

Playing football by electric light is all the rage in England.

The New England railroad have decided to discontinue the issuance of half-fare tickets to clergymen.

A resident of North Troy, Vt., has been held in \$1,000 bail for drawing caricatures of prominent citizens.

Alexander H. Stephen's old colored body-servant, Harry, has by his industry made himself a rich man, richer, it is said, than his old master.

Two street preachers were lately prosecuted in Edinburgh for behaving in a riotous, outrageous and disorderly manner, shouting, howling and making a great noise.

A prudent Republican candidate for Congress in Alabama, having obtained \$1,000 from the campaign fund, did not squander it in a hopeless contest, but bought a farm with it.

There is no truth in the rumors that the editor of the London Times has resigned or is about to do so, and the reasons which have been frequently put forward in explanation of his supposed resignation taking place are purely imaginary.

Capt. Kershaw at the age of 20, married a girl of 13. They lived together unhappily a few months, agreed that they had wedded too young, and separated. After the lapse of ten years recently met in Texas, and began matrimony over again.

A Paris physician has devised a soporific for the benefit of travellers through uninteresting scenery or who are troubled with insomnia. It is quite harmless agreeable to the taste and has the singular virtue of being limitable in the duration of its effects at the pleasure of the person using it. The time during which a given dose will operate can be calculated to within ten minutes of the actual figure.

The recent discovery of gold in India has set the London Saturday Review to discussing the question of the demonetization of silver, now that the most formidable objection to the gold standard in India has been removed. The arguments in favor of a change are very strong but it must be entered on with caution for the first effect would be to disorganize business, as it has done in Germany.

Sir Capel Fitzgerald, the scowling baronet whose last appearance before a London court was for obtaining three diamonds and an inordinate quantity of liquor from an inn-keeper under false pretences, got off. The magistrate dismissed the case while "declining to say anything as to the morality of the transaction," and the defendant promised to pay the bill in January.

Since last August Paris has expended upward of \$10,000 in experimenting with the electric light. The avenue of the Opera, the Theatre Francaise and Corps Legislatif were lighted up at the cost of from twenty-five to thirty-five cents hourly for each burner. For the same money from sixty-eight to ninety-five gas burners could have been used, with far greater illuminating power. The City Council is negotiating for fresh experiments at reduced rates.

Upon a "very intelligent colored preacher" the editor of the Charlotte (Va.) Gazette recently urged the importance of presenting before his people the prime duties of honesty, truthfulness, industry, temperance and faithfulness to their contracts. The preacher replied, "Why, if I should preach in this way, the colored people would say this is white man's religion; it does not do for us; and they would not hear me preach a month."

Ingenious legal trick which is vain: Mr. Merrick is to be tried at Indianapolis to-day for wife-murder, and his attorneys have issued a subpoena for the murdered woman, whom they represented as alive and living in the town. They expect the Sheriff to return "Not found," and then ask the Court to grant a continuance because of her absence. The Sheriff will checkmate this by returning the date of the discovery of her body and her present burial lot, and accompany the same with the Coroner's certificate.

The Marquis' troubles are beginning. The Irish Catholic organ at the seat of government refers that part of the oath which he took on assuming the duties of the Governor-Generalship in which it is declared that no prelate has any spiritual jurisdiction in the Dominion as an insult to the loyal Catholics of Canada. It denies that the Queen has any "right to assume spiritual authority or superiority in Canada," and further says that "no Catholic could express unbounded loyalty to Her Majesty" after such an oath had been taken.

The Cleveland Herald publishes a conversation with Gen. Thomas Ewing, of Ohio, a champion of inflation and silver money. He admits that resumption will be accomplished on the 1st of January, since there will be no opportunity for passing a bill for defeating or retarding resumption before the date. Mr. Ewing shows his strong preference for Senator Thurman as that next Democratic candidate for the Presidency.

WHAT RUSSELL IS AFTER.

There are a good many speculations herabouts as to what Judge Russell is really "driving at" in the political course he has pursued. His position is certainly a peculiar one. With a following of less than three hundred Greenbackers in the district, he is elected by some ten thousand Republican votes, which were given to him evidently in good faith and with the expectation that Russell when in Congress would champion the party which elected him. As the vote stands every Greenbacker in the District may have remained at home on election day or have cast his vote for Col. Waddell and still Judge Russell would have been elected, purely and simply by Republican votes. And yet no sooner does he feel that he has secured the election than he willfully and deliberately throws overboard the ten thousand Radicals who championed him at the polls and with whom he has acted for ten years past and quietly takes up with the three hundred voters who did not elect him and nearly all of whom were formerly Democrats and some of whom claim to be Democrats still.

There is food for thought in this. Judge Russell is not going it blind. He knows with whom he has to deal and who are virtually the masters in this district and he thinks that he has carefully calculated beforehand the result of his ventures. They all point one way and that is towards the Democratic party in 1878 and towards the Democratic nomination in 1880. This is what it means if it means anything and Judge Russell is one of those men who never adopt a policy without having carefully matured a plan. Our friends will watch his movements hereafter and see how far wrong we are in our assumptions.

THE CONGRESS YESTERDAY.

Congress has now been in session four days and as yet there has been more of the routine than of practical business. We do not look for anything decisive until after the holidays when it is expected that the members will warm up to their work. The following is a resume of matters of interest transacted yesterday:

SENATE.

The Vice President announced as the special committee in regard to the yellow fever investigation, authorized by the resolution of Mr. Harris, adopted yesterday—Messrs. Harris, Matthews, Lamar, Paddock, Conover, Garland and Estlin.

Mr. Morrill, of Vermont, submitted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to the amount of deposits in the Treasury to the credit of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, and whether interest should be allowed thereon; the expenses of the commission to settle the affairs of the company; what legislation is necessary to finally close up the affairs of the company, and have the commissioners retire. He said he understood the commissioners were willing to retire, but could not do so under the law. In his opinion the original managers of this institution should have been criminally prosecuted. Agreed to.

Mr. Withers said at the close of the last session that the reducing the tax on tobacco went over under the rule without reference to the committee on Finance. He therefore, now moved it be taken from the table and referred to that committee. He hoped there would be a speedy report, as the tobacco interest was suffering on account of the uncertainty regarding this taxation.

Upon examination of the record it was ascertained that the bill was referred to the Finance committee just before the close of the last session.

Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, upon his own request, was excused from serving on the special committee to inquire as to Senator Conover's connection with the omission of the Hot Springs clause from the Sumner Civil Appropriation bill last summer. Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, was appointed in his place, but was subsequently excused, on request, as was Mr. Davis, of Illinois, leaving Ed. Lph. of N. J., the only member now excused.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Singleton, of Mississippi, from the committee on Appropriations, reported the Consular Diplomatic bill, which was referred to the committee of the Whole, and made the special order for Tuesday next.

Mr. Clume, of Pennsylvania, from the same committee, reported the Naval Appropriation bill, which was referred to the committee on the Whole.

Mr. Reagan, of Texas, introduced a bill for the restoration of the records and files of the U. S. District and Circuit Courts for the Western District of Texas, lately destroyed by fire.

Mr. Jones introduced a bill regulating the rank of Chaplains in the Navy. Referred.

A resolution for the appointment of a yellow fever commission was reported from the committee on Rules, and adopted, and the House adjourned till Monday.

Raleigh Observer.
Gran! Lodge of Mason.

WEDNESDAY, Dec 4, 1878.

The Grand Lodge was called from refreshment to labor at 9:30. The several officers occupied their stations and places.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Committee on the Oxford Orphan Asylum was announced as follows: W. R. Cox, John Nichols, Eugene Grisson, Geo. W. Hunt and James Southgate.

Blair Burwell introduced a resolution to appoint a committee of three to consider the best way to extend Masonic information among subordinate Lodges. Adopted.

The Grand Master appointed Blair Burwell, S. H. Rountree and James Southgate as said committee.

J. C. L. Harris introduced a resolution, which was adopted, authorizing the appointment of a committee of three to inquire into the legality of the sale advertised in to-day's Observer to take place December 7th by Mr. J. E. Bledsoe, Commissioner, of the Grand Lodge for the corner of Morgan and Dawson streets.

The Grand Master appointed J. C. L. Harris, Thos. S. Kenan and W. R. Cox as said committee.

It was ordered that all resolutions relating to the Orphan Asylum be referred to that committee without debate.

On motion of J. A. Leach, the Committee on the Orphan Asylum was increased to ten and the Grand Master appointed the following additional members: J. A. Leach, J. C. Minns, J. W. Cotten, L. L. Green and O. W. Alexander.

Action in reference to the Orphan Asylum was made special for to-morrow morning 10 a. m.

J. C. L. Harris introduced a resolution proposing to amend article one, section one, of the Constitution relative to the membership of Past Grand Officers in the Grand Lodge, so as to cause the membership of any such officers to cease and determine in the Grand Lodge as soon as their membership in the subordinate Lodge shall for any cause cease; and determine. Referred to Committee on Jurisprudence.

James Southgate for committee: No. 1 on Charters and Dispensations, reported that they had examined the proceedings of Iredell Lodge, at Mooresville, Iredell county, Snow Lodge, at Sugar Grove, Watauga county, Cumberland Lodge, near Fayetteville, and Pollockville Lodge, at Pollockville, and recommended that charters be granted to each. Adopted.

J. H. Mills, Superintendent of Oxford Orphan Asylum, read his report, which was referred to committee on Orphan Asylum.

E. A. Wright introduced a resolution instructing the committee on the Orphan Asylum to report the amount paid by each Lodge of the five cents per month for each member, and five dollars for initiation fee, under resolution one; page 32 of the proceedings of the Grand Lodge for the year 1877, for the support of the Oxford Orphan Asylum. Adopted.

The committee on credentials made an additional report. There are now 124 Lodges represented, with other representatives to come in to-day.

The Grand Lodge was then called from labor to refreshments until 3 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The following brethren present as the accredited representatives of Grand Bodies near this Grand Lodge, were received as such: M. W.—John Nichols, P. G. M. Grand Lodges of Wisconsin and Chili; M. W.—H. H. Munson, Grand Lodge of Indiana; M. W.—George W. Boutwell, P. G. M. of Grand Lodge of Canada; R. W.—Donald W. Bain, Grand Lodge of Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, New Jersey, Tennessee and Texas.

The Committee on the Report and Grand Secretary's report and books reported they had examined the books and find that they have been kept in a most systematic and accurate manner, and that they correspond in every particular with his report to this annual communication.

The committee recommended a committee with like committees appointed by other Masonic bodies of this city for the purpose of procuring a more suitable building for the meeting of this Grand Lodge. Adopted.

J. H. Mills offered a resolution appointing Rev. George Latterson, D. D., Maj. Robert Buchanan, and Maj. H. W. Kenhart, who are requested to examine such books as may be accessible to them, and report at the next annual communication by essay, lecture, or otherwise, any information they may deem of interest to the craft, in regard to our ancient and illustrious Brother Pythagoras and his lectures on Masonry.

It was announced by the Grand Treasurer that the late B. F. Moore, of this city, whose will was probated to-day, bequeathed \$1,000 to the Orphan Asylum.

The Lodge was then called from labor to refreshment until 7 p. m. to-night.

NIGHT SESSION.

The Grand Lodge was called to labor at 7 o'clock. Minutes of the afternoon session were read and adopted. The Lodge then proceeded to elect by ballot a Superintendent for the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, for the next ensuing Masonic year, which resulted in electing by a unanimous vote, the present incumbent, J. H. Mills. This is a well-deserved compliment to this faithful man, who has so acceptably filled this important and responsible position ever since its establishment.

The election of Grand Officers for the ensuing year was then gone into with the following result:

Grand Master—W. R. Cox, of Raleigh.

Senior Grand Warden—O. W. Alexander, of Charlotte.
Junior Grand Warden—H. F. Grainger, Goldsboro.
Grand Treasurer—W. E. Anderson, of Raleigh.
Grand Secretary—D. W. Bain, of Raleigh.

A resolution was adopted authorizing the lease of the 3rd story of the Holman building for five years for the use of the Grand Lodge and the Masonic bodies of Raleigh. The Lodge was called off until 9 o'clock, a. m. to-morrow.

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