THE TRANSIT OF VENUS.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS RESPECTING THIS EVENT.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TRANSIT OF VENUS—THE REASON WHY SO MUCH IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED TO THE TRANSIT—HOW OFTEN IT OCCURS AND OTHER FACTS CONCERNING IT.

Since our bright, heavenly visitor, the comet, closed his nocturnal exhibitions of nebulous splendor, for the purpose of making a more brilliant display before other spectators of the earth, and then disappear in space for ages, and perhaps forever from the sight of the world, the public mind has seized upon the approaching transit of our beautiful evening and morning star with considerable enthusiasm and interest. The transit of Venus will make the year of 1874 and the 8th day of December imperishable in the annals of scientific history, and is expected to work out greater results for astronomical calculations than any event since the discovery of gravitation by Newton or the famous formula of Kepler, which has done so much for the interests of astronomy.

WHAT DOES THE TRANSIT MEAN?

The phenomenon above alluded to is the passage of the planet Venus between the earth and the sun in such a position with regard to the orbit of the earth that Venus will be seen by the keen observer in certain parts of the world as a small, round, dark spot fitting across the face of the sun, an event not half so interesting to witness by the aid of the telescope as are the fagged edges and varying forms of the solar spots; still the results which scientific men hope to obtain from this transition will surpass in importance any astronomical discovery of the age. This fitting of the little dark object across the disc of the sun is called the transit of Venus, the importance of which event, in a scientific point of view, may be judged from the fact that it affords astronomers the best means of measuring the real distances of the heavenly bodies, and of ascertaining their weight and dimensions. It makes the passage through this apparent sea of fire in the space of something less than six hours, leaving no trace behind, and producing, so far as would appear to the casual observer, no appreciable effect of any kind. The observations of the astronomer are to be carefully made during the ingress, transit and egress of the planet, and from the results of these observations it is believed that the scientific of astronomy will be able to compute the distance and weight of each heavenly body which forms a part of our solar system.

The first observation made of this important occurrence was through the remarkably devised plan of the famous Halley, whom both the world of science and letters delight to honor. While this eminent astronomer was stationed at St. Helena for the purpose of observing and cataloguing stars south of the equator, he took observations of the passage of Mercury across the sun's disc, and from the results of his work he felt satisfied that such an accurate observation and measurement of the transit of Venus could be secured that would yield a definite determination of the distances of the sun from the earth. He knew that the next transit would occur in the year 1761, but he had no hopes of living to witness the phenomenon; nevertheless, in the interests of science and progress, he set himself assiduously at work performing all the preliminary calculations for securing, as far as it was possible, the proper observations when the time arrived for the transition.

THE TRANSIT OF 1761.

At the approach of the transit in December, 1761, the scientific world became enthusiastic, and the Government appropriated liberal aid and supplies to perfect arrangements in different parts of the world where the event was visible. One hundred and twenty positions were selected, and the great and important problem was about to be solved, when an unforseen difficulty arose, checking the observations materially, and disappointing many anxious scientific minds that had labored for years to make the event redound to the enlightenment and progress of science. They hoped to seize the moment of the contact of the two bodies without error, but they were thwarted. While the black orb was approaching the circular edge of the sun's disc, and at only two thirds of its own diameter from the glowing surface, a dark streak interposed itself between the two objects like a wedge. Immediately the circular edges of both orbs turned or appeared to flatten back. There seemed to be a check in the planet's progress, which lasted for twelve or fifteen seconds' duration. Then came an apparent struggle as of colliding bodies, which was followed by a sudden spring forward as it were, and the planetary disc was seen well on to the sun's surface, moving regularly across. This unfortunate phenomenon appeared to all the observers, and rendered the important calculations of the distance of the solar orb from the earth of great uncertainty.

Again, in 1769, the transit occurred, and as full and complete arrangements were made as upon the former occasion, but again, the same evil appeared, remaining for twenty seconds. This made the calculations more uncertain than before; the result placing the distance of the sun at 87,840,000 miles from the earth. In fact, there did not appear to be any material improvement in these observations on Cassini's estimate of over a century and a half before, which placed the distance at 85,000,000 miles. This phenomenon, it has been maintained, was due to an interference of light in the observations and also to the imperfection in the lenses, but now it is expected that by a more delicate manipulation of our greatly improved instruments, assisted by the science of photography and the power of the spectroscope, this difficulty will be overcome, and the most important results be obtained.

HOW OFTEN IT OCCURS.

In 1631, as Kepler had predicted, a transit of Venus occurred, although it was not witnessed, owing to the want of proper facilities. This was followed by another in 1639, which was observed quite generally throughout Europe, but owing to the insufficient knowledge of this now gigantic science, and the want of artificial assistance, no measures were taken to secure the great ends for which the votaries of astronomy are struggling today. The next transit occurred in 1761, re-occurring again in 1769—a fact which shows conclusively that the transits of Venus occur in pairs eight years apart. There can only be one pair to a century, and it has been estimated that there will be some centuries in which no transits at all will happen.

THE COMING TRANSIT.

will take place on the 8th of December next, and all that learning, industry, wealth and skill can do to secure the best results for science is being done. The different nations of the world, according to their facilities and circumstances, are making preparations to observe the transit. Already several expeditions have sailed for the South Indian ocean and various other points on the southern and northern continents. Russia will occupy stations to the number of twenty-seven, which will extend from the Kamtschatka to the borders of the Black sea. England has already secured five stations, and will send individual parties, with complete equipments, to occupy them. The French Government has appropriated $30,000 for carrying on the work. Germany is making extensive preparations, and will send four or more parties for the special purpose of making heliometrical observations to Japan, China and some of the South sea islands. The United States Government responded liberally to the call of science by appropriating the handsome sum of $150,000, which will enable the commission to occupy eight or nine different stations, the following parties and stations having been selected:

Wladivastock, Siberia, Professor A. Hall, U. S. A.; Nagasaki, Japan, George Davidson, U. S. Coast Survey; Peking, China, Professor James C. Watson, of Ann Arbor, Michigan; Crozet's island, South Indian ocean, Captain Raymond, U. S. A.; Kerzuelan island, South Indian ocean, Lieutenant Commander George P. Ryan, U. S. N.; Hobart Town, which is the only satisfactory station in the southern hemisphere, will be occupied by Professor William Harkness, U. S. N.; New Zealand, Professor C. H. Peters, of Clinton, New York; this is a very favorable point. Chatham island, South Pacific ocean, Edwin Smith, U. S. Coast Survey, with A. Scott, assistant. Several of these parties are under way, in the steamship Swatara, to their respective stations, with ample facilities for making the accurate observations as the parties of any other government interested in the great event. The transit cannot be witnessed in the United States, owing to the relative position of the earth and sun.

THE NEXT TRANSIT

will occur in 1882, just six years, five months and two days after we have passed through the fiery yet glorious ordeal of our centennial celebration. This will afford ample time for unstrung nerves to become rested, and the ravages of patriotic dissipation to have passed away, and our exhausted treasury to recuperate sufficiently at least to again generously respond to the call of science, should it again be compelled to ask us for aid in advancing the great interests of progress and learning.

FUNERAL.

The funeral of Wm. J. Lowe, a young and promising merchant of this city, took place from his mother's residence yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. The body was conveyed from the house to St. Patrick's church, where Solemn High Mass was celebrated and a sermon preached by Rev. Father Keane. The remains were then conveyed to their final resting place, Glenwood cemetery, followed by a large number of the friends of the deceased.

DIVORCE.

Mattie J. Tompkins obtained a divorce yesterday from Daniel D. Tompkins in the special term of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. The ground of the divorce was alleged bad conduct and desertion.

THE PROBATE COURT.

THE WILL OF THE LATE EX-MAYOR LENOX FILED.

In the Probate Court yesterday morning the following will of the late Walter Lenox was filed and partially proven, and a citation was ordered to issue to the kin and sister, Mrs. Simpson, to show cause why the will should not be admitted to probate:

I, Walter Lenox, of the city of Washington, do hereby make and pronounce this to be my last will and testament. I give to Julia Simpson, daughter of my nephew, Thompson P. Simpson, of the city of Washington, my writing desk, my gilt in years past to my sister Julia. I give to Lenox W. Simpson, son of my said nephew, the family Bible, bequeathed to me by my father, brought by my grandfather, Walter Lenox, from Scotland. I give to Lucy Brown, daughter of my niece, Mary Brown, of the city of Alexandria, my gold watch, which was a gift from my mother. I give to Glenn Brown, son of my said niece Mary, the Bible presented to me when mayor of the city of Washington by the teachers and pupils of one of the school districts of the city of Washington. I give to William Brown, son of my said niece, the likeness of Gen. A. T. Jackson.

I give and devise unto Reginald Fendall, of the city of Washington, his heirs and assigns, the following piece of ground in said city, being the western twenty-five feet front on north E street of lot numbered two, in square 347 and running back with said front 100 feet, also, all that part of lot 3, in said square, being a part of the rear of said lot running north 15 feet; from east to west 19 feet to a public alley 12 feet wide, embracing the line of measurement on said alley connecting the two said points, with the appurtenances thereto, upon the following trusts: to sell the said premises upon such terms of cash and credit as he or they may deem necessary and proper, and upon full payment of the purchase money therefor convey the said premises to the purchaser or purchasers, their heirs and assigns, by good and sufficient deeds; and apply the proceeds thereof as follows: Firstly, in payment of all my debts, my funeral expenses, the cost of a sufficient and appropriate burial site at the Rock creek church cemetery, and of a plain granite memorial, which shall not exceed in cost five hundred dollars. Secondly, to John Thornton, (colored,) a faithful, worthy servant of the Lenox family, his executors, administrators and assigns, one thousand dollars. Thirdly, pay to Dr. James C. Hall five hundred dollars, with the suggestion that he may apply it in such manner as may now and then recall to his memory my grateful recognition of his constant and disinterested friendship. Fourthly, pay to Miss Georgie Romney, stepdaughter of J. W. Payne, one thousand dollars. Fifthly, pay to Miss Harriet Hamlin and Miss Jane Hamlin, daughters of Joseph Hamlin, of the city of Washington, two hundred and fifty dollars each, to be paid over at the time of my death to receive the full sum of five hundred dollars. Sixthly, pay the residue of said proceeds, in equal proportion, to the institutions located in the city of Washington known as Providence hospital, the Protestant Orphan Asylum and St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, and in the event that, by reason of death, the said personal bequests shall fail (expressly excepting the bequest to John Thornton and his representatives) the same shall be distributed in equal proportions between the institutions above named.

I give and devise unto Reginald Fendall, above named, his heirs and assigns, the piece of ground known as part of lot No. one, in square 380, in the city of Washington, fronting twenty-seven feet ten inches on Pennsylvania avenue, and running back to C street north, formerly belonging to my sister, Julia Keep, deceased, with the appurtenances thereto, upon the following trust that he or they shall collect and receive the rents and profits thereof, and after the payment of all taxes, general and special, insurance and necessary repairs, divide and pay over the proceeds thereof in equal portions to my niece, Mrs. Mary Brown, of Alexandria, Virginia, and Miss Mary Fendall, daughter of Philip R. Fendall, deceased, of the city of Washington, their heirs and assigns; and upon the further trust that he or they, within three years of my decease, or at any time within the three years from my decease, as shall seem advantageous, sell and dispose of said lot and premises upon such terms of cash and credit as he or they deem best, and upon full payment of the purchase money therefor convey the said premises by sufficient deed to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, their heirs and assigns, and shall divide and pay over the proceeds of sale, as the same may be realized, in equal proportions between the said Mary Brown and the said Mary Fendall, their heirs and assigns; and in the event of the decease of the said Mary Brown before my death, then her said interest to her children hereinbefore named then living, their heirs and assigns; and in the event of the death of the said Miss Mary Fendall before my decease, then her said interest to my niece Mary, if living, and if deceased to her said children, their heirs and assigns, subject especially to the payment of a certain debt of $2,000 due by me, secured by a mortgage upon a lot of ground in the Twenty-fourth ward of the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the north side of Sycamore street and east side of Preston street, fifteen feet in front on Sycamore street, and running back on Preston street seventy-five feet.

I hereby constitute and appoint Reginald Fendall (trustee above named) executor of this my last will and testament.

In testimony hereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy-three, revoking and annulling all former wills by me heretofore made, ratifying and confirming this and none other to be my last will and testament.

WALTER LENOX.

Signed, sealed, published and declared by Walter Lenox, the above-named testator, as and for his last will and testament in the presence of us, who at his request, in his presence and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses hereto.

R. T. MERRICK,
JOHN F. ENNIS,
R. K. ELLIOTT.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

OPERATIONS OF THE HEALTH OFFICE.

The Board of Health held a regular meeting at their rooms last evening. In the absence of the president, Professor J. M. Langston was called to the chair.

Mr. Marbury, from the finance committee, reported bills amounting to $519.81, which were approved and ordered to be paid.

The mortuary report for the month of June was submitted, showing total deaths, 259; males, 48; females, 51; minors—males, 96; females, 68.

The following is a synopsis of the operations of the health office for the week ending July 18: Nuisances reported, 654; referred, 288; abated, 433; referred to Commissioners, 62; citizen complaints, 56; notices issued, 33; sewer notices issued, 111; dead animals removed, 269. Marine products inspections: 5,900 bunches of fish, 13,000 crabs, 155 bushels oysters, 78,500 clams. Condemnations: 19,300 clams, 500 crabs, 119 pounds beef, 106 pounds veal, 300 pounds bacon, 101 pounds mutton, 19 pounds pork, 5¼ bushels peas, 25½ bushels beans, 1,103 cucumbers, 15 heads cabbage, 4 bunches beets, 17 dozen cantaloupes, 12½ bushels apples, 3 bushels blackberries, 1 bushel cherries. Animals impounded, 252; redeemed, 50; killed, 201; amount realized, $50; privies cleaned, 887; dogs impounded to date, 857; killed, 716.

By an inspection of the above report it will be seen in the condemnations that the inspectors have been very active in looking after unwholesome food.

J. O. Lyons made application for the position of garbage collector.

Mr. Marbury offered a resolution, which was referred, in relation to the turning over of the telegraph wire running from police headquarters to the alms-house to the fire department for its use.

Dr. Verdi introduced a resolution prohibiting after the 1st of September the collecting of manure in the streets and alleys of the city, which was referred to the committee on ordinance.

Prof. J. M. Langston was chosen president *pro tem.* of the board.

Prof. Langston, from the special committee appointed to consider the claims made for clothing and bedding destroyed during the prevalence of small pox, made a report in regard to the blank form to be used; which was accepted.

The board then adjourned.

SAMUEL SPARKS DISCOURSES ON TEETH.

He appeared on the Avenue, did Samuel Sparks, at precisely eleven o'clock yesterday morning. He had crawled down the stairs leading from a dentist's shop, and had emerged into the pure sunlight of Heaven. Any one would have supposed that this change would have enlivened his spirits. But it didn't. Not as any of his friends are aware of. He didn't appear to enliven enough worth mentioning. On the contrary, he soured. It would not be exaggerating to say that he curdled. He had well-grounded reasons. His mouth was full of blood, and his face covered with mustard blisters. His right cheek reminded us of the Chicago fire, while his left seemed to have had an incision of yeast powder. The tears in his eyes were not those of sorrow, and his facial expression everything but that of forgiveness and brotherly love. Said we, "Sparks, what in the name of suffering humanity—?" "That's my name," said Sparks, "suffering humanity is the word. It is not quite as comprehensive as it might be, but it's a good word. I'm suffering humanity. I'm the most distressed humanity that ever you did see." "Why, what's the matter?" said we. "Matter! Yes, that's it, matter and blood and forceps and false teeth, and Heaven and the dentist only knows what else." His wife came down the stairs at this juncture, and remarking that "those teeth came painfully hard," led her husband away, full of interesting thoughts and fancies.

LOOKING FOR WORK.

THE CONTRACTORS VISIT THE COMMISSION—TRANSACTION OF GENERAL BUSINESS ON FOUR-AND-A-HALF STREET.

Four-and-a-half street, in the vicinity of Columbia building, was alive yesterday. It was more than alive. Heretofore the crowd, which has loitered about the charmed precinct, was composed of the most part of unpaid and discharged employees, who were anxious for money or work, but yesterday it was composed of a different and more potent and persistent class.

On Monday each of the contractors received a written notice to suspend work until further orders, and as a consequence yesterday they gathered about the rooms of the Commission in numbers and persistency, hardly equaled by the grasshoppers in Minnesota. Of course each one had a job which could not be suspended without the most dire results to the community; then the horses which had to be fed while idle; the plows, shovels and picks, which would rust; and, more than all this, the poor workingmen who, in this their special season of work, would be thrown out, made up a picture, the coloring of which was calculated to throw a shadow over hapless families that are possessed by the new rulers. But what could they do! Limited in their expenditure by the inexorable law, which had failed to comprehend such results, and looked only to "economy," which was the ruling cry of the last session, they found it imperatively necessary to husband their resources, and for the brief term of their official existence incur no further debts.

To pay in cash was out of the question, as there was no cash to pay for the extensive improvements, and they quietly decided to see just where they stood, pick out the most needed improvements, proceed with them and cancel the others. To that end three expert engineers are now in the field measuring and calculating all they know how, and as soon as the task is completed a report of their labors will be duly submitted. Of course, it is impossible to say what the Commission will consider the most necessary work to be completed, but it is certain that some of the contractors will be without work. Who they will be is a conundrum that the Commission will, after careful guessing, answer themselves.

In addition to the contractors, there were the usual number of visitors, each of whom had some special ax to grind. All had interviews with the Commission or Lieut. Hoxie, as they desired. Among those who called was Dr. Purvis, with a committee of colored citizens, who simply paid their respects to and congratulated the Commission.

Dr. Tindall was busily engaged during the day in filling out the blank commissions for the new employees. Each one is signed by the Commission. It was decided positively that for the present no further clerical force would be employed. Mr. W. E. Nott, clerk in the contract branch, tendered his resignation, which was accepted.

The Commissioners thus far have drawn from the Treasury out of the $1,500,000 appropriated $473,138.64. The amount thus far drawn has been on account of interest and in the following sums: $219,374.70, $17,757.22, $235,913.96, $91.76.

Mr. John F. Cook, the newly-appointed collector, filed his bond yesterday. His sureties are Nicholas Acker, W. J. Murtagh, Jos. B. Bryan and W. B. Todd. It is not probable that any material changes will be made in the clerical force of the office.

In the Comptroller's office the rolls of the firemen and police have been completed, and the payment of the former will be commenced forthwith. A question as to the reduction of twenty per cent. in the pay of the police has been settled by Comptroller Tayler, who decides that it is not to be deducted. This opinion is concurred in by the Commissioners, Comptroller Baker and by Mr. Stanton, attorney for the District. The pay rolls of the school teachers have been completed, and the only thing in the way of commencing payment on them is the want of the blank checks, which are not yet completed. The work is being executed by the bureau of engraving and printing, Treasury Department.

There is still considerible pressure being brought to bear against the retention of some of the old employees, but it is hardly probable that any further changes will be made.

In the room of the board of audit the gentlemen were kept busy receiving claims, but nothing of any special interest transpired.

THE DEATH OF DR. H. MAGRUDER.

MEETING OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The Medical society of the District of Columbia held a special meeting last evening for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to the memory of their late associate, Dr. Hezekiah Magruder. Dr. Johnson Eliot presided, and Dr. C. H. A. Kleinschmidt acted as secretary. Dr. Reilly, in announcing the death of Dr. Magruder, said: Mr. President, it is my painful duty to announce to the Medical society of the District of Columbia, the death of Dr. Hezekiah Magruder, which event occurred on the 20th inst. Dr. Magruder was one of the oldest members of the society, having graduated at the University of Maryland in 1826. He immediately commenced the practice of his profession in his native town, and was indefatigable and unstinting in his devotion to his profession. His services were refused to call at any and all hours. He soon called around him a host of devoted friends and patients, and until the last year or two, when his health began to fail, labored as industriously as in his more palmy and early career.

In all the relations of life, both social and professional, he was a high-toned gentleman of the old school, always treating the members of the profession with that courtesy and respect that made him a most desirable associate in consultation.

I move, Mr. President, that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of our deceased associate.

Dr. Lewis Mackall, jr., seconded the motion, and paid an eloquent tribute to the virtues of the deceased.

Dr. Peter followed in an appropriate address, when the motion of Dr. Reilly was agreed to, and the following-named gentlemen were appointed the committee: Drs. Reiliey, Mackall and Howard.

The committee withdrew, and, after consultation, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Medical Society have heard with deep regret the announcement of the death of Dr. H. Magruder, of Georgetown.

Resolved, That in the death of Dr. Magruder the community has lost a most valuable and highly-esteemed physician and the profession a high-toned and honorable associate.

Resolved, That his life and career is a bright and shining example for all who assume the name and title of physician to follow.

Resolved, That the members of the Medical Society attend the funeral to-morrow afternoon, at 5 o'clock, from his late church.

Resolved, That the sympathy of this society be conveyed to the family in their irreparable loss.

Drs. W. B. Tyler, Jas. Mackall and C. Hagner were appointed a committee of arrangements for the society on the occasion of the funeral of Dr. Magruder to-day.

The meeting then adjourned.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

HARRIET JACKSON TIRED OF LIFE.

Harriet Jackson, quite an intelligent-looking colored woman, has for months past lived in house No. 229 Temperance-hall alley. In that time she has enjoyed the companionship of Thomas Henson, to whom she was all that a wife could be, although the rite of matrimony, making the union binding in the sight of God and man, had never been solemnized between them. Still this fact was considered a matter of little importance, and they had evidently become sincere converts to the doctrine of free-love as expounded by Vic. Woodhull and her adherents. Life rolled along smooth enough until about noon yesterday, when a change came o'er the scene of their domestic peace. Harriet and Thomas, by some hocuspocus, got entangled in a word battle, and while the fight was hottest she expressed herself as tired of both him and life, and desirous of getting rid of them. Thereupon she laid violent hands upon a small bottle containing laudanum, and ere the man could interfere had swallowed nearly the entire contents. Sergeant Acton, in patrolling his precinct, was informed of what had transpired, and the services of Dr. McBlair were immediately procured. He succeeded in relieving the disgusted woman's stomach of the fatal drug and placed her out of further danger from its effects. She will now recover and rejoin Henson in exemplifying the free-love doctrine until another quarrel arises between them and life once more becomes a torture and misery to herself.

BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the thirteenth monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Building Association held at the Board of Trade rooms, the first annual report was presented, showing a balance of receipts and disbursements of $49,848.10; dues payable on settlement of 417 shares, still advanced on, together with accrued profits, $5,095.74; assets, $52,094.97; original number of subscribers, 5,410; withdrawn and canceled, 425; present actual value of each share, $12.83; profits made, 13.83 per cent.; average premium for the year, 60¼ per cent. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Wm. Dickson; vice president, John Cook; treasurer, James Frazer; secretary, John A. Prescott; directors, George W. Cissel, Wm. H. Browne, E. C. Eckloff, Joseph R. Edson, F. M. Detweiller, N. P. Callan, J. W. Wallace, John G. Thompson and George H. Wood. Twenty-six shares of stock were advanced on at a premium of 58 per cent.

At the sixty-seventh meeting of the Fifth Ward Building Association on Monday night, $1,470 was received and paid out upon withdrawals at $18.50 premium per share.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

For the Middle States, clear or clearing weather, light variable winds, no decided rise of temperature and rising, followed by falling barometer.

The following was the range of the thermometer at Hempler's yesterday: At 8 a. m., 74°; at 10 a. m., 76°; at 12 m., 75°; at 2 p. m., 76°; at 4 p. m., 75°; at 6 p. m., 71°; at 8 p. m.: 73°.

The two things that a woman will "go wild" over are usually a new dress pattern and a toothache.

Mr. J. P. Cohill has been appointed a watchman at the navy yard, vice H. A. Matthieson, resigned.

The United States steamer Trianna left the navy yard yesterday with a cargo of freight for Baltimore, Maryland.

"After the War" at the National, attracted a better audience last night, notwithstanding the rain. It will be repeated to-night.

The full Marine band left yesterday morning for Baltimore, whence they will accompany the 5th Maryland regiment to Long Branch. They will return in about ten days.

The funeral of the late Dr. H. Magruder will take place at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon, and will be attended by the members of Potomac lodge and Potomac Chapter, Masons.

Sixty-eight workmen, principally machinists and boiler-makers, were suspended from work in the department of steam engineering at the navy yard, yesterday, until the first of the coming month.

A certificate of incorporation of the Mount Pleasant Division No. 11, Sons of Temperance, has been filed by Messrs. Thos. M. Exley, S. G. Arnold, S. Simmons, W. C. Lipscomb, jr., and J. T. Jones.

Messrs. W. Aulinger, A. Fisher, G. Shlesinger, have been elected delegates to represent the Potomac Lodge, No. 104, I. O. B. B., at the meeting of the District Grand Lodge, No. 5, now in session at Richmond, Va.

G. E. Smith, who erected for the late Professor Morse the first line of telegraph poles in this country, between Washington and Baltimore, in 1844, died at his residence in Newfield, Maine, a few days since, at an advanced age.

A little boy, who gave his name as Willie Gorman, seven years of age, was found on the Glenwood road on last Monday morning, and taken to the Second precinct station-house, where he remained last evening, being unable to tell where his parents live.

Assistant District Attorney Harrington, Col. Whitley, Detectives McElfresh and Sargent, A. B. Williams and Michael Hayes were before the grand jury yesterday in the safe burglary case. No new facts that will materially change the case, it is understood, were elicited.

Early yesterday morning some thieves entered the store of Morris Hartnett, corner of Virginia avenue and Limerick alley, through the transom, and stole therefrom a half dozen boxes of cigars, nineteen bags of smoking tobacco, a lot of chewing tobacco, two pieces of bacon, and other valuable articles. These were recovered, but the thieves escaped.

If the correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* would confine himself to facts in relation to the safe burglary investigation, now taking place before the grand jury in this city, he would not only have less retractions to make personally, but find himself the author of less untruths. His communications recently have been based on street rumor, and yesterday he came near experiencing harsh results for his manifold false statements.

Miss Sallie Clarke, the little daughter of Wm. H. Clarke, agent of the American Press Association of this city, sustained somewhat serious injuries last Saturday. The family of Mr. Clarke is stopping at Springdale, Loudoun county, Va. The little girl, of an adventurous disposition, was sliding down the bannisters, when she came near the end, slipped and fell to the floor below, a distance of some twenty feet. The injuries sustained were mostly internal. The child is now doing well.

The Hibernia Benevolent Association have elected the following officers: President, Major Richard Dillon; first vice president, John Hogan; second vice president, John Fainter; recording secretary, Dennis Lyons; financial secretary, James Dillon; treasurer, John Hill; chief marshal, John Madigan; assistants, John Fogarty, James Fitzpatrick, John Meehan, Timothy O'Brian; board of visitors, J. Lynch, John Hays, Timothy O'Brien, Patrick Foley, Joseph Williams; sergeant-at-arms, Patrick O'Day, sr.; banner-bearer, Andrew Burns; committee of safety, Ed. Malone, Timothy Foley, Michael Foley, J. J. Lenahan, Patrick Brennahan, Andrew Burns.

In order to show how the hotels at the watering places are filling up, it is stated that the Stockton house, at Cape May, has over eight hundred guests, and on Saturday last an arrival of over two hundred. Among those registered there are General Wadsworth, Hon. George Taylor, M. Green, J. T. Lenman, and P. M. Dubant and family, of this city. Thos. A. Scott, the railroad king; L. A. Godey, editor and proprietor of *Godey's Ladys' Book*; J. M. Du Barry, president Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company; Allen Wood, iron manufacturer of Philadelphia; J. A. Shrion, president Erricson line of steamers; W. R. Devries, Baltimore; W. B. Keen, Chicago; Judge Martindale, Indianapolis; J. A. Nichols, president Knickerbocker Life Insurance Company, New York; Frank S. Johnson, inspector Philadelphia arsenal.

THE CHICKEN THIEVES.

BOLDNESS AND PERTINACITY OF THE FOWL HUNTERS.

"How are you, chickens?" is what the anxious suburbans salute their neighbors with every morning. They don't care so much about having their chickens stolen as they do of having the feathers picked out of all those who are fortunate enough to elude the grasp of the night thieves by the sundry flaps and wiggles which an able-bodied hen alone can render. Night before last the chicken-coop of Mr. Diggs, of College Hill, was entered and robbed of several valuable fowls, in which he had heretofore taken great pride. All yesterday afternoon, after the official duties of Mr. Diggs had been discharged, he might have been seen, with a vengeful air and carriage, stretching a wire from the chickery to his bed-room, at the latter end of which was attached a bell, which he expects will ring the moment the fowl thief enters his premises. Imagine the venerable Mr. Diggs, about 12 o'clock last night, suddenly awakened from a sound sleep by the ringing bell, seizing a double-barreled shotgun, and rushing wildly into the back yard in search of a party who passing rapidly over the commons, out of reach of buck-shot, with a large dominick rooster in one hand and twenty yards of wire in the other, singing, "Who will care for mother now?" They are getting to be as bold as a lion, with considerable for cunning thrown in.

SPECIAL TERM—JUDGE WYLIE.

This court was engaged as follows yesterday:

Jackson vs. Ewing. Order to issue commission to hear evidence.

Maffit vs. Stewart et al. Decree taking bill for confessed.

Durand vs. Durand. Order granting custody of children to complainant until further notice.

Darley vs. Creecy. Judgment awarded as by confession.

Chase vs. Conner et al. Decree of sale with John W. Frazee as trustee.

Clements vs. Rawlings. Order of reference to auditor to report on propriety of sale.

Shreve vs. O'Hare. Decree of ratification of trustee's sale.

Tompkins vs. Tompkins. Decree of divorce. The court here adjourned until Friday next.

A STREET ALTERCATION.

A serious affray occurred in Georgetown yesterday. A young man by the name of Springman became involved in an altercation with John Bell, the driver of a truck, and thinking it the most convenient way of settling the difficulty, he picked up a large paving-stone and cast it at the head of his opponent in a manner that made the said opponent double up and fall with unpromising prospects on the back of his head in a very dirty ditch. He sustained serious injuries about the head and shoulders, and was carried into a store, where he received medical aid and was sent to his home. Springman was arrested and arraigned before Judge Snell, who fined him $50 and costs.

CRUISE OF THE TREADWELL.

About a week ago, fourteen members of the Washington Yacht Club started on a cruise in their yacht, the Ella Treadwell. That they are having a good time may be inferred from the following, which was received yesterday from E. H. Sentenne, and dated at Cobb's Island: "The boys are all well and getting along splendid; the best trip we ever made; have had a delightful time so far; experienced very little rough weather; can't say when we will be home; should the weather hold good may visit Cape May before we return; please inform our families and friends of our good condition."

BASE BALL.

The game which was to have taken place yesterday between the Creighton and National was postponed on account of the weather until Friday next, the 24th instant. This will be the last game played here by the Creighton prior to their tour, as they leave on Tuesday next for a visit to their "Northern brethren." Turn out and give the boys a rouser, as their game of Friday will be very close and exciting.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR VALUABLES.

Call and examine the fire and burglar-proof vaults of the Safe Deposit Company, corner of New York avenue and Fifteenth street, for safe keeping of securities, jewels, silver-ware, or other valuables. Rents, from ten to sixty dollars per annum, according to size. No business man can afford to do without them.

Take warning from the Chicago and Boston fires.

GOSSIP FOR LADIES.

Blue silk is a favorite dress at the sea-side resorts. It is the most becoming of all colors to light eyes and hair, and is appropriated by all who have them.

Parlor skates are again the rage, and young people at the watering-places spend their time between croquet on the lawn and skating on the piazza or parlor carpet.

Ruffs for the neck are constantly being increased in size. It is now the custom to run wire in the ruffs for the neck and distend it far back from the neck, but high up in the vicinity of the ears.

Passementerie trimming is entirely superseding every other ornamentation. It is even more worn than feather trimming, which is by all odds the handsomest ever introduced. But passementerie answers a more general want, and is cheaper comparatively, though it is very high.

Everybody wears a high comb this season, and the higher the more fashionable. Black jet combs are the latest offering on the altar of style, and these are hardly as becoming as tortoise shell and amber, though they are as expensive as the one and more costly than the other.

Lace ought to be of great service to ladies at the summer hotels this season. It is all the style, and is so airy and pretty that it increases the beauty of every face. Husband hunters should by all means buy up a quantity if they have it not with them.

Linen and batiste suits grow cheaper week after week, and if the cool weather continues we shall have not only wagon loads of them in the market, but they will be offered so low that everybody will purchase, which will be disgusting to those who paid high for theirs in the early season, and considered it at the time very stylish.

Large fans are still in great favor. There is much variety in their ornamentation, but painting is the favorite mode of decoration. The usual style is a group of flowers or leaves at one side, which gradually decreases in size as it stretches towards the opposite side. Lace fans are generally mounted on mother-of-pearl sticks and lined with pale satin, pink blue or mauve.

Toilets are too intricate nowadays to be described. It was once possible to say a dress was made after this or that pattern, and there was a limit, but now not even the dressmaker can tell you what to call the network of skirts, tabliers and flounces she has adjusted together. And as to describing it after it is finished is an impossibility.

Bonnets are larger for summer wear than was anticipated, and racing hats, rustics and the like are all considerably increased in size over the spring styles. Valenciennes lace is greatly used on all kinds of hats, and since bonnets are hats and hats are bonnets it is used on every kind of head ornament without regard to trifling differences of shape.

White muslin dresses are universally worn, and the agony of the laundry woman is amusing to witness. There are ruffles and puffs and bows and knife pleats and sashes and bands to iron and lace insertions not to lace, and such a bewildering mass of trimming to adjust that it is an art to know how to iron nowadays. The expense is great, too, and, after all, muslins cost as much as silk.

Colors or pallid half tones most acceptable at present are more faded than last season. Neutral tints are exquisitely blended, and are becoming to delicate faces, but the fashion of wearing two or more shades is only suited for certain styles of beauty, and, being worn universally are scarcely as satisfactory as they should be. Ladies should study what is becoming rather more than they do, and then brunettes will not appropriate shades that belong to blondes, nor vice versa.

Velvet is worn this summer more generally than it was last winter. The weather has permitted, and even when it is very warm ladies wear the skirts if the waists of dresses must be of lighter material. Claret color and black are the favorite shades, though blue and even green are often seen. Silk is frequently introduced in the make-up of velvet suits, and the effect is very pleasing. The Princess of Wales, who really is the leader of fashionable dress in the world at present, gives in her adherence to velvet, and for August many new dresses will be seen of it.

There is generally a fashion in most things, and just now the particular fashion in wedding presents leads towards fine old lace and Dresden china. Among the latter are dainty candelebra, vases, groups of figures, mirrors set in china frames, card dishes, candlesticks, flower baskets, etc. In China, generally, there are dinner, tea and dessert sets, harlequin cups and treasures in majolica ware so very stylish now, such as strawberry dishes, oyster dishes, cheese dishes, beer jugs, surrounded by quaint old mottoes; shells for flowers, card dishes, vases, etc.

CONVENTIONS IN VIRGINIA.

In Virginia the Opposition will hold a convention to nominate the man whom Hon. James H. Platt, jr. is to beat on the 1st of September. This is the Second or Norfolk district, and Messrs. John Goode, jr., D. J. Goodwin and John R. Riley are ambitious of the honor of the nomination.

In the Third district the convention will be held on the 26th of August, in Richmond. Ex-Governor Walker, Judge Gold, Judge Crump and Judge John A. Meredith are named in connection with the nomination.

In the Sixth district the nomination will be made at Lynchburg, on the 26th of August, and Mayor John W. Daniel, Judge Houston, Hon. Thomas Whitehead and Hon. Thomas S. Bocock are prominent competitors.

In the Seventh district, the convention will meet at Staunton, on the 1st of September. Hon. James T. Harris will probably have no competitor.

For the Eighth district the nomination will be made at Alexandria, on the 26th of August. Hon. Eppa W. Hunton, Colonel John S. Mosby and Colonel John M. Barbour, of Alexandria, seem to be the contestants.

The convention for the Ninth district is called at Marion, September 2. This is a very strong Democratic district. Hon. William Terry, who represented it in the Forty-second Congress, Hon. R. T. Brown, present member, and Governor Fayette McMullen will contest either the nomination or the election.

In the remaining districts—First, Fourth and Fifth—of the State, the conventions are not yet announced.

POE'S GRAVE.

(From the Baltimore American.)

The body of Edgar A. Poe was buried at the time of his death, and now reposes in the very heart of the city. Its location was then considered a position of high honor. He died under a cloud, which greatly dimmed his literary merits. The erection of a monument was deferred by his friends until this cloud should have, in a measure, passed away, and was thus for a time neglected. A monument was finally prepared, but before erection it was accidently destroyed by a locomotive, which jumped the track and smashed things generally in the marble yard of Mr. Siesch. All attempts since to raise the means for another monument have been by those who were influenced more by the efforts to get their names in print, or to collect money, than by any desire to honor the deceased poet. Mr. Childs, being a Baltimorean, has wearied of this nonsense about his native city, and having, doubtless, kicked the last of these "dead-beats" out of his office, sat down and wrote an order for the erection of a monument at his own expense.

AUCTION SALES TO-DAY.

By R. H. Ryan & Co.:

At 6 o'clock, a two-and-a-half story brick dwelling, No. 413