WEEK'S WORK OF CONGRESS.

THE QUESTION OF PENSIONS TO THE WIDOWS OF SOLDIERS.

Discussing the Claims of Veterans for Increased Allowances—Other Proceedings in Senate and House—The Death of Michael Hahn.

Last Friday's session of the Senate was occupied by the consideration of the Edmunds resolutions, the principal event being the argument of Mr. Kenna, of West Virginia, in defense of the position assumed by the President.

The House spent the day in discussing bills on the private calendar, a few of which were disposed of. At the evening session forty-five pension bills were passed.

In the Senate Monday Mr. Hoar called up the electoral count bill, but yielded to Mr. Van Wyck in order that that senator might call up the House bill increasing the pensions of widows and dependent relatives of deceased soldiers. The bill as it came from the House increased the pensions of widows and dependent relatives from $8 to $12 a month. The Senate committee amended the bill so as to increase the pensions of minor children from $2 to $4 a month.

A message from the House of Representatives announced the death of Representative Hahn, and Mr. Cullom, who had taken the floor to speak on the Edmunds resolutions, gave way to Mr. Eustis, who moved the customary resolutions of regret, on the adoption of which the Senate, at 2:10 p. m., out of respect to the memory of the deceased, adjourned.

In the house on Monday the chaplain made a touching allusion to the death of Representative Hahn, of Louisiana. He said: "In its last session this House stood in the presence of the coffined dead and paid its tribute of respect to the memory of the departed senator. Since then the blows of death have fallen twice on the House. The wife of a member has been called away (Mrs. Woodburn), and now a member has passed through the gate of death."

Mr. St. Martin, of Louisiana, offered resolutions expressive of the regret of the House at the intelligence of the death of Representative Hahn; providing for the appointment of a select joint committee consisting of seven members and three senators to take order in conducting the funeral ceremonies, and to secure transportation to the place of interment, and adjourning the House as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. Bland, of Missouri, asked, and in a few moments obtained, unanimous consent that to-morrow be devoted to the same class of business which would have been in order to-day.

The resolutions were then unanimously adopted, and accordingly the House at 12:30 adjourned.

Early in Tuesday's session of the Senate, on motion of Mr. Van Wyck, the House bill increasing the pensions of soldiers' widows was taken up, and after debate was passed in the form in which it came from the house.

The bill increases the $8 a month pension of widows and dependent relatives to $12 a month and prohibits any recognition of claim agents or attorneys in connection with the bill, and forbids any compensation to be paid to such agents or attorneys by reason of any action or services in relation to the increase of pensions provided for by the bill.

Mr. Hoar called up the new electoral count bill and it was read.

At 2 o'clock the judiciary committee's resolutions were taken up, and discussed by Senators Cullom, Morrill, Maxey, and Dolph till adjournment.

After the conclusion or the call of states for bills and resolutions, in the house Tuesday Mr. Bland, of Missouri, from the committee on coinage, weights, and measures, moved the suspension of the rules and the adoption of the following resolution:

That House bill No. 5960, for the free coinage of silver, be made a special order for Saturday, 20th and 27th instants, and Saturday, April 3, and the same be again taken up Tuesday, April 6, after the morning hour for the consideration of bills reported by committees, and so to continue from day to day until disposed of: *Provided*, That unless sooner ordered by the House, the previous question shall be pending thereon at 3 o'clock Thursday, April 8, this order not to interfere with revenue or general appropriation bills except on Thursday, April 8, fixed for the final disposition of this order.

Mr. Hiscock, of New York, demanded a second, which was secured—yeas 96, nays 28.

Mr. Hiscock opposed the resolution. He saw no good which could come from the consideration of the adverse report. He did not believe that a majority of the House was in favor of unlimited silver coinage.

After further debate the motion to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution was agreed to—yeas 179, nays 87.

The announcement of the vote was received with a hearty applause from the silver advocates. [The vote is not regarded as a test vote, as such well-known opponents of free coinage of silver as Bayne and Scott, of Pennsylvania, and Findlay, of Maryland, voted in the affirmative, while Messrs. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, Dougherty, of Florida, and Blount, of Georgia, who at first voted nay, changed at the solicitation of friends, who desired the matter discussed, that it not been for the changes the motion would have fallen short of the necessary two-thirds in the affirmative.]

Mr. Reagan, of Texas, moved and the House adopted a resolution making the interstate commerce bill a continuing order for April 13.

The vote was—yeas 195, nays 44.

The House then, at 5 o'clock, adjourned.

In regular order, the Senate, after 2 o'clock Wednesday, took up the unfinished business, the Edmunds resolutions, reported from the judiciary committee.

Mr. Dolph continued his remarks in favor of the majority report. He argued that as the President and Senate appointed, the President and Senate should remove. He cited statistics to show the great increase in the number of removals by President Cleveland as compared by those made by former Presidents. After quoting from various publications on civil service to show dissatisfaction with the President's departures from the civil service idea, Mr. Dolph said he would not undertake to construe the President's declarations, but whatever his declarations, his acts had not been in accord with the idea of civil service.

Mr. Coke followed. Ever since the debate on the subject in the first Congress in 1789, Mr. Coke said, there had been nothing new or original stated about it. The great men engaged in that debate had left nothing further to be said. The underlying question was whether the power of removal was vested in the President alone, or in the President and the Senate acting together.

Mr. Wilson, of Maryland, opposed the report of the majority.

Mr. Beck did not wonder that Duskin was not here for himself. Everybody knew, Mr. Beck said, that Duskin was complained in March, 1884, and the Senate did not see fit to confirm him. He was again appointed after the adjournment of the session, and nominated at the October term of the same year, and the senator from Vermont (Mr. Edmunds) had not felt justified in even reporting him to the Senate for confirmation.

Mr. Edmunds rose, as a matter of duty, to a question of order. The senator from Kentucky, he said, was violating the duty of a senator in respect to proceedings in executive session.

Mr. Beck denied this. The records and the public papers, he said, showed three nominations of Duskin, and it was because the senator from Vermont knew that he was unworthy that the papers were asked for, because he expected to entrap the department.

Mr. Edmunds insisted that the senator from Kentucky was out of order, and asked the chair to decide the question.

The chair was of opinion that the senator from Kentucky should see the distinction, and would, no doubt, observe the rules of order.

Mr. Beck said he would do so. He would not speak of anything that occurred in executive session; but repeated his statement as to what the record and the public press would show—that the senator from Vermont did not see fit to act on the nomination.

Mr. Edmunds again insisted that the senator was out of order, and asked the chair to enforce the rules.

The chair stated that the senator from Kentucky had an undoubted right to public facts, but——

Mr. Beck (interposing) remarked that he had, and that to-day he will prove the public facts by the press of the country and also prove by the records of the House of Representatives, which were public, that Duskin was an utterly unfit man to fill the place from which he was removed, among other reasons, because of his connection with Strobach, the marshal, and that the senator from Vermont himself knew the facts. And Mr. Beck thought he would produce the records from the Attorney General's office—the Republican Attorney General, Brewster—verifying the fact stated by him (Mr. Beck). He hoped also in executive session to get a vote of the Senate to compel the senator from Vermont to produce evidence which he had before his own committee to show Duskin's unfitness. He hoped to prove that this effort to make an issue in regard to Duskin was because the senator from Vermont believed Duskin's case so bad that the Democratic administration would be glad to prove how bad he was; and then the senator would claim it as a precedent in good cases. "And I hope to prove," continued Mr. Beck, "that this move, now made with such a flourish of trumpets—I will not say what I expect to prove, for I could not do it, perhaps, in parliamentary language."

Mr. Edmunds said he would have to leave entirely in silence what the senator from Kentucky had stated in regard to affairs in executive session. "I feel bound in honor," he said, "not to make any allusion to any such subjects. The ideas of senatorial honor, under the rules of the senator from Kentucky and my own, are entirely different. Perhaps mine are wrong; perhaps his are right. Every senator is sworn to a faithful performance of his duty as senator, according to regulations of the Senate that are made under the constitution. If the senator from Kentucky thinks it is honorable to garble and mistate the existence of circumstances in closed doors, of course I have no criticism to make upon his sense of what is honorable and right. I cannot make any reference to what has taken place under any circumstances, when under the rules of the Senate and my oath the doors are closed. Therefore, I can make no reply to what the senator from Kentucky has said on the subject to which he has alluded as in executive session."

As to Mr. Beck's reference to the reports in the Attorney General's office about Duskin and what they would show——

Mr. Beck (interrupting) said his reference had been to the committee of the judiciary, of which the senator from Vermont was chairman.

Mr. Edmunds reminded Mr. Beck that he had referred to papers in the office of Attorney General Garland and what they would show. He (Mr. Edmunds) could not allude to what the judiciary committee had or had not done until he should have permission. "I shall not violate my oath or my honor," Mr. Edmunds said, "by doing it now, whatever other gentlemen may choose to do."

If there were reports in the Attorney General's office concerning Duskin, they were precisely what the Senate desired when it passed its resolution calling for the papers. "It appears," Mr. Edmunds continued, "that the senator from Kentucky can get at what the Attorney General and the President of the United States consider to be confidential and private communications, when the Senate of the United States cannot, and that is the advantage that that senator has over the body of which he is a member; and that is the advantage which the administration considers to be, as all the Democratic senators do, I presume, an undoubted advantage. But what the senator from Kentucky gets, it appears the Senate cannot get. What the Senate asked for, and what it only asked for, was a report of official papers and documents on file in the Department of Justice respecting the conduct and management of an office covering a period of time embracing six months of a suspended officer, and six months of the officer whom we are asked to appoint—in order that the Senate might see how this office had been managed by its respective occupants, whether money had been embezzled, whether false indictments had been brought, and whether the office had, under both or either of them, been well or honestly administered."

If it were true, Mr. Edmunds continued, that Duskin had been a bad officer, it was of the highest importance not only that the Senate, but the House of Representatives should know it, and what his misconduct had been. How any paper stating misconduct in a public office could be a private and confidential communication which belonged to the President alone, Mr. Edmunds was quite unable to understand.

Mr. Beck said he had not seen any paper in the Attorney General's office relating to Duskin, nor had he ever asked to see one, nor had he ever spoken to the President in regard to Duskin. "And as to my honor and my oath," continued Mr. Beck, "I hope it is as sacred as that of the senator from Vermont. If it was not at least as good as his I would not have as much regard for myself as I have now. I propose to stand upon my integrity as a man and a senator; and I say that a forty-parson power would not do justice to much of the hypocrisy that is now presented to the Senate in pretenses of a desire to establish public justice." Duskin, Mr. Beck said, was known to be an unfit man for the place he occupied, and nobody knew it better than the senator from Vermont; and he had selected this particular case because he believed that the executive officers, knowing that Duskin was unfit, would show the unfitness, and that that would give the senator from Vermont an excuse in other cases to seek to make trouble by asking for what he and the country knew the Senate had no right to demand from the Executive in order to bring scandals before the country. The senator from Maryland (Mr. Wilson) had not been aware, perhaps of how cunningly this Duskin matter was worked up in the hope of catching the executive officers—knowing that they had a perfectly good case against him. The senator from Vermont spoke of his honor and oath and integrity, and compared them with his (Mr. Beck's), and Mr. Beck was willing to stand by the comparison. "Thank God," said he, "whatever I say I say boldly and openly. I mean what I say. I do not stand on the corners of the streets and thank God that I am not as other men and pray aloud to make men believe that I have all the virtue and all the integrity and all the godliness extant. When I see a great public question I meet it—I meet it fairly. I may make blunders and I may make mistakes, but I have more respect for the man who meets his enemy in the open field and either knocks him down, or takes a fair knock down himself, than I have for the man who stabs his brother under the fifth rib while shaking him by the hand and asking him "How is it with thee, my brother?" I do not believe in secret ways; I do not believe in Pharisaism; I do not believe in hypocrisy; I do not believe in circumventing anybody. I will move now, in order to see whether I am telling what is true or not—and if I cannot move it now I will do so at the first opportunity—that all the proceedings in March, 1881, October, 1881, and December, 1881, and all the papers filed with the judiciary committee and all the proceedings had before that committee in the case of the nomination of Duskin shall be made public, so that the country can judge whether what I say is true or not. If I have falsified anything I will take it back; and if I have not I want a chance to prove it, since comparisons are made between the oath and the honor of the senator from Vermont and myself. I make that motion now, and will let it lie over until to-morrow morning, or I will do it in the first executive session, if it is not in order to do it now."

The chair thought the motion was not in order now, but the senator could ask unanimous consent.

Mr. Beck accordingly asked unanimous consent.

Mr. Edmunds said it was not in order in open session.

The chair was of the opinion that if it would lead to discussion it was not in order.

Mr. Edmunds. And I shall undoubtedly agree with the senator from Kentucky, as I do in a large part of what he has said. When he at least says that he is not better than other men I am bound to agree with him. When he tells us that he compares honor I agree with him about that. He has his own views of what is honorable, and I have mine. I suppose, both being Democrats [laughter], we are both entitled to our opinions as to what is honorable. I supposed that all I said was in reference to a plain manifest—I will not say intended—violation of the rules and orders of the Senate in reference to reports of committees or want of reports of committees in executive session. Perhaps the Senator is not yet conscious that he has violated the rule about that. I doubt if he is, because I believe the Senator to be a man who means to do the right thing in the right way. But he did that, and it was in respect to that that I called the attention of the chair to his remarks.

Mr. Beck inquired where Mr. Edmunds had got the Thurman matter that he read the other day.

Mr. Edmunds replied, from the committee minute book, upon an order of the Senate withdrawing secrecy from it. "Perhaps the senator from Kentucky can see the distinction," he said.

"I can see a barn," replied Mr. Beck, "but I cannot see a fly on the barn door without seeing the barn."

Mr. Edmunds. Undoubtedly, and the senator has seen a good many barns undoubtedly. I am inclined to think he has not seen much of anything else. [Laughter.]

Mr. Beck. I have not seen the fly.

Mr. Edmunds. No, the senator never takes anything on the fly. [Renewed laughter.]

Mr. Beck. Nor on the sly, either. [Uproarious laughter on the floor and in the galleries.]

Mr. Edmunds admitted this. The senator from Kentucky, he said, regarded the resolution, as he has now discovered, as a device to entrap the President and the Attorney General into reporting the official facts on file, which showed Duskin to be an improper officer, in order that they might be compelled to report in other cases where they had slaughtered a man upon charges, on the invitation of the Postmaster General or somebody else, that were false and fabricating. The point was, therefore, that the administration was going to be unveiled before the people by being entrapped into telling the truth about a bad officer, and so be led to tell the truth about a good officer. That certainly, Mr. Edmunds said, was an amazing attitude for the administration to occupy and he took it that the senator from Kentucky represented the administration in the matter. We were asked to assist in removing an officer, and because we asked for official information in order to be able to act in that matter, we were not to get the information for fear that in another instance, where an accused officer had been accused falsely, and by invited perjury, of offenses that he had never committed, the conduct of the administration would be brought into reproach. "I will leave the position just there," concluded Mr. Edmunds, who then moved an executive session.

When the galleries had been cleared and the doors closed Mr. Beck offered a resolution that the injunction of secrecy be removed with regard to the papers in the hands of the judiciary committee relating to the Duskin case. He said he did not wish to rest under the imputation passed upon his honor by the senator from Vermont, and wished to show to the public that he had good grounds for all he had asserted.

Mr. Edmunds disavowed all intention to cast any aspersions upon the honor of the senator from Kentucky, whom he held in the highest esteem.

Mr. Conger proposed an amendment to the resolution of the senator from Kentucky, providing that the resolution should not take effect until the Attorney General or the President should have sent in the papers in the case.

Thereupon the resolution and the amendment were referred to the committee on the judiciary.

A motion was entered to reconsider the vote by which R. S. Dement was confirmed as surveyor general of Utah.

At 6 p. m. the doors were reopened, and shortly afterward the Senate adjourned.

In the morning hour Wednesday Mr. Springer, on behalf of the committee on claims, called up, and the House proceeded to consider, a bill conferring jurisdiction on the court of claims to investigate private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States. Pending discussion the morning hour expired, and after agreeing to the amendments to the urgent deficiency bill, the House resolved itself into committee of the whole (Mr. Townshend, of Illinois, in the chair) on the Indian appropriation bill.

The bill was then read by paragraphs for amendments, and shortly afterward the committee rose, and the House (at 5 o'clock) adjourned.

The feature in Thursday's session of the Senate was the very effective speech delivered by Senator Spooner, the new senator from Wisconsin. He proved himself a ready debater and a fluent, pleasing speaker, with excellent analytical and argumentative powers. He dissected the report of the minority of the committee on the judiciary and also "the President's supplemental report," in the course of which he made apparent the weak points in both documents. That he made a good impression upon the Senate is evinced by the fact that he engaged the undivided close attention of all the Republicans, including Messrs. Edmunds, Evarts, Hoar, Ingalls, and Logan, and of nearly all of the Democrats.

Mr. Spooner said he would make no attempt to disguise the fact, or to apologize for it, that the fortunes of the Republican party were very dear to him. He would not attempt to deny that he wished that that party might, here and elsewhere, reap every fair party advantage which might be taken from the blunders and shortcomings, if any such there were, of this administration. "But I trust," continued Mr. Spooner, "that I do not forget, and shall not forget that I am a senator of the United States as well as a Republican, and that as a senator my first duty always is to the people, and that I have no right to take action here to subserve a party interest which would be baneful to the interest of the people. I deny for myself—and I have authority to deny for every senator upon this side of the chamber—the statement so often made upon the other side, that we desire, or are willing, even, to harrass, hamper, or embarrass the President in the proper exercise of executive functions."

Mr. Spooner, after reading the Senate resolution calling for the progress in the Duskin case and the Attorney General's reply to it, characterized the Attorney General's letter the most remarkable response ever coming from an executive officer to a legislative body. The Attorney General had not denied the existence of the papers called for, but contended that the papers were private papers, and said substantially that, as the papers were called for by the Senate for a special purpose, namely, to be considered in relation to a suspension, the Senate was not entitled to them.

Mr. Spooner then took up the question from a legal point of view, and quoted from the constitution and the tenure of office act to show that the power of removal, as well as of appointment, was in the President and the Senate acting together, and that what was in his sole discretion absolute was the power of suspension during a recess of the Senate. One source of much confusion in this debate, Mr. Spooner said, was a confounding by the Democratic senators of suspensions with removals. It was a very different thing. To suspend an officer caused a temporary cessation of his functions; to remove caused a permanent cessation. To suspend the writ of habeas corpus was one thing; to obliterate it was another and quite a different thing. A suspended officer was not a removed officer, for if the Senate refused to confirm his successor, the suspended man returned to the office. The Supreme Court has so decided. Mr. Spooner read from decisions of the courts to show this. The President has declined to furnish the papers called for because, forsooth, they would enable the Senate to see the reasons for the suspension; they would enable us to see that he had exercised the power of suspension wantonly. No power could be so dangerous to the republic as the power thus asserted by the President that papers relating to the public business on the files of the government were his private papers, to be removed from the files, buried in the cellars of the white house, or carted off to Buffalo if he chose, merely because he had used them in exercising his power of suspension. If the mere fact that the President acted on the papers made them his private property and shut out the light of investigation from all the public offices in the country, then it rested with any Chief Executive to lock the door upon the House and Senate and defeat all investigation. Mr. Spooner did not mean to imply that President Cleveland would abuse that power. It was no part of his argument to impeach the good faith of the President; but he warned the Democratic side of the chamber that we were not dealing with this question for a day. The issue was one that would outlive us. Suppose all the Republican officials removed and their places filled with Democrats. Suppose that from Wisconsin John Smith should write a letter to the Postmaster General telling him that John Jones, the Democratic postmaster, had, at a given time, robbed the mail. It was a "private" letter; it was "voluntarily" written; it had not been "invited" by the Postmaster General it related to the conduct of a public officer. Suppose it to be investigated and the man suspended. Such things would happen. The Republicans had not been able to have all their officeholders honest, and the Democrats would not be; they would have dishonest men. Suppose the Senate wanted to investigate the condition of that postoffice as to the time it was occupied by the suspended official, and the President should refuse to furnish the information in his possession? Mr. Spooner defied the Democratic senators to show what, on their doctrine, was to prevent any President from shutting Congress out from all knowledge of dishonesty occurring under his administration. The people could thus be kept in utter ignorance of the defects of any administration. No, no, that could not be the law. It never was intended that the business of a public trust should be a private trust. It never was intended that the doctrine "public office is a public trust" should apply everywhere but to the Executive. It could never have been intended that a trustee of an express trust could, at his will, make private, and his own property, the evidence of his transactions in the trust, and keep his cestui que trust from all knowledge. That was what the President's doctrine would lead to.

In the morning hour the House resumed the consideration of the bill conferring jurisdiction on the court of claims to investigate private and domestic claims other than war claims against the United States.

Pending a demand for the previous question the morning hour expired, and the bill went over as unfinished business.

The House then went into committee of the whole (Mr. Townshend, of Illinois in the chair) on the Indian appropriation bill.

The consideration of the bill dragged drearily along, no amendment of any importance being offered, and such as were offered being usually ruled on points of order after long and uninteresting discussion.

After finishing forty-two of the forty-eight pages of the bill, the committee rose and the House at 5:55 adjourned.

CLAIMS TO BE PAID.

Loyal Claimants Who Have Been Kept Out of Their Money More Than Twenty Years.

The bill "for the allowance of certain claims reported by the accounting officers of the United States Treasury Department," which has been favorably reported to the House, authorizes and requires the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the 1,023 claims arising under the act of July 4, 1864, for certain quartermaster and commissary stores used by the armies of the United States, which have been examined and allowed by the proper accounting officers since Jan. 21, 1885, to Jan. 26 last. The aggregate amount of these claims is $238,200.64. They came only from loyal states, and the money goes only to loyal men in these states. Every condition precedent to the allowance of these claims has been found in favor of their allowance after a year's patient investigation by the tribunal constituted by law to investigate them. These loyal claimants have been kept out of their money for more than twenty years, and no interest is allowed them in any case. Included in the list favorably reported are twenty-one claims of citizens of Maryland and thirty-eight of citizens of West Virginia, as follows:

MARYLAND.

Montgomery county — Charles Anderson, $233.50; James F. Poole, $93. Frederick county —Joshua Dixon, $185; John Thompson, $49; Josiah Wetsiel, $19.50; James K. Waters and Thomas F. Bittle, executors of James Waters, deceased, $39. Washington county—George I. Adams, $251.20; Samuel H. Brosius, survivor of Brosius & Brother, $407.60; John H. Beeler, administrator of Joseph Beeler, deceased, $217.50; Grace H. C. Boyle, $125; William Gardner, $16.80; David Kailor, $62.10; Jacob Leatherman, $88.50; Mary E. Middlekauff, executrix of Joseph Middlekauff, deceased, $182.50; J. H. Motts, $162; Samuel Shiller, $42. Charles county—William Charles, $160; Amanda Matthews, administratrix of Elizabeth G. Davis, deceased, $90. Carroll county—John Maus, $248.50. Howard county—George G. Latchford, $132. St. Mary's county—Elias A. Cole, widow of William E. Cole, deceased, $48.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Greenbrier county—Alexander H. Anderson, $240. Berkeley county—Isaac V. Burns, $70; Hiram H. S. Silver, $150. Kanawha county—Wiley Cooper, $340; Nancy Carwithem, $30; Charles Hedrick, $1,242.71; Stephen Rigg, $1,383.20; Andrew J. Williams, $240. Grant county—Wilbur F. Dyer, administrator of Wm. S. Cunningham, deceased, $1,111.65; Henry Funk, $75. Pendleton county—John W. Byrd, administrator of Wm. D. Cowger, deceased, $135. Jefferson county—Ellen E. Dixon, widow of Achilles Dixon, deceased, $50; Wm. Beall, administrator of Isaac N. Elsea, deceased, $359.50; Edward Teamey, administrator of Patrick Hagan, deceased, $2,115; William W. Lemen, $127.30; Thomas Licklider, $55. Harrison county—John W. Gill $10; Caroline M. Jackson, administratrix of James M. Jackson, deceased, $40. Hardy county—Joseph Garnet, $285; George Judy, $162. Cabell county—Joseph N. Blackwood, administrator of Jacob Harshbarger, deceased, $172; Greenville Harrison, $12.65. Fayette county—Wm. H. Hill, administrator of John Hill, deceased, $601; L. W. Sutton, administrator of Joseph McGary, deceased, $70; John T. Scott, administrator of Alexander Scott, deceased, $160. Braxton county—James Keener, $15. Morgan county—Henry Willard, administrator of Delilah Leopard, deceased, $12.50. Randolph county—Edmund Pritt, $175; Wm. H. Quick, $199; George E. Stipe, $125; John W. Ward, $40; Wm. M Wamsley, $35; Henson Watts, administrator of Philip Watts, deceased, $45. Pocahontas county—John Sharp, $100; David Smith, $115. Hampshire county—George J. Williamson, $150.

Catarrh and Bronchitis Cured.

A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. A sufferer from this dreaded disease sends this self-addressed stamped envelope to Dr. J. Flynn & Co., 117 East Fifteenth street, New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

THE WINTER'S STORMS.

BY U. J. BAXTER.

On Candlemas in 'eighty-six "the ground-hog
sees his shadow;"
And, mindful of his dreadful fix, fast flies his
fierce bravado;
Back to his hole he quick retires, six weeks to
pout in sleeping,
Nor dares he till the time expires to come again
outpeeping.

And none too soon his quick retreat, for Boreas
sounds his numbers,
And sweeps a showy, winding-sheet above the
marmot's slumbers;
Thicker and thicker grow the folds, yet colder
grow, and colder,
Till icy band the streamlet holds, and louder
blast, and bolder,

Bids all the hosts of storm and sky to fling
their gage of battle,
Like roar of guns and musketry—like ringing
rifle's rattle;
The drifts like smoke fill all the air—like fire
the frost is biting;
God help the poor in his despair—Life's dubious
battle fighting!

O winter's storm! with awful weight, with
withering waste and crushing hate;
With blasting breath and wanton wae; with
towering strength and blighting blow—
How comes thy might upon the weak? They
faint, they fall, they cannot speak—
They cannot cry. O God, they sink! O'erwhelmed, they find oblivion's brink.
One gasp, one plunge—all's foregone; and
Time's full flood rolls smoothly on.

But other scenes has winter brought, and other
lesson given;
And many a gift with blessing fraught and
bright "foretaste of heaven;"
And many a soul with joy is filled, though Nature's storm is raging—
Glows with the wine of life unspilled, in pleasure sweet engaging.

Such joys have we, though deep the drifts, and
dark the clouds are lowering,
The sun smile lights the parting rifts with tints
of springtime flowering,
When sudden openings chance to break along
the gloomy arches,
And clouds chase clouds, and overtake like
troops upon their marches.

Warm shines our fire, the blazing heat goes
shimmering through the space;
The ceiling glows. While beneath our feet soft
comfort holds her places;
With book or pen, or handiwork each round
of duty filling—
Or say some idle fancy lurk—some dream fair
time is killing.

What matter, if by idle dream comes strength
of rest engendered?
For many things that shadows seem are ghosts
of duty rendered—
And idle hours and dreams are not the waste
and spoil of duty
If from their sweet repose are caught the gems
of love and beauty.

So passed the hours—the "basket spread"—
fond grandma's busy fingers—
Daughter and grandchild lending aid—tongues
run and nimble fingers—
"She wore this dress"—"This frock was his"—
"'Tis years since they were married"—
"I well recall this little valve"—"Poor Jane!
Where was she buried!"

The rapid stitch goes deftly in—long time the
"blocks" have waited—
War's bitter blast and sadder sin have passed
since they were mated.
Wedlock, a mother's joys and cares—O wife,
give joy of loving!
Parents and child to you *He* spares, and husband's fond approving.

Give joy of love—the quilting speeds—dish
after stitch uniting;
Give joy of love—grace for our needs—God's
blessing all inviting.
Give hope of faith, and faith of prayer—for
Winter yet is pressing—
The grumpling sleeper—the swift air shall
bring the Spiritualist blessing.

LISBON, Feb. 1, 1886.

VIRGINIA STATE NEWS.

On Saturday night last a colored woman living in Lynchburg gave birth to four healthy children.

Norfolk has now about 2,000 members belonging to the Knights of Labor, and rapidly increasing.

The summer hotel at Marksville, Page county, owned by Martin Biedler, was burned a few days ago.

The case of Holmes Puryear, the wife-murderer, has been removed from Dinwiddie county to Prince George.

The Rappahannock river at Fredericksburg is now filled with fine black bass, some weighing as much as five and a half pounds.

Andrew J. Dalton, a ward politician and a member of the notorious electoral board of the city of Norfolk, is very sick and not expected to live.

Rev. (Col.) J. K. Connally, of Richmond, (formerly state senator) with his wife and daughter, were passengers on the Cunard steamer Oregon.

The city treasurer of Portsmouth has levied on the pipes, hydrants, and office furniture of the Portsmouth Water Company for state taxes.

Over seventy-five horses have died in Campbell county within the last two weeks from a disease that so far has baffled all attempts to arrest its ravages.

Z. T. Hill, recently appointed United States marshal for Colorado, is a native of Culpeper county, Va., and has been in the silver state only a few years.

The armory of the colored military companies in Norfolk was destroyed by fire a few nights ago. The fire was caused by the explosion of a kerosene oil lamp.

Volusco Valden, one of the board of directors of the eastern lunatic asylum, has resigned, and all the other members of the board will also resign very shortly.

The colored people in the county of Lunenburg are doing well in the cultivation of their lands, and many of them are purchasing their own farms and improving them.

The Knights of Labor of Petersburg propose building a larger hall. All the white assemblies have agreed to unite in the scheme, and it will be built by their joint efforts.

The name of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad has been changed to the Newport News and Mississippi. This is the third time the name of this road has been changed. It was first the Virginia Central.

Most of the public schools in the country districts will close during this month, owing to the failure of the legislature to provide means to carry them on. This is a state of affairs that has not happened in Virginia for many years before.

The first number of the *Southwest Republican* is just out. It is published at Blacksburg, with W. O. Austin as proprietor and C. H. Heerman editor. Mr. Heerman is well known in southwestern Virginia as a fearless and forcible writer.

The Augusta County Teachers' Association held an interesting meeting in Staunton on Wednesday last. The chief subject discussed was the great annoyance the teachers have to submit to in collecting their pay under existing regulations.

The reduced prices now being obtained for compressing cotton by the National Compress Company of Norfolk has compelled the company to reduce the wages of some of the cotton screwers, in consequence of which the men struck and stopped work.

The average monthly salaries paid to the public school teachers in the city of Norfolk are the highest paid in Virginia. The male teachers average $101 per month and the female $54 per month. The male teachers in Richmond average $87 per month and the female $44.

The King George court green was last Monday the scene of one of the most disgusting and outrageous scenes ever witnessed in the state. There was open violation of law and bloodshed. Not an arrest was made, although all the officers of the law were present and cognizant of the facts.

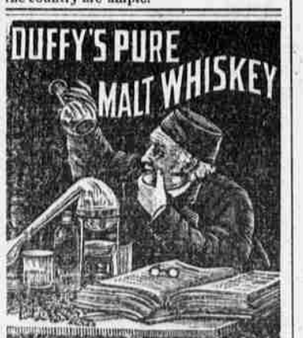
A large force of men will be put to work at once on the Atlantic and Danville railroad for the construction of the road from Hecksford, Greenville county, west to Danville, and the work will be pushed forward to completion as rapidly as possible. This road will develop a section of Virginia heretofore without sufficient railroad facilities.

Theo. Van Ringharz, a Bavarian resident of this country, has purchased 3,000 acres of land in Albemarle county, four miles northeast of Scottsville. In August he will bring on thirty-five Bavarian families and locate them on this land to engage in the grape culture. This county is said to be one of the best in the state for that special industry.

The fifteenth annual report of R. R. Farr, superintendent of public instruction of Virginia, shows that since July 31, 1881, the number of white schools has increased 719; the colored, 474, making a total increase in the number of schools opened of 1,193. It also shows that for the last four years the progress in school work has been steady and, in many particulars, wonderful; that the system is stronger than ever before, and that it now commands the respect of all classes of people in the state.

Charles City was one of the original shires of Virginia, and was established in 1634. It is thirty miles long, with a mean width of about eight miles, and contains 113,249 acres, assessed at $600,994. The county occupies the peninsula formed by the Chickahominy and James rivers. The lands on the rivers are generally of excellent quality. The productions are corn, wheat, oats, peanuts, and all the grasses. Grape culture does well, and is rarely affected with disease. Lying on two navigable rivers, and having a railroad on the north (the Chesapeake and Ohio), the means of transportation to the markets of the country are ample.

DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY



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THE 13 Useless Doctors!

In vain physicians came, with subtle skill,
And tried, in turn, prescription, lotion, pill;
With saddened looks they viewed her furry [tongue,
In solemn silence stethoscoped each lung;
From moulting head to gout distorted toe,
They searched, then said, "Poor woman, 'tis [no go"!

A WOMAN'S GRATITUDE. Mrs. F. OATS, of *Shumway, Ill.*, writes: "When I had used Dr. Pierce's 'Favorite Prescription' one week, I could walk all over the door-yard, and I could get into a wagon and ride two miles to see my neighbors. I had not been able to walk out in the door-yard for six months. After using the 'Favorite Prescription' two weeks, I rode in a wagon ten miles; my neighbors were all surprised to see me up and going about and helping to do my housework, **after doctoring with thirteen of the best physicians we could get**—and the last one told my husband that I would never be able to do my housework any more. I am thankful to my God that I wrote to you, for I had suffered from 'Female Weakness' until I had almost given up in despair."

TERRIBLE PAIN. Mrs. F. E. WILCOX, *Friendship, N. Y.*, writes: "For five or six years I had been badly troubled with female weakness and terrible pains across the small of my back and pit of the stomach. Three bottles of Dr. Pierce's 'Favorite Prescription' acted like a charm, and cured me completely, to my great joy."

MARVELOUS BENEFITS. Rev. SIDNEY C. DAVIS, *Galten, Michigan*, writes: "I wish, in this letter, to express my gratitude for Mrs. Davis and myself for the great good which has been accomplished in her case by the use of your proprietary medicines. When she began to take them, in January last, she could not endure the least jar, could walk but a very few steps at a time, and could stay up only about thirty minutes at a time. Now she not only sits up almost the entire day, but can walk around, call on her neighbors, two and three blocks away, and not feel any injurious effects at all. When we consider that she had kept her bed the greater part of the time for fourteen months, and would lose repeatedly the advance she had made, her progress now seems marvelous. We had almost lost confidence in medical practitioners, and advertised remedies, but have found in your Dr. Pierce's 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Pellets' the properties needed, and which we believe will bring about a complete and final recovery."

BED-FAST FOR MONTHS.

TREATING THE WRONG DISEASE.

Many times women call upon their family physicians, one with dyspepsia, another with palpitation, another with backache, or nervousness, another with pain here and there, and in this way they all present alike to themselves and their easy-going and indifferent doctor, separate and distinct diseases, for which he prescribes his pills and potions, assuming them to be such, when, in reality, they are all symptoms caused by some uterine disorder. While the physician is ignorant of the cause of suffering, he encourages his practice until large bills are made, when the suffering patient is no better, but probably worse for the delay, treatment, and other complications made. A proper medicine directed to the cause would perhaps have entirely removed the disease, thereby instituting comfort instead of prolonged misery.

DOCTORS FAIL. **"Female Weakness" Cured.**—Mrs. SARAH A. LOVELY, *Greenfield, Adair Co., Iowa*, writes: R. V. PIERCE, M. D. *Dear Sir*—"Having been ill a number of years, and having tried in vain alm