Kent News.

SATURDAY MORNING............Dec. 29, 1883.

A NEW CONSTITUTION.

Shall a Convention be Called?

The subject of a new constitution for Maryland is the most important State matter now under discussion by the press and the people. The newspapers which have referred to the matter, as far as we have noticed, are favorably inclined to the call of a constitutional convention by the approaching General Assembly. Should such a convention be called for 1884 or 1885 it would supersede the call of one in 1887—the latter date being the time fixed by the last convention for taking a vote on the formation of a new constitution.

It is claimed that defects—grave defects—exist in our present constitution, but whether it were not better to "endure the ills we have than fly to those we know not of" is certainly worth considering. We are not at all prepared to say that the *bad* that *may be done* should deter us from attempting the good, but merely suggest the propriety of careful forethought. What is the good to be accomplished? What are the grave defects of the present instrument? Is the intelligent sentiment of the State agreed as touching the most essential or important points? May not there be selfish personal interests and local desires prompting the present move—and which would enter into or attempt to influence the deliberations of such a called body—to such an extent as to overwhelm its purposes and acts of general public virtue. So many "axes to grind" there might be that the stone would be worn to the handle in the grinding. In the destruction of our present judiciary system would a better be devised? or in cutting short the terms of office of our present county clerks, registers of wills, State's attorneys, and other civil officers, would the new elections, or *modus operandi*, secure higher talent or purer robes? Would not Baltimore city contend for and secure, in the apportionment of representatives, a voice in the General Assembly which would render her omnipotent in all legislation as against the counties? Would not our public school system be revolutionized, and might not this now great public good be made to answer more readily to the demands of political creeds and ambitious politicians? In improving upon our present local courts—in bounding our territories—in remodeling our pauper and pension arrangements—in dealing with the board of public works and defining State policy in works of internal improvement—and other like important matters, may not some of us "fall into the hands of the Philistines?"

The Baltimore *Sun*, which does not often "jump at conclusions," and is generally temperate and wise in discussing public measures, is very decided in its views respecting the expediency of a call for a convention, and its advocacy will have great weight with the people and with the Legislature as well. In a recent issue it says:

"The people have already a sufficient experience of the defects of the present constitution, and are not a little impatient under the pressure of some of these defects, so that there is no reason why there should be any delay for the purpose of ascertaining what it is proper to change. There is no assurance if the call of a convention is postponed to 1887 that there will then be such a season of calm as now prevails, but on the contrary there are possibilities of agitation before that time arrives which may be very unfavorable to making a thoroughly complete form of government."

The Caroline *Democrat*, edited by M. S. Mutchler, Esq., a prominent lawyer of that county, also favors the call. It says:

"We believe the time has come to call a constitutional convention and thoroughly remodel our State constitution. The constitution of 1867 in more particulars than one has outlived its usefulness, and the time has come when it should give place to a more modern and progressive one. Framed before the smoke of battle of the rebellion had scarcely cleared away, it retains much of the flavor of ante-bellum days which is entirely foreign to the requirements of the coming year of grace 1884. It is not only in one particular that the present constitution by its narrowness hampers the growth, development and advancement of the State, but in a hundred. For this reason an entire remodeling of the whole Constitution is preferable to a half-dozen amendments. Put not new wine into the old bottle, but put rich new wine into a new bottle."

THE NEW HOUSE COMMITTEES.

Both houses of Congress on Monday took a recess until January 7. The only business of interest transacted was the announcement by Speaker Carlisle of the House standing committees. The correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* says it has been many years since the appointment of the committees of the House of Representatives has been less subject to just criticism.—Undoubtedly there is some disappointment among ambitious members that they were not assigned to more prominent positions, but there never has been and never will be any condition of circumstances where this can be avoided, and such dissatisfaction is of a personal character entirely and disconnected absolutely from any consideration of public interests. Mr. Carlisle has made up his committees without one thought of distinguishing between personal friends and opponents. More than one-fourth of the chairmanships of the committees are bestowed upon members who worked actively against him in his canvass for the speakership, including a number of the most important in his gift. He did not get a single vote from New York or Pennsylvania, yet the former State has seven chairmanships and the latter four.

Mr. Carlisle did not receive a vote from the Maryland democrats, but he has treated every one of them just as well as would have been the case had Mr. Randall, for whom they all voted, been elected.

Mr. Covington is put second on the committee on militia, and is made chairman of the committee on accounts. The chairmanship of this committee is an influential one, and it seems as if it was looked upon as belonging to Maryland, Mr. Charles B. Roberts, Mr. Daniel M. Henry, Mr. Milton G. Urner, and now Mr. Covington holding the position in regular succession.

Mr. Talbott is placed third on the committee on naval affairs and on the committee on expenditures of the Postoffice Department.

Mr. Hoblitzell is given a place on the committee on civil service, and is made second on the committee on railways and canals, where he will have the opportunity he desires to achieve fame in urging the Chesapeake and Delaware canal project.

Mr. Findlay is assigned to the committee on American shipbuilding and ship owning.—His thrilling eloquence can have no better vent than to paint to the committee the glory and renown of the Baltimore clippers of days gone by, and his legal ability can find constant occupation in devising a solution of that difficult and abstruse problem as to what legislation is necessary to enable the United States once more to dispute for the supremacy of the seas.

Of the Maryland republican members Mr. Holton is put on the committee on public buildings and grounds, and Mr. McComas has a seat at the council table of the committee on the District of Columbia.

The Louisiana Democrats in their State Convention last week demanded the adoption of a constitutional amendment prohibiting lottery dealing, declaring that the Louisiana lottery company is corrupting the morals of the people, and a disturbing element in State politics. The democrats of that State have thus placed themselves in a proper position, and as they are in the majority in that State we shall expect to hear that the lottery swindle has been blown up.

A New York crank named John Swinton has challenged Wm. H. Vanderbilt to a public debate in Madison Square Garden. Subject: Vanderbilt's right to the fortune he holds possession of. Swinton guarantees payment of all expenses and an audience of not less than twenty thousand to hear Mr. Vanderbilt's argument, which he promises shall be published verbatim by the press of the country and cabled to Europe. Of course Vanderbilt has too much sense to pay any attention to a crank who wants to advertise himself and thus gain notoriety.

Mrs. Swann, widow of the late ex-Governor Swann, of Maryland, denies that the will of the deceased is a valid one and claims that she is entitled to her dower interest in the estate. Proceedings have been entered to establish her claim.

MATTERS OF STATE.

The Maryland Legislature will meet next Wednesday. It is considered by politicians in a position to know that the organization of the General Assembly will be effected without much difficulty this session. It is denied that Senator Bishop will decline the presidency of the Senate if nominated. Dr. J. Pembroke Thom, of Baltimore, it is thought will have little opposition for Speaker of the House of Delegates. It is also believed that Treasurer Barnes Compton will receive the nomination for re-election. His friends anticipate a majority of at least twenty on joint caucus. The caucus will be held on the evening of January 1, at the State House, although the preliminaries will be settled in Baltimore before the caucus meets. Senator Groome, of Cecil, and ex-Gov. Philip Francis Thomas, of Talbot, are considered the leaders in the senatorial race, although Judge John M. Robinson is said to hold a good position. Neither of the two first named are thought to have any particular advantage in the fight over the other. All three were in the last senatorial contest, when ex-Gov. Groome was chosen. It is understood there will be no caucus for United States Senator, but that the voting will begin as required by law and the contest fought out in the open Assembly. By United States statute the Legislature is required to proceed to elect the Senator on the second Tuesday after the meeting and organization of the Legislature. In the present case no difficulty is anticipated in the organization. The second Tuesday after the meeting will be January 15, the same day the election began in 1878.

The Baltimore Day.—After the first of January this journal will be made a morning daily. Its afternoon issue will be continued also. This change will open the door for its circulation here. An afternoon paper in this latitude can never be popular, because its news is always about one day behind the morning dailies when it is received here. It is also announced that Geo. W. Cruikshank, Esq., of the *Cecil Democrat*, will hereafter have control of the business management of the Day—having purchased an interest in that concern and relinquished the control of the *Democrat*. We regard Mr. Cruikshank as one of the ablest newspaper men in the State, and while we shall regret to lose him from the ranks of peninsula journalism, we are glad to see a wider field of usefulness opening to him, and hope he may be abundantly successful therein. Mr. Crossdale, the present editor of the *Day*, will continue his connection with the paper; he wields a ready pen and is a journalist of experience and ability, and under the new management we may expect the *Day* to rise in popular favor and become an accepted leader in business and political enterprise.

Senator Voorhees paid a visit to Valley Forge after lecturing in Norristown recently, and promised to bring the matter of purchasing the sacred spot before Congress. He made his promise good by offering a resolution, which was agreed to, authorizing the Committee on Military Affairs to inquire into the expediency and feasibility of purchasing the encampment grounds occupied by the Revolutionary Army at Valley Forge, to be made a National Park.

Queen Anne's is greatly agitated over the United States Senatorship. It seems to be conceded that Judge Robinson will get the support of the delegation from that county. One of the Judge's enthusiastic supporters declared to us the other day that twenty of the Eastern Shore votes were for him without a doubt.

The Annapolis *Republican*, Mr. Geo. Colton's paper, thinks that the "Eastern Shore could not do itself a grander Democratic doing than to make editor Cruikshank, of the Cecil *Democrat*, United States Senator."

The Centreville *Observer* says that Dr. Robert Wright was eighty-five and Hon. R. B. Carmichael seventy-five years old on Christmas day. The former is enjoying vigorous health, as is also the latter with the exception of a failing in eyesight.

Fearful Demoralization.—The Cecil county grand jury at the recent term of the circuit court for that county, reported as follows:

"With feelings of deep regret we would report the almost entire disregard of the obligation of an oath on the part of the majority of the witnesses testifying before us in regard to the infringement of the Local Option laws."

What is the remedy?

Artificial Oysters.—The process of counterfeiting the necessities and luxuries of life goes blithely forward, and every day some new article yields to the skill of the counterfeiter. If there is, in this visible universe, a creation which seems able to defy imitation, it is the oyster; but a Bordeaux paper gravely declares that artificial oysters are becoming common in France, and that the semblance is so close that detection is impossible. Their composition is not explained, but they are colored by a mineral wash, and fastened to genuine shells by glue invented for the purpose, which dries to the precise semblance of the cartilage which binds the live oyster to his habitation.

The Denton *Union* says: "On Wednesday night of last week United States Marshal McMullen, of Delaware, assisted by two deputies, arrested Geo. W. Johnson, at Marydel, for illicit whiskey selling. Johnson had resided at Marydel but a few weeks, having removed there from Chestertown, Md., where, it is alleged, he was engaged in the same kind of business. Since he came to Marydel there has been an increase of drunkenness. His mode of dispensing the 'critter' was by carrying a bottle around in a pocket, and the purchaser would drop the money in his pocket. He also sold from his stable, and customers after drinking would throw the money in his bucket. Johnson claims that he was not selling for himself, but for his brother. He was taken to Wilmington, as well as several witnesses against him. After his hearing he was held in $200 bail for his appearance at the January term of the court."

THE FIVE-ACRE LAW.

An erroneous impression prevails among oystermen that any one may take up vacant, unsurveyed oyster grounds, plant his stakes, and bed his oysters, and if those owning the adjoining lands want to appropriate them, they must give thirty days notice to the oysterman in possession, and if he does not have them surveyed within thirty days, and secure a legal title, then the owner may survey and appropriate them.—But this is not the law. On the contrary the law provides that before any oysterman, or any one else, can secure oyster grounds bordering on the lands of any land owner, he must give the owner thirty days notice in writing; then if the land owner does not secure them by survey, etc., then the party giving the notice may take them up, to the extent of five acres, and hold them.—But the planting of oysters and the setting of stakes marking the bounds gives no right or title against the owner of the land, if he desires to possess the oyster grounds and takes the legal steps to secure the title.—*Easton Star.*

An Offer for the Carrollton.—It is stated that Mr. Henry Clair, the New York hotel manager, who has been announced as an applicant for the Carrollton Hotel in Baltimore, offered $50,000 for the furniture and $40,000 rent per year. Major F. W. Coleman, the Carrollton manager, has offered $65,000 for the furniture and $40,000 for the rent, with backers to secure his bid. The directors have not decided the matter definitely.—*Sun.*

Barnum's White Elephant.—Messrs. Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson have received a letter from Mr. J. B. Gaylord, their agent in Mandalay, confirming the recent publication of the purchase of a sacred white elephant from King Theebau.—Mr. Gaylord says the elephant is nine feet six inches in height, that it is young, in excellent health and condition, and that if no accident happens the animal will reach England in good season. The steamer Tenasadrim, on which the elephant was shipped, left Rangoon on the 8th inst., and would probably reach Suez on Christmas.

A newspaper is worth more to a child in three months than six months' schooling. Mark the children who read regularly the newspaper of the home, and you will see that they are bright and intelligent children. Keep a good paper in the house.—*Dover Delawarean.*

CHRISTMAS NOTES.

There was less of noise and drunkenness in Chestertown on Christmas eve than for many years past, though our streets and stores during the day and evening were thronged with people from town and country. On Christmas morning also, the early hours were remarkable for quietness, and during the day there was nothing more than the usual noise of fire crackers and tin horns. The bell of the M. E. Church was the first to ring out upon the early morning air calling worshipers to a six o'clock religious exercise at the church. During the day services were held in other churches, but most of our people were kept within doors by the bad walking.

The fall of snow on Sunday afternoon and night gave some fair sleighing and our streets have resounded with the merry jingling of the bells. The rain on Thursday finished up the sport, and at the same time rendered the streets more sloppy than ever. Take it altogether Christmas week has been one of exceedingly bad weather, under foot and overhead.

The Churches and Sunday Schools.

All of the churches have or will observe the festive season as usual by Sunday school Christmas exercises, jubilees, &c. The Prot. Episcopal School held its annual jubilee in the lecture room of the church on Wednesday evening last, when all the scholars were treated to handsome gifts from the well ladened Christmas tree.

The Methodist Episcopal School had its annual gathering and tree in the school room of the church on Thursday evening, and a good time generally was enjoyed by all present. The Christmas exercises of this school, which were to have been held last Sunday evening, were postponed in consequence of the bad night, and will take place next Sunday (tomorrow) evening.

The Methodist Protestant School will have its annual jubilee on New Year's night in the Town Hall. The Christmas exercise by this school was also to have been given last Sunday evening, but was postponed because of the bad weather keeping away so many of the little folks. It will take place in the church tomorrow (Sunday evening,) commencing at 7½ o'clock.

The Pastor Remembered.

Quite a number of Rev. W. M. Strayer's charge visited him on Christmas eve and presented him with a handsome sum of money and other substantial tokens of esteem, which the Rev. gentleman and his family seemed highly to appreciate.

Resulted Fatally.—On the third of December Mr. James T. Moody, a young carpenter of this town, had his hand badly cut with a buzz-saw while at work at Turner's planing mill.—Dr. Catlin dressed the wound and has since given close attention to the patient. Dr. Perkins also was to see the patient for a day or two immediately succeeding the accident. Mr. Moody was thought to be doing finely, and was about the house with a good appetite and in good spirits, until about a week ago, when Dr. Catlin noticed unfavorable symptoms in the stiffness and soreness of the neck and shoulders, which was followed by stomach spasms and contraction of the posterior muscles of the neck, drawing his head back on his shoulders. On Saturday the doctor fully decided that his patient had the lock-jaw. Dr. Perkins was again called in and both physicians did everything in their power to save him, but without avail;—he continued to grow worse, though his jaws were never really locked, and about seven o'clock on Thursday morning he died, comparatively easy. The fatal result was caused by some irritation about the cut in the second finger, which, though apparently all right, had not healed as well as the balance of the hand.

The deceased was in his 44th year, and leaves a widow and one child. He was an industrious mechanic, of high moral character, and his sad death is lamented by our whole community.

Not Successful.—Mr. John W. Bordley was not successful financially with his opera company, and so did not continue the entertainments the entire Christmas week as advertised. Mr. Bordley had gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to meet, as he supposed, a want of the season, and so provided a series of first class entertainments, having procured for that purpose a troupe of the most celebrated city performers.—The entertainments on the three evenings held are said to have been everything promised—first class in every particular—but the audience on neither occasion was sufficient to meet the heavy expense incurred, and so Mr. B. thought best to close the entertainments with Wednesday evening. We were present on the latter evening and have no hesitation in saying that the minstrel performance was excellent; the two "end men" could not well be beat in their line, and the hearty and continuous laughter that followed their mimicry showed a high appreciation by the audience.

A Rush for Money.—Teller Rickey, of the Kent National Bank, was compelled to employ his usually deft fingers livelier than ever last Saturday in cashing the numerous checks presented. More business was done with depositors of that institution on that day than in any one day of its history. Over thirty thousand dollars were handled by the teller over its counters, most of it being drawn for Christmas purchases and paying bills. Possibly our editorial of that day urging this as "The time to settle" prompted more than the usual number to attend to this important duty.

Death of an Aged Citizen.—A. W. Sparks, an aged and respected citizen of this town, died on Sunday night last. An obituary notice will be found elsewhere.

Broke In.—Two young men broke in while skating on the mill pond near town last Wednesday, but got out safely. Boys—and girls and men too—cannot be too careful in going upon ice before it is strong enough to bear them.

The furniture of the Voshell House is advertised to be sold today. Mr. Goldsborough, who rents the property for next year, brings with him his furniture from the Centreville hotel and so will not need this. The Messrs. Rolph, we understand, intend removing to Baltimore.

The steamer Law failed to make her trip to Baltimore last Thursday on account of the heavy fog. She got as far as Rolph's wharf where she lay until the afternoon, when she returned to Chestertown. The Law will be withdrawn from the line on and after Jan. 1.

The School Board.—Messrs. Richard W. Jones, Cornelius J. Scott and Jas. A. Pearce have been reappointed by the Judges of our circuit court the board of public school commissioners for Kent county.

Valuable Town Property for Sale.—James A. Pearce, Esq., as trustee, will offer at public sale at the Voshell House on Wednesday next the valuable property on High street, opposite the market house, which belonged to the estate of the late Simon Wickes. For particulars see advertisement.

A Pleasant Affair.

One of the most pleasant events of Christmas week was the "sociable" given last Wednesday evening by Mr. and Mrs. Joel R. Clements at their handsome new residence on Maple avenue. About 8 o'clock the guests commenced to arrive and in a short time their spacious parlor was filled with some of Chestertown's brightest belles and gayest beaux. After a mutual "introduction" various games followed in quick succession, until interrupted by a call to the refreshment table. The host and hostess certainly understand the art of entertainment, and succeeded in making all feel perfectly at home. After many expressions of thanks and good wishes for the New-Year, at a late hour the merry party separated for their homes. A Participant.

Typhoid Fever.—The Calvert *Journal* says: "Typhoid fever prevails to an alarming extent in the village of Benedict, Charles county, Md. Over seventy-five cases are reported to exist in a population of about 100 inhabitants. Several deaths have occurred within the past week.—Several severe cases have been reported in this immediate section."

TOWN IMPROVEMENTS.

The year now closing has marked many improvements in Chestertown, equal probably to any preceding year of its history. All of the improvements, however, have been in the way of individual enterprise—in dwellings, stores, &c. Chestertown is sadly behind her sister towns in enterprises of a public character. We have no Town Hall worthy the name, and our public school buildings and grounds are far from what they should be. In both these interests it is high time that decisive steps were taken. Sufficient authority has already been granted and site secured for a public hall, and yet public interest does not properly crystalize and encourage the erection of such a building as would be in keeping with the demands of the times. It would require twelve thousand dollars to carry out the plans proposed, and only six or eight thousand were forthcoming when the effort was made to secure the requisite amount of funds. Our public school interests suffer more in consequence of contracted grounds than for the want of buildings. The buildings we have would do very well, but the space outside belonging thereto is entirely inadequate to the wants of the institution. It is to be hoped that some improvement in this regard may be made or steps taken to that end before another year shall close. Our County Jail might do for a past age, but in the present it stands a monument of ugliness in architecture and purpose; but as this is a county matter we merely refer to it in passing because of its location within the town limits. This is an age of progress. The people of Kent are as intelligent generally and as progressive as can be found elsewhere; then why should not our public institutions be in keeping with the public needs and up with individual enterprise?

At the head of town Mr. B. H. Gardner has just completed four substantial brick dwellings all adjoining and under one roof. Each dwelling contains six rooms, and all are whitecoated and finished in hard oil and cherry. Three of them are already rented, No. 1 to Mr. Robert Wright, of Centreville; No. 2 to Mr. Kraft, painter, and No. 4 to Mr. Jesse Duyer. Milton Baker did the carpenter's work, and Mr. Gardner the brick work. Capt. Henry Thompson now occupies his new dwelling, two doors below the Gardner building above mentioned. He has one of the most comfortable and convenient residences in the square. Mr. Wash. Parks, our up town blacksmith, has "revolutionized" his old one-story residence. The roof was taken off, a story added, and the whole interior remodeled, so that now he has a new two-story dwelling in appearance and reality, comfortable and convenient. Mr. Robert N. Boston, contractor and builder. The Cannon street lot recently purchased from the Welch estate by J. N. Usilton, Esq., has been laid off into building lots and a number sold. One of these lots, purchased by Mr. Chas. E. Roland, has been improved by a comfortable frame dwelling, two stories and attic, containing five rooms and halls, and will be occupied by himself. Another lot purchased by Mr. John W. Hirons, has been improved by a similar structure, and is already finished and will be occupied in a day or two by Mr. Hirons. Both of these dwellings are creditable improvements. Mr. W. S. Carroll was the contractor and builder.

On Mill street extended two new dwellings have been erected adjoining each other and next to the residence of Mr. Frank Duyer. One is a two-story frame, 20x16 ft., with back building 16x34 ft., containing seven rooms and halls, built by R. K. Pippin for Mr. Frank Howard, who now occupies it. The other is a two-story frame, 20x16 ft. with back building; owned and occupied by Mr. John Sweeney; Milton Baker builder. These dwellings also are substantial and comfortable structures, and with the handsome residence of Mr. H. L. Boyd on the corner above, make a good showing for that section.

A great improvement in the main section of the town during the year has been made by the removal of the dilapidated old building nearly opposite the Voshell House, which stood for so many years a blot and eye-sore upon that prominent spot. Mr. J. S. Bradley, merchant, has had erected upon this site a two-story frame building 40x20 ft., with back building 30x16 ft., gable front, and containing 2 fine store rooms and two dwellings. Just above this another creditable improvement is the new store and dwelling of Mr. R. Thompson, butcher. This building is a gable and glass front, and contains six rooms besides the store room and hall. Both these buildings were erected by R. K. Pippin.

In the same vicinity Mrs. Maul has improved the property recently purchased by her, by adding a story and gable front to the store-room and an addition back, thus giving her a dwelling and good store room in a business locality. R. K. Pippin contractor.

Further down Main street several business properties have been greatly enlarged and improved. One of the most important is that of Mr. J. Burton Burchinal. A large frame addition was added to the rear of his store and a part of the front—the corner—cut off for a separate store; the addition back added to half the front gives him a splendid room sixty or seventy feet deep by thirty in width. Geo. H. Cannan contractor.

The store room of Mr. J. H. Simpers has also been greatly improved by a glass front, and a small building erected adjoining and tenanted by Mrs. M. C. Usilton for a confectionery store and dwelling. The store room occupied by Miss Margaret J. Wyatt has also been greatly enlarged and improved, and on Cannon street just back of these properties, a small frame dwelling has been erected. These buildings all belong to Rev. S. W. Thomas, and S. W. Rawleigh was the contractor in each case.

Another notable store improvement is that of Mr. R. F. Parks'. A frame addition has been erected in the rear of his store giving him a grocery and carpet room 36x24 feet. Mr. Parks now owns the whole building and has one of the finest business properties in town.

The cosy dwelling just above Mr. Parks' brick building, known as the Mrs. Davis property, and owned by Mr. W. E. Perkins, is being converted into a business stand. The whole lower front has been torn out and is being replaced by glass, and the two front rooms thrown into one, giving a fine room for a store 22x36 feet. The dwelling back has been enlarged by an addition. Mr. J. Cantorwitz will occupy the property as soon as the improvements are completed. R. K. Pippin contractor.

On Court street a fine press-brick front law office has been erected and occupied by C. T. Westcott, Esq. This office is one of the prettiest and most convenient for all the purposes required that could be desired.

Lower down High street, and between the residences of Dr. S. Beck and Judge Wickes, Mr. John W. Hines has had erected in place of the old one-story frame that formerly occupied the site a very neat and comfortable two-story dwelling 24x18 feet, with back building 36x20. Mr. H. has just removed into his new quarters. Jno. N. Dodd contractor.

On the square bounded by Maple Avenue and Riverside Place several handsome improvements have been made, the most prominent of which are the new dwellings of Mr. Joel R. Clements, and Dr. W. Frank Hines, and a double frame house adjoining the latter, all of which we have heretofore noticed. H. M. Stuart was the contractor and builder in each case.

The new dwelling of Mr. James Brice and Mr. W. S. Culp on College avenue, also heretofore noticed, are creditable improvements to the outskirts of the town, and are no doubt but the beginning of a series of handsome residences in that section.

Mr. Joseph Turner is making things lively about "Scott's Point." His planing mill and sash factory are in full operation; his yards filled with lumber and his wharves astir with boats loading and unloading. Mr. Turner has the requisite "push" and ability to conduct a large business and seems destined to secure it.

Another great improvement in that quarter is Captain W. D. Burchinal's new wharf enterprise. The work of piling and filling has been in progress for some time; an immense quantity of shell has been deposited and a frontage of a hundred or more feet secured adjoining the Enterprise Co.'s wharf. When completed this wharf will add much to the value of the adjacent property, and no doubt prove a good investment to the owner.

Phenomenal.—In Chestertown last Thursday about 3 P. M., a light rain was falling, when suddenly it became quite dark and rain and hail fell in torrents for a few minutes, while the wind blew a gale. In the midst of the flurry a brilliant flash of lightning, followed by a loud peal of thunder, startled everyone. It was certainly a strange occurrence for Christmas time.

Personal.—We hope all our town patrons will be prepared to settle next week. We want to pay all our own bills, but in order to do so must collect the many small accounts due us.

VERY DESIRABLE.—Among the balance of Bordley Bros. stock of Clothing will be found some very desirable goods. Since they advertised to close out their stock so cheap, they have been quite busy, and have disposed of a great many goods. Surely the low prices they are offering should induce all who want clothing to give them a call, as it would pay. Read their advertisement in this issue. They are selling off at and below cost, intending to reduce their stock, so they can improve their store-room.

MARRIED:

At the residence of the bride's parents on the 26th inst., by Rev. Louis E. Barrett, GEORGE R. BELLOWS, of Baltimore, and Miss IDA V. PARKS, youngest daughter of Wm. W. Parks, Esq., of this county.

At St. James' on Dec. 26 inst., by Rev. A. W. Mather, DAN'L W. GILBERT to Miss CECILIA VIRGINIA TAYLOR, all of this county.

In West Phila., Pa., on Dec. 24, 1883, by Rev. J. Addison Henry, GEORGE G. ROWE, of Middletown, Del., to KATE C. TITUS, of West Philadelphia, Pa.

DIED:

In Chestertown on Thursday, Dec. 27, 1883, JAMES THOMAS MOODY, son of the late John S. and Sarah Moody, aged 43 years, 1 mo. and 27 days.

[The funeral will take place to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon from his late residence at 2½ o'clock. Interment at Chester Cemetery.]

In Philadelphia, Dec. 20, MARY E, wife of David W. Hanes, and daughter of the late John T. and Sarah G. Skirven, of this county.

Near Pomona, on the 16th inst., of acute bronchitis, FANNIE, daughter of Jas. H. and Mary T. Baker, aged 15 months and 21 days.

Memoir of Mrs. Rebecca Scoone.

Our community has lately been saddened by the sudden death of one of its most willing workers. Thoroughly interested in all that pertained to the welfare of the church or the community in which she lived, she was especially the friend of the poor, cheerfully contributed to their needs and readily responded to their cry for assistance in the times of sickness or bereavement. The kindliness of her spirit, her cheerful presence, her quiet and unobtrusive charity endeared her to a large circle of friends who keenly feel their loss. Her piety was without ostentation, but adorned her life and character with meekness and purity. Her home life was lovingly and thoughtfully devoted to the constant purpose of making that home cheerful and attractive to her family. The memory of the tenderness of her mother-love, the constancy of her devotion to the wants of her family will linger in that home as a perpetual benediction.

Her death was not anticipated by her family or friends, but we are sure she died in the hope of a glorious immortality. HER PASTOR.

In Memory of Miss Elenore Betton.

They bear her white robed in; palm branches lying—
 Thrown there triumphant down,
For she has fought her fight, and conquering, dying,
 Has won through death her crown.

Soft swells the chanting; like some angel choir
 That hovers in the skies
To bear the freed soul on, hark! higher, higher,
 Far off in space it flies.

And then I see her, as in a vision gleaming;
 The everlasting gates,
And through them, open flung, such glory streaming,
 While He before them waits.

And saints and martyrs, harpers harping, crying
 How blessed are the dead.
When dying in the Lord—it is not dying;
 They bring their sheaves instead.

Their works do follow them, each high endeavor,
 Each noble deed and word;
And still they sing: Forever and forever,
 O! blessed be the Lord.

A FRIEND.

OBITUARY—A. W. SPARKS.

On Sunday night last Absalom W. Sparks, an aged and respected citizen of Chestertown, died at his residence on Maple avenue. He was in his 79th year. Mr. Sparks was not a native of Chestertown, but came here in early life and with the exception of a few years in farming near town, spent the remainder of his long life in our midst in merchandising and various other avocations. He was also a justice of the peace for a number of years, and in his younger days held the office of constable. About thirty-five years ago he united with the Methodist Protestant Church, and up to his death was a recognized member of that church, and for a long time held official relation therewith. He was noted for his zealous and faithful performance of duty; his seat in the official board and in the religious service of his church was never vacant without good reason—indeed, in this regard he was an example to the younger and physically stronger members of his church, and often put them to shame by his presence at the post of duty when "stress of weather" or other like excuse detained them. Mr. Sparks was naturally of very frail frame but of indomitable perseverance and energy. About three years since his bodily infirmities mastered his will, and since then he has been deprived of the church privileges he prized so highly; for more than a year he has been unable to go outside his dwelling, and gradually—surely, though slowly failing—his physician on Monday announced him dying, and at ten that night his spirit departed. On Wednesday his remains were laid to rest in Chester Cemetery.

Mr. Sparks' wife survives him, and with his children did all that was possible to render peaceful and happy his declining days. He leaves one son, Henry A. Sparks, one of our enterprising confectioners; and two daughters, one the wife of Rev. J. D. Kinzer, of Westminster, Md., and the other the wife of Edward J. Kennard, Esq., of this county. W.

ESTEY ORGANS! ESTEY ORGANS!

No more suitable Christmas Present than an ESTEY ORGAN. Terms easy. Prices low.
d22 LOUIS K. STAM.

Prayer Books, Hymn Books, Bibles.

A large stock for sale by
d15. COLIN F. STAM.

NOTICE.—Owing to an excess of trespassing, we, the undersigned, are obliged to forewarn all persons, without exception, from gunning upon our premises, known as the Wallis Home Farm in Queen Anne's Co., near Chester Bridge, and especially from gunning after Ducks on our River Shores on Chester River. All persons who disregard this notice will be prosecuted.
A. J. BYNSON,
WILSON REGISTER,
d15-3t.* WM. A. HENDRIX, Tenant.

Enterprise Transportation Company.

NOTICE.

There will be a Meeting of the Stockholders of the Enterprise Transportation Company at their office, Chestertown, on

WEDNESDAY, January 2, 1884

At Ten o'clock A. M.,

for the purpose of increasing the CAPITAL STOCK Thirty Thousand Dollars, and making other important amendments to the Constitution of the said Company. R. J. FOARD,
Dec. 1-4t. President.

OUR Splendid Fire Place Heater is certainly the finest Heater on the market. Our New Emerald, Farmer Girl, and Virginia Cooks cannot be excelled. Call and examine them at
JOEL R. CLEMENTS',
Successor to Hines & Clements.

FOUR KINDS of Sausage CUTTERS Stuffers and Lard Cans, at
n17. J. K. ALDRIDGE'S.

LARGE Stock of FRUITS, LEMONS, Oranges, Grapes and Nuts
d8. at LAMBERT'S.

THE BABY ELEPHANT, come and see it. HUDGINS' BAKERY.

WANTED.
A GOOD FARM HAND, white. A House, Garden and fuel furnished.
GEORGE BECK,
d8-3t. Lankford.

NOTICE.—The Orphans' Court for Kent Co., will meet MONDAY, Dec. 31, 1883.
J. C. SLAUGHTER,
Dec. 22-2t. Register Wills.

The Chester River Steamboat Co.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

ON January 1st, 1884, and thereafter until further notice, the STEAMER GEORGE LAW will be withdrawn from the route.
GEORGE WARFIELD,
d29-2t. President.

GRAIN, FRUITS, LIVE STOCK

AND GENERAL PRODUCE.
jan6-y.

FOR RENT for 1884.
A LARGE DWELLING and Garden attached, situated near Price's Corner.
Apply to WILLIAM W. RASIN,
Dec. 15-3t. Still Pond Neck.

FOR SALE.

THE STONE HOUSE on the northeast side of High Street, Chestertown, third House below College avenue; will be sold low on easy terms.
Apply to CHAS. T. WESTCOTT,
d8-tf. Att'y at Law, Chestertown.

STOLEN—
From Hall's Hotel on Chestertown, on Thursday night last, a BAY HORSE, with a white hind foot and small white star in the forehead; also, a York Side-bar CARRIAGE. A liberal reward will be paid for the recovery of the same
JOHN McGUGAN,
d29-3t* Kennedyville, Md.

FOR SALE.

TWO GRADE CLYDSDALE COLTS, nineteen months old; large for age; by "Lothair." For further information appply to E. W. Hepbron. They can be seen on his farm.
de15-3t.* ARCHER M. HEPBRON.

FOR SALE—
Pure Bred Plymouth Rock CHICKENS, from selected and carefully mated birds, of the best strains of the country. Large size, bright yellow beaks and legs. For terms, &c., call on or address C. C. BROWN,
Pomona, Md.
N. B.—Entirely free from disease of any kind.
Dec. 1—6t*

FISHERMEN ATTENTION!
At Private Sale on Time and Liberal Terms, a First-Class HAULING SEINE, in fine order and as good as new; 220 fathoms (about 440 yards) in length, and from 10 to 15 feet in depth, ropes, etc., all complete. Also a good SEINE BOAT, thoroughly equipped and nearly new. The purchaser will have the privilege of leasing for next Spring's fishing the Primrose Shore opposite Chestertown—one of the finest and most desirable on the river.
For terms, &c., apply to
d22-3t. H. H. BARROLL, Att'y.

NOTICE—
THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Kent County will be held at the Court-House in Chestertown on Monday, January 7th, 1884, at 11 o'clock A. M. N. G. WESTCOTT,
d22-3t. Secretary.

THE regular ANNUAL MEETING of the Stockholders of the Chestertown Straw Board & Manufacturing Company of Kent County, will be held at the office of the Company in Chestertown on Wednesday, January 16th, 1884, for the purpose of electing Directors for the succeeding year.
d22-3t. T. W. ELIASON, Jr., Sec'y.

Kent National Bank of Chestertown,

Chestertown, Md., Dec. 14, 1883.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Stockholders of the Kent National Bank of Chestertown, that the regular annual meeting for election of Directors for ensuing year will be held at the Banking House in Chestertown on TUESDAY, January 8, next, at 11 o'clock A. M.
JOSEPH PETERSON, Cashier.
Dec. 15, 1883—tm.

TAX NOTICE.

THE subscriber may be found at the Sheriff's office in the Court House on TUESDAYS and SATURDAYS. The levies will be due on the 1st of January, and those owing TAXES are urgently solicited to make prompt payment.
J. M. J. BYRON,
Dec. 15-tf. Coll. 4th District.

TAX NOTICE.

I AM compelled to close my books, and hereby notify all persons in arrears for Taxes for 1881 and 1882, that unless settlement is made by the

FIRST OF DECEMBER

I shall proceed to collect according to law in every case without respect to persons. B. B. ADKINSON.

HOLIDAY GOODS!

Large Stock and Variety Well Selected!

MARKED VERY LOW IN PRICE!

Suitable for old and young, to whom we extend a cordial invitation.
Respectfully,
M. A. TOULSON.
Dec. 15, 1883.

Notice.

DROWNED—$200.00 REWARD!

THE Towboat Captains' Association and Baker, Whiteley & Co., of Baltimore, each offer a reward of $100 for the recovery of the BODY OF CAPT. ALBERT H. LEAGUE, lost from the tug Britannia on Dec. 2 last, off Holland's Island, Chesapeake Bay. The deceased was 49 years old; height about 5 ft. 8 inches; hair and whiskers black mixed with gray; long beard. Dressed in dark pants, under coat and vest black diagonal; reversible ulster gray on one side and plaid on the other; elastic gaiters. If found address
WILLIAM J. C. MICHAEL,
d15-3t. No. 17 S. Gay St., Baltimore.

Albums.

PHOTOGRAPH AND AUTOGRAPH.

We do not hesitate to pronounce these goods the finest and most reasonable in price in this market.
COLIN F. STAM,
d15. Druggist.

READ THIS.

MRS. M. C. USILTON

has returned from Baltimore with a fine assortment of Christmas Goods, such as Candy, Fruits, Nuts and Toys, and will be thankful to the public to give her a call before purchasing elsewhere. Store between J. H. Simpers and Dr. Gilpin's, Chestertown. Dec. 22-3t.

CHRISTMAS GOODS.

COLOGNES. EXTRACTS.

Choicest odors in beautiful bottles and Plush cases.
Cheap at STAM'S DRUG STORE.

FOR RENT—
BLACKSMITH'S SHOP at Lynch's, and a full set of Smith's Tools for sale.
Apply at once to WM. HEPBRON,
d15-3t. Lynch's

YOU can get a good box, (containing 100) CIGARS for $1 75.
at WROTH & ALDRIDGE'S.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

—of—

The Extension of Court Street, Chestertown.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CHESTERTOWN hereby give notice, in accordance with the requirements of the Act of 1882, chap. 201, of their intention to

OPEN AND EXTEND COURT STREET

its present width, from Church Alley to the Eastern limits of Chestertown, and all persons interested in that portion of the grave yard over which the extension of said street is to run, are hereby requested and notified to remove the tombstones and remains of their friends or relatives lying in that portion of said grave yard on or before April 1st, 1884.
JAMES A. PEARCE,
Pres't Commissioners of Chestertown.
By order of the Board. d29-3t.

GRAND ENTERTAINMENT!

Under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of SALEM CHURCH, will be given a grand, pleasing and instructive Entertainment, consisting of Vocal and Instrumental Music by able talent. An impressive "Pantomime" in Six Scenes, Readings, Recitations, Tableaux and Dramatic performances, THURSDAY EVENING, January 10th, in the new Grange Hall, Fairlee. Proceeds to aid in the needful improvement of Salem M. E. Church. Come one! Come all! help in a good cause. Admission, 25 cents. Doors open at 7 o'clock.
By order, LADIES' AID SOCIETY,
d22-3t. S. M. E. C.

First Course Lectures and Concerts.

CHESTERVILLE METH. EPIS. CHURCH.

The above Church has arranged for a course of three Lectures and two Concerts, to be given during the months of January, February and March. The object of the entertainments is to create a fund, looking toward future church improvement, and to afford profitable and wholesome entertainment for the community during the winter. The first Lecture of the course will be given in the church by Rev. Robt. W. Todd. Subject: "The Quaint and Humorous of Peninsula Methodism." THURSDAY EVENING, January 3d, 1884. Season Ticket $1; Single admission, 25 cts.; Children, 15 cents.
G. W. TOWNSEND,
H. C. LAYMAN,
B. D. QUIMBY,
CHAS. ENGLAND,
d22.1t. Committee.

Christmas Goods!

FINE, ELEGANT DISPLAY!

Grand Opening This Day!

—AT—

STAM'S DRUG STORE!

LARGEST STOCK!

LOWEST PRICES!

COLIN F. STAM.

Chestertown, Dec. 15, 1883.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Kent county Letters of administration c. t. a. on the personal estate in Kent county, Maryland, of

GEORGE SURVER, Jr.,

late of Kent county, Maryland, deceased.

All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the 8th day of July, 1884, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefit in said estate. Given under my hand this 18th day of December, 1883.
CHARLES T. WESTCOTT,
Dec. 22—4t. Adm'r.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Kent county Letters of administration c. t. a. on the personal estate in Kent county, Maryland, of

ELIZA J. LEMLEY,

late of Kent county, Maryland, dec'd.

All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of July, 1884, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefit of said estate. Given under my hand this 18th day of December 1883.
JOHN W. CAREY,
Dec. 22—4t. Adm'r.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Kent county letters of administration on the personal estate in Kent county, Maryland, of

ANDREW J. SUTTON,

late of Kent county, Maryland, dec'd.

All persons having claims against said deceased's estate, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with proper vouchers, to the undersigned, on or before the 24th day of June, 1883, or they may by law be excluded from all benefit in said estate. Given under my hand this 27th day of November, 1883.
CHARLES M. SUTTON,
Dec. 1—4t. Adm'r.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Kent county letters of Administration on the personal estate in Kent county, Maryland, of

GEORGE L. MASLIN,

late of Kent county, Maryland, dec'd.

All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the 15th day of July, 1884, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefit in said estate. Given under my hand and seal this 11th day of December, 1883.
THOS. C. MASLIN,
Dec. 15—4t. Administrator.

A LARGE LINE of Gent's, Ladies' and Children's Vests.
at T. W. ELIASON'S, Jr.

NICE ASSORTMENT of Ladies' Misses and Children's COATS, direct from the manufacturer's—pretty styles and close prices. Very truly,
n3. R. F. PARKS.

FINE and GROUND ALUM SALT, at low Prices. For sale by
oc27. T. W. ELIASON, JR.

PUBLIC SALE

BY ORDER of the Orphans' Court of Kent county, the undersigned administrator of George L. Maslin, will sell at public sale at deceased's late residence in Skinner's Neck, on

SATURDAY, December 29th,

the following personal property;

2 GOOD FARM MARES;

2 three-year-old COLTS;

3 MILCH COWS,

Good Milkers, and all Fresh;

15 HEAD of COTSWOLD SHEEP

6 Fat HOGS, and 3 SHOATS;

3 Carriages, 1 York and 2 Four-seat; 2 Dearborns; 1 Lumber Wagon; 2 old Dearborns. Farming Implements:—1 Fan, 1 Corn Sheller, Plows, Harrows, Cultivators, Lot Corn and Corn Blades, &c., &c.

Household and Kitchen FURNITURE.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A. M.

TERMS:—A credit of Six months will be given on all sums over $10, the purchaser giving his note with approved security, interest added, payable at the Kent Nat'l Bank of Chestertown. No property to be removed until the terms are complied with.
THOMAS C. MASLIN, Adm'r.
d22-ts. J. Frank Wheatley, Auct'r.

Trustee's Sale of a Small Lot of Land.

BY VIRTUE of a Decree of the Orphans' Court of Kent County, the undersigned, will offer at Public Sale, on

MONDAY, December 31st, 1883,

at 3 o'clock, P. M., at the Court House door, in Chestertown,

All THAT LOT of LAND,

lying and being in the Second Election District, on the north side of the public road leading from Chestertown to Crumpton, and adjoining the lands of John Bryan, James B. Sappington and others, containing EIGHT ACRES, Two Roods and Nine Perches of land, more or less, formerly the land of Isaac Cotton, deceased. The improvements are three small dwelling houses, in very ordinary repair, small Apple and Pear orchards. The property will be divided into and offered in lots from one to two acres each, and then offered as a whole, and sold in a manner to realize the greatest sum. A plot will be exhibited on the day of sale.

The Terms of Sale as prescribed by the decree are ⅓ of the purchase money cash on the day of sale, or on the ratification of said sale at the option of the Trustee, the balance in two equal installments of six and twelve months from day of sale, with interest on deferred payments from day of sale. MARION deK. SMITH,
Trustee.

The Trustee gives notice to creditors of Isaac Cotton, dec'd, as the decree directs, to file their claims with the vouchers thereof, with the Register of Wills of Kent county, within four months from day of sale of his Real Estate.
MARION deK. SMITH,
Dec. 8-tds. Trustee.

AT PRIVATE SALE!

A DESIRABLE COUNTRY RESIDENCE

AT LOCUST GROVE.

THE undersigned, attorney for the owner, offers at Private Sale that

HANDSOME RESIDENCE,

with Stables, Carriage House, and other necessary Outbuildings and fencing all in good order and repair, with TWO ACRES OF LAND attached, lately occupied by Dr. B. S. Roseberry and now in the tenancy of Dr. J. Horton Kelley, desirably located at Locust Grove.

This property is suitable for a physician or business man as a residence, in a thrifty, thriving locality, near schools, churches, railroads, etc. It has a policy of insurance for $2,650 paid up for the next three years.

Call on or address for particulars
HOPE H. BARROLL,
Attorney for Dr. B. S. Roseberry.
Dec. 8—5t.

Constable's Sale.

BY VIRTUE of a writ of Fieri Facias, issued by William A. Miller, one of the Justices of the Peace of the State of Maryland, in and for Kent county, at the suit of Joseph Morris, use of Kate Morris, against the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of William H. Hill, to me directed, I have seized and taken in execution all the right, title, claim, interest and estate, at law and in equity, of the said William Hill, in and to, all that

WOOD LOT, LAND AND PREMISES,

situated in the Maryland part of the Maryland and Delaware Forest, containing *TWENTY ACRES*, more or less, and which lies in the 1st Election District of Kent county, Maryland, adjoining the lands of Joseph W. Peacock, Henry W. Archer and others, and which was conveyed to the said William H. Hill by Joseph Morris, by deed dated the 4th day of January 1883, duly executed, acknowledged and recorded in Liber S. B., No. 3, folio 616, one of the land record books of Kent county, aforesaid. And I hereby give notice that on

WENESDAY, January 16, 1884,

at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on the premises, in Kent county, aforesaid, I will offer for sale the said property so seized and taken in execution, at Public Auction, to the highest bidder for cash.
WILLIAM R. MILLER, Constable.
Hope H. Barroll, att'y for Plaintiff,
d22-tds. Chestertown, Md.

A SPECIAL BARGAIN.

A few weeks ago we mentioned as a special bargain a lot of

GRAY BLANKETS,

at $1. At that time it was a big bargain, but since then there has been a large closing out sale of Blankets in New York city and from that sale we got one hundred pairs (100) that we are now offering at $1—a bigger bargain than ever before offered in Blankets—and no more to be had like them. Call and see what a special bargain we are offering in them.
d8-tjl. J. B. BURCHINAL.

NOTICE TO TRESPASSERS.
All persons are hereby cautioned against trespassing upon the farms known as "Camelsworthmore," "The Skirven Farm" or "Merritt Farm," after this date, with dog, gun or otherwise. The law will be strictly enforced.
WILLIAM R. GALE,
EDWARD BIDDLE,
W. F. WOODMENDER.
October 27, 1883—tf.

CHRISTMAS GOODS!

GAMES—amusing and instructive—for the old and young. Also, Building Blocks, Alphabet Blocks, &c., all very cheap, at STAM'S DRUG STORE.

LAST NOTICE.
All persons indebted to the estate of A. J. HACKETT must settle up by the 1st of January 1884, or they will have to pay cost of suit.
JAS. M. SEVERSON,
d8-4t.* Administrator.

CHRISTMAS GOODS!

Plush Toilet Cases, Work Boxes. Whisk Holders, Comb & Brush Cases of the finest quality and elegant design, very cheap at
d15. STAM'S DRUG STORE.

LADIES' Hand-Made, Kid-Buttoned BOOTS. Something nice. For sale by T. W. ELIASON, Jr.

FINE Cut-glass GOBLETS and Wine Glasses suitable for Christmas presents, at SPARKS'.