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> Gents' Fine Hand-Made and Machine Sewed BOOTS, BUTTON AND LACE BALS, BOYS' AND YOUTES' FINE BOOTS AND SHORS OF ALL GRADES GENTS' FINE

Silk. Soft and Stiff Hats. TRUNKS, VALISES and

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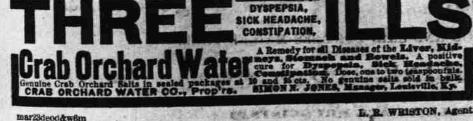
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DRESS GOODS Contains, by the verdict of all who have examined them, the newest styles of the season. We have various suitable trimmings for the same, and we will not be undersold. 'Tis not necessary to call your attention to the prices, quality or styles of our

White Goods, Embroideries, all kinds of Laces, &c. To those who have seen them, these goods have spoken for themselves, both for their beauty and the low prices at which they are sold. Don't buy your Parasols without seeing ours—all new, no old styles.

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JEWELRY.

OUR SPRING and SUMMER STYLES

MILLINERY

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PLUMES, FEATHERS FLOWERS, RIBBONS, GAUZES, SILKS, AND ORNAMENTS,

HATS AND BONNETS

C. M. OUERY.

The Charlotte Observer. "TRUTH LINE THE SUN, SOMETIMES SURMITS TO BE OBSCURED, BUT, LIKE THE SUN, ONLY FOR A TIME."

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THE RICHMOND CONTEST A GREAT MEETING OF THE BUSINESS MEN

Of the City on the James .- Prohition as Viewed from a Business Standpoint-

The prohibitionists have had several great meetings in this city, with distinguished speakers to address them. The liquor dealers hold regular meetings of branches in each ward. There have tified with the sale of liquor met in Mozart Academy and gave viogrous expression to their views—contending that the "no license" law is wrong in principle, and that its adoption here would injure the business of Richmond, and by depriving city and State of large revenues compel an increase of taxa-tion upon real and personal property.

The hall was packed Stage, first floor, galleries and vestibules were as crowded as they could be for safety, to say nothing of comfort—for the night was warm. The great manufactories, the large business houses, and the retail stores were well represented. Mechan ics and laborers were present by hun-dreds; lawyers and doctors and other dreds; lawyers and doctors and other professional men were there by scores. Quite a number of liquor-dealers were there, too, but neither in numbers nor in activity did they exercise any control over the meeting. All along it has been known that the religious portion of the community was divided on this question of prohibition, and that fact was patently presented last night by the hearty participation in the Mozart meethearty participation in the Mozart meeting of numerous well-known church-

In fact, in numbers, in intelligence, in personal and business standing, in zeal for the cause which they have espoused, and all the elements that mark a great public meeting, the assemblage last night—without disparaging any other meeting that has been held here of late—was highly successful. Its res olutions go forth voicing the opinion of the largest and probably the most influ-ential demonstration of business men

ever held here. The stage was very handsomely set the background showing a landscape and fountain, while in the foreground was the representation of a goddess with a pitcher in one hand and cup in the other. On one side of the stage hung United States flag; on the other the Virginia colors.

ORGANIZATION. Mr. N. V. Randolph called the meet-ing to order. At his request Mr. Chas. Millhiser, as temporary secretary, read the call which has for some days been published in the papers.

This done, Mr. Junius A. Mosby proposed that the following officers be elected:

PRESIDENT. R E Blankenship. VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Lewis Ginter, N V Randolph, Gen J R Anderson Guss Millhiser, Col A S Buford, John Enders, Maj Fred R Scott, Fred S Myers, Lewis H Blair, John H Gresham, Clay Drewry, Miles W Cary, D Mitteldorfer, John A Cohen, James D Patton,

M T Clarke, E A Catlin. B M Ourle, GW Warren James H Simpson, J B Lightfoot, everett Waddey, O O Owens, L Cottrell, H F Phillips A Osterloh, C O'B Cowardin, H W Roundtree W & Spott, T W McCance, James N Boyd, G Waddey Wilde, Thomas Cox, N D Hartgrove, B D Chalkley, George Duncan, Mark Downey, J E Phillips, Dr S P Moore, E L Spence, James H Dooley, J B Mosby, Geo H Poindexter, J A Pizzini. Dr RT Styll. R H Maury. E A Hoen, Col W H Palmer,

I H Carrington, R B Witter, Page McCarty. L D Crenshaw, William Harrylor, Form B Hassell. William Heller,

F Sitterding, SECRETARY. Charles Milchiser.

Mr. Randolph put the question on the ection of these officers, and it was nanimously carried. All the gentlemen were invited eats on the stage.

A W C Nowlin,

Mr. Blankenship, taking the chair, said that for the first time in all the varied history of our city and State the people of Richmond are called together to consider a sumptuary law; to ponder the result of a measure which will be put in force by the vote of a bare majority of those who attend the polls. It is not necessary, however, to say how repulsive the proposition is to Virginians, especially those who are past forty years of age. We believe that the laws in force in this State are the best that con be enacted for the promotion of the CHAIRMAN BLANKENSHIP. on be enacted for the promotion of the morals and interests of the people. We do not believe that it is necessary to pass prohibitory laws, but that every man should be left in the fullest exercise and enjoyment of the rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. We are told, however, by the good people who are urging the adoption of this law that similar experiments have been tried in other States and have been found advantageous to temperancee. That was not his information. Yielding to no man in his desire to advance the true cause of temperance, he was not persuaded by what he had heard of the success of bition in other States, that it had

ever accomplished what was expected Mr. Blankenship then reviewed brief-y the history of the law in Maine. He ly the history of the law in Maine. He thought the real facts showed that prohibition had not worked good for that State or any State. "At any rate," said he, "the time has not come to try is here. For twenty one years we have been struggling to put ourselves on the footing of other States, and we should make no step backward now. I am here," he said, "simply as a representative man of the commercial hodies of of the city. Through ne merit of my own have I been called on to preside; but I am here because I feel it my duty to be here." [Great applause.]

RESOLUTIONS OFEERED. State Senator Wm. Lovenstein offered he following resolutions: WHEREAS, under a recent act of the

WHEREAS, under a recent act of the General Assembly of Virginia, the people of Richmond will be, required on the 26th instant to determine by their votes whether the sale of wines and liquors shall be absolutely prohibited in our city after the 1st day of May next; and whereas the traffic in those articles has existed from time immemorial, and under the sanction of the laws of the State of Virginia large investments of property have been made and great huproperty have been made and great bu-siness interests have been built up, the value of which to the individual pro-prietor is of imposing magnitude and cannot be sacrificed without material injury to the commercial prosperity of this city and State; and whereas the adoption of this prohibition policy in this city will withdraw annually from the revenues of the State \$62,000. and the revenues of the State \$62,000. and from the revenues of the city \$15 000 of license taxes, imposing the necessity of supplementing this deficiency by additional burthens upon our already heavily-taxed people; will throw out of employment a large number of citizens of all classes; will at once diminish the the rental value of a great number of houses upon the returns from which many families are dependent for supmany families are dependent for sup-port, and will, we believe, exercise a depressing influence upon all the com-

mercial interests and enterprises among us; and whereas, while we yield to none of our fellow-citizens in deploring their Association, and have working the evils of intemperance and in commending and encouraging all legitimate been neighborhood gatherings of "wet" as well as "dry" people, but last night for the first time that portion of the business public which is in nowise idensatisfied from the experience of other communities that prohibition does prohibit, or that it contributes to the promotion of the moral any more than it does to the advancement of the materiinterests of the State; therefore
Resolved, That we earnestly advise

all of our fellow citizens to vote upon the 26th instant for adherence to the traditional policy of our fathers in the licensing of the sale of wines and liquors under the existing laws

of the commonwealth.

Resolved further, That we deprecate the proposed violent departure from the policy which has character-ized the legislation of Virginia in all her past glorious history as the first step towards the adoption of a system of sumptuary laws at war with the fundamental principles of civil and constitutional liberty.

Resolved further, That we pro-foundly regret and deplore the efforts

made in this matter for the first time in Virginia, to coerce public sentiment upon questions of political action by the influence of the Church and the clergy.

HON. WILLIAM LOVENSTEIN. Mr. Lovenstein, speaking to the resolutions, reviewed somewhat their legislative history, and said that it was his opinion that the General Assembly should have put its foot on the bill. [Applause.] He insisted that it was not within the constitutional scope of the General Assembly to place this option-this law-making power- in the hands of the people. That was his judgment and he had voted against the bill. [Cheers] He said if adopted it would uproot long settled customs and stab extensive interests. All this by a bare majori-

of those who go to the polls. He thought, too, it would be provocative of continual agitation and engender ill-feeling among classes that have long lived in harmony together. It would throw out of business a host of men. It would leave many houses untenanted. His reference to the use of churches on Sunday for prohibition meeting, "to induce men to vote against their convictions of right," was greeted by tremendous cheering. He made the most of the argument that the law would work a great revolution-would bring a par alysis upon trade. It would not he said, do to refer to Atlanta. Prohi-bition has not been tried there, but Senator Brown states that is doing great harm. From personal knowledge of Atlanta Mr. Lovenstein was sure that if the people of that State had to vote again it could not be car-ried there. At least so many people who had voted for prohibition had

told him upon the occasion of a re-cent visit to that city. DO WE NEED THE LAW HERE? After presenting the view that pro hibition is antagonistic to the spirit of liberty; that it is unfair; that it is repugnant to the spirit of our laws and institutions, Mr. Lovenstein

Is it necessary that this law shall be adopted in Richmond? We are

not a country village, but a flourishing commercial city. We are competing with other great cities of the Union for commerce, for manufactures, and other great interests. We are a quiet, law abiding, orderly peo-We have an excellent govern-We hear of no fraud or corruption. We have men at the head of our affairs in our city government worthy of all confidence. We have a thorough police system, whose force does not consist of roughs and rowdies, but gentlemen, most of whom have attested their loyalty and devotion to this people in other days. We have a few drunken men occasionally, but, all in all, our city compares favorably with that of any other cf its size to the Union. Why then this terrible cry against the morals of our people. Why, sir, the ministers themselves in the petition to adopt this law, exempted cities of 5.000 and upwards, and the Lieutenant Governor of this Commonwealth who must, it seems, come down from his exalted position to advocate temperance on Sunday and prohibition on Saturday, told me that no ef-fort would be made against cities, and that a committee then be

would prevent any trouble, as the people in the county wanted. My reply was that those whom I immediately represented came under the operations of the law. I should make no factious opposition. Yet that no law could be framed which imposed prohibition for which I ever would vote. Yet, notwithstanding all of these protestations, we find the fight being waged as fiercely and bitterly here as it can possibly be here as it can possibly be.

Mr. Chairman: I must now conclude my already extended remarks, but I cannot do so without calling attention to the language used by clergymen and others in decrying liquor dealers and their servile de-pendents. Yet, when we look around in the city where we see such men as E A. Saunders, as R L. Brown, D. E A. Saunders, as R L. Brown, D. O. Davis, Davenport & Means, Ellison & Harvey, Slater & Myers, and others, we recognize in them citizens whom we are proud of; who in every position, public and private, have been good and useful men, whose hands are ever ready to encourage business enterprise, deeds of charity, and I doubt not have contributed their share to the building-up of churches and schools. [Great ap-O. Davis, Davenport & Means, Ellison & Harvey, Slater & Myers, and others, we recognize in them citizens whom we are proud of; who in every position, public and private, have been good and useful men, whose hands are ever ready to encourage business enterprise deeds of tharity.

plause.] We can point to retail liquor dealers, who as a class are quiet and orderly citizens, ever ready to bear their portion of the burdens and city and State laws, ready to lend a helping hand to objects of worth and charity. Do you propose to drive these people from among us because they are engaged in a business, sanctioned by law, and which if not licensed will be transferred to men who will transact the business without bearing the necessary burdens as now required? I cannot believe, sir. that laws will be adopted in this city which are not enforced by the Czar of Russia on his subjects. Mr. Hoskins said that he regretted

that some of our women have been dragged into this contest— field not intended for lovely, modest women—Continuing he said: I am opposed to locannot believe that in this city and State we will enact laws which neither the Emperor of Germany, nor the Queen of England do not require of their people. We are inhabitants of cal option. I was opposed to putting it in the platform of the Democratic para State always noted for the liberality of her laws and the freedom of her people; of a State which was the first to throttle a party which at-tempted to prescribe men for their religious belief. [Applause.] And place of men both. No, sir, I cannot believe it We are citizens of a State proud of its ancient name, proud to be the birthplace of him who on your

der hill proclaimed the liberties of you will have a set of disreputable and dishonorable men in the liquor traffic, the people; of him, who, by his immortal pen drafted that instrument who will be ashamed to show their faces which proclaimed us a free and inand run their dram shops in the dark, and sell decoctions of stuff that contains dependent people, and which endors-ed us with the right to worship God in our way [applause], and guaran-teed us the rights of treemen, of lib-

Sir, I cannot believe that in a city which for four years stood the shock of war, and, you may say, of pesti-lence and famine; which at the end of that war found its warehouses in ashes, its people stripped of their property, but who went forth with energy and will to build up to her gentlemen, for your kind attention. The resclutions were then adopted after which the meeting adjourned. present beautiful proportions until he is now known far and wide as a

commercial integrity and liberality. Cheers.] I do not believe that she will now take a stride backward; but will in the future, as in the past, prove that she is capable of protecting her people, of enacting good laws, to see that they are faithfully carried out without the enactment of a statute which deprived any portion of her citizens of their individual rights or the adoption of property losses. Great applause.] MAJOR I. H. CARRINGTON. Mr. Blankenship; An occasion like this brings from their homes citizens who are rarely seen in public meetings. I have the honor of intro-

ducing to you Major Isaac H. Car-Major Carrington, making his bow. spoke of the pleasure it afforded him to address "this magnificent body of men." He regarded the issue presented as a most momen ous one but from what he knew of the people of this city he could not doubt that it would be met with courage and in telligence. "This issue," said he, "is

erty, of religion, and of conscience.

city of enterprising manufacturers of

not indigenous [applause]; it was imported." [Renewed applause.]
We are all for temperance. It is good for us in life, and comforts us when we are old. Yet we are now called upon to pass a local option law. Are you willing to have the trade of our glorious city marred when we are just moving on in a train of prosper-ity? You will say to merchants: Don't come here; go to New York, go to Baltimore, go anywhere, but don't come here, if you pass this law. It will not only affect the material in erests of the city but the moral interests also. Now we have our barrooms open, conducted by decent, respectable citizens. But pass this law – what will be the effect? Why, our young men, and all men who drink will sink into unlicensed bar rooms in back alleys. Don't tell me the bar rooms won't be there, because

they will. [Applause.] Suppose this law is passed, what's to become of all the good men in this city who are in the liquor traffic now? A great many of them have been in the business all their lives, and if you prevent them from carrying on this business what will they do? Will they become clerks in dry goods stores? [Laughter.] Will they study medicine? Will they become drug clerks? No. Why? Because they don't know how. What will they do?

They will take up their tents and go away from here. [Cheers.]

Now in this State we have what is called a bill of rights, framed by Thomas Jefferson, which declares that government is or ought to be instituted. instituted for the equal protection of life and property, and this bill we must stand by and uphold.

If it is wrong to sell liquor it's wrong to drink it, it's wrong to give it away, and if the Southern Express Company brings you a demijohn from Baltimore ought you to drink it, ought you to have it, even if given

There are a number of sincere, good people on the other side, but they are so woefully mistaken. Of all the wild, blind schemes that ever attacked this world, fanaticism is the worst. But in this matter be cool. Let each man think that the responsibility of this matter rests on his shoulders, and let him work from now until the 26th of April, and do all he can to put down this prohibi-

tion scheme. [Loud and continued

applause.] MR E. Y. CANNON.

The president announced as the next speaker Mr. E. Cannon. Mr. Cannon, however, could not be found. He had been on the stage for sometime, but feeling unwell, he had quiet-ly left the hall by the back door a moment before his name was called. MR. MEADE HASKINS.

Mr. Meade Haskins, a member of the Richmond bar, was next introduced. He expressed his pleasure at being able to be present.

We live, he said, under a government which was conceived in a desire for

When I see the public prints of this city and some of the intemperate articles from the pens of those who differ with us, I believe that they are honest in their convictions, but awfully wrong and misled Who are these intemperate ones? They are those who set themselves up as moralists. [A voice:-

ministers who are now so courageously upholding local option. That's what the ministers ought to do instead of the ministers ought to do instead of turning themselves into intemperate stump speakers and getting up and telling you how much drunkenness exists in the city. [Some one in the audience yelled out: 'Yankee Allan gets drunk.'] No, my friends, Yankee Allan isn't drunk; his head is too cool: but if you want to know comething of his record. want to know something of his record get somebody to tell you about him when he lived in Farmville. But I'll tell you who is drunk. A member of the Local Option Committee of Clay Ward is drunk to-night!

ty, and when a paper was brought to me to sign, asking the judge for an elec-tion. I refused to sign it, and I shall vote against the law next Monday— This law is wrong in principle and affects our personal rights, and that's enough to kill it. And now, in conclusion, I want to call the attention of the church-mem-bers to this one fact: Whether you will grant licenses to sell liquor, or whether

nobody knows what.

Besides, if this law goes into operation, it won't stop drinking, for those who want to drink are going to have it. Instead of friends going into a barroom and taking a quiet, social drink, and then going home, why men will take it home with them by the gallon. You won't see them lying around the streets drunk, but they will drink at home and become beasts. I thank you



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