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Issued every Friday evening by W. H. MATHENY, Editor and Publisher.

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Secretary Carlisle goes upon his vacation this week, and as he will spend it as a neighbor of President Cleveland it is probable that both of them will combine a little business with their recreation.

President Samuel Spencer, of the Southern Railway Company, says the business of that corporation is increasing every month. Signs of growing prosperity are to be daily noted in the South, and the industries of that section are picking up.

The general council of Philadelphia, at its last session last Thursday, decided by a unanimous vote to send the Liberty bell to Atlanta. Some months ago the management of the Exposition asked for the bell but, the request was refused.

The Washington Jury that convicted Captain Howgate of robbing the Government would have been entitled to much more credit had the verdict not been accomplished by a recommendation to the mercy of the court.

Silver bullion is now quoted at \$0.64 an ounce, which is four cents higher than it was a year ago, and Treasury officials believe that it will go higher, on account of the Chinese demand for silver to pay Japan the war indemnity.

Senator Morgan of Alabama has accepted an invitation to head the party of distinguished democratic speakers who are to be sent upon a missionary tour of the West and Northwest by the National Association four years ago.

The grand jury at Lambert, N. C., indicted Judge Norwood, at that place, for drunkenness. He came to hold court, but was too drunk the first day, and on the second day he opened court for an hour, but was compelled to adjourn, after which the grand jury concluded to return an indictment against him.

Chesapeake and Western.

The exact location of the Chesapeake & Western Railroad from Harrisonburg to Bridgewater has been fully decided upon. It is said that the Bridgewater depot will be placed about halfway between Jacob Deputy's house and the W. S. & B. Turnpike.

The work on the road at Harrisonburg is progressing finely and we believe that cars will be running between here and Harrisonburg before the last of August.

On Tuesday several car loads of contractors tools arrived here for Messrs. Van Aiken & Hays, who have the contracts for the grading, bridging and track laying on the new railroad from Harrisonburg to Bridgewater.

Mr. John Porter of Staunton has been to Harrisonburg to see the railroad people and has encouraging news to report. He says the company has already received two handsome engines and ten car loads of steel rails.

The Trouble at Pocahontas.

The trouble amongst the miners at Pocahontas is not yet ended, and a feeling of doubt and uncertainty as to the near future seems to pervade the minds of the residents of that section.

Smallpox in Staunton.

A dispatch from Staunton, giving the exact fact in regard to the smallpox, in that city, appeared in the Baltimore Sun of the 24th, and is as follows: The last really sick smallpox patient, a white woman, died in the hospital today.

The Richmond Times says it was desired that Past Grand Master, J. Howard Wayt, of Staunton, should take the vacant Grant Secretaryship, but he declined, and W. B. Isaacs jr., the son of the deceased Grand Secretary, was appointed for the unexpired term of his father.

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A minister told the trustees of his church that he must have his money, as his family was suffering. "Money," said one of the trustees, "you preach for money! I thought you preached for the good of souls."

Fire at Clifton Forge.

A Clifton Forge special in Monday's Washington Post says: At 2:10 this morning fire broke out in the office of the A. F. Whitrow Lumber Company, and the building was entirely destroyed.

Dr. J. M. Cunningham of Marlinton, W. Va. recently performed a very delicate surgical operation and one said to be rather daring for a country physician to undertake.

The Pocahontas Times, published at Marlinton, W. Va., says that J. D. Pullins of that place wheeled it to Monterey last week and covered the distance between Marlinton and Mill Gap, 35 miles, in five and a half hours.

It may be well to add here that Mr. Pullins is a Highland boy, has engaged in the mercantile business at Marlinton and, we understand, is doing well.

Stripped to their Bloomers.

The Unique Cycling Club, composed solely of women, has made an example of two of its members who persisted in wearing skirts, says a Chicago special in yesterday's New York World.

The by-laws provide that bloomers or knickerbockers shall be worn in the weekly run. Union Park was the rendezvous for the last run, and fifty members turned out.

"Indeed we won't be the reply." A crowd of two hundred had collected to see the start. The President and the captain held a consultation, and then, taking several strong armed members with them fell on the skirt wearers and stripped them down to their bloomers.

Bought Soap; Won a Wife.

Another factory girl has found a husband through a message wrapped in a bar of soap, says a Cincinnati special in yesterday's New York World. Cora Lautermann, of St. Bernard, was married tonight to C. D. Washburn, a wealthy railroad man of Susquehanna, Pa.

Nothing was thought of the misadventure until Miss Lautermann received a letter from Mr. Washburn, who bought the bar of soap in a grocery store near his home. She answered his letter and their correspondence resulted in marriage.

Rev. J. J. Lafferty D. D., the inventor of what is termed "complete flour" as well as the machinery by which it is made, was at Staunton a few days ago in consultation with several wealthy millers of the Valley.

Washington Post: Virginia is going down the scale at a rapid rate. From the mother of Presidents to the chaperone of gold-brick operators is a hard fall.

The Editor's Lark.

The editor of the esteemed Edgefield (S. C.) Chronicle, was in our midst last week, and enjoyed himself as only the rural editor can.

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They Float Down to Norfolk on the Serene Bosom of the Potomac and Salute the Heroic Shade of Jefferson Davis at Fortress Monroe.

There is nothing that so delights the Post as to be convinced that the visitors to Washington thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and as for the editor of the Edgefield Chronicle, we can only say "come again."

A Historical Document.

Thirty years ago today General Robert Edward Lee, the great soldier of the Confederacy, never greater than in the hour of the failure of his cause, wrote to President Johnson a letter applying for the benefits of amnesty and restoration to his civil rights as a citizen of the United States.

Johnson's proclamation of general amnesty had been issued on May 29th. Sixteen classes of persons were specifically excluded. Lee was excluded not only because he was a West Pointer and been a military officer of the Confederate government ranking higher than colonel, but also because he belonged to the thirteenth class excepted, namely: those persons who had voluntarily participated in the rebellion, and the value of whose taxable property was over \$20,000.

RICHMOND, VA., June 13 1865. "His Excy Andrew Johnson, President of the United States: "Sir:—Being excluded from the provisions of amnesty contained in the proclamation of the 29th ult., I hereby apply for the benefits, and full restoration of all rights and privileges, extended to those included in its terms.

"I graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in June, 1830; resigned from the U. S. Army, April, 1861; and included in the surrender of the Army of N. Va., April 9, 1865. "I have the honor to be, Very respectfully Yr. Ovt. svt. [Sgd] R. E. LEE"

The copy we have of this document is attested by Gen George Washington Custis Lee, the eldest son of the great Confederate commander, and Gen G. W. C. Lee adds this highly interesting historical note concerning his father's motives in making so promptly an application to President Johnson for amnesty:

"When Gen. Lee requested me to make a copy of this letter to President Johnson, he remarked: It was but right for him to set an example of making formal submission to the civil authorities; and that he thought, by so doing, he might possibly be in a better position to be of use to the Confederates who were not protected by military paroles; especially Mr. Davis. G. W. C. LEE. In laying today before our readers and the public Gen. Robert E. Lee's application for pardon, and his own declaration of the motives prompting him to one of the most heroic acts of a life full of heroism, the Sun feels that it is adding lustre to a noble fame which is justly appreciated and generously prized in the North as well as in the South.—N.Y. Sun, June 13.

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