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All communications of every character should be addressed to "THE FREE LANCE," Fredericksburg, Va.

**Weather forecast for Fredericksburg and vicinity.**

Thursday fair, variable winds.

SOME tests as to the thoroughness of instruction in the high schools of Washington have just been made which show that the pupils are very deficient in all the studies. In the examination an effort was made to avoid any catch questions, and to provide an examination that would be a fair test of the average student's ability.

The examination was confined to pupils in the first year of the high school, because it would show the kind of work done in the lower grades of the schools. The examinations were in history and arithmetic, with directions to pay attention to spelling and the framing of sentences. The examination was prepared by the clerk of the Senate committee on the District of Columbia, and examined and marked under the direction of the chief examiners of the Census Bureau and the Civil Service Commission.

In summing up the report to the Senate, the committee called attention to several things. Among them is the incorrect use of the hyphen, misspelling of simple ordinary words of one and two syllables, a tendency to use the comma too frequently, failure in a number of instances to use a period at the end of a sentence, and after an abbreviation, and in correct use of the parenthesis. It is also stated that the penmanship is very poor, many of the pupils writing three or four different hands in the course of the examination, and sometimes in writing a sentence.

The report criticizes severely the methods in the lower grades, and states that the pupils are seldom called upon for written exercises, and when they are, the exercises are not corrected by the teacher and returned to the pupil for improvement. Another thing the report says the spelling book in the lower grades has been dispensed with, and nothing has been substituted in its place.

In answer to the question to name the three branches into which the government of the United States is divided and state in general the duty of each branch, there were a variety of absurd answers. One was that the three branches were financial, State and interior; and another answered that they were national, State and city. Out of eleven hundred and eighty-eight pupils examined in arithmetic only fifteen returned correct answers, and the spelling in all the exercises was fearful.

There is no excuse for such ignorance and deficiency in pupils in the schools in the city of Washington kept up at government expense. There is something radically wrong in the conduct of the schools and the methods of instruction that should be remedied.

The colored brother has become indignant at the treatment he received by the white Republicans in the recent State convention at Norfolk, and promises to retaliate by putting up a candidate of his own race in every Congressional district in the State. This will make things lively for a while, but will succeed in totally alienating the white Republicans from him in the future. The sentiment of many of the leading white Republicans at Norfolk was in favor of a Constitutional convention, with the hope that the negro would be disfranchised. In fact several of the leaders did not hesitate to say that "the negro had to be put aside, else Republican principles would never again win."

The Republicans are endeavoring to make Dewey believe that he stands some show for the Democratic nomination for President, and are urging him to make a canvass. The Admiral may not be politician enough to understand such things, but if he does not know now he will likely find out after July that Republicans do not run Democratic conventions. If the Democrats desired the Admiral and urged his candidacy it would be a different thing. But they have not encouraged the hero of Manila—on the contrary, it is well understood that Bryan is already the nominee of the Democracy.

The Virginia Law Register for April, in addition to a large amount of interesting and valuable matter, contains a complete index to volume 5, covering 48 pages. A frontispiece portrait of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals is also an attractive feature.

SOME of the Republican papers, referring to the great prosperity in the South, claim that it is due to Republican rule, and that the leading men in business South know that the Republicans are going to be continued in power. All of this may be true, but it does not prevent the South from giving the Democratic candidate for President a solid vote every four years.

Agony has proved a hot potato to our leaders in the Philippines. They chased him away, but he has learned that they did not want to catch him, so he has returned to play hide and seek again with the toy soldiers. When Aguinaldo returned to Luzon Otis took passage for America. Strange doings! But all is fair in politics.

QUEEN VICTORIA seems to have fallen desperately in love with Ireland. She rode extensively in Dublin Monday in an open landau amid applauding crowds, and she has now decided to prolong her visit to the 27th. The loyalty exhibited by the Irish people on this occasion, it is hoped, will insure to their advantage.

THE House of Representatives has gone through the biennial farce of endorsing the proposition for the election of Senators by the people. The strait Senate will see that the bill is put gently to sleep for another two years' doze.

THE King of Belgium has given to the nation his entire landed estates for parks and similar purposes. This is a precedent that few rulers will follow. The idea seems to be, to get all you can and keep what you get.

THE hard wheat of Texas is much in demand in France and Italy for macaroni and similar edible pastes, and it is expected that a great wheat trade will be carried on between Texas and those countries.

Immense crowds visited the Paris Exposition, Sunday.

Large numbers of pauper Japanese are flocking to the United States.

Queen Victoria has decided to prolong her stay in Ireland until April 27th.

The U. S. Supreme Court has decided to hear counsel in the Kentucky Governorship case on April 30th.

Objection is made in the British West India Islands to the proposed treaty with the United States.

The United States Supreme Court decided that the express companies may shift the war tax on the shippers.

The Pope has decided that "hereafter no religious congregation will be permitted to take part in politics."

The failures in the United States in the first quarter of 1900 were 216 greater than last year and in March 22.8 per cent greater.

The grand jury of Frankfort, Ky., has returned indictments against 10 men charging them with the murder of William Smith.

Hon. Hoke Smith has sold his interest in the Atlanta Evening Journal. Mr. Smith will devote his entire time to the practice of law.

A patent has been granted to Julian Graham, Falls Church, Va., assignor to F. M. Myers, Lincoln, Va., for an adjustable scraper for brooms.

Because of the failure of the Sultan to pay our claim of \$80,000, as promised, the Turkish Minister, at Washington, may be handed his passports.

Mrs. Potter Palmer is a commissioner to the Paris exposition, and says that while the exposition is fine, it does not compare with the World's Fair at Chicago.

The Ecumenical Conference, to be held in New York for a week beginning Saturday next, April 21st, is attracting attention all over the Christianized world.

Contracts amounting to \$20,000,000 were awarded by the Rapid Transit Subway Construction Company of New York for building eight sections of the immense underground railway system in that city.

President McKinley has accepted an invitation to be present on May 1st at the Mechanics' Exposition of Independence in North Carolina, which antedates the Philadelphia declaration by nearly fifty days.

President McKinley is going to New York on April 21 to deliver an address before the Protestant Ecumenical Conference on foreign missions. The honorary president of the conference is former President Benjamin Harrison.

A battle, which was indecisive, occurred at Yen Chin, China, between the Imperial Chinese troops and a large body of the "Boxers" secret society. About 4,000 men were engaged, the forces being equally divided. The casualties were very heavy.

Duke D'Aros, the Spanish minister, sent a bitter reply to Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, saying the Dewey invitation was the first discourtesy he had received since his coming to the United States, unless, as he supposed, it was sent through error. The Mayor wrote and apologized.

Admiral Dewey has placed with his collection of relics in the National Museum the beautiful silver vase presented to him last month by the citizens of Saranah, Ga. On one side of the vase is a representation of the first steam vessel to cross the ocean from the port of Savannah and on the other is a picture of a modern steamship.

There are but 11,000 European exhibitors outside of France, at the Paris Exposition, and of these Germany and Great Britain together have but 2,600.

From the United States there are nearly 7,000 exhibitors, occupying 330,000 square feet in forty-seven distinct spaces. Next to the French display the American exhibits will attract attention.

Developments in the telegraphers' strike on the Southern Railway have not changed the situation. Both sides are satisfied. President Powell, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, who is directing the strike, said the situation is encouraging. But the officials say the business of the road is being transacted as usual and that there is any effect of the strike on the road's traffic it is imperceptible.

The consolidated mortgage of the reorganized Seaboard Air Line Railway Company recorded at Richmond, and subsequently in every other State through which the line extends, amounts to \$25,000,000, and the internal revenue stamp on the document amounts to about \$31,000. Nearly all the tax was paid in 100 stamps, but a considerable number of smaller values and a variety of colors were used. The mortgage covers the entire new Seaboard System, and is represented by 4 per cent. gold bonds.

Did it Ever Occur to You that a Little Perry Davis' Pain-Killer on the end of the finger applied once or twice to a mosquito bite would counteract the poison and speedily reduce the swelling? Mosquito bites also treat bites and stings of other poisonous insects as well as reptiles. See directions as to use upon wrapper on each bottle. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Pain-Killer Perry Davis'. Price 25c and 50c.

CONGRESSIONAL.

The Senate and House conferees agreed upon a form of government for Hawaii.

Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, addressed the Senate on imperialism in a great speech.

The navy appropriation bill introduced in the House of Representatives carries estimates of more than \$61,000,000.

In the Senate a bill was passed granting to soldiers of the Mexican war pensions of \$12 a month in certain cases.

In the Senate Mr. Martin's bill authorizing the appointment of George I. Middleton as engineer in the U. S. navy was passed.

Drug men from many States appeared before the House Committee on Ways and Means to urge the reduction of the war tax on proprietary medicines, perfumeries, cosmetics, etc.

The proposition to elect Senators by the people is doomed to die in the Senate. It will be reported adversely from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, if it is reported at all.

Considerable wrangling is going on in the House over the Naval Appropriation bill and the price of armor plate. The above bill carries \$15,000,000 more than any previous naval bill.

From the House Committee on Judiciary came two bills for Congressional supervision of trusts. Many people will see in these bills a club in the interest of big campaign contributions.

OUR NEW POSSESSIONS.

Montenegro, who commanded the rebels at the Manila water-works, has surrendered.

The Democratic Union party in Cuba is being charged with a plan to deliver the island over to Americans.

Residents of Cuba to the number of 60,000 have registered under the Paris treaty, thus preserving their Spanish nationality.

General Wheaton and his staff went to San Juan Bautista, northern Luzon, to relieve General MacArthur, who will succeed General Otis May 1.

Three hundred insurgents armed with Mauser rifles and bombs attacked the town of Batoc. They were repulsed with the loss of 106 killed. The Americans sustained no casualties.

Capt. Doid and a troop of the Third cavalry surprised a force of 180 natives in the province of Benguet, northern Luzon. The Americans killed 55 of the natives and took 41 prisoners. The Americans burned the village in which the natives were found. It appeared to be a recruiting center. American loss was trifling.

One thousand one hundred and fifty natives attacked Major Case's battalion of the Fourth Infantry, at Cagayan, Mindanao. Many of them were on horseback. They surprised the outposts and swarmed into the streets of the town. The troops, reinforced by residents, charged the insurgents. Seven of them were killed about headquarters. The Americans lost three killed and twelve wounded, including a captain.

POLITICAL.

Lynchburg has declared for the constitutional convention.

Schley is looming up for second place on the Democratic ticket.

Middle-of-the-Road Populists are contemplating a change of their name to "Popular Government party."

Senator Chilton has withdrawn from the senatorial race in Texas, leaving a clear field to Congressman Bailey.

Frank W. Hackett will succeed Charles H. Allen as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He is a Washington lawyer.

Senators Platt and Dewey, Gov. Roosevelt and State Chairman Odell were elected delegates by the New York State Convention to the Republican National Convention.

Albany elected 13 delegates to the Norfolk convention, eight of whom are against a convention. Senator Martin is a delegate-at-large and is put down as anti-convention.

Ex-Gov. John P. Altgeld, of Illinois, delivered an address in Albany, N. Y., Monday night on "What Jefferson Said." He severely arraigned the Republican party and lauded Bryan and free silver.

Monday in a number of counties of the State delegates were elected to the State convention. Some of them are solid delegations against the question of making the call for a constitutional convention a party issue. The opponents to the proposed convention are actively at work.

The Democrats of Lancaster county in mass-meeting Monday elected the following delegates to the State convention: Edgar W. Broadbent, formerly of Caroline county, but now near Norfolk, delightfully entertained a small crowd at the court-house on Tuesday evening last with a lecture on his travels abroad.

Menhaden fishing has commenced in the lower Rappahannock. One of the three steamers of Bellows & Squires started on Wednesday. The other two of the three steamers of the Carter's Creek Fish Gano Company left to catch menhaden. All the other steamers of the Chesapeake Bay—about 20 in number—will begin business about the first of May.

The dwelling of Col. Thomas H. Leachman, at Ferry Hall, Prince William county, was destroyed by fire Sunday night and very little of the contents were saved. The house was an old Virginia mansion, well known in that section. Col. Leachman is the father of the Sheriff of Prince William county. Mr. S. H. Leachman, of Alexandria, has been ordered by the court to remove from his farm near Wellington, in Prince William county.

The Street Fair and Carnival in Richmond will be open May 14th, in novel way. On a platform will be a pyramid of flowers and on the cap of the pyramid will be a dainty rosebud. Little Miss Thompson, three-year-old daughter of Susan E. Thompson, will pick the rosebud, which will sound every fire-alarm bell in the city, and give notice for a grand concert by the bands and for the blowing of all factory whistles and bells.

The annual examination of teachers will be held in the various cities and counties of the State June 25 and 27. The examination of the colored teachers will be held June 28 and 29. The examination on the old course for State certificates and life diplomas will be held at the summer normal schools.

The examination of the new professional course for teachers whose first grade certificates have expired or about to expire will be held in the various cities and counties about the end of August.

A camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans was organized at Fairfax Court-house Monday with fifty-five members. The following were elected officers: Robert E. Lee, Jr., commander; R. W. Moore, first lieutenant; L. H. Machen, second lieutenant; R. E. Thornton, adjutant; Samuel B. Dallas, sergeant; Moses L. Love, quartermaster; Rev. John Kincaid, chaplain; M. C. Moore, treasurer; Robert Ballard, historian; and Gilbert O. Spindle, color sergeant. Committees were appointed to select a name for the camp and to draft a constitution.

Will Build Another Mill.

Messrs. Klob, Britton and Stearns, owners of the silk mill at Fredericksburg, Va., and also of mills at Saratoga and Carbondale, Pa., are negotiating for a site here on which to erect a large silk mill. They will return the latter part of the month to perfect the arrangements. They propose to erect a plant on a large scale, and will employ only white labor, principally women and girls.—Newport News Letter in Baltimore American.

Gouldman—Welch.

Mr. Homer Welch, of Muskegon, Mich., and Miss Emma J. Gouldman, daughter of Ex-Mayor Gouldman, were married last night at the home of the bride, Rev. J. P. Stump officiating. Owing to the illness of the bride's father, only members of the family and a few intimate friends were present.

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VIRGINIA NEWS.

Radford went west by 151 majority.

Dr. Willie Kees, of Accomac, will locate in Gloucester county.

Yale defeated the University team at Charlottesville by a score of 8 to 7.

Charlottesville has raised over \$400 for the famine-stricken people of India.

The town council of Farmville has increased the town license on bar-rooms to \$500.

A negro man, who assaulted a white woman, narrowly escaped lynching at Keyville.

Rev. M. Britt, has accepted a call to preach at the Presbyterian church, King and Queen county.

Mrs. George W. Davis, of Vernon Mills, Fauquier county, died suddenly, aged 74 years.

Last Saturday Capt. G. H. Willing, of Lancaster, caught a rockfish that weighed 50 pounds.

Bishop Randolph will visit the churches in Northampton county the latter part of April.

The Richmond Passenger and Power Company has filed a consolidated mortgage for \$5,000,000.

Mr. Leland Osby died at his residence, at Brimington, King and Queen county, April 17, aged 88 years.

Miss Margaret A. Reid, of Brentsville, Prince William, died Sunday at Providence Hospital, Washington.

Lieut. Harrison, of Fairfax county, was severely wounded in both arms in an engagement with the Filipinos.

W. J. Walker, a native of Middlesex, after an absence of nineteen years, is visiting relatives near his old home.

Dangerfield Parker was convicted of house-breaking at Fairfax Court-house and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

Mr. Moses D. Nannally, of Richmond city, and Miss Barkis Thrift, of Gloucester county, were married in Washington Monday.

The Petersburg Iron Works Company has been awarded the contract for the castings for the new government printing office in Washington.

During the last four months large shipments of the choice timbers of Alabama have been shipped to England for manufacturing purposes.

Thirty-three acres of land near Ballston, Alexandria county, known as the "Amos" place, were sold Saturday for \$5,000, to Mr. Charles Kinscher.

Governor Tyler and staff have been inducted into the battle of Manila, at Chicago, April 20th and May 1st.

Mr. John R. Matthews, the English evangelist, who has been preaching at a number of Episcopal churches in the State, will sail homeward next week.

Miss Minnie Beach, daughter of Richard Beach, of Fairfax county, was bitten by a dog supposed to be mad and has gone to the Pasteur Institute, Baltimore, for treatment.

Arrangements were completed Monday for rural mail delivery from Warrenton, which will go into effect May 1. R. T. Mott and T. F. Galloway were appointed carriers.

Gov. Tyler has pardoned John Fox, a Confederate veteran, sixty-eight years old, who was sentenced in Scott county for five years for burglary. Fox has become blind since his conviction.

The magnificent summer residence of Mr. W. G. Newman, near Somerset, Orange county, is nearing completion. One hundred and fifty hands are at work this week parking the woodland.

THE TUG OF WAR.

Rains are seriously impeding the British movements.

A general advance by Roberts is regarded as imminent.

The advice throw no light on the recent report of Colonel Baden-Powell's death.

A dispatch says the Boers are relying strongly upon the hope of American intervention.

The Boer prisoners at St. Helena have been sent to Longwood, the famous prison of Napoleon I.

The famous American scout, F. R. Burnham, who was captured by the Boers, has succeeded in escaping, and is now at Bloemfontein.

Three thousand Basuto natives are posted along the western frontier of Beantland, to resist any invasion of their territory by the Boers.

The Boers have abandoned their attack on Wepener and trekked from that vicinity, being evidently afraid of pending British movements.

The delay of General Roberts' advance toward Pretoria is due, it is stated, to the need of adequate supplies of food, winter clothing and horses.

The burghers captured 500 slaughter oxen at Wepener. General Froese on April 15 defeated the British, causing them to fly in the direction of Wolterport.

Lord Roberts cabled to the London War Office from Bloemfontein, Orange Free State, that the British force at Wepener, is still surrounded by Boers. Lord Roberts adds that British troops are now approaching Wepener from two directions.

A lively controversy about the blame for the British defeat at Spion kop is in progress. Lord Roberts blames General Sir Charles Warren for the latter's mismanagement of the movement, and he severely censures Colonel Thorneycroft for abandoning the spot without consulting superior officers. General Buller is criticised for not seeing that his plans were properly carried out. In his own report Buller blames Warren and Warren in turn blames Thorneycroft. It is believed that the startling development will end in Buller's recall or resignation. The making public of a dispute among leading officers, it is said, will tend to demoralize the army.

RHEUMATISM—CATARRH. ARE BLOOD DISEASES—CURED BY B. B.

Bottle Free to Sufferers.

It is the deep-seated, obstinate cases of Catarrh and Rheumatism that B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm) cures. It matters not what other treatments, doctors' sprays, liniments, medicated air, blood purifiers, have failed to do, B. B. always promptly reaches the real cause and roots out and drives from the bones, joints, membrane, and entire system the specific poison in the blood that causes Rheumatism and Catarrh. B. B. is the only remedy strong enough to do this and cure and so there can never be a return to the symptoms. Don't give up hope, but try B. B. (Botanic Blood Balm) or 3 B.

For sale by druggist and K. Nelson Goodrich in Fredericksburg, Va., at \$1 per large bottle (full treatment) \$5. To prove our faith in B. B. we will send a Trial Bottle Free and prepaid to sufferers, so they may test the remedy at our expense. Address: B. B. B. CO., 179 Mitchell Street, Atlanta, Ga.



**FURNITURE.**

The Double Furniture and Carpet Stores are loaded with New Goods. Carload of Solid Oak Furniture. New designs in Chamber Suits. Twelve thousand yards of Matting. Wire Doors and Screens, Ice Cream Freezers, Hammocks, White Wash Brushes, Refrigerators, Baby Carriages and Go Carts. Prices marked on all goods in plain figures.

**E. C. NINDE, Fredericksburg, Va.**



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**E. C. NINDE, Fredericksburg, Va.**

The following are among those who will have charge of the summer normal schools for white teachers this summer: Lexington—Supt. J. Sydney Saville, Lexington, local manager, Prof. Chas. W. Winston, LL. D., Richmond College, conductor and instructor in theory and practice of teaching; Mrs. M. S. Mott, Rockbridge, geography and physiology; Miss Maud W. Hyde, Covington, spelling, reading and nature study; Fairfield, near Richmond—Supt. J. K. Fussell, Henrico county, local manager; Miss Elizabeth V. Faria, Richmond, English literature and physiology; Miss Jennie M. Tabb, spelling, reading and nature study.

Mr. William G. Standard, secretary of the Virginia Historical Society, and Miss Mary Mann Page Newton were married Tuesday at the Church of the Holy Trinity, in Richmond.

Thousands of people witnessed the Easter egg-rolling in Richmond Monday morning. The band of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues was on hand. There were probably ten thousand men, women and children in the Capitol Square when the program started.

Great excitement prevails in the neighborhood of Cowart, Northumberland county, over the fact that Warren Hughes, of that neighborhood, has a well-developed case of small-pox. The authorities have taken the matter in hand and established strict quarantine.

Judge Ewell will recommend as Lancaster's Health Board the reappointment of Drs. W. J. Newbill, F. W. Lewis and H. J. Edmunds, with Clerk William Chilton and Chairman of Sanitary J. W. Chowning.

A Mrs. Spear, of New Jersey, has purchased an old graveyard in Avis, near Lancaster, and has a bill which she will have included with an iron rail. The burying ground is next to Christ Church.

Miss Lena Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Rudasill, and Mr. Wm. J. Story were married last night at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, Woodville, Rappahannock county.

Dr. Hunter McGuire has been taken to his country home, on Brook Road. He stood the trip very well, and was resting quietly yesterday.

Miss Katherine Isabel Maxheimer was married Tuesday in the Baptist church at Washington to William Arthur Thompson.

A new post-office has been established at Lewett, Northumberland county, with Andrew J. Lewis, postmaster.

Candidates' Cards.

FOR MAYOR.

With grateful appreciation for past favors, and many thanks to those citizens who have voluntarily pledged me their support, I respectfully announce myself a candidate for re-election to the Mayoralty, and will be thankful for the votes of my fellow-citizens at the coming election.

A. P. ROWE.

FOR CITY TREASURER.

I hereby announce myself as candidate for re-election to the office of City Treasurer, and hope it may be the pleasure of my friends to support me for the same, and I hereby tender my sincere thanks for past and for future favors for election May 24th, 1900.

ROBERT T. KNOX.

FOR CLERK OF COURT.

I hereby announce myself a candidate for election as Clerk of the Corporation Court of the City of Fredericksburg, which office I have filled for five years. And I most respectfully ask the support of my fellow-citizens at the approaching election.

JAMES P. CORBIN.

FOR CITY SERGEANT.

"Attention, Voters, One and All." Being fully persuaded that I shall be elected to fill the vacancy of City Sergeant at the next election, I hereby desire to return my sincere thanks in advance to my numerous friends and the voters generally for this mark of confidence, and hereby pledge a faithful performance of the duties of said office; and, in consequence of said election, I have decided to offer my entire stock of hardware, farming implements and cutlery, etc., at greatly reduced prices for cash. This is an opportunity for cash-buyers to save money and get bargains in all goods in my line.