The National Republican.

VOL. XXIV.---NO. 152. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1884. THREE CENTS.

LEVIS HAS LEFT US,

And 700 Clerks or More Are Mourning Missing Dollars.

Several Congressmen and Other Statesmen Are Also Losers.

Marvelous Success of His "Syndicates" for Speculating on a Sure Thing in Oil.

Large Gains and no Losses—Protested Drafts for Profits.

George H. Levis, a broker, who formerly did business at No. 629 F street northwest, left the city last Monday morning and has not yet returned. A large number of people, who are extremely anxious to see him, do not know where he is. Mr. Levis appears to have been, in his humble way, an imitator of the great Ferdinand Ward, of New York. His plan of operations was apparently much the same, and with the same opportunities he would probably have far surpassed the achievements of the New York man. Even with no better material to work upon than government clerks, heads of bureaus, members of congress, and merchants and lawyers, he is believed to have realized at least $200,000 by his enterprise. This amount may be increased to millions when the returns are all in.

Mr. Levis is now 51 years old. His hair and mustache are dark, and his rather florid face indicates a man who likes and uses the good things of life. He always dresses well, and is, of course, a very smooth talker. He came to Washington last June in company with Mr Adams, a wealthy gentleman of Baltimore, and the two promoted several mining schemes, which are said to have paid the investors well. Adams did not stay long, and until recently Levis has been doing business alone. He had formerly done business in Philadelphia, and men who had known him then recommended him as having phenomenal business sagacity. He recently opened a branch office at No. 603 Fifteenth street, and for that portion of the business which was conducted under the name of W. T. J. Wright & Co., associated with himself Mr. W. T. J. Wright, a son of Dr. Elsne T. Wright. Business was still conducted at the old stand, however, by George H. Levis in person.

Mr. Levis's particular fancy in a business way was oil, and it was as a successful speculator in that fluid that he excelled. He boasted, and the gentlemen who put their money in his hands boasted, that he had never lost a dollar since he began "operating" in petroleum last June. If he bought oil it immediately slipped up several cents, and if he sold oil it lost no time in smoothly slipping down a few points. On the strength of the phenomena Mr. Levis might have claimed to be a prophet, a mind reader, a demi-god, and his admirers would have believed him, but he made no such claim. Levis was modest. He explained these apparently inexplicable favors of fortune, and drew further thousands into his safe by one simple statement. He had a friend, a very intimate friend, in New York by the name of Harris. Harris occupied a confidential position in the employ of the Standard Oil company, which everybody knows controls the oil markets of the world. Whenever Levis wanted to invest Harris not only gave him the "tip," but made the investment for him. In fact such was the confidence in Harris's unerring judgment, backed by his absolute knowledge of what the Standard Oil company was going to do, and consequently of what oil was going to do, that of late when Levis was ready to do business, having accumulated enough money for an operation from his Washington friends, he simply telegraphed Harris to "deal," leaving it wholly with him whether he should by or sell. It always happened, according to Levis's report of it, that Harris had done exactly the right thing.

It would seem that Levis, with a little money to start on, might have taken all the advantage to be derived from this intimacy with Harris, and through him, in the oil market. But he did not do this. Levis was not selfish. He shared his advantages with hundreds, perhaps thousands of Washington people, and so arranged things that the humblest man or woman's $5 should share proportionately with the wealthy congressman's thousands. He formed what he called "syndicates" and labeled them "A," "B," "C," and so on through the alphabet. The clerk who came in with a $20 note which he wished to turn into the price of a house and lot, left the bill with Lewis and went away with a neatly printed paper, informing him that he was entitled to $20 interest in the next "deal" of "Syndicate B." Sometimes it required $200 to "fill a syndicate," and sometimes $2,000, but whatever the amount was, whenever enough people had deposited their money, and the "syndicate" was "full," a telegram was sent to Harris to "deal." In thirty days from the time of filling the syndicate Levis settled with his patrons. The profits were enormous. It was no uncommon thing for a man to quadruple his money. Sometimes he drew part or all of it out when the settlement was made, but oftener he left the original investment and the added gains with Levis to invest again, and mortgaged his household furniture to get more money to put in. He also advised his friends to invest, "because," said he "it is a gold mine."

Frequently several syndicates became full at the same time, or one waited until others were full, and then they were put together and a big deal taken. This was supposed to be the case in the last deal. It was understood among the investors that 500,000 barrels of oil had been bought at 72 and sold again at 79. Levis had shown them a telegram from Harris that he had "bought at 72," and it was only last Saturday that he showed them another telegram from Harris that he had "sold at 79." They took Levis's word for the number of barrels. Only last Saturday Levis showed this last talegram to twenty or thirty investors who had dropped in to see how much richer they were, and he said to them: "Gentlemen, you can all go home happy. This is the biggest deal we have made, and we are $35,000 ahead on it." They all went home happy.

The following Monday morning Mr. Levis took the 8:15 train for New York. He had told no one of his intention to go to New York, and no one knew of any reason for his going. Nobody seems to have suspected that Mr. Levis could do anything wrong until payment was refused on a few of his checks which he had given on the Second National bank. His deposit in that bank was exhausted. Still it was said that Levis was all right, but when two days had passed and no one had heard from him some of the less credulous became alarmed. Mr. Murdock, a lawyer, was sent to New York, and Mr. Frank Smith, a former friend of Levis's, was sent after him. Other means were taken to find the missing man. It was learned from the train conductor that Levis had not gone to New York. At Baltimore he had asked the conductor if there was not time for him to stop and get a drink there. The conductor said that Levis appeared to have been "boozing." He asked the conductor if he could stop over on that ticket at Philadelphia. Levis was an old traveler, and must have known, without asking, that he could stop at Philadelphia, but he asked the question. He stopped off at Philadelphia, and as far as Washington people are concerned he might as well have sunk into the bowels of the earth right then. No single trace or sign of him have the searchers been able to find. The last man to see him on earth, as far as anybody can learn, was that railroad conductor. Levis has a wife and some grown children living in Germantown, near Philadelphia. None of them have seen him.

All that is known here of Murdock's investigations in New York is contained in a telegram from him received yesterday afternoon. He says, "Have seen Harris. He says he will take care of money in his hands. Other brokers are reticent, as I am a stranger."

There were long-faced and anxious-eyed men in Levis's F street office yesterday. By common consent nothing has been done with the books and papers in his office. Dr. Wright has taken nominal charge of them, and yesterday afternoon he was trying to brace up the investors. "It's all right," he said to them; "we've got $35,000 profits and the principal. You know it takes considerable principal to make $30,000. All we want is to see Levis and get his sight draft on his brokers for the amount, and then you'll all got your money." Then he would tell them about the telegram from Murdock, but some incredulous ones, who insisted upon seeing the telegram, noted that nothing was said about the amount of money in Harris's hands. In fact there has never been anything except Levis's word and the telegrams from Harris to show that Levis ever bought or sold a single barrel of oil. Harris's telegrams never indicated how much he had bought or sold, but only gave the price.

"Haven't you looked at his books?" asked a REPUBLICAN reporter of one man who didn't seem to take quite so cheerful a view of the situation as did some of the others.

"Didn't have anything but a check book," was the reply. This was not literally true, for there was a book in which entries of amounts paid in by individual depositors and amounts paid to them were entered. This book was kept by a very young bookkeeper who knows nothing further about the business. No entry has been found anywhere of any oil bought or sold, or of any transaction with brokers, oil dealers, or anybody else but Washington investors.

Messrs. Watson & Gibson, well known New York brokers, are the men through whom Levis represented that he did most of his business, and if there actually was a big deal in oil they have probably got a large share of the proceeds, but the number of investors who believe that there never was any deal in oil is growing every hour. Levis also represented that he divided his business, and made a portion of his deals through Philadelphia brokers. News has been received that Murdock and Harris had started from New York for Philadelphia last night to see if they could find any money there.

The most astonishing thing about the whole affair is the confidence with which a majority of the victims still insist that Levis is simply off on a spree, and will soon be back and give them their principal and profits. Until yesterday afternoon that feeling seemed to be almost universal, and there are some things upon which credulous men may base a hope. Levis's check book shows that during Friday and Saturday he gave out checks amounting to $20,000 to investors. Many of these checks, it is said, were for profits on the last deal which were not due, according to the thirty days' agreement, until to-day. His friends ask, "Why didn't he take that $20,000 if he was going to run away." He took no money from the bank here, and although payment was refused on three or four checks, it is believed that the deposit in the Second National bank was sufficient to pay all the rest. It is further urged by Levis's friends that he is a periodical drunkard and has an uncontrollable appetite for liquor. They say that it is his habit to go away and hide himself when he is drunk. They say that he has for a long time refused to drink, but he was drinking last Saturday. Men who had apparently made small fortunes through his operations have lately been sending him hats and canes and other presents. Last week several cases of champagne came in the same way, and on Saturday, with a party of his investing friends, he was drinking wine in his office. He drank so much Saturday and Sunday that on Sunday night he slept at his office, instead of going to his room, which he has occupied for some time at the Hamilton.

His friends say, further, that he would have been extremely foolish to run away when he was connected with such profitable enterprises outside of his oil business. He was of a treasurer Maryland Mining company which is said to be making stacks of money taking out mica worth $10 a pound. He is also treasurer of an ice manufacturing company. "The co-operative refrigerator something or other" was what one of the disgusted investors called it last evening. This company owns valuable patents on ice manufacturing machinery. It is supposed to make ice in the south at $2 per ton and sell it at $20 per ton. It is popularly supposed that this company is organizing stock companies in all southern cities of any size, selling half the stock to business men in each town for enough to establish the business and getting half of the profits for nothing. It is generally understood that it has such a factory in successful operation in Tallahassee, Fla. It is also generally understood that Levis has recently bought half a dozen houses and lots in Washington and paid for them, and that only last week he paid Col. Rockwell $3,000 as part of the price of a fine lot on which to build a magnificent house. It is certain that for some time he has had an architect coming to his office occasionally with plans for a palatial residence, which plans he has discussed and criticised with the investors who were frequently about the office.

With such hasty search as could be made yesterday afternoon, however, no other evidence of the vast wealth-producing properties of these schemes could be found than that "Levis had said so," or had so given people to understand in some way. The president of the ice company was nearly frantic when he heard of Levis's disappearance, and it was rumored last night that he also has disappeared. It is charged that many persons invested with Levis in oil deals on his recommendation.

Levis certainly had a considerable number of Russell Sage's "puts" and "spreads" on Union Pacific and Pacific Mail, for he showed them to some of his more intimate acquaintances. One of these gentlemen said last night that he knew Levis had disposed of these privileges, and that he must have made from $25,000 to $40,000 on them.

Nobody knows within a hundred or a thousand how many people invested their money with Levis, nor can any estimate approaching accuracy be yet made of the amount of money involved. It was said last night that no less than 700 clerks in the postoffice department alone were sufferers from his flight. At least a dozen congressmen are known who were in for thousands, and the best list of business men and lawyers who invested their money with him will be found in the Washington Business Directory. A local speculator now holds Mr. Levis's draft for $1,000, which been protested.

Many women are among the investors, and some of them will lose all of the savings of years if Levis does not appear and make that draft on his brokers. Levis, besides his oil operations, dealt largely in stocks for his customers. Some weeks ago a lady went to him with $800, with which she wanted him to buy stocks. He told her that she would simply lose her money and he refused to make the deal for her. She said she would go to other brokers then, and he told her to go—he would not lose her money for her. She did go to other brokers and lost her $800 just as Levis predicted. She put all the rest of her money with Levis, however, in one of the oil "syndicates." Saturday she was in Levis's office and he told her there was some money there for her. She said she did not want it. He rather urged her to take $100 of her profits, but she refused. His friends tell this story to prove that Levis is all right and will return. The incredulous ones says that Levis's conscience troubled him, and that the offer of that $100 was the result of a little touch of remorse.

SWAIM SUMMED UP.

Arguments of Counsel Before the Court of Inquiry Yesterday.

Mr. Calkins Explains the Due Bill and Morrow Matters.

And Mr. Chandler Reviews and Comments on the Evidence on Both Sides.

Report That the Court of Inquiry Has Recommended a Court-Martial.

The Swaim court of inquiry reconvened yesterday, and the counsel on both sides submitted arguments, after which the court went into secret session to consider the case and make its report.

On behalf of Gen. Swaim, Mr. Calkins stated the charges and proceeded to consider them and the evidence in regard to them in their order. Taking up the due-bill transaction and the differing statements of Mr. Bateman and Gen. Swaim concerning it, he said it was clear that when Mr. Brown, to whom the $5,000 was originally loaned, wished to sever his connection with the firm of Bateman & Co. there was a talk between the three—Brown, Bateman, and Swaim—as to the reinvestment of the $5,000, the result of which was that Swaim consented to allow Mr. Bateman to have the $5,000 on the same terms that Brown had had it, and that Mr. Bateman gave him the due bill for this loan. The memorandum on the bottom of the note, "10 per cent. and 6 per cent. interest," Mr. Calkins says has been shown to refer to a sliding scale of interest agreed upon between Bateman and Swaim. Mr. Bateman claimed that it was put on there to represent the amount still due Swaim on the loan to Brown, but Brown testified that Gen. Swaim agreed to let this money go, as he did not care anything about it, and Swaim testified that he told Brown, before the money was transferred, that he would charge him nothing for the use of it. Gen. Swaim could not have asked Mr. Bateman to put a memorandum of that kind on the bottom of this due bill when the matter had been theretofore arranged, and he had told Mr. Brown distinctly that he would not charge him anything for the use of the money.

Mr. Calkins contended that Bateman did not carry out his instructions with regard to the D'Atrui claim, and was bound in law to account to Gen. Swaim for the $1,000 invested. With respect to the mining stock transaction, Mr. Calkins insisted that Mr. Bateman informed Gen. Swaim that he had purchased for him 4,000 shares of Columbia Copper company, No. 2, and that the first intimation they had that he had done otherwise was the presentation to the court of 2,000 shares each in Nos. 2 and 3 as the stock purchased for Swaim. Referring to the fact that Mr. Bateman acknowledged in court that this stock was worthless, Mr. Calkins said: "A transaction of this kind has a strong flavor of fraud and conspiracy to fleece innocent parties who might be induced to take stock in such wild-cat concerns," and he threatens a further investigation of this transaction in a civil court of equity.

Referring to the omission by Gen. Swaim from his statement of his account with Bateman & Co. of five transactions, in which there were losses for him (Swaim), Mr. Calkins said "that the leaving off of these transactions was not intended as a wrong," and adds: "The truth is that neither Gen. Swaim nor any other sensible man would make up and introduce in testimony a sheet that had been fraudulently designed."

With regard to the transfer of the due bill to Bright, Humphreys & Co. by Swaim, and the subsequent suit, Mr. Calkins said that it was utterly incomprehensible how a man could perpetrate a fraud upon another, where there were honest differences of opinion between them relating to business matters, by bringing suit in a court of justice. Even if the due bill was transferred for its full amount it was no fraud upon Bateman, but upon the assignees, because Bateman was not cut off from any defenses he might have by the transfer.

In regard to the charge that Gen. Swaim had knowledge of the fraudulent character of the vouchers negotiated by Col. Morrow, Mr. Calkins denied that it had been shown that Swaim knew that they were fraudulent.

Coming to the conversation in which it was alleged that Swaim made the threat about "squeezing" Morrow at the war department, Mr. Calkins pointed out that the witness (Parker) differed from Bateman as to that conversation, and corroborated Swaim as to the talk having been about butchers' and grocers' claims, as well as Swaim's claim against Morrow being looked after equally with the bankers' claims. Swaim says he said nothing about "squeezing," but did say that butchers' and grocers' claims, if known of at the department, might give the bankers' syndicate trouble. Mr. Calkins's view of the conversation is that Bateman said something reflecting upon the officers of the army, and that Gen. Swaim, losing his temper at the remark, replied somewhat hotly to him, as he testified that he did. Gen. Swaim had no knowledge of the triplication of Morrow's accounts until general publicity was given to the matter, and is, therefore, says Mr. Calkins, no more responsible as an army officer for not having preferred charges against Col. Morrow than any other officer of the army.

Mr. Chandler in his argument started out with the assertion that, "In the legal constitution of the army, that body is made the keeper of its own conscience." The statute which provides that any officer who is convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman shall be dismissed from the service does not, he says, define the specific acts which shall call down upon an officer the punishment pronounced by it. What conduct does not become an officer and a gentleman, within the inhibition of this law, is to be determined in the opinion and judgment of the military tribunal to whom the conduct complained of is submitted. The object of the statute is to fix a rule of official conduct, and this, says Mr. Chandler, "will be the result of this inquiry."

Mr. Chandler then endeavored to show that the statute prescribing the punishment of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman does not relate solely to the conduct of an officer in the discharge of his official duties. To say that it does would be to say that the law gives an officer of the army immunity from censure of the law for habits and practices which degrade a person in any other station of life.

Mr. Chandler argued that the due bill was in no sense a negotiable promissory note, but he asked, "What benefit could the accused hope to gain from proving it negotiable?" If it was a negotiable paper, he was entitled to collect it of Bateman & Co. or sell it, but after the amount of this paper had gone into his bank account, and he had checked it out, he had no right to sell the paper and use the advantages of its negotiable character to force a wrongful payment of it the second time.

Referring the argument of the defense that there a misunderstanding as to accounts between Gen. Swaim and Bateman, Mr. Chandler pointed out that at the time of placing to the credit of Gen. Swaim the $5,000 on which the due bill was given him he knew from the statements furnished him by the bank that he owed the bank $307. He had accepted these statements without complaint, and having been silent concerning them, the law assumes that he assented to their correctness. Gen. Swaim testified, he said, that the $5,000 on which the due bill was given had been loaned to the bank with the understanding that it might be carried into his accounts if they pleased.

He pointed out that the accounts of Gen. Swaim, as carried on the books of Bateman & Co., have been sworn to by Mr. Bateman as correct, and that the books themselves have been produced and critically examined, and that they convincingly bear out this statement. "Gen. Swaim," Mr. Chandler said, "Does not deny the accuracy of the books in any particular, but he says he does not understand his account. In his despair at the strength of the evidence offered by the accuser, he finds no other escape than to retire behind the intrenchment of invincible stupidity. * * * I am compelled to resent the intimation that the eminent officer who presides over the military bureau of justice of the army has not sufficient mental energy to compute six and six. "But if it were true," he added, "that Gen. Swaim did not understand these transactions, it is in evidence from his own witness (Terry) that he explained the whole transactions to Gen. Swaim. It is in proof, made by himself, that the entire record of his business transactions with Bateman & Co. was before him when he transferred the due bill and was fully understood by him, if Terry is to be believed."

Coming to the matter of Swaim's knowledge of the fraudulent character of Col. Morrow's pay accounts, Mr. Chandler pointed out that, although Gen. Swaim said the only knowledge he had of the character of these accounts was what he gained from public rumor.

Parker, a witness friendly to Gen. Swaim, testified that he went to see Swaim, at Bateman's request, and told him that the accounts had turned out to be triplicate. He quoted from Gen. Swaim's own testimony in relation to the conversation with Bateman, in which the latter alleges that Swaim threatened to "squeeze" Col. Morrow at the war department, and in which Swaim admits that he told Bateman that a certain class of claims, among them his own claim, might give the bankers trouble at the war department; that he knew at that time that Morrow had issued fraudulent pay accounts. Mr. Chandler pointed out that this threatened trouble could only rest in Col. Morrow's dismissal from the army, which was possible in connection with his accounts only upon proof of fraudulent practices with regard to them, and he reasoned from this that the fraud Swaim had in his mind when he predicted trouble to the bankers was the fraud which Morrow had practiced in negotiating fraudulent pay vouchers. Mr. Chandler asked: "Why was Swaim presenting to them the bankers' reasons why his debt and others should be provided for?" and he answers: "There can be no other explanation than that Swaim was willing to utilize the peril in which the claims of the bankers stood to secure the payment of his own debt."

Referring to Swaim's effort to have his claim included in the security held by the bankers, Mr. Chandler asked: "Would an officer of active moral sense permit himself to have a pecuniary share in a fund which might and would be destroyed by an impartial discharge of his own official duty? With what scorn would the world look upon a judge who would buy into a claim to be litigated before himself!"

In conclusion Mr. Chandler said: "It is respectfully submitted therefore, that the legal conclusion to be reached in this case is, that the accused is guilty of the charges made against him; that he has been uncandid and evasive in respect thereto with the secretary of war, and has not dealt fairly and frankly with this court during this inquiry."

The secret session, which followed the submission of the arguments, lasted several hours, in the course of which the court agreed upon a report and then adjourned sine die. The report will be held by the acting adjutant general until the return of the secretary of war. It is understood that a court martial is recommended.

THE MARCH OF THE 28TH.

Entertainments in Baltimore, Harrisonburg, and Staunton—Royal Greeting from Their Old Antagonists.

BALTIMORE, May 21.—The 28th regiment of New York volunteers, numbering about 275 men, commanded by Col. E. F. Brown, on its way to Staunton, Va., to participate in a reunion of the 5th Virginia regiment, arrived in this city at 6:30 this morning, took breakfast at the Eutaw house, and at 8 o'clock proceeded on their journey. The New Yorkers were met here by Col. Stickley, Maj. Newton, and Mr. Frank Larew, of the 5th Virginia, as an escort to Staunton. The Virginia regiment while on a visit last year to Niagara were the guests of the New York regiment.

HARRISONBURG, VA., May 21.—The veterans of the 28th New York regiment, accompanied by an escort of the 5th Virginia, arrived here at 5:30 o'clock p. m., and were met at the depot by the militia of this place and a committee of citizens. Upon disembarking they were taken to Court square where an address of welcome was delivered by Mayor Pendleton Bryan, and was responded to by Col. Bowen, of the 28th New York. Ample provision had been made by the citizens for furnishing the whole party with dinner, and no little dissatisfaction was manifested when it was announced that the train would not make a long enough stop to enable the excursionists to dine. The town was profusely decorated.

STAUNTON, VA., May 21.—The veterans of the Twenty-eighth New York, together with the party of citizens who accompany them, arrived here at 8 o'clock this evening. The run from Baltimore was made without any prolonged stops. At Woodstock, near the old battle field where the standards of the Twenty-eighth were captured by the Fifth Virginia, a short halt was made and an eloquent welcoming address to Virginia soil was delivered by Col. Stickley, of the old 5th. It was appropriately responded to by Judge Smith, of Canandaigua. At Staunton 5,000 persons, including many from the surrounding county, were gathered at the depot. As the train came in sight the salvos of artillery mingled with the music of the old "Stonewall brigade" band, and the welcoming shouts of the vast throng made the mountains echo and re-echo Virginia's cordial greeting to New York. Carriages were provided for the ladies and the veterans, with their old antagonist, fell into line behind the Staunton guards and marched to the opera house. As the party were pretty well fatigued, there was no formal reception to-night. The visitors proceeded immediately from the opera house to the houses of the citizens, whose guests they will be during their stay. The town is beautiful decorated, Main street being a perfect wilderness of flags, bunting, and mottoes, and welcome is written everywhere. To-morrow the public reception will take place in the opera house. Maj. Newton, president of the veterans, will preside. A welcoming address on behalf of the 5th regiment will be delivered by Capt. James Bumgardner, adjutant, to which Col. E. F. Brown, president of the Veteran association of the 28th, will respond. On behalf of the citizens Col. Skinner will deliver the address, and the response will be made by Hon. E. L. Pitt, of New York. An enjoyable programme for the entertainment of the guests has been made out, including excursions to the Natural Bridge and other points of interest. The party will remain in Staunton until Friday, and will also stop on their return from the bridge.

Ferdinand Ward in Custody of the Sheriff.

NEW YORK, May 21.—Ferdinand Ward was arrested this evening in this city by a deputy sheriff in a suit brought against him by Nelson J. Tappan, the city chamberlain. Mr. Ward is held in $300,000 bail, which is the amount fixed in the order of arrest. He has not yet been lodged in jail, but is in the custody of the sheriff, the bail not yet having been furnished by Mr. Ward.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DEMOCRATS.

They Go for Free Trade, and the Old Ticket—Other Political Points.

CONCORD, N. H., May 21.—The democratic state convention met here this morning and Hon. Hosea W. Parker was chosen chairman. After the appointment of the usual committees Mr. Parker made an address, in which he denounced the protection policy of the republican party. The district delegates elected are as follows: First district, Patrick Fahey, of Manchester, and John F. Coultman, of Farmington; second district, Harry Bingham, of Littleton, and Hon. Hosea W. Parker, of Claremont. All of the delegates favor the nomination of the "old ticket," but are uninstructed.

The resolutions adopted declare against all laws tending toward the centralization of power, wealth, or political influence; that taxation is an incident, not an object, of government; demand a reduction in the war tariff; commend the action of the democratic majority in the national house and its recent earnest effort for tariff reform, and call for a thorough reform in tariff, financial, and administrative affairs; arraign the republican party as false to the interests of the people, and again assert utter condemnation of the great crime of 1876, a wrong that "we propose to right and make it impossible of performance hereafter.

Frank Jones, of Portsmouth; Henry O. Kent, of Lancaster; Frank A. McKean, of Nashua, and Alvah Sulloway, of Franklin, were then chosen delegates-at-large, and alternates then elected.

No instructions were given the delegates, but as the unanimous sentiment of the convention is in favor of the "old ticket," they will undoubtedly support it at the national convention.

The platform is simply a reiteration and amplification of the resolutions.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., May 21.—The democrats of the fifth congressional district, in convention at Bloomington, renominated C. C. Matson on the twenty-fifth ballot.

ATCHISON, KAN., May 21.—Republicans of the first congressional district unanimously nominated E. R. Morrill for re-election.

WAYLAND SEMINARY.

Interesting Exercises at the Eighteenth Annual Commencement—The List of Graduates.

The eighteenth anniversary of the Wayland (colored) seminary took place last evening at the Cavalry Baptist church, corner of Eighth and H streets northwest. There was a large attendance of both white and colored persons.

Seated within the pulpit were Rev. Dr. G. M. P. King, president of the faculty; Gen. Eaton, United States commissioner of education; Revs. S. H. Green, pastor of the church; W. R. Burrill, Frederick, Md.; W. M. Ingersell, Washington; W. M. Alexander, Baltimore; Holland Powell, Hampton, Va.; W. B. Johnson, Washington, and Congressman Smalls, South Carolina.

The graduates were: Theological department—Augustus B. Callis, Baltimore, Md., and Norval A. Wiggins, Millenbeck, Va. Normal department—Sadie N. Baptist, Boydton, Va.; Augustus B. Callis, Baltimore, Md.; Carrie B. Carroll, Bloomington, Ill.; Sallie Chew, Alexandria, Va.; [illegible] W. Clements, Lynchburg, Va.; Robert J. Daniels, Elkton, Md.; Sherman B. Downing, Lexington, Va.; Samuel R. Foster, Harmony Village, Va.; Julia C. Griffin, Abingdon, Va.; Clifton L. Hairston, Winston, N. C.; Henry W. Haskins, Chase City, Va.; Henrietta Hucless, Baltimore, Md.; James P. Johnson, Madison Court House, Va.; Thomas D. Jones, Holly Springs, Miss.; Lee H. Martin, Salem, N. C.; Christopher A. Robinson, Harmony Village, Va.; Alexander S. Thomas, Boydton, Va.; Henry V. Washington, Harmony Village, Va.; Norval A. Wiggins, Millenbeck, Va.

The order of exercises was as follows: Prayer, by Rev. Mr. Powell; "Character More Than Reputation," Henry W. Haskins, Chase City, Va.; "To Whom Does the World Owe a Living," Carrie B. Carroll, Bloomington, Ill.; "Influence," R. J. Daniels, Elkton, Md.; "Wendell Phillips," Christopher A. Robinson, Harmony Village, Va.; "The Wonders of Electricity," Clifton L. Hairston, Winston, N. C.; "No Homes Without Hands," Henrietta Hucless, Baltimore, Md.; "The Newspaper an Educator," John W. Clements, Lynchburg, Va.; "Lydia Maria Child," Sadie N. Baptist, Boydton, Va.; "Winning an Empire," Alexander S. Thomas, Boydton, Va; address to graduates, with distribution of certificates; announcement of Elizabeth A. Wayland prizes; benediction, by Rev. Mr. Alexander.

President King delivered the address to the graduates and delivered the certificates and Elizabeth A. Wayland prizes.

Those who received certificates were: For composition and speaking, J. W. Clement; excellence, C. A. Robinson, of grade class; B. Feckville, and Isham Bradley. Those who received the Elizabeth A. Wayland prizes were Miss M. W. Brown, Miss Ross, Miss Banks, and Miss Lucy Miller. Representatives Payne, of New York, and Brown, of Pennsylvania, were present. The Colored Jubilee minstrels, of the seminary, furnished excellent music at intervals during the exercises.

THE NEW ARMORY.

The Cornerstone to be Laid This Afternoon With Imposing Masonic Ceremonies.

The cornerstone of the new opera house and armory of the Washington Light Infantry will be laid with great eclat this afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. A number of prominent guests, including the President, cabinet, district commissioners, and officers of the district militia, will be present. The ceremonies will be entirely Masonic, and will be conducted by the Grand lodge of the district Washington commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar with their guests, the Richmond commandery, No. 2, of Richmond; Columbia commandery, No. 2; Potomac commandery, No. 3, and De Molay commandery (mounted), No. 4. The line of parade will assemble on E street at 4:30, with the head resting on Seventh street. The parade will move down Seventh street to the avenue, to Third street, countermarch to Seventeenth street, to I street, to Vermont avenue, to Pennsylvania avenue, pass in review before the President, and thence to the armory site. The Light Infantry will act as escort to the commanderies.

The following articles will be placed in the cornerstone.

Silver coins of 1884, donated by Treasurer A. U. Wyman.

List of the active and honorary members of the corps.

Copies of the daily and Sunday papers.

A Congressional Directory.

Boese's Guide of Washington.

Cards of all of the principal hotels.

A brick from old war department.

Calendars of all the local Masonic lodges.

Fac simile of the corps bonds.

Address of the building committee of the corps.

Postoffice Guide for 1884.

Photograph of Col. Moore, commander of the corps.

Photographs of the President and cabinet.

The Work of the Pickpockets.

William Ballantyne, of No. 428 Seventh street, has reported that his pocket was picked of a gold watch and chain valued at $150, at the corner of Fifteenth street and New York avenue northwest, yesterday.

The pocket of T. H. Turner, president of the Lutherville Female seminary, of Maryland, was relieved of a gold watch and chain at the corner of Fifteenth street and New York avenue yesterday.

Q. W. Van Camper had his pocket picked of a fine gold watch at the Luther unveiling yesterday.

The Weather To-day.

Fair weather, winds shifting to easterly, stationary temperature.

Yesterday's thermometer—7 a. m., 62.3°; 11 a. m., 74.5°; 3 p. m., 80.5°; 7 p. m., 76.2°; 11 p. m., 64.5°; maximum, 82.3°; minimum, 54.2°.

MARTIN LUTHER'S MEMORY.

Impressive Ceremonies at the Unveiling of the Great Reformer's Statue.

A Large Number of Prominent Churchmen and Laymen Present.

Addresses by Senator Conger, of Michigan, and Rev. J. G. Morris.

The Memorial Meeting—The Procession and the Reception.

The large American flag which had concealed from view the colossal bronze statue of Martin Luther ever since its erection in the triangular park fronting the Memorial Lutheran church separated and dropped to the ground at exactly 3:35 o'clock yesterday afternoon. As the bright metal tribute emerged from the shade of the national colors and flashed in the sunlight, Mr. W. W. Corcoran, who had pulled the unveiling rope, bowed several times to the vast assemblage. The inspiration of the crowd was instantly manifested in an outburst of applause, while the full Marine band played with grand effect Luther's battle hymn, "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott." Banners were dipped, umbrellas and parasols waved, and hats thrown in the air. Perhaps no similar demonstrations were ever witnessed at the unveiling of any statue in this city before.

The unveiling of a statue at the capital of the United States to the greatest of religious reformers, while a novelty, was nevertheless regarded as a national event by the Protestants of the whole country. This was evidenced by the attendance at the ceremony yesterday, all of the different denominations being represented on the platform, which covered the entire parking, from the south church door to its extreme triangular point. The spectators began to arrive at the statue as early as 12 o'clock. They came in street cars, all kinds of vehicles, and on foot, and when the services began fully 7,000 people had occupied all the available space—far beyond the hearing points. Every one of the 1,200 seats on the large platform were taken, and many people were content to stand. So heavily was the platform laden with humanity that it broke down twice in as many places during the ceremonies, nearly resulting each time in a panic. The sun blazed vicously, and those who were fortunate enough to possess umbrellas and parasols raised them between themselves and the heated glare from a cloudless sky. The scene from the speaker's stand was novel in the extreme as the orators directed their eloquence at a wide continuation of rounded and dark-hued umbrellas, interspersed here and there by bright red and delicate blue parasols in the hands of curious maidens. The Marine band, in its new summer fatigue uniform, arrived early and took position on the grand stand. Several minutes later a detachment of police, embracing details from all of the stations, tramped up Fourteenth street, and were distributed about the square. The speaker's stand was situated directly beneath the statue, facing south. It was surmounted by an awning, and profusely decorated with German and American flags and long red, white and blue streamers. On the platform were seated Mr. Justice Miller, of the supreme court, Senator O. B. Conger, of Michigan, Daniel A. Payne, the venerable colored bishop of the African M. E. church, Judge William B. Snell, of the police court, Judge Hoffman, of Cumberland, Md., Rev. Dr. J. G. Morris, D. D. LL. D., of Baltimore, Mr. W. W. Corcoran, Rev. Drs. Morris and Butler and Messrs. A. J. D. Wedemeyer, A. Kountze, J. W. D. Dobler, of New York, C. A. Schierer of Brooklyn, G. A. Dobler of Baltimore, and George Ryneal, of this city, members of the Luther Statue association; Revs. H. W. Conrad, and V. L. Conrad, of Philadelphia, editors of *Lutheran Observer*; Rev. Dr. Brown, of Wytheville, Va.; Rev. M. Sheeleigh, of Philadelphia; Rev. C. A. Marks, of Pincastle, Va.; Rev. P. A. Hellman, of N. Y.; Rev. T. F. Hartman, of Ghent, N. Y.; Rev. Messrs. Hartman, of Pennsylvania; Rev. A. W. Lilly, of York, Pennsylvania; Rev. J. Wagner, of Pennsylvania, Rev. W. G. Thrall, of New York; Rev. D. W. Moser, of Virginia; Rev. J. Kling, of Rhinebeck, N. Y.; Rev. Mr. Burmeyer, of New York; Rev. H. C. Holloway; Revs. Mr. Wolfley and H. F. Long, of Pennsylvania; Rev. J. H. Turner, principal of the Lutheran Female seminary, Lutherville, Md., with twenty-five of the students; Rev. Mr. Brand; Rev. L. A. Mann and X. J. Richardson, of Maryland; Rev. S. Stoll, of Pennsylvania; Rev. J. Evans, of Pennsylvania; Rev. C. S. Albert, of Baltimore; Rev. J. B. Shaup, of Maryland; Rev. G. Scholl, of Pennsylvania; Rev. L. E. Albert, of Philadelphia; Rev. J. Fry, of Reading, Pa.; Rev. Dr. D. M. Gilbert, of Winchester, Va.; Rev. Dr. H. Giessenger, of Easton, Pa.; Rev. Dr. J. Swartz, of Gettysburg, Pa., and members of the Martin Luther society of New York city. Also, ex-Justice Strong, Rev. Dr. Elliott, Rev. Dr. Shippen, Rev. Mr. Wynkoop, and Messrs. Cluss & Schultze.

At a few minutes after 2 o'clock Rev. J. G. Butler, pastor of the Memorial church, stepped to the platform railing and raised his hands. The multitude was at once hushed to silence. "I have to announce," he said, "that owing to the illness of Chief Justice Waite this ceremony will be presided over by Mr. Justice Miller, of the United States supreme court."

Justice Miller stepped to the front and announced the opening music, "The Heavens Are Telling," which was player by the Marine band. Rev. Mr. Conrad, of Baltimore, followed in an earnest prayer. At its conclusion Rev. Mr. Butler read the history of the statue, which was prepared and read by request of the Luther Statue association. It stated that the honor of having first suggested the idea of a statue to Martin Luther at the national capital belongs to Mr. Charles A. Schieren, of New York. The sentiment grew rapidly, and the monument association was formed. The first call for funds was made on Feb. 14, 1883. Generous responses were received from all quarters, and two months later the statue was ordered from Lauchhammer, Germany, by cablegram. The original intention was to erect it on the 400th anniversary of the birth of Luther, Nov. 10, 1883, but it was found impossible to finish the immense statue by that time. The contributions were received, not alone from Lutherans, but from members of every Protestant denomination. The park in which the statue is located will hereafter be known as "Luther place." The property entire will be deeded in a few days to the Luther Statue association. The pedestal design was presented gratuitously by Messrs. Cluss & Schultz, of this city, and the work was done by Mr. A. H. Jouvenal, also of Washington. "At first," concluded the history, "it was hoped that we would be able to erect the statue in one of the public parks of Washington. This project was afterward found to be impracticable and unnecessary, and we decided to put it in our own park."

At this point the front center of the platform, on which the invited guests were seated, gave way with a crash and sank to the ground, a distance of about three feet. There were a few shrieks and much excitement, but Justice Miller and Rev. Mr. Butler prevented a panic by assuring the people that no one had been injured. The Marine band played a concert air, and the excitement and tumult subsided.

Justice Miller then introduced Senator Conger, who was listened to attentively. He said: "We stand in the presence of the veiled statue of one who dwelt upon the