EUROPEAN LETTER.

MILDRED RUSSELL STILL SIGHT-SEEING IN BEAUTIFUL FLORENCE.

Trip to a Tall Tower—A Memorable Prison-Cell—A Monastery—Public School—Astronomy.

[Special correspondence of the Dispatch.]

FLORENCE, February —, 1886.

We continue to explore Florence with never-flagging interest, and have even been up 480 steps to the top of the tower of the Palazzo Vecchio, which holds the well-known bell named Vacca, or The Cow, that has sounded through centuries on important occasions. Nearly 300 feet above the ground we examined the prison where Savonorola lay for fifteen days previous to his death. It is really only a cell built in the thick wall, and is about 12 feet long by 5 feet wide. It has a slit on the outside for a window from which the prisoner could not look without his eye lighting on the church of Santa Croce, the stronghold of his priestly antagonists. Higher up we lose all thoughts of human suffering and hatred in the surprise that greets us. What a sight of the cathedral and campanile we have from the top of this Vacca tower! In the streets close down beside them the bulk of the cathedral is so overwhelming that an attempt to grasp it as a whole ends in utter failure, and the campanile is so tall that it is a neck-breaking proceeding to try and look up at the top. Then, on first acquaintance, the strong contrast of the black, white, and red marble is apt to jar on the eye accustomed to Gothic evenness of color. But at this elevation all the symmetry and grace of form of the cathedral and the calm, majestic beauty of the campanile that for over 500 years has stood unsurpassed burst on us with a force we had never dreamed of.

A LASTING IMPRESSION.

The minute details of carving and tracery can only be detected close to them, but the grandeur of outline and height and the domination they exercise over everything around is altogether lost, and can only be seen here. Below one feels everything is too much crowded together; the houses are too near and too high, and it is not till one has been up to this most elevated of spots that the magnificent thoughts that created these beautiful forms can be appreciated. And when they are appreciated they keep such a hold on one that little else for days after has power to draw the mind away from the remembrance. We looked away a moment at the river, Santa Maria, Novella and other campaniles, but soon turned back to the sight that kept us spell-bound. Going down we held our breath, and forgot to give even a thought to the tragic person that had excited our curiosity and wonder on the way up.

In Italy many of the churches are without ornamental fronts—that is to say, the ordinary bricks of which the building is constructed are uncovered, and present the hideousness of a blank wall, slightly modified by artistic forms. The cathedral of Florence remained 300 years in this state, for the unfinished facade designed by Giotto was removed in 1588, with the intention of putting up another, but it was not till recently that the intention was carried out. The rest of the cathedral, covered with a panelling of white, black, and red marble, the side-doors ornamented with exquisite carving and costly mosaics, were a reproach to the principal entrance, which only boasted of handsome doors in a plain brick wall that must have been a veritable eyesore. The foundation-stone of the new façade was laid by King Victor Emmanuel, and the work is expected to be finished this autumn, when an opening ceremony is to take place. At present the scaffolding is up, with a protection of matting from top to bottom about two yards from the building, and visitors are allowed to go up and inspect the progress of the work. There are solid landings in the scaffolding, and as the stairways up to them have railings the ascent is easy, and a near sight of the façade well repays the trouble. Dark green, red, and white marbles are used, and much fine carving has been done in the white, especially in the archways. Figures larger than life of apostles, saints, and popes are on each side, the principal ones being in recesses covered with Florentine mosaics in colored stone. In the centre is to be a large figure of the Virgin, the only one not in place, and two large archways have yet to be filled with Venetian mosaics in colored glass. With the exception of these latter moraics the whole work has been done in Florence, and the city is justly proud of the achievement. We could not judge what the effect would be when the scaffolding is removed and the whole façade exposed, but we noticed the separate parts were very fine, especially the statues and the carving round the canopies. We were particularly astonished with the great height and breadth of space, being covered all over with fine carvings and statuary in a work of modern times. The style is Italian Gothic.

A MONASTERY.

The Certosa or Monastery of Val d'Ema is three miles from Porta Romana, or city gate on the road that leads to Rome. It consists of the usual buildings, and is situated on the top of a hill named Montagulo, and on approaching it has much more the appearance of an ancient fortress than of anything ecclesiastical. It is only since the union of the kingdom of Italy that ladies have been permitted to enter within the precincts of this or any other monastery, as such visitors were forbidden by the rules of the order. The Certosa is about to be dissolved, as so many others have recently been in the kingdom of Italy, and at present only a few monks remain, and they are thoroughly secularized. The brother who showed us round wore the dress of the order—a loose white cloth robe with a cape and hood. This monastery had a much greater air of luxury than that of St. Mark, and is richer in adornment, though it has not the interesting frescoes of Fra Angelico that St. Mark has. A massive door was unlocked, and we entered and ascended a wide flight of stone stairs that might have led into an imposing castle. We passed through the numerous separate chapels adorned with fresco painting and carving, and came to the tomb of a cardinal, over which is a slab sculptured in relief by Donatello. The cardinal is lying in his robes, with his hands crossed, and has a wonderfully life-like expression on his face.

THE CLOISTERS.

The cloisters are large and higher than usual, and round them were the rooms of some of the monks. Each resembled a cottage, and consisted of a main room, out of which were a bedroom, a study, and a smaller room overlooking a garden that could only be seen from the cottage. The one we inspected—there were sixteen of them—had a prospect of the surrounding country that must have been a godsend to the contemplative inmate, and gone far to reconcile him to his solitude. As we passed out of the cottage our guide showed us an opening in the main room communicating with the cloisters, which was closed by a shutter, and through it the occupant received his food, as the brotherhood only dined together on feast days. In this monastery the Popes Pius VII. and VIII. were kept as prisoners by the First Napoleon, the rooms they occupied being those assigned to any bishop or cardinal that might happen to come on a visit. Probably they came pretty often in by-gone times, for this place has all the appearance of a hospitable and genial residence, with the addition of the security of a stronghold. The refectory is capable of seating at least a hundred persons, and when we were there some of the tables were spread with cloths and plates ready for a meal. Within the limits of the monastery is a spezeria or place where perfumes and liquors—a kind of Chartreuse among them—are made. We returned to Florence by way of San Jumiato and alighted to take a peep at the town from the terrace before the church. It was a clear day, enabling us to see every campanile and dome and tower, and a beautiful sight it was. The same view is seen here as from the tower of the Vecchio, but in diminished loveliness, owing to being much farther off.

A PROPITIATORY SERVICE.

A propitiatory service and procession took place in the Cathedral late one Sunday afternoon. The high altar, which stands under the dome, was draped with gold and silver tissue, and at the time of the service a temporary barrier was put up from pillar to pillar in the nave, so as to enclose a wide central space, to which this imposing *veredos* formed the closing part. Candles innumerable shown on the tissue, and created a blaze of light. For an hour before the service the spectators began to assemble and waited with astonishing patience. First, the priests gathered by the altar, and then the *misericordia* came out of the sacristy two-and-two, crossed the choir, and then one walked on each side of the barrier in the nave with a lighted candle in his hand. Shrouded in white from head to foot, with only spaces cut in their garments for the eyes to see through, these men were not to be distinguished from each other. One led a little boy of five years old, carrying a candle, who, though the only child in the procession, did not seem the least afraid amid this troop of several hundred of ghostly-looking beings. After the *misericordia* came the priests in their most gorgeous robes, then a superior under a baldachin of gold-colored brocade supported by four acolytes, and last of all came about twenty men in plain clothes. They passed round the cathedral chanting a verse of a psalm alternately with the people. The service was held as a sort of revival to endeavor to lessen the blasphemous and treacherous language towards the Church. Many people came to see the procession from religious feelings, but many also from curiosity, and precautions were taken against any disturbance by having police scattered through the crowd. Just as the ceremony began and the chief priest was standing in front of the altar surrounded by the others, and the first of the *misericordia* filing through the choir, the stray dog, inevitable in every church or cathedral in Italy, came down the centre of the nave. The attendants whose duty it was to keep things in general straight tried to catch him in a furtive way, but had to give it up, and so he wandered about till he was hidden by the thickening procession. No objection seems to be made to dogs or cats being in a sacred edifice in Italy; they seldom annoy any one, and as a rule are obedient to their owners and stay by them. These domestic animals give a home-like look to the churches, and it is almost needless to say that the dogs belong to the poorer classes of the worshippers and that the cats are denizens of the place.

A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

We visited one of the girls' public schools, and stayed over three hours to see them go through some of their exercises. What struck us on entering was the scrupulous cleanliness of the building, and afterwards the pureness of the air in the class-rooms. The 300 scholars are divided into four classes, with sub-divisions, and about forty are in each room under a teacher and assistant. The reading and grammar were good, and so was the arithmetic, but it was not very advanced. The writing-books were kept with particular care, and the needlework was surprisingly good. The ages of the girls range from six to sixteen years, and the youngest are taught plain sewing and cross-stitch and then advanced till the elder ones, and even those of twelve years old, do the finest white embroidery on muslin and in colored silks, on satin, and other materials, or pillow-lace of a simple kind. Though the children seem to study much less severely than in many of our public schools, the education, as far as we could judge, is practical and likely to lead to good results. Particular attention is given to the study of the French language and industrial drawing; to French, because through this language the Italians in general communicate with foreigners, and to drawing, because of its utility in the industrial arts. Artistic drawing is of course not taught. The girls make accurate designs of clothing with various embroidery trimmings, the patterns for their embroidery for lace-work and for dressmaking.

GYMNASIUM AND GARDEN.

The gymnasium and garden adjoin the school-house, the latter being kept in order by the *prefecture*. At twelve o'clock the bell is rung, each teacher recites a prayer in her class-room, then the children descend two and two to a gallery, where their hats and cloaks are hung on pegs, and below them their luncheon-baskets. They return with their baskets and each eats her luncheon at her own place. Then they go into the garden till one o'clock, when they reassemble for lighter occupations than the morning hours, such as drawing, needlework, &c. The head mistress has a Sunday-school different in kind to ours, and she carries it on as a work of charity. The same number of girls attend as on week days, but they are working-girls who have no other opportunity of receiving any education or of carrying on what little they may have had. They are taught the same subjects as on week-days, including drawing, French, and fine needlework. Some of the girls were struggling with the first elements of reading at 15 or 16 years of age, and read to us stories in words of one syllable, some with a painful consciousness of beginning their education late, and others with a delighted feeling of triumph that any conqueror might envy. Most of these were girls who worked in tobacco-factories, and even on Sundays had not always a holiday.

ASTRONOMY.

The Florence Astronomical Observatory is a mile outside the Porta Romana, and needs a good climb to reach it, but from no position is the town better seen, or the snow-covered hills of Vallombrosa and the villa-studded Campagna. Through the telescope we saw Venus, crescent-shaped and dim, for it was but 2 o'clock in the day, and, like many other belles, she shines brightest at night. Later on we were shown a crater of the moon, then Saturn and other wonders in the heavens. The astronomer here devotes himself specially to the study and observation of nebulæ, and when the moon is at her brightest, to console himself from being shut off from his favorite occupation, which demands an absence of moonlight, he invites a chosen few to visit him and look through his telescopes. He lives a solitary life, as a rule, as far as intercourse with other people goes. He says he has the heavens, and that is enough.

We were present at a concert given by the Philharmonic Society in their rooms in a building on the site of the old Stinche prison. The best piece was a quartette of violins, one of which was played by a celebrated Italian named Sbolchi. It was a treat to hear him, for he drew forth wonderful and entrancing sounds. We also went to the opera one night, but were unlucky, for the prima donna was ill and had to be replaced by another lady, and in consequence the performance lacked spirit and finish. The longer the stay made in Florence the more fascinating it is, and as the short winter passes away the bad days are fewer and the superb ones increase. Days of cloudless blue sky, and a bright pure sunshine that brings out incredible colors and tints from every stone and brick and drop of water, and a marvellous gradation of shadows, show some of the happy influences that have helped the Florentines to build up their city. MILDRED RUSSELL.

ARBITRATION BILL.

Heated Debate in the House of Representatives Friday.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—In the long debate in the House on Mr. O'Neill's arbitration bill to-day as much heat was displayed at times as though the bill had been a party measure, but neither the opposition to nor support of the bill were upon any defined lines. Each speech was an expression of the individual views of the speaker, and very little was heard of the political effect of the bill.

Mr. Foran, of Ohio, offered an amendment to the first section providing that if on the written proposition of either party to the controversy to submit the differences to arbitration the other party shall refuse, the party submitting the proposition may request the judge of the United States Court to appoint an arbiter. He regarded the bill in its present shape as an entering wedge for the enactment of such legislation in the future as would crush out organized labor. Through organization, and organization alone, the laboring-men of this country could work out their salvation, and he was willing to leave this question and all questions of this character to organized labor.

Mr. Dibble, of South Carolina, offered an amendment providing that the Commissioner of Labor, on the request of either party to a controversy, shall order an investigation to be made. The Bureau of Labor, he said, had been ignored at a great emergency. The purpose of his amendment was to make the Commissioner of Labor a factor in gathering this information.

Mr. Negley, of Pennsylvania, offered an amendment providing that the board of arbitration shall inquire into the practice of certain railroad companies of maintaining a company system of life-insurance to evade the payment of damages for loss of life through negligence or otherwise.

Each of these amendments was lost.

Mr. Willis, of Kentucky, expected to vote for the bill. Its opponents agreed that it was a harmless measure, and then proceeded to pour out the vials of their wrath upon it. They denounced it; they epitheted it; they called it a Trojan horse; they called it a fraud and trick. He believed that the bill had some meat in it. He favored it not because it was harmless, but because it took a forward step in the settlement of the greatest problem of the age. It was a problem of ages on which had been founded the French revolution, and which had disturbed England and every country of the world. Some legislation was necessary, and the Committee on Labor had brought in the pending bill. If it needed amendment, let the wisdom of Congress amend it. If it were harmless, let it be passed as a sentimental declaration that Congress felt for the woes of the workingmen. This hall had been called the audience-hall of the nation. He had seen all the monopolies of the country here, and when this organization of Knights of Labor came, though their voice be but a whisper, as this bill was, for one he would listen to and heed it. A few years ago the tonnage of the rivers and canals and lakes of the country had been twelve million tons. To-day four men in the Union held in their grasp and controlled four times that amount of tonnage. Those four men could reduce the wages of 50,000 men. Those four men, organized in their own interest, could control an aggregate capital amounting to $200,000,000. If laborers organized and asked Congress for the poor privilege of being heard by arbitration, in the name of justice and equal rights let their complaints be heard and public opinion be invoked.

Mr. O'Neill, of Missouri, declared that the Knights of Labor were in favor of arbitration. He stood here appealing for law, for justice, and for right; for to-day the country was almost on the verge of a volcano. The people were standing idle and suffering for food in the West on account of the strike, while constitutional cranks stood quibbling on the floor of the House. He appealed to members to stand by the Committee on Labor, to vote down amendments, and to put their heels on that class of men who could suggest nothing—who were obstructionists and barnacles on a party who ought to have better sense.

Mr. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, moved to strike out so much of the second section as gives the board of arbitration power to administer oaths, etc. He said that the effect of his motion would be to make the bill less objectionable. On constitutional grounds he protested against the passage of the bill, believing that it was a grave and, might be, a dangerous mistake. It was the corner-stone of a superstructure which was to be erected upon it; it was a seed the growth of which would hereafter give the country trouble; it was the beginning of a new jurisprudence; it was the foundation of a new, and indefinite, and dangerous jurisdiction; it was the creation of a novel, uncertain, and indefinite tribunal; it seemed to him that before Congress took so grave a step more consideration should be given to it. For one he did not believe that there was any virtue in legislation as a solution of a great problem. He denied that this was a paternal government, to be constantly interfering with the progress of civilization by putting its hand, unhallowed and unwise, to that progress. Every step taken in that direction renewed the too common disposition of mankind to seek a remedy for all ailments in legislation instead of finding some philosophical solution of the problem. He pleaded for a nobler manhood, an ampler liberty than that which was found within the statute-book. In the name of labor he protested against this interference with progress, and deeper than this, he protested against class legislation. There was no labor as a class in this country. Let not Congress make this classification. Let it not divide all Americans into capital and labor; let it not draw the dividing line between fellow-citizens. In the name of all laboring-men he protested against this bill. The problem was being solved day by day, hour by hour. The time was coming when capital and labor would find in participation of profit its true solution. Let Congress distribute the burdens of our civilization equally between labor and capital. Let it make capital pay its share. Let taxation be reduced. "There are no party tactics in this bill," he said. "They for whom you seek to legislate will turn to rend you when they take this bill up and find that in the future it will provide the means by which strikes can be made punishable by arrest, for voluntary arbitration will give place to involuntary arbitration. Involuntary arbitration will give place to Federal jurisdiction, and Federal jurisdiction will be held by capital. They will find out that it has been a snare and a sham, worse than a sham, because it has been a delusion and disaster. I want to put on record that I stood here for true labor, the manhood of labor, the dignity of labor, that only asks a fair living chance in the great battle of life.

Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, ironically suggested that the eloquent words of the gentleman from Kentucky would be received by the laboring-men of the country as a cure for all the evils which afflicted them. The general platitudes which that gentleman had indulged in and the general statement that the way to help labor was to reduce taxes would be welcomed by the workingmen as a panacea for their injuries. He believed in the principle of the bill. It conferred no rights or privileges touching arbitration which were not now enjoyed by common carriers and those engaged in their service. It left them where it found them, with the right of voluntary arbitration, to settle their differences through a peaceful tribunal of their own selection. It only undertook to furnish to them the machinery for carrying on that arbitration. It did not propose to do an impossible thing, and that was one feature he liked about it. He regretted if it would deceive anybody. It was said that there was no way to enforce the judgment of arbitrators, and therefore it was a nullity. He had not the least concern on that score. He had no fear that after the railway corporations and their employees had united in an arbitration that its judgment would be disobeyed or not acquiesced in as final and conclusive. A refusal to obey a judgment of arbitration would be the exception and not the rule, and an award honestly reached would be sacredly observed. Either party believing it had a genuine grievance, and inviting the other to arbitrate, would occupy a vantage-ground which the other could not successfully defy. There was a sense of fair play among the people, crystallized into public opinion, and no railroad corporation, no labor union could long hold out against a fair demand, backed by a willingness to submit the justice of that demand to a board of competent arbitrators.

Mr. Hewitt, of New York, said that arbitration had of recent years been developed as a means for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of labor so as to reward every man according to his deserts. His objection to the bill was that it would arrest the healthy progress which had been going on. The profit-sharing system, he said, was the final solution of this great question. Profit-sharing had come into esteem in Great Britain, and was rapidly extending, and if we allowed our workmen and employers to come together in the same spirit, the profit-sharing would occupy the whole field of human industry, and after that no more malice between capital and labor would be heard of. But arbitration leading to profit-sharing could only come of organization on the part of the workmen, and the workmen now, for the first time understood that they must perfect their organization. The Grand Master of the Knights of Labor had recently issued a circular to his subordinates, informing them that they were not to organize more assemblies until they could make those already organized understand their rights and duties. What the workmen required was a perfect understanding. When they had a perfect organization and came to the railroad corporations and demanded arbitration, they would not only get it by the force they had in their organization, but they would be welcomed by their employers here—as they were now in Great Britain—as bringing a great solution to the question. Pass this bill and the reliance of the workmen on themselves would be transferred and this reform would be put back for a century.

Mr. Lawler, of Illinois, declared that, without wishing to become communistic in his utterance, he was free to say that if Jay Gould was hung to a lamp-post in New York it would be a blessing to the community known as the United States. [Laughter.] The time of Jay Gould might cost hundreds and thousands of lives throughout the western States. The death of a man like this was nothing compared with what might occur if the difficulties were not settled in those States. There was no sentimental basis in this matter. It was justice to the workman. There was no harm in this bill, and the discussion had had a healthy effect upon the country. It was an honest bill, and if there was anything wrong with it Congress could repeal it at any time.

Mr. Breckinridge's motion was defeated.

Mr. Farquhar, of New York, spoke as a representative of skilled labor. He could not see how the skilled unions were in any way interested in this bill. The membership of the trades unions, the Knights of Labor, and the Labor Union, as nearly as he could learn, amounted a year ago to 800,000. Probably half of these belonged to the great organized trades unions—twenty-one in number. This bill did not deal with that class of trades unions at all.

O. H. Holberg, pastor of Woodhaven Methodist Episcopal church, South Woodhaven, Queens county, N. Y., states: "I have used Allcock's Plasters for thirty years. Never found them fail to cure weakness of the back, spine, and kidney diffidulties. They are very agreeable and strengthening. A short time ago I got in a profuse perspiration while preaching. Imprudently going home without my overcoat, I lost the use of my voice, and the next day had a violent pain in my back, kidneys, and chest. I could hardly breathe. Three Allcock's Plasters applied to my back, chest, and kidneys cured me completely in six hours. I was astonished how quick my breathing became easy after applying."

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THE METHODISTS.

FACTS ABOUT THEIR GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN RICHMOND.

Legislative Character of the Body—Their Wide Mission Field—The Election of Bishops—The Delegates, &c.

This large body is composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen. At the approaching session, to commence in this city on the first Wednesday in May, there will be two hundred and sixty-eight delegates from Conferences embraced in the United States and border country of Mexico and one from Central Mexico. The bishops of the Church, now five in number, are not members of the Conference, but under the law of the Church alternately preside over its deliberations and take part incidentally in the business.

A LEGISLATIVE BODY.

This is the only legislative body recognized in the economy of the Church, the other conferences (annual and district) simply serving to look into the work of the Church in all its departments and sending out men to do the work in the circuits, stations, and missions. All done by these subordinate conferences is subject to the review of the General Conference, and to this highest court come up all appeals from the action of the lower conferences and the rulings of the bishops.

ITS WORK.

This Conference only is authorized to alter or amend the disciplinary law of the Church, to supervise missionary enterprises, Church-extension operations, and the publishing interests under the control of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This body elects bishops, book-editors, missionary secretaries, Sunday-school secretaries, and editors of Church journals; also, the several boards having in charge the machinery of missions, publishing interests, &c.

As the Conference only meets once in four years, and has under its care and supervision thirty-two annual conferences, in which the membership numbers about one million, besides mission in China, Brazil, Mexico, and among the Indians, it may readily be seen that it has much work to do, without taking into consideration modifications and amendments, which are always brought forward to perfect the system in the minds of so large a membership.

MISSION WORK.

The matter likely to engage and employ the largest portion of the time of the Conference this year will be to perfect the plans for mission work. Some of the mission fields are getting so large that they have been organized into annual conferences, but they are so distant that the economy of the Church in having all the ministers and work under episcopal superintendence has been found difficult to carry out. This will be arranged for probably this year either by electing a mission bishop or arranging to detail one of the bishops to take the missions under his special charge.

PUBLISHING HOUSE.

A matter that for many quadrenniums past has taken up much of the time of the Conference will at this occupy but a short space compared with other sessions. This is the publishing house. This concern, situated at Nashville, Tenn., was sadly crippled during the war, and eight years ago seemed to be on the verge of bankruptcy, having a debt of over $350,000. Since that time it has under the management of the venerable Dr. J. B. McFerrin retired all of its indebtedness except $100,000; all of which under like management will soon be paid, leaving the house with a thoroughly-equipped outfit for doing all classes of printing and book-work.

NEW BISHOPS.

Since the last Conference four of the bishops have died—viz., Paine, Kavanaugh, Pierce, and Parker. The two first-named were over eighty years old, the third over seventy, while the last was in the prime of manhood. This leaves the number in office five. Probably four more will be elected. As yet little speculation has been indulged in as to the men who will be elected.

The sessions of the Conference will be held in either Centenary or Broad-Street Methodist church. Except the seats needed for the members of the body, the church will be open to the public.

THE DELEGATES.

The Christian people of the city will be interested in the proceedings of so important a body. The business people will also be interested in the assembling here of representatives from every important city and town in the lower half of the United States and from several countries outside. Looking over the list they will see parties—clerical and lay—from Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Greensboro', Union Springs, Opelika, Talladega, and Birmingham, Ala.; Clarksville, Ozark, Boonsborough, Little Rock, Camden, and Bryant, Ark.; Tyler, Beaumont, Galveston, Huntsville, Bastorp, San Antonio, Waco, Corsicana, Georgetown, Dallas, Paris, Gainesville, Greenville, and Houston, Texas; Gainesville, Sandford, and Live Oak, Florida; Knoxville, Nashville, Jonesboro', Cleveland, Union City, Brownsville, Memphis, Humboldt, Clarksville, Pulaski, Lebanon, and Lynchburg, Tennessee; New Orleans, Shreveport and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Jackson, Meridian, Canton, Bolivar, Starkville, Sardis, Senatobia, Columbus, and Aberdeen, Mississippi; St. Louis, Booneville, Columbia, Fayette, Jefferson City, Kansas City, Independence, Carthage, Springfield, and Lexington, Missouri; Raleigh, Goldsboro', Greensboro', Charlotte, Wilson, Lexington, Wilmington, Concord, and Tarboro', North Carolina; Atlanta, Augusta, Macon, Savannah, Marietta, Milledgeville, Dalton, Oxford, Rome, Sparta, Columbus, Lumpkin, and Camilla, Georgia; Charleston, Spartanburg, Abbeville, Cheraw, Chester, and Anderson, South Carolina; Effingham and Garnet, Kansas; Louisville, Covington, Lexington, Danville, Flemingsburg, Russelville, Henderson, and Owensboro', Kentucky; Baltimore and Rockville, Maryland; Washington city, District of Columbia; Richmond, Petersburg, Norfolk, Lynchburg, Portsmouth, Danville, Winchester, Alexandria, Staunton, Harrisonburg, Ashland, Bowling Green, Virginia; city of Mexico, Saltillo, Republic of Mexico; besides many villages and country places too numerous to mention.

RICHMOND UNDER THEIR EYES.

One half of the delegates are businessmen and will, while attending to the matters of the Church, keep their eyes open as to what interests them at home. Many of the ministers have large tracts of territory over which they travel periodically. They are observing men, and come into contact with many people when in their regular work. If these men while in Richmond see anything that pleases them, before they go home they will write about it and when they return they will talk about it. Staying in the city several weeks, they will have time to thoroughly inspect the notable places, factories, asylums, &c., which are calculated to interest strangers. The city has never had a better opportunity to be advertised, and to advantage, too; for these people from the Southwest come to be pleased and to have a good time in this old city and State, where the ancestors of many of them lived.

In addition, many visitors from other States—North and South—will be here. One of the greatest obstacles the Committee of Arrangements has met with is the fact that many families are looking for special friends to be with them, and hence say that they have no room for delegates.

Our business-men would do well to put forth all proper efforts to use this occasion to further their interests while the churches are sharing the ministrations and presence of some of the foremost ministers of the country. Give them a whole-souled old Virginia welcome.

EMINENT MEN.

This Methodist Sanhedrim will bring together many notable men. Among the ministry there will be hardy pioneer preachers who served on the frontier fifty years ago, and several who range the Black Hills carrying the Gospel to the Indians and the miners—Stateler of Montana, on horseback for a third of a century in the Territories; Hermenegildo Hernandez, of Saltillo, Mexico, a native preacher to his own people beyond the Rio Grande. Vordenbaumen comes from the Germans in Texas, Brewer from the Cherokees beyond Arkansas. The Hon. W. A. Hempkill, the capitalist and conductor of the Atlanta *Constitution*; Colonel Nugent, the eminent lawyer, of Jackson; Colonel Cole, of Nashville, head of the Cole system of railroads; Governor Shands, of Mississippi; Judge Thornburgh, of Arkansas; Hon. W. C. Ireland, D. W. Bain, Esq., State Treasurer of North Carolina, and Hon. F. C. Robbins, of North Carolina. There are "benches" of judges and enough Confederate officers to start an army corps. There will be a number of delegates who were field-officers and scarred veterans of the Federal forces. Two or three ministers were generals in the southern camp.

MRS. DELIA S. PARNELL.

Mother of Charles Stewart Parnell, Dangerously Ill in New York.

The struggle of Ireland for legislative independence is watched with

friendly interest on this side of the Atlantic. Myriads of our naturalized citizens are sons of the Emerald Isle, and the astute statesman who is at the head of the compact parliamentary party which is sitting in Westminster waiting for material concessions by the Administration on behalf of Ireland has family ties in the United States.

His venerable mother now lies in New York, her place of residence, suffering from the weakness of advanced age and disease of the heart. Her son George, whose home is in Georgia, has been sent for to attend at her bedside.

She is a daughter of Admiral Stewart, who commanded the United States frigate "Constitution" during the war of 1812. Her husband was a country gentleman, living on his own estate of Avondale, in the county of Wicklow, Ireland. There her illustrious son, Charles Stewart, was born, and he is its present proprietor.

Up to recently Mrs. Parnell has enjoyed good health and has frequently appeared in public at meetings held in this country on behalf of Ireland. Occasionally her voice has been heard in advocacy of its demand for a larger share of self-government. Of late the heart trouble to which reference has been made has rendered her condition a subject of great anxiety to her friends, and she is now on what will probably prove to be her deathbed. Kindly interest in her condition is general.

BOOTS, SHOES, &c.

CAUTION.—WHEN YOU CANnot get my SHOES from your dealer, do not take any others, but send your address on postal-card, and receive by return mail instructions for self-measurement and full information concerning them. W. L. DOUGLAS $3 SHOE, Warranted, Congress, Button, and Lace—all styles of Toe. The best $3 Shoe in the Market. The only $3 Shoe with Glove-Kid Top. The only $3 Shoe that equals any $5 or $6 shoe sold. The most Perfect-Fitting $3 Shoe made. The $3 Shoe in which only the best material is used in manufacturing. The $3 Shoe which will give perfect satisfaction. See that "W. L. DOUGLAS, $3 SHOE, Warranted," is stamped on bottom. W. L. DOUGLAS, Brockton, Mass. ja 19-eod3m

LIME, CEMENT, &c.

2,804 BARRELS FRESH ROCKLAND LIME, just arrived per schooner Alfred Keen, for sale low. Fresh ROSENDALE, UNION, and imported PORTLAND CEMENTS; CALCINED PLASTER, MARBLE-DUST, WHITE SAND, CATTLE-HAIR, SAVAGE FIRE-BRICK and CLAY in stock. Our popular "ANCHOR" LIME always on hand fresh. WARNER MOORE, foot of Seventeenth street, south side of dock. LUMP and GROUND PLASTER, SUMAC, and BARK. mh 25

Holstein-Fresian Cattle

DIRECT IMPORTATION—ACCLIMATED.

AS FINE AS THE BEST.

Also, HALF- and THREE-QUARTER-BRED HEIFERS, sired by "Elijah Poyram," No. 548, and with calf by "Sebastian," No. 2261.

Will sell low to make room for other thoroughbreds. R. F. MASON, fe 20-eod1y Charlottesville, Va.

ORGANIZED 1832.

VIRGINIA FIRE & MARINE Insurance Company.

RICHMOND.

(Organized 1832.)

This old Virginia Company insures against FIRE and LIGHTNING all kinds of real and personal property, in city or country, at lowest current rates.

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Office: 1016 east Main street. no 26-eod Richmond, Va.

BOOK AND JOB WORK NEATLY EXECUTED AT THE DISPATCH PRINTING-HOUSE.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ARE PREVALENT ALL OVER THE WORLD.

I am a native of England, and while I was in that country I contracted a terrible blood-poison, and for two years was under treatment as an out-door patient at Nottingham Hospital, England, but was not cured. I suffered the most agonizing pains in my bones, and was covered with sores all over my body and limbs. I had vertigo and deafness, with partial loss of sight, severe pains in my head and eyes, etc., which nearly ran me crazy. I lost all hope in that country and sailed for America, and was treated at Roosevelt, in this city, as well as by a prominent physician in New York having no connection with the hospitals.

I saw the advertisement of Swift's Specific, and I determined to give it a trial as a last resort. I had given up all hope of being cured, as I had gone through the hands of the best medical men in Nottingham and New York. I took six bottles of S. S. S., and I can say with great joy that they have cured me entirely. I am as sound and well as I ever was in my life.

L. FRED. HALFORD.

NEW YORK CITY, June 12, 1885.

BLOOD is the life, and he is wise who remembers it. But in March of last year (1884) I contracted blood-poison, and being in Savannah, Ga., at the time, I went into the hospital there for treatment. I suffered very much from rheumatism at the same time. I did not get well under the treatment there, nor was I cured by any of the usual means. I have now taken seven bottles of Swift's Specific, and am sound and well. It drove the poison out through boils on the skin. DAN LEAHY.

JERSEY CITY, N. J., August 7, 1885.

Two years ago I contracted blood-poison. After taking prescriptions from the best physicians here and at Dallas, I concluded to visit Hot Springs, and on reaching Texarkana a doctor recommended me to try Swift's Specific, assuring me that it would benefit me more than Hot Springs. Although the POISON had produced great holes in my back and chest, and had removed all the hair off my head, yet I began to improve in a week's time, and the sores began to heal, and were entirely gone inside of eight weeks.

WILL JONES, Porter Union Pass. Depot.

CISCO, TEXAS, July 13, 1885.

Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, Drawer 3, Atlanta, Ga.; New York, 157 west Twenty-third street. fe 2

ENDORSED BY THE WORLD,

DR.

FFF EEE TTT ZZZ OO L DDD "SS
F E T Z O O L D D "S
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F E T Z O O L D D S
F EEE T ZZZ OO LLL DDD SS

GERMAN

SSS EEE TTT III TTT EEE RRR "SS
S E BII T T E R R S
SSS E T T EE RRR "SS
S E BII T T E R R S
SSS E T T EEE R R SS".

A DOUBLE DISTILLATION OF MANY OF THE BEST GERMAN HERBS, making this the Only Reliable and Efficient Tonic ever placed before the public for the cure of Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, General Debility, Malarial Diseases, Colic, Cramps, Diarrhœa, &c.

The highest character of the many testimonials awarded this preparation has never been equalled. We refer with pleasure to the following:

Ida G. Abram, 368 east Chase street, Baltimore, Md., writes: I have been suffering for years with Dyspepsia. I was advised by my physician, Dr. Milton N. Taylor, to try "Dr. Petzold's German Bitters," and after taking it for a short time I feel greatly benefited. I have a splendid appetite and am gaining in flesh.

"Dr. Petzold's German Bitters" I consider one of the best medicines for Malaria and Indigestion that I have ever prescribed, and do not hesitate to recommend the same. C. L. JOHNSON, M. D., Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Charles W. Filler, Baltimore, Md., says: I endorse "Dr. Petzold's German Bitters," having given the Bitters to a patient of mine convalescent from Malarial Fever, and obtained the most beneficial results.

Hon. A. A. King, United States senator from Vermont, says: It affords me great pleasure to state that "Dr. Petzold's German Bitters" is a reliable and pleasant medicine and the best I ever used for Sick-Stomach and Biliousness.

This Great Medicine for sale by all Druggists, Grocers, and dealers generally. Price, 50c. and $1 per bottle. OWENS & MINOR, agents for Richmond. LOUIS PETZOLD & CO., proprietors, Baltimore, Md. my 12-Tu,Th&Suly

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE.

OFFICE CITY COLLECTOR, RICHMOND, VA., March 31, 1886.

DELINQUENT REAL ESTATE TAXES, 1885.

In pursuance of an ordinance of the city, I have prepared and posted a LIST OF DELINQUENT TAXES ON REAL ESTATE for 1885, subject to the inspection of all concerned. Further, in pursuance of ordinance, notice is given in all the daily papers of the city that all such real estate so delinquent will be sold at auction on

THE FIRST DAY OF THE MAY TERM OF THE HUSTINGS COURT,

unless the taxes and penalty thereon have been previously paid. I am further required by ordinance to publish in one or more of the daily papers of the city, not less than ten days previous to such a sale, a list of the real estate so delinquent for the taxes of the previous year.

In conformity therewith, notice is hereby given that such list will be published in the *State* on

SATURDAY, THE 17TH DAY OF APRIL,

AND ON

SATURDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF MAY;

and on the MONDAY following—that being the first day of the May term of the Hustings Court—I shall, between the hours of 12 o'clock M. and 4 o'clock P. M., proceed to sell, in front of the City Hall, on Broad street between Ninth and Tenth streets the real estate delinquent as aforesaid, including penalty, interest, &c.

A. R. WOODSON, ap 1-tMy1 Collector.

LICENSE TAXES.

OFFICE CITY COLLECTOR, RICHMOND, VA., March 31st, 1886.

LICENSE TAX.

THIS OFFICE WILL BE OPEN DAILY FROM 9 O'CLOCK A. M. TO 6 O'CLOCK P. M. from the 15TH TO THE 30TH OF APRIL for the purpose of receiving the LICENSE TAX from all Doctors, Dentists, Lawyers, Commission Merchants, Merchandise, Stock and Exchange Brokers, Wholesale and Retail Liquor-Dealers, Hotels, Restaurants, Saloons, Boarding- and Eating-Houses, Auctioneers, Lumber-Measurers, Architects, Theatres and Halls, Telegraph, Express, and Coal Companies, Mercantile Insurance, Real Estate, Employment, Ticket and Sewing-Machine Agents, Bottlers, Junk- and Oyster-Dealers, Photographers, and all other persons liable to said license tax.

For