Richmond Enquirer.

RICHMOND, VA.

Tuesday Morning, January 20, 1846.

☞ The Republican Members of the General Assembly are requested to meet This Evening, at half past 7 o'clock, in the Hall of the House of Delegates. It is hoped every member will be present, as business of importance will be brought to the consideration of the meeting.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Enquirer.]

WASHINGTON CITY, January 17, 1846.

The Oregon question is still the rage, and the all-absorbing topic before Congress and the country—and hence is of exciting interest in Europe, as calculated to produce war between two of the greatest nations on earth. In the agitation and political convulsion produced by its discussion, are found all the elements, segments, fractions and factions of parties united, acting in concert, or changing front and flank. Texas and Anti-Texas men, Democrats and Whigs, are seen hand in hand; and many Democrats, who were thought to be indissolubly united in relation to Oregon, and in support of the Administration, are found diametrically opposed.

Many are for giving the twelve months' notice stipulated by the treaty of 1827, with Great Britain, in relation to the "joint occupation," and in accordance with the recommendation of the President relative thereto; and many are decidedly against it. It is a little extraordinary that the oldest and most experienced member of the lower House, (Hon. John Q. Adams,) is in favor of the notice, and is thus acting with the supporters of the Administration.

Many speeches, and some very able, too, have been delivered, pro. and con. Cobb of Georgia has made the best speech I have heard in favor of it. Bedinger spoke on Thursday, most splendidly, against it, and was replied to by Dobbin of North Carolina most beautifully and *effectually*—this being Mr. D.'s first speech. They both possess the finest elements of true oratory.

The "Lone Star" of Whiggery from Virginia (Pendleton) after repeated attempts, at length obtained the floor, and would have spoken to-day in opposition to the notice, but, in consequence of the death of the Hon. Wm. Taylor, one of his colleagues, the House adjourned, after an appropriate notice and eulogy, by Gen. Dromgoole.—It is expected, however, that the "Lone Star" will speak on Monday next, and will not only shine, but blaze.

You will be no doubt surprised, when I inform you, that the whole Virginia representation in the lower House, except Messrs. Dromgoole, Johnson and Brown, (now Taylor is dead) will vote against the notice, and thus act in opposition to the wishes of the President. This seems a little remarkable, when it is remembered, that all these gentlemen, except the "lone star," were elected as firm and steadfast supporters of the Administration; but if they believe that they are thus acting in accordance with the wishes of their constituency, why, then, let them go ahead and fear not. But I am fearful they will rue it, and this I shall regret exceedingly. The object, however, will be attained—a majority of both Houses will be in favor of giving the notice, and the vote will be given about the first proximo, and the remarkable phenomenon will be presented to the American people, of the President being sustained and enabled to consummate the most important issue which may be presented during his administration, by the *support* of his *opponents*, and in defiance of the *opposition* of his *supporters*. Those gentlemen who oppose the notice argue, that a failure to give the notice, and the adoption of that "masterly inactivity" so much spoken of, will insure us all Oregon, and be productive of peace—but I cannot comprehend this "Virginia abstraction." How is it to be done? Failing to give the notice and extending the United States' Government over all Oregon, will be undoubtedly considered by Great Britain a belligerent movement, which must have its terminus in war; but give the notice, in accordance with treaty stipulation, and it must inevitably produce the result of settling the vexed question by treaty. In this way, and in this way only, can we avoid a war with John Bull, and collision, perhaps, with other European Powers—for they all regard us with jealous anxiety, if not with fear and envy; and, in this way, we will be honorably prevented from plunging into war, or being compelled to resort to the last and worst of all expedients, that of settling this vexed controversy by arbitration. Indeed, how could our Government expect any thing like justice or equity in an arbitration by any European Power, when such is the state of feeling apparently existing towards us by all foreign Governments, and such the hereditary and inherent terror of the British name, and such the jealousy towards our Republican institutions, and our success in sustaining them, that no foreign nation had a single representative at the 8th of January Ball, given in this city upon the anniversary and in commemoration of that glorious day upon which the immortal Jackson, surrounded by his gallant band, and sustained by the God of battles, was enabled to destroy, with more than a Waterloo defeat, whole cohorts of Wellington's veterans, and cause the American Eagle to flap its wings in victory and triumph over the defeated and humbled British Lion.

Although the old hero was dead, and every feeling of national jealousy, rivalry or hatred should have been consigned with him to the tomb, and the anniversary of the victory so gallantly achieved as to bear the impress of Omnipotent aid, and have only been remembered by either nation as a cement to bind them together more closely in the ties of national friendship, and forever prevent war between them; yet, because a near relative of a gallant officer who fell on that day, is the representative of the British nation in this city, and a probability of war discussed, there was not a representative of any foreign power at that ball to proclaim to the world by his attendance there, that *his* nation was and should be neutral in any collision or arbitration between Great Britain and the United States in relation to Oregon.

Let it, therefore, be proclaimed by every American patriot, give the notice, produce a settlement by treaty, in which "ask nothing but what is right, and submit to nothing wrong," but have "war pestilence and famine" rather than submit to arbitration; for there is no neutral power on earth to act as arbitrator, as demonstrated by the Anniversary Ball. JACKSON.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Enquirer.]

WASHINGTON CITY, Jan. 18, 1846.

When I wrote you on the night before last concerning the illness of the late Hon. Wm. Taylor, I had little thought that before daylight he would be a corpse. But, so it is. On Friday he was walking out, and, indeed, wrote two letters in the evening before retiring to bed. He became violently ill at about 3 A. M., and died in an hour thereafter. You can have no idea how great a loss his death will be to the country, and to the cause of Republican principles. He was, if not the very first, certainly one of the most reliable business men of the House. Indefatigable in his habits, his endorsement of any question of expenditure, after personal investigation, was, in almost every instance, sufficient to ensure it success; such was the confidence of the House in his judgment, as well as sterling integrity of purpose. As a politician, no man wielded a greater influence with his brother members. He rarely stepped forward to take, publicly, a prominent part, and yet I question whether any one was more frequently consulted, or, when consulted, had greater weight in determining the position of the inexperienced members of the party, on questions of political importance. The district may send a successor of perhaps more brilliant and striking parts; but it will take ten years of earnest, devoted labor, on the part of any new member, to attain the important and honorable position vacated by this dispensation of Providence. The physicians made a *post mortem* examination this morning, but are unable to determine the precise character of the affection causing his death. There are some diseases of the heart which leave no traces after death by which they can be identified. He is to be buried at noon to-morrow; so there will be no business session in either House.

The late news by the Oxford and Iowa is considered of little importance, either with reference to the Oregon or other questions now agitating the public mind in the United States. We cannot, of course, hear any thing of remarkable interest from England until the impression made by the reception of the message is received by the Hibernia. It is indeed more than probable that she may bring but partial accounts, as public sentiment upon the condition in which the late negotiations have left the all important subject, cannot be thoroughly elicited in the United Kingdom for at least a month after the message and Oregon correspondence shall have reached Liverpool. I have strong hopes that those remarkable documents, taken in connection, may fill the English people with a sense of the propriety of the recommendations of the Executive, and of the justice of our right to Oregon, similar to that which they have undoubtedly produced on the great mass of both parties in our own country. If such should be the case, is it not probable that public opinion, at home, will force the Ministry to come forward with an acceptable proposition for the adjustment of the controversy? I am led to believe that the message and correspondence will have that effect abroad, from their influence over our Federalists, who are, of all others, most difficult to be impressed with views favorable to their own Government, in an inter-national dispute.

In the Enquirer of yesterday, (the 17th,) I find a quotation from a Washington letter to the Philadelphia North American, in which queer mistakes are made, as to the sentiments of Democratic Senators upon the subject of the notice.—Messrs. Colquitt, Haywood, Speight and Westcott are set down as against the notice, and Messrs. Cameron and Bagby as being doubtful. All these gentlemen will doubtless vote in favor of it—at least such is the impression which I derive from sources in which I have implicit confidence. They are, however, probably, each anxious to delay final action upon the subject as long as possible, so that whatever is done may be marked with due caution, deliberation and wisdom. I have no means of obtaining information as to the sentiments of Whig Senators upon the question, and therefore will not venture to amuse your readers with baseless surmises thereon.—While "my hand is in," I might as well set to right other mistakes upon the subject of Senatorial matters, which have of late gone the rounds of the Northern press. It has been published, that Senators Calhoun, Benton, Cass, Allen and Hannegan have had a most bitter personal altercation in Executive session. This is without the merest shadow of foundation. Not one word of dispute or bad feeling has ever passed the lips of either of these gentlemen at any such time. It is, as I have before said, impossible to learn what has passed in Executive session, but not so difficult to learn what *has not* taken place on such occasions. Again—it is said, that the debate on the nomination of Judge Woodward of Pennsylvania gave rise to this reported flare-up. The truth is, Judge W.'s nomination has not yet been taken up in the Senate. His own friends have requested the delay, and they who are of course informed when it comes up for consideration, say that as yet it has not been acted on in any manner. It is also said that the nomination of Mr. Slidell, as Minister to Mexico, is opposed by many Democratic Senators. Whereas, I know that *every one* approves of the appointment. There are certain Whig Senators who, out of doors, allege that his temper is too hasty for our position at this peculiar time, and I take it for granted, urge the same objection against him on the consideration of the nomination. This is all folderol, as every one intimately acquainted with Mr. S. knows. He is famed among his friends for coolness, caution, and deliberation in all things, and for the usual accompaniments of such a tone of mind, decision of character and firmness, which these Whigs mistake for rashness. It has also been said, that our Mexican relations have been before the Senate for some days past, which is not true. I feel confident that nothing referring to Mexico has been sent in as yet.

The tone of the last advices from that unhappy country, indicate that Parades is at the head of the Government by this time. The only plea upon which he justifies his usurpation, is the necessity of declaring war against the United States. If he has the slightest hope of obtaining funds from English sources, with which to secure himself against his rivals, he will doubtless *declare* war against us, but will not make the first move towards carrying out his declaration, trusting, as well he may, that the United States Government will make no demonstration against Mexico, unless an overt act of hostility takes place on her part. Not a movement will be made against our commerce, or against Texas, by land. The Mexican War will end where it begins, with her simple declaration, and the consequent closing of her ports against us. If, however, we should in the mean time be embroiled with England, the latter may make war on us through the Mexicans, in which case they will catch it. MACON.

PROGRESS OF FREE INSTITUTIONS.

We were forcibly struck with the moral spectacle presented in the blending of the two Republics, our Union and Texas, into one, when we opened, a few mornings since, the "Gazette," printed in Corpus Christi, Texas. This little place had barely an existence till very recently, when American skill and enterprize carried thither a practical knowledge of our liberal institutions. It is here that our little army is stationed, prepared to sustain the annexation which our National Legislature has just sanctioned. Already, under the promised blessings of the union, the minds of the settlers have received a new and powerful impulse. A year ago, the sparsely scattered settlers of this portion of Texas were regarded as "outside Barbarians;" *now*, they have sprung into vigorous action, and, as with true American spirit, are looking around for the comforts and even luxuries of life. They must, forsooth, have a newspaper—and they have succeeded. Their "Gazette" is now before us, and a very creditable sheet it is. One of its well-printed pages is filled with extracts from the message of the President of the United States, [Texas included.] The Editors, Bangs and Fletcher, have adopted Davy Crockett's salutary motto—"Be sure you are right, then go ahead." They say:

"This paper will be devoted to the local interests and wants of this portion of the State, and those of the army stationed here. It will be our object to obtain and disseminate correct information upon all subjects connected therewith—while at the same time we propose to make it both useful and entertaining, by giving, in a condensed form, a summary of the latest and most important foreign, political and commercial news. In politics, it will be strictly neutral—unconnected with any party, and the slave of none."

Can such a people be conquered, when the newspaper is the great Civilizer? What nation is strong enough to check the progress of a people, free themselves, and resolved to diffuse, on the wings of the press, the true principles of rational liberty? In looking over the columns of this messenger from a new country, we find that they have a "Tremont House," a Free Mason's Lodge and three fine steamers to run regularly between Aransas Bay and Galveston. The following extract shows, that there is no want of fun, or of the luxuries and dissipations of life. This is, indeed, a "great country:"

"We already have the 'Union Theatre,' a very neat and commodious house, erected by Major Bryant, capable of holding about three hundred and fifty persons, and well filled every night. The performances are fully equal to those of any place having equal means of encouragement. Two miles from this, in the northern part of the camp, is the 'Garrison Theatre,' which opens this week, with a company capable of impersonating the most distinguished characters of ancient or modern times. This latter theatre has been erected by the officers stationed here, for the amusement of the Army, and is said to be the most commodious and elegant in the Republic. In addition to these amusements, a series of Balls and Cotillion Parties are to be given, in which the citizens and officers are to unite; and for the sake of our fair friends we hope they will be continued throughout the entire season. Besides these, we have a new and beautiful race-course, a mile long, levelled and shelled its whole length—and not only the race course, but some of the best American and Mexican horses in existence, to run over it; and some of the keenest, truest sportsmen, among the officers stationed here, that the United States can boast, to manage and conduct the sports."

HONORS TO AN AMERICAN ARTIST.

We extract, with cordial pleasure, from the Times the following complimentary notice of a young artist, whose modesty and delicacy of feeling so well graced the fine genius which distinguished him. We have now in our possession a specimen from his pencil, which has won the admiration of all who have seen it, including many connoisseurs. The eminent skill with which the has blended the colors, the graceful attitude of the figure, and its rich and bold shading, have produced with many the impression, that the picture was from an Italian artist. We predicted that young Lockwood would make a distinguished painter, and we rejoice to see that he is about to carve out fortune and honor for himself, and credit for his native country. We already hear of a magnificent painting which he has executed for the Catholic Cathedral of Baltimore, and we doubt not that his name will stand among the first on the list of American artists.

While on the subject, we hear that a son of the worthy Postmaster at Norfolk, Mr. Galt, has recently exhibited rare powers in the art of Statuary. Will the Norfolk papers enlighten us?

"Our readers remember some notice taken by us, near two years since, of the paintings of Mr. R. Lockwood, who was then in this city, and who remained here some months. He was a young artist of decided talent and promise, and possessed a modest, amiable and sincere disposition.—Soon after leaving Richmond, he departed for Europe to study his art in the admirable schools of the Continent. He first went to Munich, where he was when we last heard of him. There the art is fostered at great expense by the Government, and liberally patronized by the royal family. There is an academy with professors of the various departments of the art, and one of the most extensive galleries of paintings in the world. There every opportunity is afforded to the student, and there Mr. L. went to improve himself. He has risen rapidly to distinction; his abilities have gained for him extraordinary attentions in the distinguished circles of Munich. On the 22d of August, the artists of the place waited on him in a body, and complimented him on his successful efforts, and on the superior talents which he evinced in the coloring and shading of his pictures, and in the simplicity and elevation of character which he gives to his designs. The meeting is said to have been of a most interesting discription. On the following day Mr. L. was honored with a visit from their Majesties, the King and Queen of Bavaria, and the King of Prussia, then in Munich. Much attention was also paid him by the Pope's nuncio, who promised him an introductory letter to the Pope, and a favorable reception in Rome—advantages to him as a painter, which artists alone can properly appreciate.—Such distinguished honors to American artists, are indeed rare. With such evidences of his advancement, and such precious facilities, we have every reason to anticipate for young Lockwood a brilliant career in his profession—a destiny which, we are sure, all who know him wish he may enjoy."

RESOURCES OF VIRGINIA.

The Kanawha Republican states, that a very extensive stratum of "Cannel" (or "Kendall," or "Candle," or "Canal") Coal has recently been discovered on a small creek, one mile from its entrance into Elk River, 16 miles from Charlestown. If this be equal to the English "Cannel," (which is the best English coal,) it is a treasure, indeed. The English coal of this description burns like a candle, with a clear and brilliant flame, and does not leave, after combustion, the heap of dirty ashes which always accompanies our bituminous coal. *Its* remains are a small quantity of clean, *white* ashes, which do not disfigure the furniture, &c. But we will let the Republican speak of its own mineral riches.—We wish that, by some means or other, we were nearer neighbors. The metropolis would gratefully receive light from their transmontane brethren of the beautiful Valley of Kanawha:

"The only mine of this species of coal in this country, that we have any knowledge of, is near the National Road, in Guernsey county, Ohio.—The specimen before us is, in every way, equal to that, and English gentlemen here, familiar with the same description of coal in the old country, have pronounced it superior to any that they have ever seen in England or Scotland. We understand that the vein or stratum, up Elk, on Falling Rock Creek, is extensive, of easy access, and in a favorable situation to be worked. This is the very article for the manufacture of Gas, and we are glad to learn that Mr. Matthews has a considerable quantity in readiness to send to the Gas Works of Cincinnati and Louisville, for trial. We are so confident of its superiority over every other species of coal for the manufacture of gas, that we shall expect shortly to see a most active and advantageous trade carried on in this article—developing and bringing into use another of the heretofore latent resources of our county. We have long thought that Kanawha was destined to furnish a large amount of Light to the world; and since the gas already made, cannot be conveniently transported, she will now send forth, in a most convenient form, the material for its manufacture. Richmond is now crying out for light—gas lights to shine upon her ways. If the canal was only completed to Kanawha, how easy could she be supplied with our Canal coal, which would be better and cheaper than her own coal at her own door."

☞ Thomas Robinson, Esq., was elected on the 15th instant, in King William, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dr. Aylett Hawes, of that county. The following is the state of the polls:

Robinson,	201
Scattering,	3

To the Editors of the Enquirer:

NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 14, 1846.

Messrs. Editors: Last evening Cassius M. Clay harangued the Abolitionists at the Tabernacle. I understand from reliable sources, (gentlemen from the South, who attended from curiosity,) that the Tabernacle was filled to overflowing: negroes, of course, were in attendance. You possess too much of the feeling of your venerated sire, and have heard too much cannonading, to believe that Cassius M. Clay can in any way affect our institutions. Rely upon it, Messrs. Editors, that there is enough patriotism existing in either of the political parties of this city, to cause this same Mr. Clay, were it necessary, to leave the city as unceremoniously as he left Old Kentucky.

Could you have heard the remarks of Dr. G. S. Bedford, at the University Medical College, this evening, when speaking of the hellish acts of a certain Madame Restell of this city, you would be satisfied of the fact, that there is at least a sprinkle of Southern feeling here. After complimenting the South, the Doctor assured the class, that this princess of devils dare not venture South of Mason's and Dixon's line—that she could not exist on the South side of the Potomac. I need scarcely add, in conclusion, that these remarks of the Professor were received with raptures of applause, by the Northern as well as by the Southern students. Dr. B. is Professor of Obstetrics in the University Medical College, and is a noble fellow, I assure you. R. M. B.

LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA.

SATURDAY, JAN. 17th, 1846.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

A communication was received from the Senate informing the House that the Senate insisted upon their amendment to the resolution for the election of certain officers of Government, to which the House of Delegates disagreed.

On motion of Mr. HARVIE the House receded from their disagreement to the said amendment; thereupon, on motion of Mr. McPherson the said amendment was amended by striking out the words "the third day of February next," and inserting in lieu thereof, the words "Tuesday the 27th inst.," so as to make the election of said officers on that day; and as amended was agreed to by the House.

Ordered that Mr. HARVIE inform the Senate of the decision of the House.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Governor, transmitting a report of the semi-annual examination of the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, with a complete list of the admissions into the Institute since its commencement in 1839, together with a letter from the superintendent to the Adjutant General; which communication, on motion of Mr. SOUTHALL, was referred to the Committee on Schools and Colleges and ordered to be printed.

Petitions, &c., were presented and referred:

By Mr. PATRICK, of citizens of Fayette county, in favor of extending the Louisa Railroad to Staunton, and thence by the most direct and practicable route through the valley of the Great Kanawha to the Ohio river.

Also, of citizens of Cabell county, against the formation of a new county out of parts of Kanawha, Mason and Cabell, with a court-house in Teay's Valley—and in favor of the one from the same counties, with a court-house at Red House Shoals.

By Mr. PARRIOTT, of citizens of Marshall county, against any change in the terminus of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

By Mr. MILLER, similar memorials of citizens of the county of Brooke.

By Mr. NEAL, of citizens of the county of Wood and of the county of Doddridge, each asking for the incorporation of a company with power to construct a railroad from the Ohio to the Potomac river.

By Mr. DANIEL, documents to be used as evidence in the contested election from the county of Frederick.

By Mr. MASSIE, of Samuel Leake, of the county of Augusta, praying to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in apprehending a fugitive from justice.

By Mr. POWELL, of Z. Drummond, for the passage of an act requiring the School Commissioners of the county of Amherst, and the Second Auditor, to correct an error in the settlement of his account, as Treasurer of said School Commissioners.

By Mr. TOLER, of citizens of the town of Lynchburg, praying that in the event of aid being given by the Legislature to the James River and Kanawha Company, said Company shall be required to complete the connection between the basin and tide-water.

By Mr. SHEPARD, of citizens of the county of Mathews, for the establishment of an Eclectic Medical Institute in the City of Richmond.

By Mr. McDEARMON, of S. B. Wilson, asking to be released from the payment of a tax on a collateral inheritance for the benefit of the Union Theological Seminary.

On motion of Mr. PATRICK, the Reports of the Committee on Propositions and Grievances upon the petitions for the formation of a new county out of parts of the counties of Kanawha, Mason and Cabell, were taken up and ordered to be laid upon the table.

By Mr. HINER, a petition of citizens of the county of Pendleton, for the passage of an act authorizing the construction of a railroad from the Western terminus of the Louisa Railroad to the Ohio River.

The following resolutions were presented and adopted:

By Mr. COCKE That the Committee on Roads, &c., enquire into the propriety of reporting a bill to incorporate a joint stock company to construct a locomotive railroad from the coal mines on the head waters of Falling Creek, in Chesterfield county, to Warwick, on James River, in connection with the present coal railroad from said mines to Rocketts, below Manchester, or independent of said Road.

By Mr. KILBY. That the Committee on Agriculture and Manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing a reasonable premium, annually, to the individual citizen of this State who shall produce the greatest quantity of corn; also, of wheat, oats and tobacco; and a proportionate premium for the second and third greatest quantities of said articles; with power to report by bill or otherwise.

By Mr. BOCOCK. That the Committee on Agriculture and Manufactures enquire into the expediency of so modifying the act entitled "An Act establishing an inspection of tobacco on the lands of Edward W. Sims, in the town of Cairo, in the county of Cumberland," passed February 20th, 1845, as to authorize the said Sims to establish the said inspection on his lands, near to, instead of in the said town, in a house sufficient to keep safely any and all tobacco stored therein, instead of fire-proof houses, as required by said act.

BILLS PRESENTED.

Changing the time of holding the Quarterly Courts of the County of Carroll.

Concerning the securities of Jerman Baker.

EDUCATION.

The report of the Committee on Schools and Colleges upon the memorial from the Education Convention, held in Richmond on the 10th December last, was taken up and read as follows:

The Committee on Schools and Colleges have considered the memorial from the Education Convention, held in Richmond on the 10th December last, with the accompanying documents, on the subject of Popular Education, referred to the said Committee; and they have come to the following resolutions thereupon:

Resolved, in the opinion of this Committee, That it is inexpedient to adopt the district school system recommended by the Education Convention.

Resolved, that in the opinion of this Committee, The present system for the education of the indigent should be preserved and amended; and that any county or corporation shall be empowered to adopt such system of primary schools as a majority of the voters of such county or corporation may elect; and that any tax imposed or levy laid, for carrying into operation such system of primary schools, in addition to the quota of the Literary Fund to which such county or corporation may be entitled, should be made legally obligatory upon the same: Provided, that the compensation of those who may be employed in teaching indigent children shall, under any system of primary schools, depend upon the actual daily attendance at school of each poor child.

Mr. SOUTHALL said that he did not design entering at this time upon the discussion of the general question as to the best system of popular education, but he would merely state the reasons that had influenced the Committee in adopting their report.

Mr. YERBY requested Mr. SOUTHALL to yield the floor. The whole subject of education was before the House, and his resolution, (providing for the annual appropriation of $100,000 in addition to the Literary Fund,) should be first considered. His proposition must form the basis of any system that might be adopted. It required a less expenditure than any other plan that had been proposed, and would provide the ways and means which should properly precede the adoption of any system. He moved that his resolution be taken up and considered—the order of the day being passed by for that purposed.

Mr. SOUTHALL had no preference as to the order of proceedings. The consideration of the reasons that had influenced the committee must take place at some future time.

Mr. McRAE preferred taking up the report of the committee. They should first decide upon the system, and then provide the ways and means.

Mr. YERBY regarded his resolution as an independent proposition. We should determine at once what amount was to be appropriated for the purpose of education. Every architect considers the sum to be invested in the buildings before he decides upon the design, the size and number of the halls.

Mr. LEE thought it more judicious first to determine upon the plan. Various plans had been proposed, and for many of these he would be unwilling to appropriate a single dollar.

The House refused to pass by the order of the day for the purpose indicated.

Mr. SOUTHALL would explain the views of the Committee on Schools and Colleges. Various plans had been submitted to the committee: the existing system of primary schools, a projet from the Education Convention, and others presented by individuals. Some of these appeared to be practicable, others visionary in the extreme. The committee did not conceive it to be politic, to adopt entirely any system that was proposed. Different sections of the country would require different systems adapted to their peculiar circumstances. The Committee then decided in favor of the present as the best general system; each county being empowered to adopt such system of primary schools as a majority of its voters might elect. The people of each county would best know their own situation and wants, and the system that would be most beneficial. They would make the selection, and the Legislature would give to it the sanction of a law. He did not concur with the Convention as to the propriety of permitting the majority in each county to tax the minority. This plan would not succeed. It should require at least two-thirds of the qualified voters of a county to adopt any plan with the prospect of success. He wished to hear the views of gentlemen with respect to the various systems proposed.

Mr. EDGINGTON regretted that indisposition prevented him from doing justice to the attitude in which he was placed. He was the advocate of the plan proposed by the Education Convention. For some time past the public mind had been deeply interested in the all important subject of education. It had been discussed in the public prints and in primary assemblies. A convention was at length assembled in this city, composed of most distinguished individuals from every portion of the Commonwealth, for the purpose of devising a better system than the one now in operation. The subject was discussed in all its various ramifications. Different plans were considered by the Convention, and the result was a report which had been presented to the Legislature. If any subject ever had been fully discussed, it was the system of general education and primary schools. The results of the present system, as exhibited in the last census, were disgraceful to the State. Whatever the present system might be in theory, in practice it had utterly failed. In order to compromise the differing opinions on this subject, the Convention had proposed the introduction of a system that would not militate against the one at present in operation. In 1843, the Board of the Literary Fund had been called upon by the Legislature to report a plan of general education, and there was no essential difference in principle between the Board and the Convention in their respective reports.—The Convention proposed that the district system, and the old system as at present existing, or as amended, be submitted to the qualified voters of each county at the approaching Spring elections. He would not discuss the question as to the propriety of the distinction at present existing between the rich and the poor. Many had been deprived of the benefits of the present system by false pride. It was not proposed to take from the Treasury more than was at present appropriated from the Literary Fund, but to authorise each county to add to this amount what they might think proper. Could it be expected that any system would meet with the approbation of every voter? Objections had not been stated to the details, but to the introduction of the system. The Convention had been censured, as designing to dictate to the Legislature. Their report was merely in the form of a recommendation. It had been said that eight or nine hundred thousand dollars would be required for the proposed system. The school quotas support the present system, and he could show that this plan would require a less amount. It was proposed by a Convention composed of practical men, of teachers, and it was presented alone upon its merits. It was at war with no other system, and only required the sanction of a law to give it the necessary validity, and to authorize the erection of school houses, and the employment of teachers. Let the gentleman from Albemarle present his own plan, and he would promise to give it all due consideration. He moved to amend the first resolution of the Committee, by substituting the term "expedient," in lieu of the word "inexpedient."

Mr. SOUTHALL said, if he understood the gentleman, there was a but a narrow isthmus between them. He desired to present a system of primary education to the people, and they are required to select this or nothing.

Mr. EDGINGTON was misunderstood. He had said that the plan proposed by him, if rejected, would not interfere with the existing system.

Mr. SOUTHALL thought the Legislature owed its thanks to the members of the Convention for their disinterested labors in the cause of edution. Their suggestions should be considered. This plan, among many others, was before the Convention, and its journals would show that there was much difference of opinion with respect to it. The majority of the Committee appointed by the Convention had opposed this system. The Committee of Schools and Colleges declined adopting this system, but left the people free to select for themselves that which seemed best adapted to their peculiar circumstances. After they had made the selection, the Legislature might assist in carrying it into operation If we adopt this particular system, it might be rejected in many portions of the State. When two-thirds of the voters have selected a plan, and it shall have been sanctioned by the Legislature, it would then be found to be the best in practice for them. He had heard the opinion expressed, that the present primary system was not regarded by the people as so very objectionable. In the Sabbath Schools which had been productive of so much good, there was no distinction as to classes in society; the rich and the poor, all met on a common platform of equality. The principal objection to the present system was, that it did not properly pay the teachers. This objection might be obviated. Under existing circumstances, the best plan would be, to adopt the 1st resolution of the committee, and look to the provisions of the 2d for a bill proposing a proper system.

Mr. BURWELL would make no apology for the deep interest he had manifested on this subject. He was a member of the committee and approved of their report. The committee had been much embarrassed by the different systems submitted to their consideration. He did not condemn the Convention for its action upon this subject. The members had evinced a praiseworthy zeal and patriotism in assembling at an inclement season of the year, for the purpose of promoting the cause of Education. Their action, however, was calculated to embarrass the House. There were seventy-five counties not represented in the convention. The cities were represented by very large delegations, and their representatives in the convention could not be expected to be acquainted with the wants of the people throughout the country. The resolutions of the committee were calculated to harmonize conflicting views. Every person seemed to be provided with his own peculiar system, which was as easily created as a Persian Heaven.—His attention had been called to six different systems, all differing in the important particular of taxation. These facts tend to the establishment of the position, that the adoption of any one system would not be generally acceptable. The committee believed that the present system, amended in some respects, would be the very best that could be adopted. As a system for the education of the indigent, it was no where surpassed. It was a stereotype argument, that the children of the poor would not accept the benefits of the present system. Our aristocratic University does not refuse to accept a gratuity from the State; nor would the Military Institute, or other highly endowed institutions. Why, then, should the poor refuse to accept the appropriation from the literary fund, composed, as it is, of forfeitures, donations, &c., devoted to the purposes of education? The present system was in the nature of a right, and by no means eleemosynary in its character. In the State of New York, where the rich and the poor are educated together, it is well known, that, when the funds are to be collected for the support of the schools, the amount is generally raised entirely from the rich, and yet the poor do not hesitate to avail themselves of the advantages afforded. In New York, it appears from authentic reports, that, of the entire number of children, 20,000 have attended school during the whole year; 30,000 for ten months or upwards; 65,000 for eight months or upwards; 150,000 for six months or upwards; 284,000 for four months or upwards; 474,000 for two months or upwards; leaving only about 235,000 as the number who have attended for a less period than two months. No system is free from the defects of the system in Virginia.—Our teachers are badly paid and consequently badly qualified. It has been said that a successful application of the system had been made in Maine, where the density of the population was only twelve inhabitants to the square mile; but the truth was, that, in those portions of the State where the system had succeeded, the density of the population was greater than it would be in many portions of Virginia in a century. In 1811, the Literary Board had been called upon for their system, and it had been rejected because it was not agreeable to the people. The people should be authorised to select for themselves. The same system would not be suitable for the county of Ohio, with only fifty slaves, and for the county of Bedford, with ten or twelve thousand. He hoped the amendment would not be adopted.

Mr. EDGINGTON proposed that the subject be, for the present, laid upon the table, and made the order for some future day.

Mr. SOUTHALL thought it best to dispose of the subject at once.

Mr. EDGINGTON withdrew his amendment.

Mr. LYONS proposed that the subject be postponed until Saturday. No decision would be less acceptable to the country than the declaration from the Legislature, that no other than the present system would be adopted.—The House was not prepared for a decision of the question. No attention had been given to the action of the Convention before the report of the Committee had been brought in.—They would be embarrassed by a vote at this time. He was not prepared to vote for the report of the Convention. There ought to be a change in the present system. There was much force in the objection that the distinction between the rich and the poor would deter the latter from enjoying the benefits of the system. The only proper plan was to tax every one in the State for the education of all.

Mr. EDGINGTON moved to postpone the order of the day to Saturday next.

Mr. BOCOCK moved to amend the motion by substituting the 14th of February next. There were many reasons for the selection of that day. A change will then have taken place in the pecuniary affairs of the House, and economy would then be the order of the day. Another party desired the selection of that day for peculiar reasons.

[The party alluded to were the bachelors, and the 14th of Feb'y was St. Valentine's day!]

Mr. SHEPARD was opposed to the postponement. He hoped the House would be prepared ty to adjourn before the 14th of February. The report of the Convention had been before the House for some time, and those who had not yet examined it would not do so before the time proposed.

Mr. YERBY opposed the motion of Mr. Bocock. The 14th of February was St. Valentine's day, and many gentlemen would then be engaged in the reception of billet-doux. The question before the House had reference to the education of the rising generation, and he would say to the gentleman from Buckingham as was said of old to Simon Magus, "in this, thou hast no lot nor part." But to be more serious, it was in vain that meetings of the people had been called and the public mind agitated on the subject, if the Legislature should thus indefinitely postpone the whole subject. Virginia was the banner State of ignorance and superstition. Superstition was the handmaid of ignorance. If this subject were postponed to the close of the session, the business would then have accumulated to a degree that would render a deliberate judgment impossible. He would not object to the adoption of the earlier day proposed. The friends of the higher institutions of learning should beware how they permitted this subject to be passed over in neglect. He would give the higher institutions a helping hand. They were the beacon lights, but primary education must precede and sustain them. Should the Legislature close its session without action on this subject, the other institutions in the State would be greatly injured.

Mr. GARNETT hoped they would not postpone the subject to a late day. They should take the question on the resolutions at once.

Mr. LYONS thought the House would be in a singular position if it adopted the resolutions, and then postponed the subject.

The ayes and noes being called for by Mr. YERBY, the amendment of Mr. Bocock was rejected by the following vote—ayes 6, noes 117.

Mr. LEE believed that the House intended to accomplish something on this subject, and advised the postponement for a few days.

Mr. STROTHER said they would have it in their power to decide upon the whole subject when it came upon Saturday next.

The House decided to postpone the order of the day until Saturday next.

On motion of Mr. LANIER, the House adjourned.

MONDAY, Jan. 19th, 1846.

SENATE.

The Committee on Internal Improvements reported the bill to incorporate the Southwestern Turnpike Company without amendment.

The bill divorcing Peter C. Davis from his wife Sarah E. was taken up, on motion of Mr. WOOLFOLK.

Mr. THOMPSON of A. was in favor of the bill—considering it a case of extreme aggravation—the wife having eloped with the uncle of her husband. He should vote for the bill with great cheerfulness.

Mr. BONDURANT said this application came from his district. He had been uniformly opposed to the granting of all divorces, except in cases of fraud before the marriage; but, while he should vote against the application, he hoped that those who were in favor of granting divorces would render to his constituent what they had done to others.

The bill passed—ayes 15; noes 6.

The bill divorcing Leonard G. Bailey from his wife Hannah S.—Passed.

The bill divorcing David C. Phips from his wife Dorcas—Passed.

The Speaker laid before the Senate an Executive communication, covering a statement of the condition of the Bank of the Valley.

The bill concerning Wm. M. Atkinson, was taken up on motion of Mr. GALLAHER.

Mr. THOMPSON of A., proposed sundry amendments, which, being acquiesced in by Mr. GALLAHER, were adopted and the bill passed.

The bill concerning Carter H. Edloe and others was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. McCAULEY, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

A bill providing for the publication of the final report of the Geological survey of the State was taken up and read a second time; thereupon, on motion of Mr. McPHERSON the further consideration thereof was indefinitely postponed—ayes 74, noes 33.

The bill war advocated by Messrs. LEE and DENISON, and opposed by Messrs. McPHERSON and TAYLOR.

The bill for the incorporation of the Richmond and Ohio Railroad company was taken up and amended further, on motions severally made by Mr. LYONS and Mr. BOCOCK.

The various amendments elicited much discussion, in which Messrs. LYONS, BOCOCK, and DENISON took an active part.

The bill as amended was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time by a very decided majority. Particulars in the next paper.

Directors of the BANK OF VIRGINIA, and Branches, for 1846, *except Lynchburg:*

RICHMOND.

By the Stockholders.	*By the Executive.*
James Caskie,	Andrew Stevenson,*
John J. London,	Thomas H. Ellis,
Fred. Bransford,	Wm. Gray,
Isaac Davenport,*	Anthony Robinson, jr.*
Thos. R. Price.*	

NORFOLK.

James F. Hunter,	C. L. Rockwell,
Eugene J. Higgins,*	Aaron Milbado,
Alex. Bell,	W. C. Whitehead.
George Reid.*	

PETERSBURG.

Joseph Bragg,	David H. Branch,
Tho. Wallace,	Wm. Pannill,*
John Rowlett,	James Lea.*
Peter B. Wills.	

FREDERICKSBURG.

Hugh Mercer,	John M. Whittemore,
Bazil Gordon,	W. P. Conway,
Thos. F. Knox,	Robert Dickey.*
Jos. B. Ficklin.*	

DANVILLE.

Thos. P. Atkinson,	Hobson Johns,*
Wm. R. Hagood,*	Leo. Claiborne,*
Geo. Price,	Levi Holbrooke.*
John R. Wilson.*	

BUCHANAN.

James L. Woodville,	John M. Robinson,
John S. Wilson,	W. M. Radford,*
Andrew L. Boyd,	Charles B. Penn.*
Thomas Cartmill.*	

CHARLESTON.

James C. McFar