

Fraternal Greeting from "Old Dominion."

RICHMOND, VA., Oct. 16, 1877.

On the evening of the day on which I mailed my last letter to you, when I opened the afternoon paper the first item under the telegraph head announced the destruction of your city by fire; and I could but think with regret of the loss of the *Miscellany*, which, though my acquaintance with it was short, I had come to look upon as an old friend. I hoped to see it revived again; and it was with great pleasure my hopes were realized by the reception of the July number, after a delay of several months. I think, Mr. Editor, you deserve great credit for resuming publication as soon as you did—considering your other duties and the little spare time you must have had to devote to it. And now I wish you a long, hearty and useful life, and hope you may soon have at least five thousand readers who will enjoy your visits as much as I do.

Since my last letter to you, Jul. L. Wright, one of the most efficient officers we have ever had, has resigned his position as President of our Union. W. T. Booth, our corresponding secretary, was elected to fill the vacancy; and Wm. H. Mullen made corresponding secretary.

From what I can learn, the state of the trade is very bad in this State. There is only one other Union, besides No. 90 in the whole State, and that a small one. In Petersburg, twenty-one miles from this city, work is very scarce at 25 cents per thousand. In Norfolk, the Union scale calls for 30 cents per thousand; and I am told that in one office there is one journeyman and nine apprentices; and in another, one journeyman and six apprentices. Tramps have been quite numerous of late, some from the South going North, and *vice versa*. They receive but little encouragement, as we have more than enough of our own members out of "sits" to supply all demands for extra workmen, and the applications for assistance from "travellers" have become so frequent as to excite little sympathy.

The *Enquirer*, one of the oldest papers in this city, was advertised to be sold at auction some days ago, owing to the failure of a recent purchaser to comply with his contract; but, before the hour of sale, the difficulty was adjusted, the former purchaser ratified his bargain, and the establishment was not offered for sale.

The *Whig*, another old paper, is now being run on the joint stock plan. Captain R. E. Frayser, late business manager, has severed his connection with that paper and established an advertising agency in this city.

The *State*, the only evening paper in the city, has recently been enlarged, and is now among the largest penny papers in the country. It is a live journal, and promises to outstrip most of our morning papers.

Dr. E. T. Baird, the ex-Secretary of the Presbyterian Publication Committee, of whose defalcation I informed you in a former letter, has returned to this city and surrendered himself up to the authorities to answer the indictments against him for embezzling the funds of the committee. He says he has been to Toronto, and in that city first learned, through the newspapers, of his indictment. The building purchased by Dr. B., as a depository and publishing house, was offered for sale at auction last week, but was taken in at \$30,000. It cost about \$45,000, and a private offer was made of \$35,000.

Since the paragraph above, in reference to Dr. Baird, was written, his case has come up for trial—resulting in a verdict of "not guilty." Before all the witnesses were examined the judge dismissed the case, saying that there was no evidence to warrant a further examination; that the committee seemed to be "a religious concern, whose operations were carried on by faith rather than in any other way."

Jas. P. Cowardin, son of the senior editor, and proprietor of the *Dispatch*, and for some years connected with the staff of that paper, died on last Tuesday, the 16th inst., in the 32nd year of his age. He was possessed of an unusual order of talent, and was a great favorite with all he associated with. As a humorous lecturer he had secured an enviable reputation in this and adjoining States.

At the last meeting of Richmond Union ten dollars were appropriated to the fund for sending the International delegate to the Paris Exposition; and I am satisfied this sum will be increased at our next meeting.

Now, Mr. Editor, I believe I have given you all the news from our parts that I can think of, and just a word more and I am done. Your article in the last number on the "Manufacture of Wood Type" was very interesting and instructive; give us some more like it. What