

Virginia Free Press

BY GALLAHER & CO.

THURSDAY MORNING.

MAY 1, 1858.

WINCHESTER.

The past week was one of great interest and excitement in Winchester. On Wednesday, the 33rd annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church commenced. Bishops Meade and Jones were in attendance, together with a large number of ministers and lay delegates. The number of visitors drawn there was perhaps the largest of any former occasion—they seemed to us, will be very tasty. The company has adopted the light infantry drill—Martinsburg Rep.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company held its 1st Annual Meeting in the large and beautiful Methodist Episcopal Church. Not less than 15 or 1800 persons were assembled—and we must say that we never witnessed such a congregation—composed of almost every denomination of Christians as well as sinners. DAVID HOLMES CONRAD, Esq., conducted the meeting. Addresses and Prayers were made by a number of the Rev. gentlemen present. The Rev. Mr. Atkins, of Philadelphia, made a thrilling eloquent address, and gave a glowing account of the progress and good results of the Union Prayer Meeting in Philadelphia. He very feelingly and beautifully alluded to the last moments of the Rev. Dr. Tracy, and brought tears to the eyes of many who have hitherto been unmoved at the recital of a Christian's death. Mr. A. is one of the finest speakers we have ever heard. His enunciation is clear and distinct—and he is an orator of the first class.

He was followed by Bishop Jours, in a most powerful and telling appeal to the congregated multitude. His remarks were most happy and affecting.

The whole congregation seemed to join enthusiastically in the singing, and render up the occasion one of deep interest.

On Sabbath afternoon the Methodist Church was again occupied by a similar meeting. The house was filled to overflow, (about 2000 persons,) and several hundred persons had to repair to the basement, where exercises were also held. PHILIP WILLIAMS, Esq., conducted above, and D. H. CONRAD, Esq., below. Eloquent addresses and prayers were made and much good is anticipated. When worldly people see the different denominations of professors mingling together in one common cause, it will do much to inspire greater confidence in profession.

On Sunday morning a large number were confirmed by Bishop Meade.

On Saturday, the "Continental Morgan" parades. Also, the Red Men, to pay respects to a deceased brother.

The town of Winchester needed something to revive its drooping appearance; and we trust the late gathering will have the effect of giving new life to the place.

CIRCUIT COURT.

On Thursday last the Spring Term of the Circuit Court commenced, Judge PARKER presiding. Solomon Hafflester, charged with stealing two horses was acquitted in both cases. Counsel for Commonwealth, C. B. Harding and Robt. Y. Conrad, Esq. For the defense Andrew Hunter, Daul. B. Lucas and Andrew E. Kenney, Esq.

BANK PRESIDENT.

Capt John Moller was on Friday last re-elected President of the Valley Bank in Charlestown, by the new Board of Directors.

The Board is composed of the following gentlemen—John Moller, President; Thos. Hetherford, John W. McCurdy, Nathan S. White, Braxton Davenport, T. P. Pendleton, and Wells J. Hawks.

WAGER HOUSE.

This excellent Hotel has now a fine run of custom, and the fare is unsurpassed by any eating house on the side of Rail Road. All the early, vegetables, as well as fish, flesh, and fowl, are to be seen upon the table, together with every imaginable dessert—Passengers by the Winchester Rail Road have time to breakfast at the Wager House.

THAIERS.

We are indebted to W. J. Hawks, Esq., for copies of "Sketches of the acts and joint Resolutions passed by the General Assembly of Virginia, 1857—58."

We will hereafter make such extracts as have a bearing to the county and district.

Advertisers are reminded that all advertisements upon which the number of insertions is not marked, will be continued unless ordered out, and charged for according to the rate.

LAWYER CALP.

Mr Ephraim Woods, near this place, in the New Market (Dumfries) has sold about two weeks old, which, when one day old, numbered 92 pounds.

KILLED.

JAMES CAREY, a Martinsburg engineer on the B. & O. Railroad and Isaac Phillips, fireman, were killed by the engine running off the track at 2 o'clock yesterday evening. The engine was discharged from custody on Tuesday last, having been brought before Justice Lock, no testimony before the Magistrate sufficient to justify his detention.

ACQUITTED.

SALOMON LEFLEUWER, charged with stealing a negro man, was discharged from custody on Tuesday last, having been brought before Justice Lock, no testimony before the Magistrate sufficient to justify his detention.

LADIES' FAIR.

The Ladies of the Presbyterian Church of Harper's Ferry, intend holding a Fair on Wednesday, the 2nd day of June, 1858. They will have many useful articles for sale, the proceeds of which are designed to liquidate a debt on the Church, and make some necessary repairs. We trust that the gentlemen will encourage as laudable an undertaking, when the funds are directed to such an object, and we hope to attend that will mark their most singular talents.

W. M. BUTLER.

W. M. Butler, doorkeeper of the House of Representatives, removed the following employee of Mr. Hackney, his predecessor, yesterday: Michael E. Price, assistant surveyor of the House.

DR. BLACKBURN.

Dr. Blackburne declined being a candidate for County Surveyor.

JOHN T. HENKLE.

John T. Henkle, Esq., declines being a candidate for Justice of the Peace, in District No. 4.

DR. BLACKBURN.

Dr. Blackburne declined being a candidate for Magistrate in District No. 4.

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS AND FARMERS' REPOSITORY.

VOLUNTEER COMPANY.

We are gratified to announce that our young friends, have resolved to organize a volunteer company in our town. The initiatory steps have already been taken, and they have about sixty names enrolled. The advantages of a properly organized company to our city, it is unnecessary for us to relate at this time. The members have chosen, "Washington's Guards," as their name and, have elected the following officers:

Captain—John Gilmer,
1st Lieutenant—W. Hamilton,
2d. do.—Henry Krim,
Ensign—Henry Conklin,
Orderly Sergeant—Alfred Bell,
3rd. do.—James Payman,
4th. do.—J. Sisco,
4th. do.—Wm. Payman.

The uniform which has been described to us, will be very tasteful. The company has adopted the light infantry drill—Martinsburg Rep.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company held its 1st Annual Meeting in New York City. Only ten per cent. of the subscription was demanded, which amounted in the whole to \$50,000. In this small basis was conducted by Stetson, Allen & Co., New York, who failing last fall, the company was found moneyless. The charter in Texas has been forfeited, in consequence of the non-completion of twenty miles of road by the required period. A meeting of the stockholders has been held at New Orleans, at which the whole thing was exposed as a swindle. The N. O. Delta says:

We may take for granted that the road, its character, franchises, &c., will be sold at Marshall, Texas, on the first day of June next. We may assume that the creditors, mostly residing in Texas or this city, will be the purchasers for \$50,000, the aggregate of their claims. For this they will have twenty-five miles road, two locomotives and the appendages, worth at least \$200,000, together with 250,000 acres of land, worth at \$1 per acre, making a total value of \$556,000. With such a bargain and such resources as the charter would put at command of the new company, invested with all the rights of the old, we could doubtless make a honorable profession.

Well! I am a doer, sing, but you must understand me. Why, I can write to show how smart I am, I could write a whole column of instructive matter (about 500 words) on any subject I like, but the Devil now goes to the top to teach the plain. The Devil has a crew, the Devil's Judge sits upon the elevated platform of infamy, justice, which is raised above the heads of them that plague us, the lawyers and clients. The Devil's crew proclaim that the Devil is the master of the world, who when the Judge delivered his sentiments to the grand jury as to what they should do in case any infractions of the law had committed. Whilst the Judge was talking, having a long speech, the Devil's crew, to whom he was about to leave them, to return to his home, he pulled out a twenty dollar bank note and offered it to his wife, saying, that she would probably need some money before he returned, as he intended to go to Charlottesville where he would remain all night. His wife was a little surprised at the act, and at first declined the money, but the Devil's crew took the bank note and continued on her visit. When the family returned late in the day they discovered the dead body of Mr. Davis suspended by the neck in his own dwelling. The deceased left no letter to explain the reasons of his self-destruction. Mr. Davis was a respectable man, and, as far as we learn, industrious and sober.

James Davis, (says the Charlottesville Advo-
cate,) son of Richard, committed suicide by hanging, at his residence near Norton-
ville, in this county, on Friday last. No mo-
tive has as yet discovered for the deed.

In the morning of that day Mr. Davis

persuaded his wife and family to pay a visit to a neighbor, and accompanied them a part

of their way. As he was about to leave them, to return to his home, he pulled out a twenty dollar bank note and offered it to his wife, saying, that she would probably need some money before he returned, as he intended to go to Charlottesville where he would remain all night. His wife was a little surprised at the act, and at first declined the money, but the Devil's crew took the bank note and continued on her visit.

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