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The Kent News:

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT
CHESTERTOWN, KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND.
Office in the Masonic Hall.

JAS. H. PLUMMER. WM. B. USILTON.

PLUMMER & USILTON,

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

Terms of Subscription:

TWO DOLLARS per annum in advance; or, if not paid within six months from the time of subscribing, $2.50 may be charged.

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Kent News.

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER: Devoted to General and Local Intelligence and Literature; Agricultural, Horticultural and Mechanical Interests; Politics and Advertising.

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ADVERTISING:

Advertisements occupying the space of eight lines brevier type will be inserted three times for one dollar, and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. Obituaries one-half advertising rates.

No gratuitous advertising. Calls for meetings, concerts, excursions, &c., for charitable, religious or other purposes, must be paid for, the publishers standing on an equal footing with others, ready to contribute toward such objects as they may feel an interest in.

JOB-PRINTING:

HANDBILLS, CARDS, CIRCULARS, BLANKS, &c., executed with neatness and dispatch, and at reasonable prices.

MILLINERY & DRESS MAKING.
FALL, 1877!

M. M. PARKS & SISTER,
Opposite C. F. Stam's Drug Store,
Are now prepared to exhibit a full line of
FALL AND WINTER
MILLINERY,
embracing BONNETS, HATS, Ribbons, Flowers, &c., &c., in great variety, and of the most *fashionable styles.*
Also, a FULL LINE OF NOTIONS, Hamburgs, Ladies' Vests, Corsets, Trimmings in variety; Gloves, Ladies' L. C. Handkerchiefs, Scarfs, &c., all of which we will sell at the very lowest prices.
We have also combined
DRESS MAKING
in all its branches, and will promise satisfaction in all respects both as to fit and prices.
Thankful for the patronage heretofore extended, we would solicit a continuance of your favors. Having had considerable experience both in the city and country, we flatter ourselves that we can please. Give us a call.
M. M. PARKS & SISTER,
Brick Store,
Opposite C. F. Stam's Drug Store.
Oct. 13, 1877—tf.

NEW MILLINERY
And FANCY GOODS!

MRS. L. J. DAVIS
Has just received and opened
A FRESH and BEAUTIFUL assortment of
Fall and Winter Millinery
embracing HATS and BONNETS of the latest fashions and styles; Ribbons, Flowers, Feathers, Handkerchiefs, Hosiery, Gloves, &c.
A Large and Varied Assortment
of every description of goods found in a first class Millinery store, to which she invites an examination by her lady customers and all others in want of anything in her line.
I have in my employ a first-class Milliner from Baltimore and can guarantee satisfaction to every customer.
Agent for *Mme. Demorest's Reliable Patterns.* "What to Wear and How to Make It"—portfolio fashions, price 15c.
☞Give me a call as the old stand.
n10-3t. MRS. L. J. DAVIS.

To the Ladies.
NEW MILLINERY
And FANCY GOODS.
Latest Styles for Fall and Winter!
MRS. KATE GILL,
On Queen St., Chestertown,
has just opened a new stock of
Millinery and Fancy Goods
of the latest Fall and Winter styles. She has made her selections with great care and made her purchases at the lowest cash prices, so that she is sure of her ability to please, both in style and price.
BONNETS, HATS, Ribbons, Flowers, and a full line of all such goods as are usually found in a first-class Millinery store. A full line of ZEPHYR Goods always on hand.
☞Call and see. oct20-3m.

TO THE LADIES!
MISS MARY R. BENJAMIN
Has just returned from the city with a complete assortment of
NOTIONS, DRESS TRIMMINGS,
Children's Colored HOSE,
Handkerchiefs, &c.
She also has quite a variety of new styles for making and trimming Dresses, and will guarantee entire satisfaction, both in fit and price.
She has also combined MILLINERY with Dress-making, and has a varied and carefully selected stock of HATS, BONNETS, FLOWERS, RIBBONS, &c., and is confident that from her experience in that trade cannot fail to please, and will be thankful for your orders.
Respectfully, M. R. BENJAMIN.
Oct. 27—ts.

NEW MILLINERY!
FANCY GOODS!
DRESS MAKING!
M. ALICE LAMBERT & SISTER
Have just opened a new Stock
of fresh and most fashionable styles. In *BONNETS, HATS, Laces, Ribbons, Kid Gloves, Hosiery, Toilet articles, &c., &c.,* we cannot be undersold.
DRESS MAKING of all kinds, done in best manner at low prices.
☞Ladies' and Children's CLOAKS of any style furnished on short notice, at the lowest city prices.
Give us a call. Store one door above J. H. Simpers & Bro's.
M. ALICE LAMBERT & SISTER.
oc27-3m.

FALL and WINTER
MILLINERY
JUST OPENED.
BEAUTIFUL, GOOD and CHEAP!
MRS. H. USILTON.
Adjoining Wickes' Drug Store,
has just received and opened a well selected stock of NEW and BEAUTIFUL
Millinery and Fancy Goods
For FALL and WINTER wear,
of the latest and most fashionable styles. In HATS, BONNETS, LACES, Ribbons, Trimmings, Neck Ties, Belts, Ruffles, Feathers, Flowers and Ornaments, she is satisfied of her ability to please, both in quality and price.
ALSO IN STORE A FINE STOCK OF NOTIONS, to which she invites special attention.
☞STAMPING done in the neatest and most durable manner.
The Ladies are invited to call and examine her goods and prices before purchasing elsewhere. No effort will be spared to give full satisfaction to all who favor her with their patronage.
MRS. H. USILTON.
Oct. 27, 1877—tf.

LATEST ARRIVAL
OF
CHRISTMAS GOODS!
At SPARKS'.
WE are now opening one of the largest stocks of
HOLLIDAY GOODS
in Chestertown purchased for CASH, and to be sold at small profits. We only ask an examination of our stock, a comparison of our goods and prices with others, and we believe we will secure your patronage. The following goods are to be found in our stock.
A full line of Confectionery,
Oranges, Figs, Nuts, Prunes, Chow-chow, Pickles, Sauces, Jellies, &c.
Toys! Toys! Toys!
A full line CHEAP!
☞*Useful and Ornamental PRESENTS for young or old.*
JEWELRY,
Jewelry, Spectacles, &c.
Lamps; Beautiful Styles, and very low prices.
NOTIONS—Pocket Books, Combs, and Brushes, at all prices.
GLASS-WARE—Tumblers, Goblets, Fruit Stands, Mugs, &c.
CIGARS and TOBACCO.—"The Prize of Key West" is the best 5 cent Cigar in town. Try them.
RAISINS, Currants and Citron—cheapest in town.
Don't fail to call and see us before buying your goods, and save all the money you can. Call and see
SPARKS,
Between J. K. Aldridge and T. W. Eliason's.
Dec. 15—tf.

1877. 1877.
Clothing!
C. ROLPH & CO.
Great Fall in Price! We are determined to make our large business larger by making prices lower than ever. We have just received our large Stock, and can compete with City Houses!

Men's Working Suits	$3.50
Men's Business Suits	6.00
Men's ¾ Wool Suits	8.00
Men's all Wool Suits	10.00
Men's Diagonal Suits	12.00
Men's Fine Cassimere Suits	15.00
Men's Fine Black Cloth Suits	18.00
Boys' Suits	$2.50
Boys' Suits	5.50
Boys' Suits	6.50
Boys' Suits	8.00
Boys' Suits	10.00
Men's Working Pants, Kersey	$1.0
" Working Pants, Cassimer	1.75
" Dress Pants from $2.50 to 5.00	
" Over Coats from 4.50 to 12.00	

OUR LINE OF
HATS and CAPS
Is Complete!
Including ALL THE LATE STYLES!
White Shirts! White Shirts!
☞We are now selling the Celebrated CROWN SHIRTS for $1.50. This is a $2.00 Shirt.
Under-wear! Under-wear!
We have a large stock of Gents' UNDERSHIRTS from 75c. to $3 a pair.
BLACK and FANCY SCARFS, 25, 50, 75 and $1.
Our Goods are Choice, Well Selected, and sold at Popular Prices!
C. ROLPH & CO.,
Bordley's Corner,
The Largest Clothing House on the Eastern Shore.
oc13-tf.

New Fall Clothing!
ABE SCHWARTZ,
Merchant Tailor,
FROM PHILADELPHIA,
Respectfully invites his friends and the public to call and examine his
FALL GOODS
Receiving daily from Eastern markets.
FINE GOODS a SPECIALTY.
BLACK CLOTHS of the finest grades; and IN ENGLISH and FRENCH CASSIMERES we have styles that must please the most fastidious.
Also, READY-MADE CLOTHING,
CLOTHS and Cassimeres by the yard or in quantities to suit, at the lowest prices.
Gents' Furnishing Goods,
of the BEST QUALITY for sale at low prices.
Feeling confident that we fully understand the needs and wants of this community and that we are now prepared to meet its demands both in styles and prices, we again solicit an examination before purchasing elsewhere.
We guarantee a fit in every case.
Oct. 13, 1877. ABE SCHWARTZ.

MRS. C. R. FIDDIS
Has just opened a
Full Line of MILLINERY
Of Latest Styles!
Handsome Neck Wear,
Ladies', Misses' & Children's Hosiery,
Corsets, white and colored,
Handsome Veiling,
MERINO VESTS, for Ladies and Children, from the largest to the smallest size.
Ladies' and Gents' Silk and Linen Handkerchiefs.
Some Domestic Goods, Alpaca, Cambric, Victoria Lawns, Nainsook, Hamburg Edging,
and a variety of Notions, that are always in demand, sold very reasonable for cash.
☞I give personal superintendence to every department of my business, and always have sufficient help to ensure the prompt and satisfactory execution of all orders. MRS. C. R. FIDDIS,
tf. Directly opp. new M. E. Church.

PUBLIC SALE.
THE undersigned, intending to discontinue farming, will sell at PUBLIC SALE, on
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 26, 1877,
at his residence near Worton Heights, the following Personal Property:
4 OR 5 GOOD FARM HORSES,
1 Yoke Large, Superior Oxen,
Six Good Milch Cows,
ONE BULL, good stock;
SIX LARGE CHESTER SHOTES, fat;
WAGON AND HARNESS,
Ox-Cart and Yoke, 1 Roller, 1 Bickford & Huffman Drill, nearly new; 1 Grain Fan, Corn Sheller and Wheat Rake
Plows, Harrows, Cultivators,
Plow Gears, Double Trees, Spades and Shovels, Forks and Hoes.
A LOT OF CLOVER HAY, &c.
Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A. M.
TERMS.—All purchases of $10 and under cash; all over that amount a credit of 9 months, with note and approved security. No property to be removed until the terms are complied with.
JAMES BECK, (of Geo.)
U. A. C. GARRETT, Auct'r. dec15-ts.

PUBLIC SALE.
THE subscriber will offer at PUBLIC SALE, on
THURSDAY, Dec. 27th, 1877,
The following Property, namely:
3 YOUNG HORSES,
4 MILCH COWS, 1 Young Bull,
26 HEAD OF SHEEP,
12 GOOD SHOATS,
1 Small Carriage and Harness, 2 Sleighs, 1 Reaper, 1 Drill, 1 Roller, Cultivators, Harrows, lot of Berry and Grape Crates and Baskets, and some articles of Furniture.
Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A. M.
TERMS.—All purchases of $10 or less cash. All over that amount a credit of nine months on note with approved security. No property to be removed until the terms are complied with.
J. F. WILKINS.
U. A. C. GARRETT, Auct'r. d8-ts.

PUBLIC SALE.
THE undersigned, intending to discontinue farming, will offer at Public Sale at his residence, near Grey's Inn Creek Wharf, in Eastern Neck, on
FRIDAY, December 28, 1877,
The following property:
4 GOOD HORSES,
1 COLT, two years old.
ONE MILCH COW.
20 Head SHEEP, lot good SHOATS,
TWO YOKE OF OXEN,
FARMING IMPLEMENTS
2 Ox-Carts, 1 Corn Dray, Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Forks, Shovels, Hoes, Gears, Collars, Bridles, &c.
Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A. M.
TERMS.—All purchases of $10 or less cash; all over that amount a credit of nine months on note with approved security. No property to be removed till the terms are complied with.
JOHN R. PEARCE.
U. A. C. GARRETT, Auct. d15-ts.

Christmas, 1877!
NEW GOODS! PRICES LOWER!
We have received more New Goods this week, and now have a
FULL STOCK,
which we are determined to sell at VERY LOW PRICES for the CASH.
Call and see us.
J. H. SIMPERS & BRO.,
Dec. 15. *Chestertown.*

LAST NOTICE
TO TAX-PAYERS!
ALL persons indebted to me for Taxes are notified to settle immediately.—The law compels me to collect and pay over all taxes by the first of January. I must therefore settle my books forthwith and shall most certainly proceed at once to *collect by law* all taxes unpaid on the date above named.
F. H. BOULDEN,
d15-3t. Coll'r Kennedyville District.

Notice to Tax Payers!
THIS is to give notice to all persons in this District that their taxes for the year 1877 are now due, and I am particularly anxious that every one that owes taxes for this year should be very prompt, so that the first day of January, 1878, shall find every tax account on my book squared.
☞Those who have failed to pay their taxes for 1876 had better beware, as their day of grace will very soon be gone.
JAMES A. SHAW,
Collector Fourth District.
Nov. 24, 1877—tf.

Our Last Appeal.
NOTICE is now given to all persons indebted to us, that if their accounts or notes are not settled
On or before Jan. 1st, 1878,
these claims will certainly be put in the hands of an attorney for collection. We wish to save you *cost* if you will let us do so.
ds-tf. S. MERRITT & CO.

BROWN and Bleached MUSLINS, 6, 8, 10 and 12½ cts. Call and examine the quality, at J. B. SAPPINGTON'S.
FOR GOOD GOODS, at lowest prices, call at the store on Cross Street, opposite Lambert's Carriage Shops.
n17. J. B. SAPPINGTON.
LADIES' CLOAKS—large assortment n24. at T. W. ELIASON, Jr.'s.
CYPRESS FENCING, a superior lot for sale by T. W. ELIASON, Jr.

Excellence! Beauty! Variety!
The Model Magazine of the World!
DEMOREST'S
Illustrated Monthly,
THE LARGEST! CHEAPEST! AND BEST!
Comprising entertaining Literature, Fine Steel Engravings and Illustrations, Music, Floriculture, Architecture, Household Matters, Reliable Fashions, and Full-size Patterns, with other rare and beautiful novelties calculated to elevate and make our homes attractive and happy.
This unrivaled Magazine will commence its
SEVENTEENTH YEAR,
with January, 1878, and, as heretofore, will be full of new literary, entertaining and useful subjects to which it is devoted.
Each number contains Fine Steel and other Beautiful Illustrations, worth more than its cost. Single copies, 25 cents; Yearly $3, with the most beautiful and valuable premiums ever offered; among which are the
Two Elegant Companion Chromos,
"Rock of Ages" and "Christian Charity."
Both of these Splendid Chromos, mounted on canvas and stretcher, and varnished, ready for framing, given to each early subscriber.
Transportation Fifty cents extra.
Or in Elegant Gilt and Engraved Frame for $3 extra, making the whole cost of subscription to the Magazine and the Two Chromos in Elegant Frames, only Six Dollars. Address,
W. JENNINGS DEMOREST,
17 East 14th Street, New York.
"A Repository of Fashion, Pleasure, and Instruction."
HARPER'S BAZAR.
ILLUSTRATED.
NOTICES OF THE PRESS.
The BAZAR is the organ of the fashionable world, and the expounder of that world's laws; and it is THE authority in all matters of manners, etiquette, costume, and social habits.—BOSTON TRAVELLER.
The BAZAR commends itself to every member of the household—to the children by droll and pretty pictures, to the young ladies by its fashion-plates in endless variety, to the provident matron by its patterns for the children's clothes, to PATERFAMILAS by its tasteful designs for embroidered slippers and luxurious dressing-gowns. But the reading-matter of the BAZAR is uniformly of great excellence. The paper has acquired a wide popularity for the fire-side enjoyment it affords, and has become an established authority with the ladies of America.—N. Y. EVENING POST.
TERMS:
Postage Free to all Subscribers in the United States.
HARPER'S BAZAR, one year.....$4 00
$4 00 including prepayment of U. S. postage by the publishers.
Subscriptions to Harper's Magazine, Weekly, and Bazar, to one address for one year, $10 00; or, two of Harper's Periodicals, to one address for one year, $7 00; postage free.
An extra copy of either the Magazine, Weekly, or Bazar will be supplied gratis for every Club of Five Subscribers at $4 00 each, paid for by one remittance; or, Six Copies one year, without extra copy, for $20 00.
Back Numbers can be supplied at any time.
The Volumes of the Bazar commence with the year. When no time is mentioned, it will be understood that the subscriber wishes to commence with the Number next after the receipt of his order.
The Annual Volumes of Harper's Bazar, in neat cloth binding, will be sent by express, free of expense, provided the freight does not exceed one dollar, for $7 00. A complete Set, comprising Ten Volumes, sent on receipt of cash at the rate of $5 25 per vol., freight at expense of purchaser.
Cloth Cases for each volume, suitable for binding, will be sent by mail, postpaid, on receipt of $1 00 each.
Indexes to each volume sent gratis on receipt of stamp. Subscriptions received for Harper's Periodicals only.
Address HARPER & BROTHERS,
d8-5. New York.

Christmas Goods
TOYS, CAKE, CANDY, NUTS
RAISINS, &c.
V. BURGESS,
HAVING taken the Middle Store in the new Westcott Building, on High St., Chestertown, has just opened a splendid assortment of
CHRISTMAS GOODS!
consisting of TOYS, Cake, Nuts, Raisins, Prunes, Figs, Almonds, Dates, Currants, &c., &c.
Mince Meat by the lb. or Can; Apple Butter; a large assortment of Fancy Soap and Perfumery.
French and Common CANDY, Oranges, Lemons, Apples, and other Christmas Goods.
Fine lot of Stationery,
consisting of Note, Letter, Foolscap, Bill cap, Legal cap, Blank Books, &c. Also, Pens, Pen Holders, Pencils, Ladies' Fancy Boxes and Baskets, with Paper and Envelopes.
CANNED GOODS—Lobster, Pine Apple, Corn, Tomatoes, &c.
FINE CIGARS, CHEWING and SMOKING TOBACCO.
Pipes, Cigar Holders, &c.
JEWELRY.
I have a splendid lot of Jewelry of the latest styles. Ear-Rings, Breast-Pins, Bracelets, Finger Rings, Shirt Studs, Cuff and Sleeve Buttons.
☞Call and see my stock before purchasing elsewhere.
d15-3t VACHEL BURGESS.

Great Bankrupt Sale
—OF—
DRY GOODS.
Your Chance to lay in a Full Supply for little Money.
HAVING opened a store in Chestertown, opp. Stam's Drug Store, for a short time, I am determined to sell goods at any price, as they must be sold in 30 days. Come early so as to obtain the best Bargains. I will mention a few of numerous articles:
BLACK GOODS a Specialty!
BLACK SILKS, Cachemires, Alpacas, at very low figures.
DRESS GOODS from 12½ cts. up.
CALICOES, 5c. Muslins from 5c. up.
Blankets $1.25 per pair.
Shawls in great varieties at all prices.
Balmorals, at 50 cts.
Full Stock of CASSIMERES at all prices.
Fine linen Hdk'fs, 5c. Spool Cotton, 3c.
All colors in FLANNELS at various low prices.
Ladies' and Gents' U. Wear, also Underwear for Lads and Misses.
4 Pair Hose 25c.
Splendid Table Linen 25 cts.
Linen Towels at any price.
Marseilles Quilts and Counterpanes
Nainsook; plain, striped and plaid Victoria Lawns,
Kid Gloves, very cheap,
Velveteen, Crape Veils,
Silk Handkerchiefs, and Pocket Books, and a fine line of *LADIES' CLOAKS!* and a thousand other articles too numerous to mention. ☞Call at once, as the goods must positively be sold in 30 days.
☞We have secured the services of C. W. KENNARD, who whould be pleased to have his friends call and inspect the stock.
J. ROSE.
21. Conyer's old Stand, *Chestertown.*

THE DYING YEAR—FAREWELL!

FROM DEMOREST'S MAGAZINE.

Farewell to the Dying Year,
Good-by! O dear, dear year, that ends to-night,
Good-by! Good-by!
Regretfully I say my last adieu,
Ere thou dost die.

Oh year! what joys and sorrows thou hast brought
I cannot tell.
I am half sad, half glad, when I look back,
To say farewell!

Oh year of joy and sorrow! thou hast gone
Into the past,
And taken with thee many glad, bright dreams,
Too fair to last.

With many happy years that passed before
Thou now art gone.
A new year, all o'ershadowed, all unknown,
Begins with morn.

Dear old year! I will make thy grave within
My loving heart;
Fresh flowers of love I'll scatter over thee
When dead thou art.

How swift time flies! the night is almost o'er,
The day is nigh.
O happy year! O year of love and joy!
Good-by! Good-by!

COALS OF FIRE.

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

WRITTEN FOR THE "KENT NEWS," AND DEDICATED TO A DEAR NEPHEW AND NIECE.

Between the Shenandoah and the South Branch of the Potomac River is a short mountain range, the spurs or foothills of the Blue Ridge on the east, and of the Alleganies on the west. Through this range flows a quiet little stream called the Opequon. On this stream are mineral springs, which in days of yore were the summer resort of the wealthy and the sick. The waters were intensely cold, and owing to the elevation of the country the temperature was, even in the heat of summer, delightfully cool. A more romantic spot it would be difficult to find anywhere.

To this place, in the summer of 1834, came a gentleman by the name of Ballard, in quest more of recreation than of health. In riding about the country he observed an old farm house most beautifully situated among the hills, and commanding a full view of the Opequon, flowing like a thread of silver among the mountain shadows and forest trees. He became enamoured with this spot, and disposing of an interest he held in a large marcantile concern in Philadelphia and in several manufactories in New Jersey, purchased this farm at an extravagant price, and soon had the old house torn away. Mechanics were immediately employed, who began the erection of a beautiful and costly mansion on the old site.

About a mile and a-half away, and below this new mansion, stood a neat little cottage, the property of a shoemaker named David Hamilton. He was a Scotchman, and a lineal descendant of the Earl of Arran; and on his mother's side traced his ancestry to the Duke of Albany.—Three hundred years before the date of this story the first Hamilton of his family had suffered martyrdom for his adherence to the truths of the Protestant faith. David's father had emigrated to this country forty years before my story begins, and at his death David, the youngest son, settled in Virginia, and bought a few acres of land in the pleasant valley where his cottage now stood. A mile south from his house was a store, a tannery, smithery and a mill. Here was also the post-office. The wants of David Hamilton were simple and few, and were nearly all supplied by the cultivation of his land. One cow supplied milk and butter; and abundant game, with a few pigs, furnished food for himself and family, consisting of himself and wife and two rosy-cheeked children. Nor was his wife idle, but aided in their support by rearing poultry and making butter, of which all that was not needed was sold at the store to procure groceries and clothing. When in the summer months he had little or no work at his trade, David Hamilton found employment on the adjacent farms.

No one need desire to be happier than were these poor people, with their two merry, light-hearted little children, Cyprian and Mary, who were permitted to ramble in the woods and fields around the cottage. They were a merry little pair, and early learned obedience to their parents and to be kind and respectful to everybody. In the month of May the workmen came to begin Mr. Ballard's new house, and David Hamilton's little son Cyprian was once in a while permitted to go over and see them at work; and Mr. Delaplane, the carpenter, sometimes gave him little blocks to take home.—With these he would build little houses for his sister's dolls. Once he carried home a lot of nice, smooth shavings, which curled very prettily. These he hung about Mary's head, so that they fell down on her neck, and made her look, he said, like a little fairy.

It was not a great while before the house was finished and Mr. Ballard moved in, though much had yet to be done in laying off the grounds, grading the walks and setting trees and shrubbery.—As the main road to Mr. Ballard's run in front of the shoemaker's door, his children had a chance to see the wagons pass with their great loads of furniture, but as it was carefully wrapped in coarse canvass they could know but little about it. But when the big carriage, drawn by a pair of splendid bay horses, in which were Mrs. Ballard and her children, came dashing along they were wild with delight.—"Such beautiful horses I never did see," said Cyprian, when describing the grand equipage to his father and mother. "And such a sweet little girl, mamma," said Mary, "was looking out of the window; I am sure she must be one of the fairies that Miss Balmain told us about when she was here on a visit." "And such harness," broke in Cyprian, "it looked as if covered with gold. "And then," he added, "there were two beautiful spotted dogs almost exactly alike."

But most of all was he pleased with a little pony ridden by Mr. Ballard's son, a lad a few years older than himself. In his sleep he dreamed and talked of the little pony and his youthful rider. He resolved to be friendly with the latter, and to ask him a great many questions about his pony and the pretty dogs, and hoped to be invited to ride on the pony. But, although Oscar Ballard often passed by, he gave him no chance to speak to him. At length one day, when Cyprian and his sister were returning from the store, they were overtaken by young Oscar Ballard. He checked his pony a moment, and rudely addressing Cyprian, said: "You are the cobbler's boy who lives down below our gate, eh?" "I am David Hamilton's son, sir," replied Cyprian, "and my father is a shoemaker." "Very well," said Oscar, "shoemaker or cobbler, its all the same to me. I want to tell you that if you touch the peaches which grow on the tree that hangs over the fence between your lot and our farm I shall make you sorry for it." Cyprian was sorely disappointed; he did so earnestly wish to be friendly with his little neighbor. Nor could he help noticing the bullying tone and braggart manner of the lad. "He need not think to scare me," said he to his sister; "my father planted the tree and I know the peaches are his. "I would not care," said Mary; "he is not a good boy nor a bit polite." When they reached home they related what had passed truthfully to their father and mother, and Mr. Hamilton was not a little irritated by the insulting threat. "Cobler's boy, indeed," he repeated. I'll teach the young upstart some more decent manners." "Coals of fire," said Mrs. Hamilton, and her husband became most strangely calm. "Well, well," he said, "it will be no good to let a thoughtless lad disturb the peace of two families.—You're right, Lucy dear, and we'll teach our children to heap on his young head "coals of fire."

A few days later David Hamilton's children were playing with a ball in their own door yard; the ball bounded beyond little Mary's reach and fell over the fence which separated their lot from the Ballard farm, and rolled under the peach tree of which Oscar had spoken. She was about to climb over for it when her brother, being much more active, leaped over, and as he stooped down for the ball the report of a gun was heard, and the poor boy fell with a groan to the earth. The report of the gun and the screams of little Mary were heard by Mrs. Hamilton, who ran to the wounded child, and her husband being absent, she had much trouble to get him into the house and on to a bed. To do this she was obliged to knock down the fence with an ax. Her next care was to staunch the flow of blood, which she did with pounded alum and vinegar. She then, leaving her children, hurried off for the doctor.

After a careful examination he pronounced the wound not very dangerous but extremely painful. The shot were picked out, but it was many weeks before the wounded boy could go out or do anything for his mother. David Hamilton was filled with wrath on his arrival home and being informed of what had happened. He vowed vengeance against the wicked boy, and declared he would prosecute him to the full extent of the law. "But how do you know who shot the gun?" asked his wife. And upon mature reflection David Hamilton had to admit that he could prove nothing. To be sure, when taken with the threat made by Oscar, suspicion pointed to him, but suspicion was not proof. Mr. Ballard was away from home, having accompanied his wife to the sea side, and would not return for a month or more.

Cyprian shared his father's disposition, and when he had so far recovered as to be able to go out he would resort to a wild glen just back of his father's lot.—Here, sometimes in company with his sister, he would sit and read the interesting books which kind neighbors had brought him during his confinement. Thus engaged one pleasant day reading a fairy story which Miss Balmain had sent him he fell asleep. A fairy approached him and bidding him follow her, led the way into a deep cavern which suddenly appeared in the hillside. Touching gently a huge boulder in the midst of the cavern a titanic monster appeared and rolling away the great stone permitted Cyprian, escorted by the beautiful fairy, to enter. Turning to him she said: "I am sent by the king of the genii who inhabit this grotto to summon you into his presence, that you may accuse your enemies and secure their proper punishment. Are you desirous to proceed?" Cyprian assented, and drawing a key of adamant from her girdle she applied it to a door hitherto unseen, and it swung back on its ponderous hinges and disclosed the mighty king seated on his ivory throne, and surrounded by a throng of courtiers. Being conducted to the throne, the king thus spake: "Mortal, I know your wrongs and your sufferings, and if I read your thoughts aright you would have revenge. Am I right?" Cyprian was too much amazed to speak, but his beautiful guide, observing his embarrassment, replied for him: "Such O mighty king, is his desire." "What, O lords of these enchanted realms," said the king, "shall be the punishment of the enemy of the gentle Cyprian?" Whereupon arose a horrid looking demon, and said: Let his enemy be bound fast to the great cucumber tree which grows at the entrance of our palace hall, and let his naked feet rest upon the solid rock, and with a stone mallet let a gorgon pound his feet to jelly." And now arose a yet more hideous object, and addressing the king, he said: "Well hath our brother spoken; and now let me for ten days chew off one of his fingers each day." And then arose a spiteful little imp and said: "I will pull out his hair a little at a time and when his head is quite bald I will heap on it coals of fire." At the utterance of these words the cavern, hitherto resplendent with light, resounded with shrieks and groans, and was shrouded in darkness; and Cyprian awoke to find his gentle sister bending over him.

In another month he was able to go about as well as usual, and was sent to bear his sister company on an errand. Again they were overtaken by Oscar Ballard on his pony. "Well, young cobbler," he said, "have you got enough of peach stealing?" "He did not steal your peaches," replied Mary, indignantly; "he does not steal." "Now hush up, Miss Meddlesome, or I'll give you a taste of my whip," and he forced his pony toward her. Cyprian stepped between his sister and her danger, and in so doing accidentally trod upon a bunch of twigs growing by the roadside, one of which struck the pony. Oscar gathered the reins closer as the pony sprang forward on the road, and, seeming not to care to say more to the two children, gave him a cut with his whip. The animal made a mad plunge and broke into a run.

A few rods from Mr. Hamilton's cottage the road made a slight curve, and as the horse came to the turn, a startled turkey-buzzard suddenly spread his wings and the pony turned as suddenly; he was furiously checked by his rider, the girth gave way, and the lad was hurled with great force against a ledge of projecting rocks. David Hamilton saw him fall, and instantly ran to him. Fortunately he was unconscious; and calling his wife, by her assistance, the shoemaker carried him into the cottage, and laid him on a bed. While Mrs. Hamilton staunched the blood which was flowing freely from a gash in his scalp, David ran over to Mr. Ballard's to inform the family of the occurrence.

A servant was dispatched for the physician, and Mr. and Mrs. Ballard hastened to the cottage. It was found that Oscar had sustained a fracture of two ribs, and a compound fracture of the thigh bone. It would be, the doctor said, a long time before he could get out, but being young and vigorous, he did not apprehend any fatal result. Nothwithstanding however, this sanguine opinion of Dr. Morton, a furious fever set in, attended with delirium.

It became necessary to shave the hair from his head and apply to it a blister.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton were unremitting in their attention to the sufferer, and Cyprian and his little sister were eager to do whatever they could for him. In turn they would read to him, when he got able to listen, the story books which were given to Cyprian when he was suffering. "I wish" said Oscar, on one occasion, "you could tell me a real true fairy story." "So I can" replied Cyprian, and he related his own experience in the cavern in the glen. "Yes, I know" said Oscar with a shudder—"coals of fire," that's that blister on my head; I was your enemy, I threatened you about the peaches, and though I knew they were not ripe, I shot you when you stooped down; then I knew you could not get them, and when they were ripe I took them—and that awful blister!" and he sobbed aloud. Mrs. Hamilton, hearing him, went to his bed and kindly inquired the cause of his distress, "Oh!" said he, "that dreadful blister—coals of fire." "No, no, Oscar," she said "the blister is entirely well and the hair is growing out." "Oh, but they are inside, coals of fire," said he, "all inside." After a while she succeeded in soothing him, and taking the hand of Cyprian in his he said, "do you, can you, forgive me?" "Assuredly," said the shoemaker's son. "Will you and Mary let me love you?" Certainly," said both children, "and we will be so glad," said Mary.

When Oscar was taken home he told his father and mother how wicked and cruel he had been, and expressed the greatest anxiety to make amends for his unkind conduct. It was now near the joyous merry Christmas time; and great preparations to celebrate it were in progress at the Ballard Mansion.

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton were invited, with their children, to dine at 4 o'clock, Dec. 25th. In due time the big carriage and the spanking bay horses were drawn up before the cottage gate to take the family to the dinner. They were received with cordial friendship, and after the sumptuous dinner, the parlor was thrown open, and all invited in. Such a tree even the Ballard children had never beheld. It reached to the high ceiling, and was loaded with costly gifts, and fruits and flowers, which were made brilliant with many lights. The most beautiful of all was a large Bible, elegantly bound, with gold clasps studded with pearls and rubies and inscribed "To David and Lucy Hamilton and children." "Coals of fire, —Forgiveness."

The children spent a happy Christmas, and while enjoying their sports with youthful zest, the old folks sought a more quiet place for conversation.

"I have refrained," said Mr. Ballard, "from motives of delicacy, from offering you any mere pecuniary compensation for your care of our child, but your kindness is not forgotten, nor ever will be. And if I am not greatly mistaken in my judgment of your character, the most acceptable return I can make is to assume the entire expense of the education of your children in such manner as you may deem best, yet I would suggest that our two boys, shall enter a first rate preparatory school together, and together enter, at the proper time, the State University; while Mary shall in like manner share whatever advantages I can secure for my oldest daughter.

The shoemaker's heart was too full for utterance; this had been the cherished object of his life, and hitherto he had seen no prospect of its attainment. But now on this joyful Christmas night, the anniversary of the birth of Him who taught so distinctly the forgiveness of our enemies even as the Father for his sake forgave us, to have given the intensest desire of his soul for his dear children, created unutterable emotion. He positively wept tears of joy.

His wealthy neighbor, seing his emotion, kindly said—

"Think of it, my friend; there is no need of haste."

The words recalled David to a sense of propriety, and grasping the hand of his host he said—

"I can only say I thank you from my heart, it shall be as you say."

And so it was. Little Mary became the accomplished lady, the friend and companion of Mrs. Ballard and her lovely daughters; Oscar and Cyprian graduated with high honors, and now in one of the largest cities in the Union, on the door of a large building, may be seen a plain, tin sign inscribed, "Ballard & Hamilton, Attorneys and Counsellors."

USES OF ADVERSITY.

If none were sick and none were sad,
What service could we render?
I think if we were always glad,
We scarcely could be tender.
Did our beloved never need
Our patient ministration,
Earth would grow cold, and miss, indeed,
Its sweetest consolation,
If sorrow never claimed our heart
And every wish were granted,
Patience would die and hope depart,
Life would be disenchanted.

GOOD Uncle Jabez said one cold morning, as he was hunting for matches: "When I die I hope I'll go where I won't have to make a fire every morning." "You needn't fret about that," snapped his wife, from unper the blankets. "You'll find the fire all ready for you, never fear!"

AGONY PERSONIFIED—A bachelor editor trying to prepare an able and judicious article on the baby show.

Nassau Darkies Diving for Pennies.

There is a nice little public square which lies on the water side of Bay street and fronts the public buildings, which are the court-houses, house of assembly, bank and other similar places of resort. Whenever we would go—on a pleasant morning, afternoon or evening—to this square, to sit by the stone boat-stairs, or to sit on the sea-wall and view the lovely water with its changing hues of green, its yachts, its ships, and all its busy smaller crafts, and sniff with delight the cool salt breeze that blows so gaily over the back of Hog Island, there would certainly come running to us two, three or a dozen little black boys, with the entreaty: —"Please, boss, give us a small dive." If I happened to have any change, and wished to see some funny work in the water, I put my hand in my pocket and instantly every little black boy jerked off his shirt. It is no trouble for the negro children to undress in Nassau. The very little ones wear only a small shirt and a straw hat. Sometimes there is not much muslin in this shirt, but they are always particular to have it come down low enough to cover the breast bone. If I find a penny I toss it into the water, and instantly every darkey boy, clad in nothing but his scanty trowsers, plunges in after it. Sometimes a spry little fellow catches the coin before it reaches the bottom, and it is never long before some fellow comes up with the money in his mouth. Sometimes when a coin is not readily found, it is curious to look down through the clear water and see the young rascals moving their legs and arms about down at the bottom like a lot of enormous brown frogs.—*Scribner's Magazine.*

The Sacredness of a Promise.

An eminent British statesman is said to have traced his own sense of the sacredness of a promise to a curious lesson he got from his father when he was a boy. When home for the holidays and walking with his father in the garden, his father pointed to a wall which he intended to have pulled down.

"Oh," said the boy, "I should like to see a wall pulled down."

"Well, my boy, you shall," said the father.

The thing, however, escaped his memory, and during the boy's absence a number of improvements were being made, and among them this wall was torn down and a new one built up in its place. When the boy came home and saw it, he said:

"O father, you promised to let me see that wall torn down."

Instantly the father remembered his promise, and was deeply pained to think that he had seemed careless about his plighted word.

"My boy," he said, "you are right. I did promise, and I ought not to have forgotten. It is to late now to do just what I said I would, but you wanted to see a wall pulled down, and so you shall."

And he actually ordered the masons up and made them pull down and rebuild the wall, that as nearly as possible his promise might be made good.

"It cost me twenty pounds," he said to a friend who was