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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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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.

LOCAL and other correspondence solicited.

AS AN EVIDENCE of good faith all communications addressed to the THE NEWS must be accompanied by the writer's full name and address.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements occupying the space of eight lines, brevier type, will be inserted three times for one dollar, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent insertion. Obituaries at 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.

LEGAL NOTICES.

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 GRAVES,

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 undersigned on or before the 8th day of October, 1885, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefit of said estate. Given under my hand this 31st day of March, 1885.

JAMES H. BAKER, Adm'r.

Apr4-4t.

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

PHILIP M. ROBINSON,

late of Kent county, deceased.

All persons having claims against said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with proper vouchers, to the undersigned, on or before the 6th day of October, 1885, or they will be excluded by law from all benefit in said estate.

Given under my hand this 17th day of March, 1885.

HOPE H. BARROLL, Adm'r.

March 21—4t.

Notice!

THE KENT NATIONAL BANK,

OF CHESTERTOWN,

located at Chestertown, in the State of Maryland, is closing up its affairs. All note-holders and others, creditors of said Association, are therefore hereby notified to present the notes and other claims against the Association for payment. JOSEPH PETERSON, CASHIER.

fe19-2m.

Treasury Department,

OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY,
WASHINGTON, February 18, 1885.

WHEREAS, by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that

"The Chestertown National Bank,"

in the town of Chestertown, in the county of Kent, and State of Maryland, has complied with all the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the United States, required to be complied with before an association shall be authorized to commence the business of Banking.

Now, therefore, I, HENRY W. CANNON, Comptroller of the Currency, do hereby certify that "THE CHESTERTOWN NATIONAL BANK" in the Town of Chestertown, in the County of Kent, and State of Maryland, is authorized to commence the business of Banking as provided in Section Fifty-one hundred and sixty-nine of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

In Testimony Whereof, witness my hand and seal of office this eighteenth day of February, 1885.

H. W. CANNON,
Comptroller of the Currency.

No. 3305. fe21-2m.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

HARRISON W. VICKERS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND.
aug4-y.

JOHN D. URIE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW.
Office with H. W. Vickers, Esq.
Will practice in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties. jan17.

Dr. T. H. COOPER, Homeopathist,
Opposite the Voshell House, Chestertown, Md
Assisted by his Brother. Office open all day and evening. je16-y.

W. BURCHINAL JUDEFIND,
Teacher of Instrumental and Vocal Music.

Organ, Violin, Cornet and Brass Band Instruments a specialty. Call on or address me at Edesville, Md. Terms moderate. n1.

Compound Wine
—OF—
Peruvian Bark.

An efficient and agreeable preparation for the cure of chills. Especially recommended as a tonic during the bilious season. We have prepared this with great care, and believe it will do all that is claimed for it.

COLIN F. STAM,
Aug. 9-tf. Druggist.

RASINS, CURRANTS,
Citron, Beans, Hominy,
Buckwheat, Mince Meat,
and Pine Apple Cider, just received and for sale by THOMPSON,
n15. up town.

The I. P. THOMAS FERTILIZERS!

THE FARMERS OF KENT that are willing to pay for what they get, and unwilling to pay for what they do not get, are asked to TRY THE

I. P. THOMAS
TIP TOP RAW BONE SUPERPHOSPHATE,

on the "No Cure No Pay" principle, for CORN OR OTHER SPRING CROPS.

Guaranteed by Written Agreement

when customers desire it, that every dollar invested in TIP TOP shall give as much product as the same amount invested in any commercial fertilizer on the market, or an equal value of Stable Manure.

THAT IT PERMANENTLY IMPROVES the land to which it has been applied has been abundantly proven on some of the poorest farms in the county, the product of which has been made to compare favorably with the best lands to be found anywhere.

Notwithstanding last season was extremely dry and unfavorable for corn not a single failure has been reported where TIP TOP was applied. Crops that would have been creditable for any good season were grown by

Hon. Wm. T. Hepbron, Thomas Gale, Elias Walraven, Wm. Gale, John P. Nicholson, Charles Stephens, and many others that might be mentioned, from any of whom remarkably fine seed corn can most likely be secured.

Among the finest PEACHES sent from Kent last season were crops produced from old orchards treated with the TIP TOP in the Spring of 1884—selling as high as Three Dollars and twenty-five cents per basket. The whole season's shipment, culls included, averaging from 90c. to $1 per basket. Thus returning not less than twelve hundred per cent. on the investment.

All orders addressed to

I. P. THOMAS,
CHEYNEY, DEL. CO., PA.,
Or to
JOHN W. HICKMAN,
STILL POND, KENT CO., MD.,

will receive prompt attention.

March 21, 1885—7t.

FREDERICK FOUNTAIN
AGENT FOR

R. J. BAKER & Co

Manufacturers of

High Grade Fertilizers,

BALTIMORE, MD.

Stag Superphosphate,
Ammoniated Bone Superphosphate,
Pure Dissolved Raw Bone,
Pure Fine Ground Raw Bone,
Dissolved S. C. Phosphate,
High Grade Imported Bird Guano,
Bird Guano and Potash for Corn;
Chemicals, &c., &c., &c.

Special Formulas Compounded.

Low prices for cash on board boat Baltimore. fe21-3m.

The Best Fertilizers!

—FOR—

SPRING CROPS AND FRUIT TREES.

I am now prepared to fill orders, in carload lots, of PURE GROUND BONE and BONE MEAL;

also, Dissolved Gr'd Bone and B. Meal, at very low prices for the Cash.

Pure Unbleached Wood Ashes at low prices;

also, ACID PHOSPHATE at very low figures; and the Old Standard

Old Kent Phosphate

No. 2, for Spring Crops and Fruit Trees. For the action of this brand, I refer to John Brice, Lem. Stephens, Gus. Startt, Bat. Trew, Thos. Toulson, W. Bowers, John H. Gibson, W. H. Bowers, Wm. Jones, Rich. Hynson, G. W. T. Perkins, Joseph Cornelius, J. N. Usilton, W. T. Baker, Wm. Thomas, J. A. French, Stewart Matthews, Joseph R. Usilton, Wm. D. Burchinal.

J. W. HINES,
March 12-6. Chestertown, Md.

KENNEDY LIME!

THE PORT KENNEDY LIME CO.
Successors to the late John Kennedy,

are now burning and shipping this WELL KNOWN LIME which needs no recommendation. IT IS FULLY EQUAL TO THE BEST in the market.

Address all orders to
J. B. POWEL, Manager,
Port Kennedy, Montgomery co., Pa.
mh14-6m.

FARMERS in need of Plow and Wagon GEARS will do well to call on
WM. A. WHEATLEY,
adj. Chestertown Nat'l Bank.
m7.

FOR ALL SPRING CROPS USE
BAUGH'S
Corn & Oats Fertilizer.

THIS Guano is made from the best materials, and is especially adapted to the growth of SPRING CROPS. The Phosphate of lime is all soluble in the soil, so that every particle will be taken up by the plant, thus giving it a healthy growth and insuring a good crop if the season is at all favorable.

PRICE $20.00 PER 2,000 POUNDS.
Delivered at buyers' R. R. Station or Steamboat Wharf.

WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF
PURE RAW BONE MEAL
AND
PURE DISSOLVED RAW BONE,
And farmers will be surprised to find how low they can buy Warranted Pure Bone from us.

Address all orders and inquiries to
BAUGH & SONS,
mas. 103 SOUTH St., Baltimore, Md.

BLACK RESIDUUM,

Bagged in Fine, Dry Condition.

The best application used to
PREVENT FRENCHING of CORN.

Has NO SUPERIOR on
YOUNG PEACH ORCHARDS,
preventing worms, securing a fine healthy condition for the Trees.

Early orders solicited by
T. W. ELIASON, Jr.
mh28-5t.

TO FARMERS.

AMMONIATED SUPER PHOSPHATE
W. WHITELOCK
TRADE & CO'S MARK
VEGETATOR
BALTIMORE
167
THE CROP PRODUCER

We offer you the **"VEGETATOR"** in fine and dry condition **"VEGETATOR"** for this spring's use. It has always given general satisfaction where used on

Early Truck, Potatoes, Corn &c.

The application of the **"VEGETATOR"** to these Vegetables prevents early firing during a drought. The yield is very abundant and growth quite active, thus enabling the Farmers to reach an early, as well as profitable market, and proving the VEGETATOR to be the manure most needed.

For Circulars and Information apply to

MILLER, LIPPINCOTT & CO.
(Successors to W. Whitelock & Co.)
44 South Street, Baltimore, Md.
—For Sale by—
JAMES BRICE, Chestertown.
mh28-2m.

CHESTERTOWN
PLUMBING HOUSE!

CLEMENTS & YORK

WATER, GAS AND STEAM,
WINDMILLS and PUMPS.

WE are now prepared to make contracts, and do all kinds of work appertaining to WATER, GAS and STEAM; also a full line of STEAM VALVES, FAUCETS, STOP AND WASTE VALVES, also a Full Line of Brass Work and Fittings for Plumbing Work.

PIPE OF ALL SIZES | Both Plain and Galvanized.

Bath-Tubs, Kitchen Sinks, Hydrants, Street Sprinklers and Water Closets, Terra-Cotta Pipe, Bends and Branches of all descriptions.

Work done by Practical Mechanics.

Repairing promptly attended to.

SANITARY PLUMBING,
DRAINAGE & VENTILATION
A SPECIALTY.

ESTIMATES MADE FREE OF CHARGE.
OFFICE—under "KENT NEWS" Office.
Jan. 24-1885.

Chestertown, Feb. 17, 1885.

NOW IS THE TIME to enter your orders
—FOR—
Fencing

to have it delivered direct to you, saving expense.

I will also book your order for Lumber bills at exceedingly low figures during this dull month.

Call at SCOTT'S POINT and examine for yourself our EXTRA STOCK of DRY

SIDING,
SHINGLES,
FLOORING,
&c.

JOSEPH TURNER.

TINWARE! TINWARE!
A large assortment of our own manufacture and selling cheap.—Stoves of the best makes sold as cheap as the cheapest. J. K. ALDRIDGE & CO.

TWO FARMS
—AND—
Valuable Town Property
AT PRIVATE SALE.

BEING desirous of leaving the county I will sell the following property at Private Sale on reasonable terms:

No. 1, a Farm of 142 acres
MORE OR LESS;

land of fine quality, about 2½ miles from Kennedyville and about one mile from Travilla's Landing on Chester river; this land is in good heart and producing fine crops; has been limed and well fenced. Building new and good. A first class farm for peaches, as it has never been planted in fruit except a small apple, pear and peach orchard for use of farm.

No. 2 is a FARM of 112 ACRES,
More or Less,

situated on Lankford's Bay; a steamer passes it daily to and from Baltimore; it is planted in peaches, now 5,500 trees; 3400 in bearing; all will be in 1886.

This land and situation is particularly adapted to the raising of fruit and vegetables, it being principally a loamy soil and near to the Balt. market by steamer.

No. 3 is a New Dwelling House

in Chestertown, on Main St., adjoining the property of Judge J. A. Wickes; it is two stories front and back; has 10 rooms and good dry cellar.

All the buildings on the farms are new and good and both of them situated near Churches, Schools and Mills, and in good neighborhoods.

The above property can be bought cheap, and on easy terms.

mh28-4t. J. W. HINES, Agt.

Chestertown, March 21, 1885.

The Tariff Reduced!

Not anticipating these hard times and scarcity of money, I bought for THIS SPRING AND SUMMER a very heavy stock of

MEN AND BOYS'
COARSE AND FINE SHOES,

which MUST BE SOLD, and in order that they may be sold soon I propose to offer them to all cash buyers at a very small margin above first cost.

They are all FRESH and STYLISH GOODS and we only make this offer because we need money.

We have a variety of other goods, such as SUGAR, Coffee, Flour and Molasses; Segars and Tobacco, Powder and Shot, and many other articles, all of which can be bought at a low figure for the money.

This is NO HUMBUG

but we intend to do just what we say.—But in order to be convinced of the truth of this statement, we invite you to call—with the money—and we feel sure that we can satisfy you both in the price and quality of goods.

Remember the place:

JAMES A. SHAW,
COURT STREET, Chestertown.
mh21.

EVERYTHING USEFUL
—IN THE—
HARDWARE LINE
CAN BE HAD AT
WHEATLEY'S HARDWARE STORE!

THE FARMER can buy his Plows, Shovels, Forks, Chain and Rope Traces, Back Bands, Wagon and Plow Hames, Garden Rakes, Spading Forks, Corn Hoes, Grub Hoes, Briar and Bush Hooks, Pruning Shears, Hedge Knives; Back Chains, Tongue Chains, &c., as cheap as can be had anywhere.

W. A. WHEATLEY,
adj. Chestertown Nat. Bank.
m28.

E. T. COMEGYS,
DEALER IN
GRAIN,
Locust Grove, Md,

Agents for the WM. LEA & SONS CO.
BRANDYWINE MILLS.

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE
Paid for GRAIN on RAILROAD.
d13.

DRUGS!

OUR STOCK IS LARGE AND FRESH!

We carry an assortment of the finest Drugs in the market.

OUR PRESCRIPTION DEPARTMENT!
is first class in every respect and under our own personal care.

C. F. STAM,
feb7. DRUGGIST.

FANCY GOODS and PERFUMERY.

Our Stock is so Large we cannot enumerate. We beg you to examine.

COLIN F. STAM,
feb7. DRUGGIST.

WE will sell you a good BOOT with 21 inch leg at $2.40 per pair, and in a few days will have a 23 inch leg. Full stock hand-pegged and seamed Boots at $4 per pair. THOMPSON, up town.

GRINDSTONES, mounted and unmounted, by
W. A. WHEATLEY.
m21.

A Broken Dream.

High roared the flames upon the hearth,
The wind bowled fitfully without,
And wind and flame like revelers
Seemed gleefully to laugh and shout,
As Maud and I before the fire
Leaned idly back and smiled and sighed,
Her robe of violet velvet hung
In shadowy folds down at her side.

Her golden hair in rippling waves
Hung carelessly below her waist,
And creamy lace from shoulders white
Fell, and its web-like pattern traced.
Her gaze was always on the fire,
And mine was always upon her;
The faint, sweet scent of sandal-wood
Came ever as her fan did stir.

A score of years—and once again
I sit within the olden room,
And back upon the air there floats
The faint, sweet sandal-wood perfume.
Parted world-wide are Maud and I,
Yet, like a subtle, shy caress,
I feel anear me fall the folds
Of that soft violet velvet dress.

—*Hattie Tyng Griswold.*

POKING FUN AT EVOLUTION.

Dr. Talmage Considers Man Something Better Than a Bankrupt Ape.

Rev. Dr. T. De Witt Talmage, of Brooklyn, delivered one of his characteristic lectures last week at the Academy of Music, in Baltimore, to a large audience. The subject was "The Absurdities of Evolution." Among the striking things he said were the following:

"If we leave it to the evolutionists to guess where we have come from and to the theologians to guess where we have come from we are left in consideration of the fact that we are here.—[Laughter.]

"Who swung the lightning under the sea, cabling the continents together? Cyrus W. Field, the Christian.

"Between science, falsely so called, and religion there is a war uncompromising. One or the other must go.

"All the leading evolutionists are infidels—Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Tyndal, Mill, Spencer.

"As Herbert Spencer was not present at the creation of man, and as God Almighty was, I prefer to take the latter's account of how it did occur.

"The survival of the fittest! Do the fittest survive? Garfield dies in September, while Guiteau survives until June. [Applause.] In all communities some of the noblest and grandest men die in the yoke while some of the meanest and most contemptible live on to old age.—[Laughter.]

"I don't believe in natural development. Men started out to full height; their average stature now-a-days is only five feet four inches.

"Natural evolution is not upward, it's always downward.

"When you can evolve fragrance from a malodor, or an oratorio from a buzz-saw, or fall pippins from a basket of rotten crab-apples, you can evolve goodness from an evil heart.

"The doctrine of evolution is an old heathen corpse set up in a morgue, Charles Darwin and Herbert Spencer trying to galvanize it. [Laughter.

"If a pair of apes were the parents of a human being, why were not all pairs of apes blest with the same sort of progeny?

"Darwin teaches that a certain species of monkey lost its prehensible powers and, ceasing to climb trees, set up business as a man. Failures as apes; successes as man. In other words man is a bankrupt ape.

"When I see one of these imitations of foreign soft heads, with angle of elbow, pointed shoes and thin of scab eyeglass, then I said that is evolution backward from man to ape. [Laughter.]

"If your father was a muskrat, and your mother an opossum, and great-grandfather a lizzard, and your great-great-grandfather a polliwog, I tell you that my father was God. [Applause.]

"It would have been just as great a miracle for God to have turned an ourang-otang into a man as to have made a man out and out.

"The slab of the sepulchre, the evolutionists say, is not a mile-stone on a journey upward, but a wall which shuts out eternal nothingness.

"I am not so anxious to know what was my origin as I am to know my destiny. I care not so much who was my ancestor 10 million years ago as I am to know where I will be 10 million years to come.

"The evolution, I believe, is the divine evolution from sin to holiness, from earth to heaven."

Indian Wit.

A half-naked Indian was looking on at some workmen in the employ of Gov. Dudley, of Massachusetts.

"Why don't you work and get yourself some clothes?" asked the governor.

"Why don't you work?" retorted the son of the forest.

"I work head work," said Dudley, pointing to his head.

The Indian said he was willing to work, and agreed to kill a calf for the governor. Having done so he came for his pay.

"But," said the governor, "you have not dressed the calf."

"No," said the Indian; "I was to have a shilling for killing him. Am he no dead, governor?"

Finding himself outwitted, the governor gave him another shilling for dressing it. It was not long before the Indian came back demanding a good shilling in place of the bad one which he claimed the governor had paid him. The governor paid him another. Returning another time with still another brass piece to be changed the governor, convinced of his knavery, offered him half a crown if he would deliver a letter for him. The letter was directed to the keeper of the prison, and ordered him to give the bearer a certain number of lashes.

The Indian suspecting that all was not right, and meeting a servant of the governor, induced him to take the letter to its address. The result of the Indian's stratagem was that a severe whipping was administered to the unfortunate servant. The governor was greatly chagrined at being a second time outwitted by the Indian. On falling in with him some time after, he accosted him with some severity, asking him how he had dared to cheat and deceive him so many times.

"Head work, governor, head work," was the reply.

Pleased at the fellow's wit and audacity, the governor freely forgave him.

Meeting His Match.

Rev. Dr. Ritchie, of Edinburgh, though a very clever man, once met his match. When examining a student as to the classes he had attended, he said,—

"I understand you attended the class for mathematics?"

"Yes."

"How many sides has a circle?"

"Two."

"Indeed! What are they?"

What a laugh in the court, the student's answer produced when he promptly said,—

"An inside and an outside!"

The doctor next inquired,—

"And you attend the moral philosophy class also?"

"Yes."

"Well, you doubtless heard lectures on various subjects. Did you ever hear one on cause and effect?"

"Yes."

"Does an effect ever go before a cause?"

"Yes."

"Give me an instance."

"A barrow wheeled by a man."

The doctor hastily sat down, and proposed no more questions.

"There is something that has preyed heavily on my mind ever since our engagement, dear," he said, "but I am almost afraid to tell you of it." "What is it, George?" the young woman asked anxiously. "I am a somnambulist." "Oh, is that all?" she exclaimed, with a sigh of relief, "I have always been a Universalist myself," but of course when we are made one I shall expect to attend your church."

CAUCASIAN TRAMP—"My colored friend, please lend me a quarter. I fought, bled and suffered four years in the Union army to make you a free man." Colored gentleman—"You did your duty, sah; but 'bout loaning you dat quarter, don't keer to revive de bitter memories of de wah."—*Texas Siftings.*

ISLE OF TRINIDAD.

Incidents on Trip from Port of Spain to Labray—Interview with a former German-American—The Cathedral at Labray—Santa Cruz Valley—Raising Cacao—Mania for Hotel Keeping, &c.

Correspondence of the Kent News.

Early in the morning of February 14 I went on board of one of the little side wheel steamers, which is low, long, narrow and fast, having flush deck and small wheels, propelled by double compact oscillating engines. They are largely subsidized and carry the mails and passengers along the gulf coast of the island, stopping abreast of different settlements receiving and delivering mails and passengers, always giving the preference to the mails, no other boat under any pretense being allowed to come under the gangway until after the mail is received and the exchange one delivered. The difference between first and second-class passengers on these little boats is as well defined as on the ocean steamers. On all of that portion of the boat abaft the shafts are carried all who wish either from choice or necessity to practice economy, and notwithstanding the large numbers who were sometimes on board, with their small lots of produce on the way to market, or in going or returning from their work, all appeared to be made comfortable; nothing but civility and good order being observable. All of that portion of the boat forward of the shaft was reserved for the first-class passengers and, while on the railroad it appears that many rather fastidious persons travel second-class, on the steamer those of the second appear to represent the third of the railroad.

I am now on the way to Labray, near which is the remarkable and famous asphalt or pitch lake. Not long after leaving Port of Spain I was told that the principal proprietor of the pitch lake—or of the privilege of managing and shipping it—was on board. Shortly afterwards an old gentleman came up to where I was sitting in a chair looking at the land with a telescope. He commenced conversation and soon became very sociable. His card says Conrad F. Stellmeyer, M. A. R. C. L. M.; I don't know much about the M. A. &c., but I do know that he is a man of great experience, very courteous and blessed with an unusual amount of common sense. He is a German by birth and has the accent of his nation. More than forty years ago he edited and published a paper in Philadelphia (German); was acquainted with Bancroft Irving, Greeley, the elder Bennett and others; had been wealthy several times and poor as often, but I am told by others that he is now in the enjoyment of large revenues arising from his wise and far-sighted operations in this colony. He was the first to discover value in the lake of natural pitch. Before leaving the steamers at San Fernando he called his manager and gave directions that when I arrived at Labray I should be provided with horses, guide, &c., to visit the lake. Then calling me to follow him to another part of the deck introduced me to what he called his old daughter and his young wife, and, indeed, the wife appeared considerably the younger of the two, and appeared very well satisfied either with the old gentleman's wealth or wisdom, or both.

On arrival at Labray the promised transportation was supplied, so mounting my pony and hoisting a white umbrella we set out. Fortunately there was a good breeze and it became a little cloudy and I was soon compelled to furl my umbrella and use it as a propeller to divert my pony's attention from the Guinea grass on the roadside in which he was more interested than in geological formations. We traveled up a gradual ascent in the midst of abundant vegetation and frequently encountered large bodies of pitch which has run down and actually formed reefs which look like great black rocks on the seashore. We frequently met mule teams coming down with loads of the pitch. The lake is round pond, a little more that one hundred acres in area and surrounded with the usual vegetation of the climate; nearest the lake are grasses and small plants while on the outer rim are large trees. We rode out on the pitch to a considerable distance. The only evidence of subterraneous activity at present is the escape of a very small amount of gas and, although a horse can travel over the surface near the rim, any heavy body allowed to rest on the surface will sink slowly. When pressure is applied water is expelled in the proportion of about 10 per cent. When large bodies of the pitch are removed they are always porous and the cavities thus formed gradually fill up until the surface becomes level or nearly so, except seams which appear at different distances apart and are filled with rain water through which bubbles occasionally arise.

After finishing our observations at the lake an intelligent Englishman, raised in the colony, took me a long distance to witness the operation of clearing new ground. The men did not use hoes and very rarely axes but heavy cutlasses, with which they cut down all the branches, vines and undergrowth, which in this hot climate soon becomes dry and inflammable, when it is set on fire, and this operation is continued until the land is what they call cleared. In this case a tract of about three hundred acres was to be planted in cocoanut trees. Large numbers of the nuts with the outside husk on are laid in a damp, shady place, and when the sprout appears they are removed and arranged in rows 33 to 40 ft. each way; a little more than half of the nut is buried underground, but a portion of the side from which the sprout issues is left above the surface. The trees bear in from 4 to 12 years and after 16 years yield about eighty nuts annually and live about 70 or 80 years.

Late in the afternoon we return to the coast and find it rather rough getting off to the little steamer. When alongside a gentleman cautioned me not to make a misstep and on my replying that I could swim if it should become necessary, replied that drowning was not the danger, but that this brackish and muddy water was infested with the worst kind of sharks.

Sunday, February 15.—Within sixty yards and in full view of my room is the cathedral, a large and substantial stone structure, equipped with a rich-toned bell which rings every half hour, day and night, and plays a boisterous tune at four in the morning. Soon after dark this evening the great bell was unusually demonstrative and an unusually large number of persons appeared to be passing into the church. Soon afterwards I heard the rich tones of an excellent organ and soon found myself entering one of the doors. The building was filled to its full seating capacity and a few hundred persons standing or walking in its great aisles. The assemblage was of many complexions from the Castilian to the Nubian. Soon after I entered a priest of handsome features and in becoming attire nimbly mounted the winding stair which led to the pulpit, which appeared to hang to the side of one of the great columns. He spoke very fluently and gesticulated gracefully, but he addressed his audience in French and I was only able to console myself with the knowledge that I was not the only person who had gone to church and returned home without knowing what the preacher said. When the sermon was ended the organ again played and about a score of priests within the brilliantly-lighted chancel chanted in Latin, after which several priests bearing silver basins passed rapidly through the congregation to receive the contributions, and whatever may have been its value it was evidently weighty, as they were usually compelled to employ both hands before they reached the end of their circuit. When they returned the note of the organ was again changed and the priests, some fifteen in number, marched out at a side door bearing long candles. During the celebration of this service and the retirement of the assemblage there was nothing to offend the most fastidious in any way, as I have rarely seen a more apparently devout people.

Tuesday, February 17.—The principal part of this day was employed in a long ride through the Santa Cruz Valley in company with a retired English gentleman, who is well posted and is able to describe all of the principal properties and was acquainted with their former owners. As the government gives in this colony the same kind of title by which the American holds his land most of it has changed owners within his recollection. Some sugar estates which produced fifteen hundred or more tons of high-priced sugar and which paid a salary of $3,000 to the manager, has passed out of the hands of the Oxford or Eston bred gentleman whose father or grandfather in many cases had accumulated two or three properties in different parts of the West Indies. When we reach the portion of the valley where it begins to narrow between the hills we are in the midst of the cacao plantations, but the inexperienced would never suspect that the land was under cultivation. It appeared that when clearing the land nearly all of the large trees had been left and in default of large trees those of rapid growth and suitable kind were planted. All parties here, from the African or cooley to the government's botanist, think the cacao requires shade. The botanist told me that it was necessary in order that the plant should do superlatively well that the bean be planted in a nursery and afterwards removed; moist, rich land being decidedly the best. They commence to fruit in about four years and live to a great age. The larger trees which I have seen are about the size of our very largest dwarf pear trees; they do not stir the ground after planting. The trees are planted so as to shade the whole ground and any undergrowth is cut away. The fruit or pods which contain the beans are produced on the trunk and large branches of the tree, *never on a lateral* of recent growth. The full-grown fruit resembles a small musk-melon, having ten longitudinal furrows. Inside of this pod are contained from fifteen to forty of the beans known as cacao in commerce. The trees have the bud and ripe fruit at nearly all seasons; annual product from one to eight pounds; value in this market at present about fourteen cents.

After experience and observation we may now venture to say something about the hotels in these islands generally, and in Port of Spain particularly. There appears to be a mania for keeping hotels. On the principal street there are about a dozen, all kept by ladies in apartments over the importers' stores — nearly all of them are reached through some kind of back yard and outside stairway; but the apartments when you *get to them* are comfortable. The condition financially of the average proprietess is much more than ordinarily precarious; sometimes when we get our eleven o'clock breakfast we feel a not unfounded fear that the institution may go into bankruptcy before the six o'clock dinner is provided, unless some friend and patron should arrive and pay in advance, or some of the three or four of us left should subsidize the establishment. Madam, the hostess, can usually point out among the pictures in her album or banging on the wall several persons holding prominent positions in either the civil, military or naval service of Great Britain who are near relatives, and this fact is supposed to disqualify her for attending to any domestic duties, the marketing and shopping being done by a stupid fellow called a butler. The result as above stated is not however peculiar to this latitude where people employ too much time in speaking or thinking of their great connections.

C. A. L.

A Faithful Officer.

Captain Bassett, the venerable Sergeant-at Arms of the United States Senate, has been in continuous service for more than fifty years. The captain started in as a page. At that time there was but one in the Senate, and Daniel Webster wanted young Isaac Bassett appointed as an additional page. The other Senators thought it a great extravagance—two pages for forty-eight Senators! It was enough to bankrupt the republic! Captain Bassett declares there was a hot debate over the suggestion of Webster. However, Webster fought hard and, with his great eloquence, succeeded. So young Bassett was appointed.

Although his hair is now as white as snow, he loves fun, and is still as merry as a boy. Just think of it. He was a Senate officer when the Senate met in the old Chamber, now occupied by the Supreme Court, when the House met in their old Hall, now occupied by statuary donated by the States; when the evening sessions of both Houses had to be illumated by "tallow dips." He has heard Webster, Payne, Clay, Calhoun, Benton and Douglass.

The captain's recollection of the days when Senators dressed in swallow-tailed coats causes him to shudder when innovations are suggested. But these innovations are constantly going on. It has for many years been the custom to write the name of each Senator on a strip of ivory-white wood, and fasten it on his desk by way of identification, as "Mr. Sumner," "Mr. Cole," "Mr. Fenton." Last year these wooden labels were removed, and silver plates substituted bearing simply the surname without the "Mr.," as "Bayard," "Edmunds," "Ransom." I understand the captain has not yet recovered from this horrible act of vandalism.—*St. Nicholas.*

What is Mahdi.

Mahdi, or Mahadi, as D'Herbelot spells it, is an ancient title in the Moslem world which at first signified simply director of the faithful. But in the course of Moslem history, and especially Moslem history in Africa, it came to have another signification related to an accepted prophecy of Mohammed. It necessarily refers to the African part of Arabic history. By this secondary significance of the word the Mahdi is a certain ancient leader come again. His appearance is the "second advent" of a prophet who lived in the old days, and who in all the meantime has been with the immortals.

Mohammed, the twelfth Imam, and the twelfth descendant from Ali, is the real original. He is the Mahdi who comes again every now and then. He was hidden from the world at an early age, and communed only with his disciples through his lifetime, and finally did not die, but "went up" with the fixed intention of returning to revive the glories of Moslem. As in the Christian theory, and even in the history of several monarchies, this legend of a prince who is to return has afforded a favorite pretext for no end of imposters, so it did in Islam. The most famous of these in past ages was Abulcassem Mohammed Ben Abdallah, the founder of the Fatimite dynasty in Africa. Mohammed had prophesied that in 300 years the sun would rise in the west, and, as Abulcassem's glory was 296 of the Hegira, it was held that the prophesy referred to him, and since then the idea of the Mahdi has commonly had relation to a revival of the glories of Islam in that western world of Moslemism, the provinces of Africa held by the Arabs.

Lincoln Forgave Him.

One of Mr. Lincoln's annoyances was the claims advanced for having first suggested his nomination as President. One of these claimants was the editor of a weekly paper published in a village in Missouri, called at the White House and was admitted to Mr. Lincoln's presence. He at once commenced stating to Mr. Lincoln that he was the man who first suggested his name for the Presidency, and, pulling from his pocket an old, worn, defaced copy of his paper, exhibited to the President an item on the subject. "Do you really think," said Mr. Lincoln, "that an announcement was the occasion of my nomination?" "Certainly," said the editor, "the suggestion was so opportune that it was at once taken up by other papers, and the result was your nomination and election." "Ah! well," said Mr. Lincoln with a sigh, and assuming a rather gloomy countenance; "I am glad to see you and to know this, but you will have to excuse me, I am just going to the War Department to see Mr. Stanton." "Well," said the editor, "I will walk over with you." The President with that apt good nature so characteristic of him, took up his hat and said, "Come along." When they reached the door of the secretary's office Mr. Lincoln turned to his companion and said: "I shall have to see Mr. Stanton alone, and you must excuse me," and, taking him by the hand, he continued: "Good-bye. I hope you will feel perfectly easy about having nominated me; don't be troubled about it. I forgive you."—*Ben Poore's Reminiscences.*

A Laughing Plant.

This is not a flower that laughs, but one that creates laughter, if the printed stories of travelers are to be believed. It grows in Arabia, and is called the laughing plant because its seeds produce effects like those produced by laughing gas. The flowers are bright yellow and the seed pods are soft and wooly, while the seeds resemble small black beans, and only two or three grow in a pod. The natives dry and pulverize them, and the powder, if taken in small doses, makes the soberest person behave like a circus clown or a madman, for he will dance, sing or laugh most boisterously, and cut the most fantastic capers, and be in an uproariously ridiculous condition for about an hour. When the excitement ceases the exhausted exhibitor falls asleep, and when he awakes he has not the slightest remembrance of his frisky doings.

FOOLISH MEN imagine that because judgment for an evil thing is delayed there is no justice but an accident alone here below. Judgment for an evil thing is many times delayed some for an evil thing is many times delayed some for a year or two, some century or two, but it is sure as life, it is as sure as death?

A TALKING DOG.

A solemn man recently entered a restaurant, followed by his dog, seated himself and asked for the bill of fare. It was given him.

"What would you like to have, sir?" asked the waiter, flipping the table with his napkin.

The dog meanwhile had climbed upon a chair on the other side of the table, and was gravely regarding his master.

"Well," said the solemn man, reflectively, "gimme some ox-tail soup."

"Gimme the same," said the dog.

The waiter gazed at the animal with amazement, mingled with horror.

The solemn man continued:

"Then I think you can give me a sirloin steak, very rare, with fried potatoes."

"Gimme the same," said the dog.

The waiter's face assumed the color of cold boiled veal.

"Cup of coffee plenty of milk," went on the solemn man.

"Gimme the same," said the dog.

The waiter shuddered, and turning, fled for the kitchen.

A man with a squint at an adjoining table, was much interested in the scene. He had observed it closely, and finally spoke to the solemn man:

"It must be a fearful lot o' work to teach that dog to talk, mister."

"It was," said the solemn man.

"I should think so," said the dog.

"What 'ud you take for him now?" said the man with a squint.

"Wouldn't sell him," said the solemn man.

"You'd better not," said the dog.

The man with the squint was much impressed. He began making wild offers and when he reached two hundred dollars the solemn man relented.

"Well," said he, "I can't refuse that. I hate to part with him, but you can have him."

"He'll be sorry for it," said the dog.

The man with the squint drew a check for the amount, which he gave to the solemn man. The latter was about leaving when the dog cried again:

"Never mind. I'll get even. I'll never speak again."

He never did.

The gentleman with the squint was the proprietor of a show.

"The solemn man was a professional ventriloquist.

Are You Happy?

Rothschild, who was supposed to be the richest man in the world, was once asked this simple question, "Are you happy?" "Happy!" he answered, "when, just as you are going to your dinner, you have a letter placed in your hand saying, 'If you don't lend me five hundred pounds I will blow your brains out! Happy when you have to sleep with pistols under your pillow!"

Astor, another very rich man, was once asked the same question. "Ah!" he answered, "I must leave it all when I die. It won't put off sickness; it won't buy off sorrow; it won't put off death." And so it was plain to see that he was not happy.

But I went once to see a poor, lame and aged woman, who lived in one small room, and earned a part of her scanty living by knitting; for the rest she had to depend on the kindness of others. I asked her this same question: "Lydia, are you happy?" "Happy!" she answered, with a beaming face, "I am just as full as I can be. I do not believe I could hold another drop of joy." "But why?" I asked; "You are sick and alone, and have almost nothing to live upon." "But have you never read," said she, pointing to the Bible, "All things are yours, and ye are Christ's, and Christ is God's?" And again: "Ask and receive, that your joy may be full?"

Why Satan Didn't Get Behind Him.

"Ah, my young friend," wailed a preacher to one of his congregation, "you waste very valuable time