Austin and Robert B. Towles vs. Edward M. Wentworth. Suit to recover possession of a tract of land in Prince George's county, and for damages for the wrongful detention of the property. Judgment affirmed, with costs, and the cause remanded to the Circuit Court of Prince George's county, with the mandate of this court to be entered thereon.

No. 18. Ann Elizabeth Clark, plaintiff in error, vs. Thomas Clark. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. Judgment affirmed, with costs, and the cause remanded to the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, with the mandate of this court to be entered thereon.

No. 19. Ann Elizabeth Clark, appellant, vs. Thomas Clark. Appeal from the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia. Judgment affirmed, with costs, and the cause remanded to the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, with the mandate of this court to be entered thereon.

THE WORKINGMEN.

MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TRADES UNION.

The central committee of the Trades Union met last evening at Workingmen's hall, Mr. Geo. Lovejoy in the chair, and Mr. S. M. Roberts acting as *pro tem.*

Much interest was taken in the proceedings, and the large number present showed that the cause of the workingmen is being taken up rapidly and the different trades represented are waking into line, making one solid army looking for their rights.

The following organizations indorsed the platform and rules of the central committee and elected delegates for the ensuing six months: Machinists' Shop No. 1, K. G. U. of H., Mackey, Geo. H. Bell, Geo. T. F. Wilson, Geo. Shoppell and C. E. Roberts; Painter's Lodge No. 28, Messrs. John C. Geves, James Lee, Walter Daniels, William M. Harvey and Frank M. Hirmond; Columbia Typographical Union No. 101, Messrs. Allen Coffin, Wm. R. McLean and Geo. W. Howland.

Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners—Messrs. R. H. Ferguson, Jno. Schaitto, Wm. Lyman, O. W. Lindeman and A. J. Linton.

Plasterers—Messrs. Brook Edmonston, J. E. Nugent, Charles Parkinson, Samuel Revels and Thos. Langton.

Stone Cutters—Messrs. F. J. McHenry, John Mallan, Wm. Robinson and David Lang.

The credentials of the different delegations were reported favorably upon, and the representatives received into the council.

The subject of holding a mass meeting in the interest of the working class was taken up and briefly discussed, and the reports from the different associations were requested to lay the same before their respective bodies for their consideration and action.

Mr. Lewis, from the Bricklayers' Union, at this time entered the hall, and stated that his association had indorsed the platform and rules and elected the following delegates, who would be present at the next meeting: David Lewis, Milford Spahn, V. M. Burch, R. B. Clapham and George Taylor.

The committee then went into an election of officers for the ensuing six months, with the following result: President, Frank M. Hermond; vice president, Milford Spohn; recording secretary, Brooke Edmonston; corresponding secretary, C. E. Roberts; treasurer, Geo. W. Howland; doorkeeper, Chas. W. Lindeman.

The officers were installed in their respective positions, and the president appointed the following standing committees: Messrs. Whitmore, Coffin, Lewis, Naugent and Grover.

The delegates were instructed to consult their respective associations in regard to uniting and setting a certain time in which to demand the enforcement of eight hours as a legal day's work, gain their opinion on the subject at the earliest practicable moment, and present the same to the council. The meeting then adjourned.

MORE OF THE LUNCH BUSINESS.

GODFREY & GOELL REPLY TO MR. CAMPBELL—A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AND MEMORY.

Editor of the National Republican:

Sir: In a communication in the *Daily Chronicle* of yesterday, Mr. Henry Campbell says: "The whole point of difference between Messrs. Godfrey & Goell and myself is simply this: I declined to become personally responsible, or saddle the contingent fund of the House with a bill of the character presented, a large part of which was furnished upon the promiscuous orders of persons not connected with the House, and without their knowledge." Mr. Campbell's memory must be very treacherous, or he would not venture a statement which, while reflecting upon the accuracy of our memoranda, would, if true, place a serious charge against him to a judicious position which the cause comes to trial.

The statement that "a large part," or even a considerable portion, of the bill included in our bill was "furnished upon the promiscuous orders of persons not connected with the House," and without Mr. Campbell's "approval or knowledge," will be puzzled by the evidence which we have in hand, fully corroborated and substantiated. Mr. Campbell must forget that on the day when he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates he came to our store and personally ordered, telling us in person to let them have all the wine and lunch that they wanted. He must forget that about the close of the session he sent for refreshments "for the committee on National Bank," what would be called an ample hand-lunch for all the members, consisting of salads, chicken and cold cuts of various kinds; that he then came over in person and ordered the same for a social evening's full supper; and that we subsequently furnished the same, with wine and cigars *ad libitum*, he in the meantime ordering two boxes of cigars and taking away one box under his arm. It also escapes his memory that on the occasion of the presentation of a gold watch and chain from his friends, he brought them to our *café*, ordering us to give them the best we had in the house he might call for, and that on at least one occasion he required that no drinks except wine should be served.

Were these, and similar orders which we could cite, "promiscuous" orders? If so, the Hon. Mr. Campbell must be a promiscuous party. It is not our province to say whether these bills should have been paid by the contingent fund; but we do, but for the present we must respectfully decline to allow Mr. C. to "decline to become personally responsible."

We have only further to add that no item of information pertaining to this matter ever got into the newspapers through us. Our business is with the defendants in court. But as the publication of items, with the subsequent communications based thereon, has tended to place us in a false light before the public, we feel compelled, in self-justification, to interpose this slight explanation in advance of legal judgment.

Yours, respectfully,

GODFREY & GOELL.

DISTRICT POOR.

MEETING OF THE ALMONERS YESTERDAY.

The Board of Almoners held a regular meeting yesterday at 1 o'clock, in the lecture-room of the Young Men's Christian Association; Vice President A. S. Solomons in the chair, and Mr. John Cook, acting secretary. Present: Messrs. Hitz, Gulick, Stickney, Wilson, Schubert, Hall, Ballantyne, Savington and Stephens.

Rev. Geo. A. Hall, general agent, made his monthly report for January, showing the number of visits made to have been 101; families relieved, 309; total number of individuals relieved, 1,000, including children; sick and disabled assisted, 202; orders filled for provisions and wood, 414. Clothing has been furnished as follows: Blankets, 18; stockings, 4; shirts, 15; boots, 11; overcoats, 4; pants, 16; drawers, 18; shirts, 14; garments for women, 8.

Mr. Hitz, treasurer, reported that he had received $50 from the Corporation of Georgetown, and that between $30 and $40 had been expended for transportation of needy individuals to assist them in reaching other places where they expected to obtain relief.

A letter from Mrs. Grafton Greenleaf, of Georgetown, was read from Mrs. Greenleaf Roberts, of the Industrial Home School, asking for a portion of the fuel obtained from the new State Department.

Mr. Schubert said that the previous determination of the society in regard to giving to organized associations should govern them during the present winter.

In view of the fact that several applications have been made on the part of persons in need when there are able-bodied men in the family, the board decided not to depart from the rule previously established, as the funds were too limited to admit of bestowing such aid.

Undergarments for women and children of one suitable piece, made from two overcoats made by the boys in the Industrial Home, kindly donated by ladies, on sewing machines kindly loaned, were exhibited.

The board then adjourned, deciding to meet in the future at 1 p. m.

A CART ON FIRE.

The vicinity of Third and D streets southwest was the scene of considerable amusement Wednesday afternoon, and none in the crowd enjoyed it more than did the boys assembled, who were the first to discover the cause. It appears Dr. Wm. Boyd, a well-known citizen of Washington, and at one time a very prominent politician, basilarly has engaged in driving a cart for a livelihood, and while proceeding with the aforesaid cart, drawn by a mule, in the vicinity above mentioned, the doctor suddenly discovered that a little stove in the cart was fast approaching the purpose of keeping his fingers warm had ignited the cart. The doctor became very restless, and soon the fire was discovered by some boys on the sidewalk, who gave the alarm that his cart was "afire." The fact well known to him. The team was brought to a halt, and the fire was soon extinguished. The doctor proceeded on his way amid the laughs of those assembled.

THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

A petition signed by a number of citizens from the several sections of the country, praying Congress to make the birth-day of Abraham Lincoln a national holiday, will be presented in a few days. The following is the memorial:

Senate and House of the United States of America:

For ages it has been the custom of people and nations to hold in honor anniversary days on which him who was devoted to his kind and his country.

To him who proclaimed the Declaration of Independence a living reality, eternal "remembrance."

On the twelfth day of February, 1809, the soul of Abraham Lincoln was launched into time.

We, the undersigned, do petition your honorable assembly, the Senate and House of Representatives, that you do nominate and appoint the twelfth day of February a "legal holiday," that a universal people may rejoice together in this great gift of God to man.

NAVY YARD AFFAIRS.

Mr. F. H. Ristig has been appointed foreman of laborers in the department of construction and repair. This is a deserved promotion, as Mr. Ristig has had charge of the laborers in this department for the past eighteen months. He is an energet