THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

WHOLE NUMBER, 11,416. RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1888. THREE CENTS PER COPY.

LATE WEATHER REPORT.

[By telegraph to the Dispatch.]

FAIR

WASHINGTON, February 3—1 *A. M.*—For Virginia, fair weather, slight changes in temperature, light variable winds, shifting to easterly.

For North Carolina, fair weather, followed by light rains in the northern portions, light rains followed by fair weather in the southern, warmer in the eastern portion, stationary temperature in the westerly portion, light to fresh easterly winds.

THE WEATHER IN RICHMOND YESTERDAY was clear and mild.

Range of Thermometer Yesterday:

6 A. M.	24
9 A. M.	36
Noon	45
3 P. M.	49
6 P. M.	43
Midnight	35

Mean temperature 40⅛

FRIGHTENED TO DEATH.

He Swallowed His False Teeth.

A most laughable and yet most serious accident happened to a Mr. Brent, of Boston, last week. Having reached the age of fifty-eight, and having in early youth consumed much candy and used his teeth to crack hickory-nuts and the like, he found it necessary to procure a full set of false teeth. Not being used to them he had much trouble with them. On last Wednesday night he awoke from a dream in which he thought some one was trying to strangle him, and to his horror found his upper teeth, plate and all, missing. A terrible pain and sense of constriction in the chest made clear to his mind where his teeth were—swallowed.

His agony increased momentarily until his nearly-distracted wife was obliged to summon a physician, who ordered his immediate removal to a hospital. There he was given emetics, probangs and extractors forced into his esophagus, and every means known to medical science was used to relieve the agonized patient. Just as all hope was about to be given up a telegram was received from his wife, which read:

"Thank God, John; found teeth under the bed."

Mr. Brent walked home.

There are many diseases of a nervous nature that are purely imaginary, as witness the case of Mr. Brent; but there are thousands of men who would be better off if they gave heed to little warnings that indicate the onset of grave nervous affections. If they did so, and by the use of Scotch Oats Essence stopped these first symptoms of weakening brain, failing heart, or contracting kidney, they might now be happy and healthy. Some men have too much imagination, some too little. He who uses Scotch Oats Essence is surely on the safe side and can make no mistake. fe 3-1t

NEW GOODS!

An elegant assortment of

FRENCH AND AMERICAN SATINES.

GINGHAMS

of the latest styles.

Henrietta Cloths

in all of the new colors.

CASHMERES IN ALL QUALITIES AND COLORS.

BROADCLOTHS,

for ladies' dresses, in all of the fashionable shades.

SURAHS, FAILLE FRANCAISE,

RHADAMAS,

RHADZIMIRS.

Call early and make your selections. We will show you the best assortment of the above goods that has ever been shown in this city.

fe 1 LEVY & DAVIS.

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE.

RICHMOND, VA., February 2, 1888.

TO THE VOTERS OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND.

I respectfully announce myself a candidate for CLERK OF THE CHANCERY COURT OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND at the Democratic Primary Election, whenever held, and solicit your votes. I have never contemplated a combination with any gentleman aspiring to said position, nor do I intend to form any combination. Should it be the pleasure of my fellow-citizens to honor me with the position I seek, I shall appreciate the same as a very high compliment.

Respectfully,

fe 3-1t CHARLES W. GODDIN.

NOTICE.—AS PETITIONS ARE being circulated calling out a candidate for the office of Treasurer of the city, I hereby announce to my friends and the public generally that I WILL BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER, and solicit their support. Respectfully,

fe 3-1w SAMUEL C. GREENHOW.

BOOKS, STATIONERY, &c.

BOOKS.

CHEAPEST BOOKSTORE IN THE WORLD, 825 EAST BROAD STREET.

IF YOU WANT A FINE BOOK, A FINE SET OF BOOKS, FOR ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE REGULAR PRICE, GO TO THE CHEAPEST BOOKSTORE IN THE WORLD.

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ja 22 911 Main street.

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

PARR'S FREE PASSES.

INVESTIGATION BEGUN BY THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE.

What Accused Says in His Own Behalf—No Action Taken—Examination Continued.

The special committee of the House, composed of Messrs. Starke (chairman), Huffman, and Watkins (Democrats), and Roane and Bristow (Republicans), appointed to investigate the alleged abuse of free railroad passes by Mr. Parr, a member of the House, met yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock and remained in session two hours.

This is the case arising from the use of two railroad passes of the Richmond and Danville railroad belonging to members of the House which were borrowed by Mr. Parr and lent by him to private individuals to go from Danville to Washington and return.

MR. PARR.

Mr. Parr was the first witness sworn and examined. He said: "I wanted to go to Washington and take two friends with me. We frequently apply to the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House to procure our passes for us, but knowing that he would have to send to Washington I borrowed the passes of Messrs. Dickey and Spencer, two members of the House. I had a pass of my own and the passes I borrowed were for two friends. I admit that it was a little indiscreet. We three went to Washington. They registered in their own names—J. A. Gilbert and John Howell. The conductor did not ask them their names that I know of. After staying in Washington we took the train for Danville again, using the same tickets. The next morning after we got there we took breakfast, and about 9 o'clock one of the gentlemen came to me and said that the conductor claimed that the names on the tickets did not correspond with the names on the hotel register and they seemed to be travelling on legislators' passes without being members of the Legislature. After that, while I was writing a letter, one of them came to me again and spoke as if the conductor had asked them for the tickets and they had given them to him. We stayed in the city until about 10:30 o'clock, when I left for Richmond and my friends went home.

"The statement that the gentlemen with me were mountain 'hoosiers' is false. They were as well dressed and looked as nice as any gentleman here. Before I left the National Hotel in Danville I paid the bill."

Mr. Watkins: "Did your friends afterwards pay their fares to the conductor?"

Witness: "Not that I know of. I hope whatever you report, gentlemen, that you will exonerate Mr. Dicky and Mr. Spencer (from whom the two passes were borrowed). I am willing to shoulder all the blame."

WANT THE TICKET.

Mr. Starke: "Have you your ticket with you?"

Witness: "Not now. It is over at my room."

Mr. Starke: "Was the ticket given you at your request?"

Witness: "It was not. It was given me voluntarily. I have tickets also from the Shenandoah Valley and Norfolk and Western and other roads. Some of them I asked for. The tickets I borrowed were like mine, except that the name was different."

WORDING OF THE TICKET.

As a disposition was shown to introduce the ticket in evidence several members produced their tickets. The following is the wording:

RICHMOND AND DANVILLE RAILROAD COMPANY.

Pass.....

Between Stations and Stations
Over All Roads Within the State of Virginia
During Session 1887-'88 of Virginia Legislature,
Unless Otherwise Ordered.

R. R. THOMAS,
General Manager.

No. —.

The reverse side contains this note:

The person accepting and using this pass assumes all risks of accident, and expressly agrees that the company is not liable under any circumstances for any injury to the person or for the loss or damage to the baggage of the person using it.

If presented by any other person than the individual named thereon the conductor will take up this ticket and collect fare.

POINTED QUESTIONS.

Mr. Starke: "Were your friends members of the Legislature?"

Witness: "No, sir."

Mr. Starke: "Did you explain to Messrs. Dickey and Spencer the use you wanted to make of their tickets?"

Witness: "I think I did. I know I told Mr. Dickey."

Mr. Starke: "Have you been in the habit of loaning out your ticket?"

Witness: "No. I've never been asked to."

Mr. Starke: "Do you know of any other instances of members lending out their tickets to private individuals?"

Witness: "I do not, and I would not state them if I did.'

THE CUSTOM.

Mr. Starke: "Permit me to call your attention to the statement you made in the House yesterday that it was a common thing for members to lend out their passes; that's why I ask you these questions."

Witness: "I have been informed that it has been the custom in past legislatures. I have no doubt that I could prove my statement, but I would go to the penitentiary before I would do it. I know of no instance in the present Legislature."

WANTS AUTHORITY.

Mr. Starke: "Were you so informed by a member of the House or an outsider?"

Witness: "I was told by a member of this House that a man told him he had travelled on the pass of a member of the last Legislature."

Mr. Starke: "The inquiry is directed to the present Legislature. Do you object to giving his name?"

Witness: "I do."

WHAT HARM?

Mr. Starke: "What possible harm would result in giving the name of a member of a former Legislature who had lent his pass?"

Witness: "Only in the way that I am injured."

Mr. Watkins: "Could you have gotten free passes for your friends from the railroad company?"

Witness: "I think I could. I don't know positively."

MR. SPENCER.

Mr. R. H. Spencer, one of the members of the House who lent his pass to Mr. Parr, was the next witness.

Mr. Starke: "State what you know about the loan of free passes by members of the House."

Witness: "About a week or ten days ago—on a Friday, I remember—just before the House adjourned, Mr. Parr came to me and asked me if I had a pass over the Richmond and Danville railroad. I said 'Yes.' He said he wanted to go home and he wished I would lend it to him. I did so. That's all I know about it."

Mr. Starke: "State if this is the only time you ever lent your free railroad pass?"

Witness: "This is the only time I ever had one; I never lent it before."

Mr. Starke: "Do you know of any other member having lent his free pass?"

Witness: "Not of my own knowledge."

The committee here adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

Mr. Dickey and other witnesses will be examined at the next meeting.

LETTERS ABOUT FUNDING.

Correspondence Between Colonel Ruffin and Senator Koiner.

Hon. Absalom Koiner, chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate, yesterday addressed the following letter to Colonel Frank G. Ruffin, Second Auditor:

"Will you please give me the amount and class of securities that have been funded since the rendering of the decree in *ex parte* Ayers and others—the coupon-crusher cases—and state, if you can, the cause or causes of any falling off in funding that may have occurred in the month of January?"

Colonel Ruffin in reply has written the following, which will be read before the Senate to-day when Mr. Koiner's resolution limiting the time for funding comes up for action:

"In reply I beg leave to state that the decree of the Supreme Court of the United States in *ex parte* Ayers and others—the cases referred to—was rendered December 5, 1887, and from that date to the 31st December inclusive there were funded $794,640.03. In the month of January, 1888, there were funded $20,180.

"The comparative excess of funding in December is, in my judgment, due to several causes.

"1. Under the Wickham amendment any bondholder failing to fund his bonds before the 1st day of January, 1885, forfeited all interest maturing after that date up to the semi-annual period preceding the date of funding; and the comparatively large amount funded in all the month of December was mainly caused by the wish of the funding bondholders to save the January (1888) coupons, which would have been forfeited under that law. That forfeiture is now incurred as to all bonds not funded at that date; and as another such forfeiture cannot be incurred until June 30, 1888, that inducement will not operate until next June.

"2. The present slackness may also be due to the fact that on several occasions the press of this city has given out that if the bonds are offered in very large blocks the Legislature will give better terms of settlement than are offered by the Riddleberger bill and amendments, and the bondholders may be waiting to see if the Legislature will hold out to them the same hope.

"The following detailed statement of funding for the months of December, 1887, and January, 1888, is herewith submitted:

"Funded, December 5 to December 31, 1887—Consol-coupon bonds, $3,200; 10-40 coupon-bonds, $447,300; consol-coupons, January, 1883, to January, 1885, at 50 per cent., $303,609; consol-coupons, July, 1882, and prior, at 100 per cent., $1,979; 10-40 coupons, January, 1883, to January, 1885, at 100 per cent., $14,634; 10-40 coupons, July, 1882, and prior, at 100 per cent., $6,849.

"Funded, January 1 to February 1, 1888—Consol-coupon bonds, $2,000; 10-40 coupon-bonds, $14,500; consol-coupons, January, 1883, to January, 1885, at 50 per cent., $3,867; consol-coupons, July, 1882, and prior, at 100 per cent., $477; 10-40 coupons, January, 1883, to January, 1885, at 100 per cent., $937.50; 10-40 coupons, July, 1882, and prior, at 100 per cent., $262.50.

"From this it appears that so far the holders of consol-coupon bonds have declined to fund. In fact all of the $5,200 consol-coupon bonds except $200 have been funded by native holders."

THE FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

Expectation that the Bill Would Be Introduced Yesterday.

For a month or more the city delegation in the General Assembly have had under consideration a bill to establish a board of commissioners to have control of the Richmond Fire Department just as the Board of Police Commissioners have charge of the police force here.

In the course of the inquiry made many questions had to be settled, but the greatest of these was "*Who shall appoint the commissioners?*"

There were four propositions:

1. That the commissioners should be named in the bill.

2. That they should be elected by the City Council.

3. That they should be nominated by the Board of Public Interests and elected by the City Council.

4. That they should be elected by the Board of Public Interests.

For numerous reasons it was thought that the fourth plan was the best, so far as the election of the first board is concerned. And so a majority of the delegation determined. But as the terms of the members of the first board expire the vacancies will be filled by nominations to the City Council by the Board of Public Interests.

Certainly four, posibly five, of the members of the city delegation are in favor of this bill; but it has not been introduced simply because it is desirable, if possible, to have the delegation unanimous in its support.

It was expected that under these happy conditions the bill would be introduced in the House yesterday, but the desired unanimity could not be obtained.

The days of the session are now rapidly gliding away, and if the bill is to be presented at all, very little more delay can be made.

Our delegates must make up their minds promptly and either urge the bill forward or abandon it altogether.

The following is a list of the members of the Board of Public Interests:

John S. Bethel, chairman.

Common Councilmen Pizzini, Cutchins, and Griffith.

Aldermen Hargrove and Crump.

Private citizens William H. Pleasants, A. R. Courtney, T. H. Ellet, E. O. Nolting, and John B. Purcell.

BOARD OF PUBLIC INTERESTS.

Senator Lovenstein introduced in the body of which he is a member a bill to amend the charter of the city of Richmond by adding additional sections to chapter 4, concerning city officers, so as to provide for the appointment of a Board of Public Interests.

The charter provides that the Council shall appoint certain committees, but makes no mention of the Board of Public Interests, and that committee is now appointed by ordinance. The object of this amendment is simply to place the appointment of this board on the same footing as other Council committees whose appointment is provided for in the city charter.

The bill was referred to the Committee on County, City, and Town Organizations.

The Virginia Underground Electrical Conduit Company.

Mr. Ellyson introduced in the Senate yesterday a bill to incorporate the Virginia Underground Electrical Conduit Company. The corporators named in the bill are Andrew Pizzini, Jr., John P. Branch, William S. Gunn, A. L. Wilkinson, George A. Burt, and Sol. Cutchins.

It is proposed that the company shall have power and authority to manufacture, construct, maintain and operate, purchase, sell, or lease underground conduits for telegraph and telephone wires and electrical conductors of all kinds and descriptions. The capital stock shall not be less than $10,000 nor more than $200,000.

THE PENITENTIARY.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE SUBJECT.

Attorney-General Ayers is of Opinion that the State is Not Bound to Rebuild the Shoe-Shop.

Governor Lee yesterday sent to the two houses of the General Assembly the message following and it was referred to the committees of the two houses which are now sitting jointly to investigate the cause of the fire Tuesday morning, and all matters in relation thereto:

"I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from the Board of Directors of the Virginia penitentiary in reference to the recent loss of that portion of the building occupied by Mr. Joseph Davis for shoe-shops under a contract with the State.

"For your information it may be proper to add that the existing contract between the State of Virginia and Mr. Davis was made by and with the advice and consent of the Hon. William E. Cameron, then Governor of the State, on the 28th day of July, 1885, or about five months before I entered upon the discharge of the duties of this office.

"A former contract by this agreement was extended for a period of five years after the expiration of its term—namely, from and after the 1st day of May, 1887, and was thus continued until the 1st day of May, 1892.

"In April, 1886, in response to my request, the Attorney-General gave me a written opinion that this contract had been legally executed pursuant to authority conferred by the Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia and was obligatory upon the State.

"In reconsidering the terms of the contract on the part of the State with Mr. Davis since the destruction of the buildings assigned to him for his shops, I have thought proper to ask the Attorney-General for his opinion as to the present obligation of the State under the contract with Mr. Davis to provide another building in which his former work could be renewed. I submit herewith his response to that subject."

The communication of the board has been published, in substance, in these columns.

It officially informs the Governor of the fire, roughly estimates the loss to the State at $20,000, and says that the Davis Shoe Company asks that the shoe-shop be at once rebuilt so that they may resume work in accordance with their contract with Governor Cameron, &c.

THE OPINION OF MR. AYERS.

The opinion of the Attorney-General is as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, February 2, 1888.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your request for my opinion in writing as to whether there is any legal obligation resting upon the State under the terms of the contracts made with the Superintendent of the Penitentiary by Joseph Davis, dated respectively the 7th day of April, 1880, and the 28th day of July, 1885, to rebuild the shoe-shops recently destroyed by fire at the penitentiary.

The contract of July 28, 1885, is a renewal of the contract of April 7, 1880, and refers to and adopts the terms of that contract, with some additional provisions and conditions.

The terms of the contract of the 7th of April, 1880, so far as they are material to this inquiry, are as follows:

"And the said party of the first part is also to furnish to the party of the second part, free of rent, whatever buildings may be required for the contemplated manufacture, except that it is understood that he is not bound to have any new buildings erected for this purpose, and also understood and agreed that if the buildings at any time in use by the said party of the second part should be destroyed by fire or other causes said party of the second part shall not be bound to pay for the labor of any of the said convicts who may be thus thrown out of employment until new or suitable buildings shall be placed at his disposal."

The contract of the 28th day of July, 1885, has this additional provision in regard to the buildings—viz.:

"Said Davis agrees to hire and employ, at the same rate, one hundred and fifty additional male convicts, making five hundred in all, whenever the party of the first part will provide suitable and ample buildings or rooms for working them, and as many female convicts additional, also at the same rate he is now paying for them, as the party of the first part will furnish and provide proper working-rooms for."

The contract of July, 1885, further recites that "all convicts furnished and employed hereunder are to be furnished and employed upon the terms and provisions of said Davis contract of April 7, 1880, except so far as herein modified."

The contracts contain many other provisions and conditions not material to be considered in this connection.

After giving the fullest consideration possible in the limited time I have had within which to examine the contracts I am of the opinion that there is no legal obligation resting upon the State to rebuild the shoe-shops occupied by Davis under the contracts recited. An express provision of the first contract exempted the State from any obligation to erect new buildings and to provide for the contingency which might arise from a destruction of the buildings by fire or other cause. It was agreed that in such an event Davis should not be bound to pay for the labor of any of the convicts who might be thus thrown out of employment until new or suitable buildings should be placed at his disposal.

I am of opinion, therefore, that it is optional with the State whether or not she will rebuild the shops, and in the mean time Davis is exempted from any obligation to pay hire for any convicts thrown out of employment on account of the destruction of the shops by fire.

Very respectfully, R. A. AYERS,
Attorney-General.

His Excellency Fitzhugh Lee, Esq., Governor of Virginia.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Senate and House Committees on Public Institutions met at the St. Claire Hotel yesterday afternoon and took omnibuses and proceeded to the penitentiary, where they viewed the ruins of the shoe-shop. They then went into the Superintendent's office and heard, in an informal way, statements made by Superintendent Moses and Mr. Reese as to the fire.

Mr. Moses was in bed but awoke when the cry of fire was heard and, seeing that it was on the penitentiary premises, ran down stairs and turned in the alarm.

The Messrs. Reese, father and son, were employed on night duty in the burned building—the elder as fire-searcher; the latter as a maker of fires. The elder Mr. Reese examined yesterday said that he was down-stairs when he discovered the flames, and that as soon as possible he gave the alarm and applied the hose. He said there certainly was an explosion.

Nothing that the committee elicited yesterday evening solved the mystery. Nor did they expect much. They, however, appointed a sub-committee consisting of Delegates Echols, H. L. Carter, and Dupuy, and Senators Gordon and Barnes, who will prosecute the inquiry with system and diligence.

Mr. Joseph Davis, of the Davis Shoe Company, appeared before the committee and preferred the request that the State rebuild the shoe-shop as soon as practicable, in order that he may resume work. He considers that that is the spirit of the contract.

Mr. Davis gave the committee a vast amount of information as to how shoes are nowadays manufactured in prisons and elsewhere.

Mr. Davis's opinion as to the cause of the fire was that it was due to carelessness.

In the course of the committee's proceedings Mr. Moses was asked as to his opinion of the practicability of removing the penitentiary from Richmond. He said that the cost would be very great—probably in the neighborhood of $500,000.

The sub-committee will probably meet to-day at an hour to be fixed by the chairman.

The committee has the name of a Mr. Smith, an employee in a collar-factory here, who will, it is expected, testify that he saw the flames many minutes before any alarm was sounded.

The proprietor of a store at the corner of Byrd and First streets is also quoted as saying that he saw the flames a long time before the alarm was given.

SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS.

A Number of Opinions Rendered by It Yesterday.

In the Supreme Court of Appeals yesterday, all the judges being present, Judge Hinton delivered the opinion in the case of McCoull against the city of Manchester, affirming the judgment of the lower court.

Mr. McCoull while riding down Hull street, in Manchester, one night rode into a pile of sand left in the street by builders and his mare fell and broke her neck and Mr. McCoull himself was somewhat injured. He sued the city for damages, and failing to get them appealed. The Court of Appeals held that plaintiff's declaration was defective in that it did not charge negligence on the part of the city.

In the course of its opinion the Court says:

"Every obstruction of a public highway is not necessarily unlawful. Highways may often be lawfully obstructed when there is a manifest necessity therefor, as the authorities all show. But this does not relieve the corporation of its duty to supervise and see that the obstruction is so guarded that the public shall not receive injury therefrom. The city had the right to pass the ordinance authorizing the obstruction in this case. It was a legislative or discretionary exercise of power which it had the undoubted right to make."

Randolph against Longdale Iron Company. From the Circuit Court of the county of Rockbridge. Affirmed, Judge Fauntleroy delivering the opinion; Judge Richardson dissenting; Judge Lewis not sitting.

This was a question of title to land and of priority to land-grants for "wild land," and was quite a valuable contribution to the history of Rockbridge county and the way surveying was done in the days of Alexander Campbell, Edward McLaughlin, and Mr. Lusk. There was also a question of the variation of the magnetic-needle, the differences in compasses, &c.

The view of the lower court as to the lines in question was sustained.

Board of Supervisors of Frederick county against city of Winchester. From the Circuit Court of Federick county. Reversed, Judge Hinton delivering the opinion.

This also was a historical as well as legal contribution. It was a dispute between the county of Frederick and city of Winchester as to the right to exercise authority over certain lots in Frederick which were a part of the estate of Lord Fairfax and were dedicated to public use in 1743 before Washington had built his fort in that vicinity.

Since 1801 the county and city have had joint use of these lots, upon which were located the county court-house, jail, market, horse-trough, rack, &c. Lately the city has undertaken to exercise jurisdiction over a part of this ground without the consent of the county authorities, and the judgment of the Supreme Court is adverse to their right so to do.

Wambersie against the Orange Humane Society. From the Circuit Court of the county of Orange. Reversed, Judge Lacy delivering the opinion; Judge Lewis dissenting.

Shumate against Board of Supervisors of Fauquier county. Upon a petition for a mandamus. Rule *nisi* awarded, returnable 21st February, 1888.

Bowen against Flanagan; Perkins against Jones. Petitions for rehearing denied.

Gresham against Ewell, judge. Argued by Judge J. B. Sener for plaintiff and B. Ran. Wellford for defendant.

STATIONARY ENGINEERS.

Richmond Branch of the National Association Express Their Views.

Hon. John A. Curtis, one of the Richmond members of the House of Delegates, has received the following:

RICHMOND, VA., Jan. 27, 1888.

Dear Sir: At a regular meeting of Richmond Branch, No. 1, of the National Association of Stationary Engineers, held on the above date, I was directed to inform you that the association did by a rising vote extend to you a vote of thanks for the manly position you have taken in calling the attention of the General Assembly to the importance of placing competent and licensed men in position as engineers, not only at the Capitol of our State when the Legislature is in session but when it is not in session. Incompetency might cause the building and papers, &c., in it to be destroyed with a great loss to the State. And we would further ask your assistance in calling the attention of the Assembly to the importance of having competent and licensed men in the large manufactories of this State, where there are thousands and thousands of people at work and are unaware at what moment they may be hurled into eternity.

Yours fraternally,

R. R. RODGERS, Secretary,
512 north Twenty-Eighth street, city.

The Late Ex-Judge Anderson.

A largely-attended meeting of the bench and bar was held in the Supreme-Court room yesterday morning to take action expressive of sorrow at the death of the Hon. Francis T. Anderson, of Rockbridge, who was for twelve years a member of the Supreme Court of Appeals, and who died a few weeks ago at his home near Lexington. The meeting was called to order by the Hon. Joseph Christian, and on his motion the Hon. Lunsford L. Lewis, president of the Supreme Court, was called to the chair. On motion a committee of nine was appointed, with Hon. George L. Christian as chairman, to prepare resolutions. These were subsequently reported, and speeches in favor of their adoption were made by Messrs. William Wirt Henry, James Lyons, Jr., W. W. Crump, and J. H. H. Figgat, and the resolutions were then adopted.

All these gentlemen spoke with eloquence and earnestness of Judge Anderson as a pure and good man, an humble and trustful Christian, and a judge fair-minded, clear-headed, and able.

The Hon. Joseph Christian was appointed to ask the Supreme Court to spread the proceedings of the meeting on its records at Richmond, Wytheville, and Staunton.

MANCHESTER'S NEWS-BUDGET.

Water-Works—Talk of a Christian Church—Briefs and Personals.

The Manchester Council at a regular meeting held on the night of January 13th adopted a preamble and resolution authorizing the joint Committees on Finance and Water to contract with such party or parties with whom the best terms could be made for the establishment of a water system for this city, and allowing the committee, if necessary, to employ the aid of an expert in such matters. There has already been grumbling on the part of some because the committee have not before now awarded the contract. These gentlemen, however, have the best interests of the city at heart and are proceeding cautiously. The services of a gentleman thoroughly acquainted with such matters have been secured, and the subject is receiving the most careful attention both at his hands and at the hands of the committee. The undertaking is a large one and involves in a great measure the city's future as well as present good. There are several propositions before the committee, and it is quite certain that if either one of them is adopted it will be the best one; if a suitable one cannot be gotten from among these, then the committee will look further. It appears that they are proceeding wisely, and there is no doubt that in the near future Manchester will have greatly-improved water facilities, and upon moderate terms.

There is some talk of a Christian church being established in this city. There are a large number of members of this denomination resident here, but they have no house of worship, and consequently have either to go to Richmond or attend divine services at some other church. There are in Manchester and Swansboro' three Methodist, three Baptist (including a colored one), one Presbyterian, and two Episcopal (one colored) churches. They are doing great good, and there is room for more.

The temperance meeting held at the Presbyterian church Wednesday night was largely attended, and eleven names were secured for Star of Hope Lodge, under whose auspices the meeting was held. These will be initiated next Tuesday night. Colonel J. R. Miller and Captain W. C. Dutton both made fine addresses. They were introduced by Mr. R. C. Traylor, district lecturer.

A full-dress german will be given at Cersley's Hall to-night by the Manchester German Club. It is expected that there will be about twenty couples. Mr. Ryland C. Williams will lead the dance.

The Manchester Minstrels gave an entertainment at Cersley's Hall last night for the benefit of the Alert Fire Company. The programme was varied and contained many amusing features.

Mr. Frank E. Marks passed through the city day before yesterday *en route* for Petersburg. He was returning from Washington, where he went to attend the funeral of his brother William.

THE SENATORIAL CONTEST.

Mr. Houston Files His Answer and Asks the Senate to Dismiss the Case.

Mr. D. F. Houston, of Roanoke, the Republican member of the Senate from the Fourth district, whose position Mr. William M. Ellis is now contesting, was in his seat yesterday for the first time for some days.

He was busily engaged during the morning preparing a memorial, which was presented at a later hour by Mr. Gee, asking that the Senate dismiss from the consideration of the Committee on Privileges and Elections certain matters in the contested-election case of Ellis *vs.* Houston. The paper was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

The chief ground upon which Mr. Houston asks that the case be dismissed is that Ellis failed to comply with the statutory provision requiring a contestant to make oath to the statements contained in his notice of contest and specifications. Mr. Houston's answer and specifications to Ellis's paper was also filed with the clerk of the committee yesterday.

The committee will meet this morning at 10 o'clock to consider the case.

The primary questions to be looked into are whether Houston's memorial sets forth sufficient ground to warrant them in recommending that the case be dismissed, and whether Ellis shall be allowed further time in which to get up a rejoinder to Houston's answer.

A sub-committee has been appointed to take the testimony, and as soon as these preliminaries are settled this committee, should the investigation proceed, will go to Roanoke to take testimony.

A DECIDEDLY NEW MOVE.

The Mozart Governors to Take Control of the Academy.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Mozart Association held last night it was unanimously determined that the association take possession of the Mozart Academy of Music and hereafter run the same under the management of the Board of Governors, allowing only first-class entertainments to be given therein, and to this end the board is taking active steps to secure the best combinations possible for this and future seasons.

The regular *musicales* will hereafter be given semi-monthly, beginning Thursday, 16th instant, with the Weber male quartette (vocal) of Boston aided by a fine soprano and orchestra.

Mr. James Lyons has been elected a member of the Board of Governors *vice* Mr. C. O'B. Cowardin, resigned.

FIVE-CENT FARE.

The Electric Line Begins Operations.

The electric line began running its cars for the convenience of the public yesterday morning, and all day long they were most liberally patronized.

For the present trips will only be made westward as far as Clay and Hancock streets, but the entire eastern portion of the road will be operated.

A great many people are afraid to ride, but this feeling will soon wear off.

More cars will be put on the line as rapidly as they are fitted up.

State Pension Law.

The House Finence Committee yesterday reported, with some few amendments, the bill of Mr. William A. Anderson, of Rockbridge, proposing to provide a system of pensions for our disabled soldiers and widows of soldiers killed in service and now remaining unmarried.

The bill was recently published in this paper in full.

It is proposed to appropriate for this purpose for the first year $75,000.

This bill is in pursuance of a pledge of the Roanoke platform.

B. F. Bland and Marvin Jones.

The Senate bill providing additional compensation to these gentlemen for services rendered the Commonwealth reported passed by the House yesterday was defeated. It received a majority of all the votes cast, but required 51.

This is the second time this session that it has met this fate in the House, and no new reconsideration is in order.

The National Opera Company at the Academy.

The first appearance in Richmond of the National Opera Company will be at the Academy Monday the 13th. The engagement lasts three nights. The *repertoire* is arranged so as to allow all the principal singers to be heard, and the operas will tax the entire strength of the organization. "Faust," the opera of the opening night, has never before been heard here on such a scale of magnificence. The great scenes are all to be presented, it is promised, in the most elaborate manner. In this work will appear several of the strongest singers with the company; also, the entire chorus of seventy-five and the ballet of forty, and the National opera orchestra of fifty instrumentalists.

The other works in the *repertoire* (Lohengrin and the Huguenots) have been selected with a view to making as great a contrast as possible and present the strongest and most interesting productions of several of the great master-writers of grand opera.

As the sale of tickets for the three performances will commence at Ramos & Co.'s Monday morning, it will be well for those intending to enjoy all of the operas to be early in line, as indications point to a large season-ticket sale.

The single night ticket sale begins at the Academy box-office on Thursday morning, February 9th.

Revenue from Oysters.

The House Committee on the Chesapeake and its Tributaries met yesterday morning and had under consideration the bill introduced by Mr. Curtis, of Richmond, looking to the enlargement of the oyster revenue. Captain Seth Foster, commander of the steamer Chesapeake, of the oyster navy, appeared before the committee and expressed himself in favor of the dredgers having more ground. If this were done he believed more revenue would be obtained to support the oyster navy. He proposed special dredging grounds for two or three years, and said that the dredgers now have nowhere to work in the Chesapeake bay after they come out of the Potomac; hence he submitted the views above set forth.

The bill was reported to the House favorably.

The Police Justice.

Mr. Curtis yesterday asked that the bill in reference to a Police Court for the city of Richmond be referred back to the committee, as there was a great deal of opposition to it, and he desired to give the opponents of the measure an opportunity to appear and be heard on this question.

The bill was recommitted.

The Fulton Democratic Club—Mr. E. M. Boscher president—held its weekly meeting last night. Routine business was transacted, and a resolution was unanimously adopted protesting against the passage of the bill of Mr. Curtis.

Southside Independent Club.

Last night there was a new club organized by the workingmen of Oregon Hill under the name of the Soutaside Independent Club. The following officers were elected: James Creamer, president; William Bowers, vice-president; James T. King, secretary; and Charles Barfoot, sergeant-at-arms. This club commences with eighty members and under most favorable auspices. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Meade Haskins, a candidate for the office of Commonwealth's Attorney for the city.

A Byrd-Island Reservoir.

At the next meeting of the Council a resolution will be presented recommending that $300 be appropriated to establish a reservoir between Ninth and Tenth streets and Byrd street and the basin. This reservoir is to be made out of the old gauge-lock, and is to be used in cases of fire.

A petition in support of this move will be presented to the Council signed by citizens and merchants in this neighborhood who represent some $3,000,000 worth of property.

Southern Telegraph Company.

A deed was recorded in the clerk's office of the Henrico County Court yesterday from Messrs. Turner and Boulware, special commissioners appointed under a decree of the United States Circuit Court, conveying to the New York and Southern Telegraph Company the property, rights, and franchises of the Southern Telegraph Company, which was sold by auction some months ago.

Personals and Briefs.

Yesterday, February 2d, was groundhog's day.

Alderman Joseph C. Dickerson was out yesterday for the first time since his recent sickness.

Sergeant George H. Matthews, of the city police force, First district, has returned from a visit to Washington.

Mr. N. W. Bowe has been elected vice-president of the Virginia State Insurance Company *vice* Edward Cohen, deceased.

A colored man named John Watkins was before the Police Court yesterday morning charged with abduction. The case was continued until this morning.

The annual meeting of the Young Men's Missionary Society of the Seventh-Street Christian church will be held next Sunday night, and will be addressed by Rev. Mr. Spencer.

On Wednesday the 8th instant, at 8 P. M., at Christ church, Macon, Ga., Miss Augusta Lamar Bacon and Mr. Manly B. Curry will be married. The groom-elect, who formerly lived here, is now a resident of St. Paul, Minn., and is the son of Hon. J. L. M. Curry.

Married in 1840; Remarried in 1888.

An Eagle River (Mich.) telegram of the 1st says: A strange wedding has taken place here. Colonel William B. Wright, an old settler and well-known hotel-man, was married again to the wife he married forty-eight years ago. He is the recipient of a large pension from the United States Government, and, knowing how difficult it would be for his wife, in case of his death, to draw his pension without a marriage-certificate, had a new ceremony performed. The Colonel and Mrs. Wright were married at Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., in November, 1840, but while moving from Eagle River many years ago the marriage certificate was lost.

High License in St. Paul.

A St. Paul (Minn.) special says: To-day was the last chance afforded for the saloon-keepers to take out their licenses under the high-license law, and all day City Clerk Prendergast and his assistants have been busily engaged in making out licenses. At the time of closing the office 270 licenses had been issued, while 285 bonds have been filed. The city clerk calculates that by to-morrow 275 licenses will have been paid up. A number of saloon-men who have applied for licenses and others who have gone so far as to file bonds will not put up their $1,000, preferring to wait until they can see the effect of the high-license law or until new and more advantageous business points can be secured. Of course, there is nothing to prevent a saloon-man from applying for a license at any time. The effect of the enforcement of the law has not been to close out as many of the smaller suburban places as was expected. The great cry against the high-license legislation has been that it would drive all out of the liquor business but the largest places, and throw the traffic into the hands of the few wealthy saloon-men at the expense of the many. Already it is to be observed that this will not be the case. The officers will promptly proceed against those saloon-men who attempt to do business without at once depositing the $1,000, and they declare that no time will be given and no favors shown. An impression prevails among the saloon-men that they will be allowed until February 10th to raise the money. It is understood, however, that no time will be given. The city clerk and the license-inspector are of the opinion that before long the number of saloons will be increased to 325.

ASHLAND NEWS.

**A Child Burned—The College—What the People Are Do