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THE KENT NEWS

Chestertown, Md.,

SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1867.

THE PRESENT ASPECT OF RECONSTRUCTION.

The military rule bill, reported by Mr. Stevens from the reconstruction committee, has met with unexpected opposition in the House. Mr. Stevens endeavored to force it through under the operation of the previous question and without debate, but in this he was defeated. Gen. Banks then took the floor and made an able argument against the bill, his objections being mainly that "it made a frame of civil government, to be administered by the regular army without any restriction or limitation of power. The regular army, in administering that power, was to be without responsibility to the constitution, to Congress or to the people of the country, but was to be responsible only to the commander of the army." Another objection which he urged to the bill was, that "there was not a word or line that limited its operation or looked to the establishment of any other government than that of the regular army." During his speech, General Banks, in reply to an inquiry, expressed the opinion that the bill could "not pass with such a degree of unanimity as to make it effective as a law," by which of course he meant that it could not pass the House over a veto by a two-thirds vote. This unanticipated opposition took Mr. Stevens by surprise, and as General Banks is one whose opinions and utterances have weight, and who carries after him no inconsiderable train of earnest followers, this measure, though still lingering in the House, may be regarded as dead, and with it dies also the labors of "the committee of fifteen" of the 39th Congress, whose efforts, under the pretence of devising a plan of reconstruction, seem to have been directed specially to defeat that object.

A bill has passed the House, introduced Mr. Eliot, of Massachusetts, one of the New Orleans riot investigating committee, providing for the appointment of a provisional government of Louisiana, to take the place of the present State government. The bill provides for the appointment of a provisional governor and council of nine by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, all of which appointees shall be able to take the test-oath. An election shall be called for the 7th of June, at which all loyal persons, without distinction of color, shall vote for Governor and Legislature. Confederate soldiers who did not enter the army voluntarily are allowed to vote. This bill was hurried to a vote with only two hours allowed for debate, and passed by yeas 113, nays 48. It will probably pass the Senate. Nothing is said as to when the provisional government is to cease, or the State admitted to representation in Congress, and it is presumed that these will be permitted so soon as all the negroes are allowed to vote and radical Senators and Representatives selected. This is the last phase of "reconstruction!" It is also given out that the other lately rebellious States are to be "admitted" in the same way, but only "one at a time."

GOVERNOR SWANN'S SPEECH.—A complimentary banquet was given to Governor Swann at the Continental hotel in Philadelphia on Thursday night of last week, at which that gentleman made quite a lengthy speech, vindicating himself from the charge of inconsistency in political life, and also refuting many of the slanders which have been circulated in the interests of party and faction against the people of our State, in their social as well as political character. Lieutenant Governor Cox also made a short address on the occasion, in which he warmly endorsed the reconstruction policy of the President, and contended that it was the duty of the people to stand by him so long as he maintains the principles which he has enunciated, believing that the country must come to that platform at last.

CONGRESS.

Both houses of Congress have passed, over the President's veto, the bills for the admission of Nebraska and Colorado as States. The bills provide that the admission shall take effect only when there shall be no denial of the elective franchise or other right to the people of said Territories on account of race or color.

The bankrupt bill was passed by the Senate on Tuesday, yeas 22, nays 20.—Mr. Sumner have several attempts to incorporate in it a test-oath, so as to exclude the Southern people from the benefit of its provisions, but he was voted down in each case.

A NEW EDUCATIONAL JOURNAL.—E. S. Zevely, Esq., has issued a prospectus for the publication of the "*Maryland Educational Journal*," to be published monthly at $1.50 per year, in the city of Baltimore. The teachers of the State are invited to sustain it, and act as correspondents and assistant editors. As its name indicates, it is to be devoted to the cause of education generally.

SPECIAL ELECTION.—An election has been ordered to take place on the 21st instant, in Cecil county, for a delegate to the General Assembly, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Magraw.

Maryland Legislature.

A spicy debate took place in the House on Friday of last week, on an order offered by Mr. Gorsuch, that the use of the hall be granted to Gen. Howard, of the Freedmen's Bureau, and Judge Bond, of Baltimore, to deliver lectures explaining the object of the Freedmen's Aid Society. Mr. Clarke moved to strike out the name of Judge Bond. Mr. Neilson inquired if negroes were to be admitted to the hall, and on Mr. Gorsuch wanting to know why he asked that question, he replied that negroes generally constituted about two-thirds of Judge Bond's audiences! After some further remarks, Mr. Clarke's motion was adopted by yeas 41, nays 27.

Mr. Bigler, from the committee on education, has reported in the House a bill to repeal the present system of public schools in this State, and to establish a general system of free instruction.

Senate bill to incorporate the village of Head of Sassafras by the name of "Sassafras," has passed the House, and is now a law.

Mr. Vickers has presented a number of petitions from tax-payers of Kent county for authority to levy a tax to aid in the construction of the Kent County Railroad, and has also introduced a bill for that purpose. Also, a bill to authorize the commissioners of Kent county to convey to Isaac Parsons and others, of said county, a portion of Old Crew's Landing, near the mouth of Sassafras river. Also, to exempt from taxation the property of Kent Lodge, No. 74, I. O. O. F., at Galena, Kent county. Also, to incorporate the Quaker Neck Wharf Company, on Chester river, in Kent county.

The resolutions heretofore offered by Mr. Evans, of Cecil, declaring that propositions to alter Constitution should emanate from the Legislature, and that the power of the Legislature to submit questions to the vote of the people cannot be limited by the Constitution, have passed the House by a party vote.

The Comptroller of the Treasury, in response to an inquiry, informed the House that he has already commenced the payment of claims for bounties due enlisted men and former owners of slaves who enlisted during the late war, and that he was prepared to pay all such claims as fast as they are examined and adjusted.

FIRE AT THE ALMS-HOUSE.—The overseer's house on the alms-house farm of this county accidentally took fire between two and three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon last, and was entirely consumed. Mr. Joshua Copper, the overseer, succeeded in saving nearly all his household effects. The buildings occupied by the poor and the out-houses were not injured, though not distant from the scene of the fire. The house was an old but comfortable one-story frame, with kitchen, and worth about twelve hundred dollars. We learn that it was not insured.

THE following tribute of respect to the memory of the late Judge Chambers was adopted by the Court and Bar of Prince George George's county on the 4th inst.:

Ordered, that this Court and Bar have heard with profound sorrow of the decease of the Hon. Ezekiel F. Chambers, one of the most distinguished and eminent citizens of Maryland; who, throughout a life unusually prolonged, has, whether as a lawyer, Judge or statesman, given evidence of the very highest ability and integrity, and has uniformly reflected the greatest degree of credit upon the State in every position in which he has acted.

Ordered, further, that these orders shall be entered of record, published in the county papers, and that a copy duly authenticated shall be prepared and forwarded by the Clerk to the family of the deceased.

Postponed Sale.

The Farm, at "Spencer's Landing" on Corsica Creek in Queen Anne's county, advertised in the *News*, at public sale, on the 29th ult., by Thos. J. Keating, Esq., attorney for A. R. Wallace, was not offered on that day, because it was, and had been from the day it was first advertised, so covered with snow as to preclude an examination of the premises by those desiring to purchase. Mr. Keating will offer it to the highest bidder in front of the Court House in Centreville on TUESDAY, the 26th day of February, instant, at 3 o'clock, P. M. This is a beautiful estate of 170 acres, with buildings new and complete, and said to be one of the most desirable locations in Queen Anne's county. *

DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT.—Christopher Hynson was arrested by Bailiff Hurtt on Thursday evening last for obscene conduct in the vicinity of the M. E. Church of this town as the congregation was assembling for worship. He was committed to jail by Justice Earnest, and on Friday morning brought out and fined five dollars and costs.

QUARTERLY MEETING.—The last Quarterly Meeting for Kent Circuit, M. E. Church, will be held at the church, in Chestertown, on Saturday and Sunday, February 14th and 15th. The quarterly conference will be held this (Saturday) morning at 10 o'clock. Love Feast on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and preaching at 10½ o'clock by the Presiding Elder.

MAD DOGS.—It is said that there are a number of mad dogs at large in the vicinity of Chestertown. Our town authorities have issued an order requiring all dogs in the town to be chained for the space of fifteen days.

FIRE IN QUEEN ANNE'S.—We learn that the dwelling-house of Mrs. Gawthrop, on Southeast creek, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday night last, but are not advised of the particulars or the amount of the loss.

For the Kent News.

The Railroad.

Messrs. Editors:—As the Kent County Railroad seems to be a subject of general discussion, both orally and through the medium of the press, I will state my views in brief. That a railroad connecting with the Delaware road and running through our county to the waters of the Chesapeake or tributaries, is desirable, will be admitted by all; but the difficulty with some persons is as regards the line of said road passing through different portions of our county and its southern terminus. I believe it to be conceded and acquiesced in generally that said road will pass near Massey's Cross Roads, in a direct line near Kennedyville—and from thence (I give my views) to or near Belair in the lower district, and from thence to the bay shore at William P. Francis' or below that point, as may be desirable. My motives for running said road to the bay shore instead of Swan Creek or Rock Hall are, that I believe it will advance very materially the interest of said road, lessening the distance by rail about *three miles*, and by water to Baltimore *ten miles*, or twenty miles steamboat running each and every round trip made to and from that city—or in making the trip daily for one year, say three hundred days, six thousand miles annually, and to continue as long as said road may be used.

By having the terminus on the bay shore, it will give either steam or sail boats passing up or down the bay a landing or stopping place for the purpose of delivering freight or passengers from above or below, and for winter navigation it has many advantages over the other points mentioned. On the twenty-ninth of last December our creeks were frozen up and navigation suspended, whilst the navigation of the bay as far up as the points mentioned continued open for steam boats to the twentieth of January, when the Patapsco river was closed. Navigation again opened in the bay February fourth: how much longer our creeks may be closed is yet uncertain.

The objection to the bay shore seems to be the cost and difficulty of securing a sufficient wharf or harbor. The cost of building the extra distance by rail between the shore terminus and Rock Hall will build such a wharf and harbor.

Now lest my motives may be construed as interested ones, I merely state that if said road should run to Rock Hall or Swan Creek, it will run very near my business point and through two farms, making the furthest point for me to haul from about two miles. Should it run to the bay shore, it will leave my business point some four miles off, and the furthest point for me to haul near six miles. For the interest of the road I fully believe the bay shore will be much preferable.

Noticing the petition for taxing our county to build or assist in building said road, I will enter my objection. If it only required the amount mentioned to finish said road, I would not object, but to levy a tax of one hundred thousand dollars, when there is only subscribed about that amount by private subscription, seems to me to be benefiting the many at the expense of the few. Some persons have subscribed very liberally, whilst others more able have subscribed but little, and those very persons will be benefitted equally (many of them more) at a comparatively small cost to themselves. Let us have the views of others. I write from and subscribe myself

Feb. 9, 1867. LOWER DISTRICT.

Letter from Head of Sassafras.

Correspondence of the Kent News.

HEAD SASSAFRAS, Feb. 12, 1867.

Dear News:—On the first of January last our village underwent its annual revolution, and nearly every citizen felt his or her comfort largely increased by the change of domicils. This yearly migration from one house to another in the same town is a mystery as deep to most persons as to find out who it was that struck Billy Patterson. Among the changes is that of our friend James L. Pryor, who has launched out from his elegant home and its refined surroundings, to the perils and discomforts of "keeping tavern." I do not of course know what change for the better he expects to make by this move, but *I do know* that travellers and others who may have to patronize public houses in their journeyings, and may 'put up' with friend Pryor, will be largely the gainers. If comfort, cleanliness and a *splendid table* will make any body happy, they can always obtain the article at the Head of Sassafras Hotel. Mrs. Pryor is a *chef* in the art of *cuisine*, and can beat any French cook all hollow, whilst that peculiar tidiness and neatness in the art of dressing a table is a *specialite* with her. Let travellers and others look to this, and "when found make a note of."

It is gratifying in this annual mania for change to find a few good substantial citizens *in statu quo*. Among the number is our old friend Dreka, "the Miller of Kent," who has built himself a handsome dwelling nearly on the site of the ricketty old concern which formerly desecrated that otherwise beautiful place. His sweet tempered countenance and generous disposition is a beacon to the dwellers 'on the hill,' and he stands ever ready to deal generously and charitably to the poor, and fairly and honorably by the rich.—Our old friend Neal is also "statuary," and always to be found to 'take a stitch in time' for any body. Friend Townsend is pegging away at his improved horse cultivator, and friend Ernest (everybody knows "Fagan") still drags his lengths along, having recently added to his stock by a handsome and comfortable stage, between Head of Sassafras and Middletown.

At the Fox-hole landing, adjoining the village, great changes have also been effected. Capt. B. F. Walmsley, so long and favorably known as a river Captain, and who by his demeanor and strict integrity won for himself a good name, has retired to his farm in Sassafras Neck, which he recently purchased from Mr. F. Pauscault, where we wish him success and unalloyed happiness. He is succeeded by Simon Wilmer Boyer, Sr., who continues the business of shipper of grain to Baltimore. It would be useless for me to speak of Mr. Boyer, so long and favorably known to so great number of the people of Kent. I may add, however, that a more intimate acquaintance with Mr. Boyer reveals traits of character any *real* Christian might envy, and that in his heart there dwells no guile.

Among the *on dits* and apparently kept secret is that 'somebody' is seeking thro' the Legislature to have Head of Sassafras *incorporated*, and a bill to that effect has passed. As I have daily perambulated the streets of this romantic village and heard no talk or discussion concerning such a subject or desire on the part of its inhabitants, I cannot but think the project originated in the brain of some one ambitious of the honor of being '*Mayor*,' and governing the few if not the many. Whether it will be of any real advantage or not, it is not meet for me to argue, but one thing I may be permitted to say, and that is *I know* the citizens of Head of Sassafras to be strictly "*loyal*" (over the left,) and express the hope that the voters of this new corporation will steer clear of all those who have lorded it over us with such malignity the last four years, in the selection of corporation officers.

But we need other and far more pressing legislation than incorporating tenth rate villages, and if our neighbors want their town improved let them join in petitions to the Legislature now in session, to render the *access* to and from the place more safe and agreeable. The public road leading from the Head of Sassafras to Warwick is and long has been a nuisance. Most persons and including among the number, the U. S. Mail, usually cross the road over the mill dam, which is a private road and subject to the will of all the Kennedys. What we need is the passage of a law enabling or directing the two counties to purchase this road and widen it, and make it safe for travellers. In winter, particularly, such a one as we now have, and during heavy rains, the public road is many times impassible, and *town* of Head of Sassafras would receive a greater *impetus* to improvement if the way to it was made plain and safe. Who will move in the matter? Will the future *Mayor* do so?

We are all very glad to see several ably written communications on the subject of *location* and *terminus* of the Kent County Rail Road in the "News." It is a subject that will bear ventilation, and from certain rumors *light* is badly wanted on the subject. To the people of the upper portion of Kent and Cecil it is a matter of surprise that any other terminus than that of Middletown could be desired.—One would naturally suppose it to be the purpose of any corporation or enterprise *to make it pay*. To gain a *temporary* advantage over one that is manifestly permanent, is certainly very short sighted policy to say the least of it. And such would be the case to connect the Kent County road at Townsend with the Delaware road. The argument advanced here is, that to run the road from Masseys X Roads, via Head of Sassafras and Warwick, to Middletown, would necessitate an increase of *cost* to build the road of $84,000, and that the citizens of Kent are not going to take *their* funds to build a road at so great an additional cost for the benefit of Cecil county. Now suppose this puerile reasoning prevail, how will it end? From Masseys X Roads to Townsend, nearly all that portion which runs through Delaware is nothing but a bog swamp, and to say nothing else it would *cost* largely to *make a bed* for the track for three or four miles. But from Masseys to Townsend what is the Road to subsist upon? Huckleberries? That's about all the "productions" of the Townsend portion. Farmers would prefer to cart their grain to the rivers and ship to Baltimore, or to "the parent trunk" at Middletown at once. There is nothing to sustain the road after it is built, even if the P. W. & B. Railroad *does* build it to the Maryland line. They will take good care to make the Kent County Rail Road pay for this though. And now about the other route, via Sassafras and Warwick to Middletown. They say it will cost $84,000 more. Suppose it will, how then? The citizens of Cecil offer to subscribe thirty thousand dollars if the road shall be located on this route "*for certain*." They are entitled to the appropriation for rail road purposes of Cecil county, and this will make the deficit.—Then as to the *permanent* advantages the Rail Road would derive from this route aside from the subscription question. It would run through the richest agricultural district in the Union. The produce of the neighborhood would sustain it and make it a paying corporation at once.—Take the example of the Delaware Rail Road and the Maryland and Delaware R. Road. The former was located over the very poorest portion of Delaware, (it was cheap land,) and the latter run through a rich agricultural region. The consequence is that although the Md & Del. Rail Road has only been completed to Hillsborough, and in existence only a few months, yet it is said to have paid a larger per centage during its brief life than all that portion of the Delware Rail Road south of Dover since it was established.

But my 'letter' has grown to such outrageous proportions that I must necessarily close. Let us hope that "a word to the wise will be sufficient" to the Rail Road men.

In closing allow me to express the hope that "Progress," "Examiner" and "Reviewer," will give us a little more of 'the same sort.' The school question wants ventilating badly, and almost any change or system would be welcome if it would only give us school masters and "school marms" *all the year round*. I have no '*bairns*' of my own to look after but by all that's aggravating I have to pay *taxes* enough, and that too without the freeman's privilege, the *permission* to vote. *En passant* allow me for thousands to thank our noble Legislature for squashing the develtries of the last four years. If they would only go a *little* farther and mete out greater justice to those who have played the tyrant over their neighbors, they would do well. It would only by "rendering to Cæzar the things which are Cæzar's." VERTEX.

RELIGION IN JAIL.—Since his return to jail, Robert E. Lucas has manifested an interest in the welfare of his soul, and for some days was very penitent. Several christian ladies and gentlemen of the town becoming acquainted with the fact, paid several visits to the prisoner in his cell, and engaged with him in prayer, and finally on Thursday last he professed conversion, and, we are told, is now a changed man.—*Centreville Observer.*

AT the present time great destitution prevails among the poor in Philadelphia, from the lack of employment. Terrible cases of suffering are reported by the papers of that city.

For the Kent News.

The School Question.

"Examiner" Examined—No. 2.

Messrs. Editors:—Having, in a former paper, shown some of the results of the popular and elective system of education, by some things which the elected agents were obliged, by public opinion, to do; and mentioned some things which they did not; permit me now, in pursuance of the same idea, to state some facts, which will show at once how deep was the interest of the people and their One Hundred and Eighty-five agents in the Schools, of which "Examiner" charges the present has divested them.

There were thirty-five schools, on thirty-two sites; of these nineteen were without means of any kind to procure water for the teachers and pupils. Eighteen had no arrangement whatever for privacy; two others had such but wholly insufficient. Sixteen were without stoves to keep the rooms comfortable with safety. Three only were enclosed; one only had other furniture than long board or slab seats and writing benches; and that one was supplied by a public spirted gentleman recently become a citizen of our county. Only a few were supplied with Blackboards. In one house, some teacher, a long time ago, had blackened a small space of rough wall surface in lieu of one, and three years ago, the Trustees learned for the first time the intention or use of it. In the matter of Books, the variety was interminable, every successive teacher introducing a new batch, necessitating a beginning of the teachers *de novo* in their studies, and requiring every few months a fresh draft on the parental purse.

I say nothing now of the ill-constructed, ill-ventilated, dilapidated houses, which have so long gapingly appealed to our county pride for demolition and reconstruction. Why have these things been so long endured? "Examiner" may say it is because the 185 agents of the old system had not the funds placed at their disposal to remedy them. Very true, Sir, but what does that argue for the *interest* of the parents in the schools, of which, you allege, the present system divests them? Simply, that it must have been infinitessimally small! Talk about the interest of a man or a community in a school of children whose own dear parents are so penurious, so negligent, so unintelligent or so careless of their children's welfare as to compel them to go without water, or to get it from a frog-pond! Fie! fie! Mr. "Examiner," you should have *examined* these facts before you ventured to parade the *interest* of the people of Kent county in the schools before the world! The truth is, the new system does not seek to divest any person of an interest in the schools if they have any, but to divert the interest felt and manifested in the election of Trustees favorable to a particular teacher, (often incompetent,) to the School itself.

Is the present system any better in these respects? Let facts answer. For the lack of that legitimate interest in the schools which the system will assuredly develope, no new houses have been built; one, however, has been repaired, two or three pumps have been rendered serviceable, thirteen or more new stoves have been procured, two houses have been refurnished, and every one supplied with a good black board with slate surface, the outline maps have been unrolled and applied to their proper use. The multiplicity of books has given place to a uniform series, of which, if proper care be taken, few more will be required. These now in the hands of pupils may be made to serve their junior brothers and sisters.

The Schools *now* have constant and active supervision, by gentlemen as well qualified, to say the least, as a majority of the 185. Now the teachers must undergo an examination to test their competency, and their schools are often visited and examined by men sworn and paid to do it.

Can you now, Sir, ask wherein the new system is an improvement? The results of it are apparent in your own village, if "Observer" is to be credited. I was myself, a fortnight since, present at the examination of one of our schools, and the reading of a class of very young children impressed me with the real value of the present system of rigid supervision, and indicated something very much in advance of any results of the old mode. Of these children one, William Fletcher, had attended the school only twenty-four days, beginning with the alphabet Jan. 1, 1867. Three others, J. T. Kennard, Alonzo Kennard and A. O. Jones, had been longer in attendance, having entered Nov. 15, 1866, as alphabeticians also. The reading of these children, under the judicious and energetic instruction of the teacher, Mr. Wm. H. Pace, was, in all the essential requisites of good reading, punctuation, intonation, inflexion, emphasis, &c., decidedly superior to the ordinary standard of reading by our adult population. Nor do I suppose this to be an exceptional case, on the contrary, I think such careful training and rapid advancement may be found in many of our schools. Can Mr. "Examiner" point to such cases under the old system? Why, Sir, it was not only unknown whether a pupil improved or not, but it cannot be shown by any record of attendance or progress that any pupil attended the school at all.—Even the teacher seldom felt interest enough in his school to keep a record of attendance.

I fear, Sir, that you, and the people whom you flatter, never did take sufficient interest in the schools to judge of their value and efficiency; and cannot but think that gentlemen who aver that there is no improvement, do not take the trouble to examine. They testify of what they hear, and not of what they have seen or personally know.

You have treated us, Sir, to a grand flourish of trumpets in relation to the cumbrousness and expensiveness of the machinery of the present system. Is a system administered by four or five paid agents more cumbrous than one that requires one hundred and eighty-five unpaid ones? Why, Sir, all the agents of the whole State, including the city of Baltimore, employed in the working of the present school system, is 147, being 38 less than the little county of Kent alone employed under the popular system! "But now they are paid! Before, the whole thing was managed without expense!"—Just so, Sir,—and this was precisely the reason that your old plan was worthless. It was good for anything at all just so far as it cost something and no farther. Your teachers were paid something, and to that extent did the schools gain one interested friend. No one else was paid, and why should they care? To this statement there were of course exceptions. Some felt an interest in the school, but rarely enough to supply the pupils with water or the conveniences which decency and health required.

I admit that the machinery now employed costs more; if it did not, I should not expect it to be worth more: but is it not still cheaper than the old? Ordinarily we judge of the expensiveness of our instrumentalities by their results. A machine which does not thresh my wheat, though designed for it, is not cheap as a free gift. It costs no more to work an efficient one that will accomplish what I wish. The old system cost more than its results showed it to be worth. Each school received one hundred and fifty dollars from the county, making $5,250
The people gave nearly all the fuel, worth about - - - - 1,000
And subscribed to pay teachers and incidental expenses - - 2,650
The State gave about - - - 3,000

Making a total of - - $12,900

Will any man assert that the benefits received were commensurate with the outlay? It is true the schools were in operation longer, but was not that an intensification of the mischief which small salaries and poor teachers were inflicting?—Can it be denied that with no aid from the county or the people, the present system has not, in six months, with $11,000, done more to educate truly, solidly, and correctly the children of the county than the old had done in ten years or more, with nearly $13,000 per annum?

I do not attribute the failure of the old system to the trustees; they doubtless did the best they could with the crazy, ill-adjusted machinery in their hands. In some few instances a genuine, *live* teacher would take a school, and under the most disadvantageous circumstances awake a temporary interest in his school district by the progress of his pupils;—but as a general rule poor *cheap* teachers, showing no decided results in the advancement of their pupils, failed to awaken any interest in the parents, and the schools were *tolerated*, not supported, and that because they were thought to be *cheap*. In nine-tenths of them, I venture to assert, that no pupil could be found able to tell why a figure is to be carried in adding or substracting, or what difference there is between the processes of substraction and division. REVIEWER.

THE MARYLAND CONGRESSMEN.—Statements have been published in the northern papers that the seats of all the Maryland members in the next House, excepting that of Hon. Francis Thomas, will be contested. This is incorrect, as no notice has as yet been served on Mr. Archer, member elect from the second district, by his opponent, Hon. John L. Thomas, Jr., now a member of the 30th Congress, and the 60 days time allowed has expired. Mr. Thomas states that he does not propose to contest Mr. Archer's seat, although he has been strongly urged to do so by the radical minority of his district. The other contestants express perfect confidence that the seats will be awarded to them, and in the absence of Mr. Archer's seat, it is now said that the house will declare that there is a vacancy in consequence of no legal election having been held.—*Wash Correspondent Balt. Sun.*

EXECUTION OF A MURDERER.—Andrew P. Armstrong, convicted of the murder of his wife, was executed on Friday last, at New Castle, Del., in the presence of a large throng of spectators. The Wilmington Commercial says:

He admitted that he killed his wife, though he insisted that he did it in the heat of passion, after she had already attacked him with a hatchet. His version of the affair was that his wife attacked him with a hatchet when he was entering the room, that she struck him on the head, and that he warded off the blow, and in a rage wrested the weapon from her and struck her the blow which killed her, and then, frightened at what he had come, he buried her in the pig-pen to conceal his crime. This statement is not consistent with the evidence, as nothing was more clearly proved than that the blow was struck when the woman's back was turned towards him.

A COLORED TREASURY CLERK.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune on Tuesday says: "To-day Secretary McCulloch appointed S. Johnson, a colored man, to a regular first-class clerkship, he having previously passed the required examination, the rules of which were strictly enforced. Mr. Johnson is the first colored man who has occupied a clerkship in any of the government departments. The appointee was a soldier in the late war, is a practical phonographer, and has received a collegiate education." Several days ago another paper made assimilar announcement of the appointment of a colored man to office named Johnson, a barber in times past of President Lincoln.

A large fire occurred in Baltimore city on the 8th inst., which entirely consumed the large liquor house of Charles A. Ross & Co., on Commerce st., near Exchange Place. The stock of liquors destroyed was valued at $150,000, upon which there was an insurance of $110,000. The adjoining establishment of W. D. Shurtz, cheese and fish dealer, was also destroyed—loss $50,000, only $25,000 insurance.

THE END OF LOTTERIES.—The grand jury of the Court of Oyer and Terminer of New York have reported that lotteries are public nuisances. All persons concerned in such enterprises are duly warned of the error of their ways, and unless they heed the warning, the vengeance of the law will swiftly overtake them. In the opinion of the jury, all lottery schemes are detrimental to the morals of the community.

THE new assessment of property in Dorchester county amounts to $6,310,601.

Baltimore Price Current.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14, 1867.

White Wheat, per bushel		No sales reported.
Red "		
White Corn, "		1.03a1.04
Yellow "		95a97
Oats (weight) "		58
Clover Seed "		8.50a9.00

MARRIAGES.

At Wesley Chapel M. P. Church, on Thursday evening, Feb. 7th, by Rev. J. Earle Maloy, WILLIAM STEVENS, formerly of Talbot Co., Md., to Miss LAURA J. JONES, of this county. [Easton (Md.) papers please copy.)

At the M. P. Church, in Chestertown, on Thursday evening, Feb. 14th, by Rev. L. W. Bates, JOHN C. USILTON to Miss SUSAN A. SPARKS.

On the 14th, by Rev. J. B. Quigg, JOHN W. MILVIN to Miss MARY A. C. BUCHANAN.

DEATHS.

In Worton, on the 3rd instant, after a short illness, JAMES A., son of Wm. W. and Maggie A. I. Stephens, aged 1 year and 24 days.

In Baltimore, Feb. 9th, MARY LIZZIE, beloved daughter of William T. and Elizabeth Hynson, aged 9 months and 3 days.

On the 14th inst., at Smithville, of pneumonia, RACHEL SHUSTER, wife of Wm. Shuster, in the 66th year of her age.

FOR RENT,

FOR the balance of the present year, the STORE ROOM under the Vosbell House, formerly occupied by the undersigned.
Apply to E. T. WILLIS,
feb16 3t. Next door to Ellison & Son.

SEINE FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale a Seine, from 125 to 149 fathoms in length, newly tarred and with sufficient rope for hauling, all in complete order—will fish in about 10 feet water. It will be sold low if applied for at once.
R. S. EMORY,
feb16-3t. Near Chestertown.

CAUTION.

ALL persons are cautioned against trespassing on the premises of the undersigned after this date. All persons disregarding this notice will be dealt with according to law.
GEORGE T. COSDEN,
Round Top, Queen Anne's county.
Feb. 16, 1867—3*

LAST NOTICE TO TAX-PAYERS

AFTER the Fifteenth of March, 1867, all tax-payers in the Third Tax District, whose taxes have not been paid for the year 1866, will be proceeded against, without respect of persons. All persons interested are requested to take notice accordingly. After that time I shall proceed to close my books as speedily as possible. EDWIN CROUCH,
feb16—4t* Coll. 3rd Dist.

NOTICE.

James Thomas Eagle

RESPECTFULLY offers his services to the citizens of Chestertown and its vicinity as a Teacher of Music—having been a pupil of the Blind Institution of Baltimore for ten years, and a greater part of the time under the instruction of eminent professors of Music, he feels competent to give satisfaction to all who may favor him with their patronage. If a sufficient inducement is offered he will reside in Chestertown, and having a carriage and horse can visit any part of the County, where he may have employment. Being deprived of his sight by disease when in infancy, and a native of this county, he hopes to receive a liberal patronage from a generous public.
Feb. 16, 1867—tf.

PLOUGHS AND CASTINGS

Of Superior Quality,

EQUAL to any ever offered in this market. Would refer those who have never used our Castings to the following well known Farmers: Messrs. John Gale, J. T. Skirven, Jas. W. Skirven, Thomas P. Dixon, John Brice, Joshua Copper, Henry Bramble, Comegys Cosden and many others.
☞ SELLING OFF the entire Stock at Great Bargains. W. A. VICKERS.
Feb. 16, 1867.

DESIRABLE TOWN LOTS FOR SALE.

THE undersigned as Attorney for Samuel S. Usilton, on
THURSDAY, the 28th February, 1867
at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the Voshell House, will offer at public sale the THREE FOLLOWING LOTS, all fronting on Hight Street, in the upper part of Chestertown, two of which are vacant, and the other has a Dwelling upon it.—Each of the vacant Lots has a front of 20 feet, and a depth of 90 feet. The Lot on which the Dwelling stands has a front of 26 feet, and is 90 feet deep. The Dwelling is 22 feet square, and has four rooms, 2 below and 2 above.

These Lots are very desirable, being in a business part of the town.

The Terms of Sale—10 per cent. cash on the day of sale on the amount of each sale. The residue or balance in two equal annual instalments from the day of sale, with interest from that date. The future payments to be secured by the bond of the purchasers, with sureties approved by the undersigned. R. HYNSON.

N. B.—At the same time and place the undersigned will offer at public sale a fine Wagon and Harness, and a very superior 4 year old Colt, well broke and perfectly gentle in harness. The terms of this sale will be declared when the property is offered. The credit will be liberal. R. HYNSON,
feb16-2t. Attorney for S. S. Usilton.

KENT COUNTY, To Wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that Arthur J. Wallis farmer of Kent county, brought before me, the subscriber, one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county, this 15th day of February, 1867, as a estrays, trespassing upon his enclosures, THREE COWS, one blue roan marked with underbit in each ear; one Brindle with white back, and one red and white, the two last without mark in the ear. Given under my hand. JAMES GRAVES, J. P.

NOTICE.—The owner of the above described Cattle is hereby notified to prove property, pay charges and take them away.
feb16-3t. A. J. WALLIS.

AN INDUCEMENT TO PAY TAXES.

ALL PERSONS of the Second District who pay their taxes on or before the 10th day of February instant, will *not* be charged interest. After that date interest will be computed on all unpaid accounts.
JOHN W. DUYER,
feb2-3t. Col. 2nd District.

FARMERS

Encourage Home Manufacturers.

WE are having a large lot of Nos. 9 and 11 Concave, Nos. 1 and 2 Pratt & Davis, No. 4 Wiley, and Minor and Horton Plows, made to order of good selected seasoned stuff, which we offer to Farmers at low prices.

We will furnish at short notice any kind of Plows that may be ordered. Persons in want will please leave their orders immediately at our Store on Main St.
Feb. 2. W. J. VANNORT.

FARM FOR SALE.

THE subscriber offers for sale his Farm, situated in Quaker Neck, Kent county, Md., containing FIFTY ACRES, all arable, and divided into four fields, under good fencing.—Buildings good. It lies within half a mile of Chester River, and a steamboat wharf, and convenient to Churches, School, &c. Oysters, fish, &c., can be had in abundance. Possession given at any time. Apply to the undersigned on the premises, or by letter at Chestertown Post Office. S. F. SMITH.
Feb. 2, 1867—tf.

Pasture Lots for Sale.

ONE of 20 Acres, one of 6 Acres, and 6 Lots from one to two Acres each, all running to water, and within 20 minutes walk of Chestertown. Enquire at Kent News office.
Feb. 2, 1867—3t.

COAL.—A few Tons of Coal for sale by
ABEL J. REES,
Feb. 2. Rees' Corner.