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# KENT NEWS

CHESTER TOWN, Md.

Saturday, August 9, 1851.


## Execution of Shelton, Taylor and Murphy, the Cosden murderers.

The last act of the terrible tragedy which has so long disturbed our community, is at length accomplished, and the guilty perpetrators have expiated, the foul crime, by giving up their lives, on the scaffold. Until the afternoon of Wednesday last, the prisoners manifested the same stoical indifference, which they have always exhibited, conversed composedly with those who visited them and professed to realize the certainty and near approach of the day of execution. But within the last day or two preceding the final ceremony, their spirits seem to flag. They have been visited for weeks past by the ministers of religion, many of them from a distance, and have had the benefit of all that kind solicitude and assiduity which their awful situation could not fail to enlist. No opportunity was neglected to impress upon their minds a conviction of the certainty of their punishment, of the universal impression of their guilt and of the imperative necessity of a penitent preparation for the event. But all effort to elicit a confession proved unavailing and they died as they had lived asserting their innocence

Taylor and Murphy were visited by their families some days before the execution, at which time they took a final leave. The mother of Shelton, has since his arrest, manifested the most entire indifference to his fate, and lost to every sense of duty, not only failed to see her son before his execution, but actually refused to send him a message when solicited so to do—and Shelton himself when informed of her indifference coolly remarked "that it was well enough, the old woman had not come." Shelton and Taylor retained their appetite until the last, but that of Murphy seeemed to fail him during the few days preceding his execution. Taylor and Murphy are each about 50 years of age, and have families of children, from the infant of a few months to the full grown adult. Shelton was about 25 years and unmarried, small in stature, well made and comely in appearance, his only remarkable feature being a cold blue eye, expressing great firmness of purpose. Neither of the three were either residents or natives of Kent county, two it will be remembered were living in Delaware and the third in Cecil, at the time of their arrest.

The spot chosen for the erection of the scaffold was the highest point of a large field belonging to Dr. Whaland, about ¾ of a mile from Chester Town, and commanding an extended view of the surrounding country.

The height of the platform from the ground was about 12 ft, the entire heigth of the beam 19 feet, the length of the platform 14 feet, and its width 10 feet, allowing a space of three feet between the prisoners when suspended.

The prisoners were attended until a late hour on Thursday night, by the Rev. Mr. Vahant, after whibh they slept well. At an early hour on the morning of execution one of the Counsel for the State visited Shelton at his own request, and passed about half an hour with him; he betrayed great emotion but made no statement tending to throw light upon the case. After this they breakfasted dut ate very little. The two brothers of Murphy and Shelton visited them during the morning. At 8 o'clock the Sheriff, accompanied by his Officers, the Reporters of the press, and Clergymen, entered the apartments of the prisoners bearing the habiliments of death, in which they were soon arrayed, and their chains having been removed, they were brought into the Hall of the Jail to await the hour of departure for the Scaffold. At this time, Taylor addressed his fellow prisoners and separately adjured them to reveal any knowledge which they might have of the murder. They each replied to this solemnly protesting their innocence. During the entire scene in the Jail the prisoners maintained the most stoical, but grave composure.

At 9 o'clock precisely the prisoners accompanied by the Clergy and Officers left the Jail, walking in single file and with steady step and having proceeded a few yards took their seats in the open wagon, designed to convey them to the place of execution. The two Troops of Dragoons commanded by Captains Beck and Wallis of this County together with a Troop from Queen Anne's commanded by captain Betts the entire force numbering about 150 and being under the command of Col. Wm. Camp; together with a civel corps of 200 men under arms ordered out for the occasion, had been drawn up in the area fronting the Jail and so soon as the prisoners entered the wagon, proceeded to form a hollow square around it. At 25 minutes past 9 the procession finally moved. The Surgeons, Dr's Whaland and Wickes (whose presence had been requested by the Sheriff,) the Reporters of the Press and Clergy following the guard and in the rear the immense concourse of persons from all sections of the State and many from adjoining States who had been drawn together to witness the scene. At 10 min. before 10 o'clock the procession arrived at the scaffold, and the prisoners accompanied by the Officers and the Clergy, immediately ascended the flight of steps with steady tread and took their seats on the chairs provided for them.—The father of William and Amanda Cosden also ascended the scaffold with the prisoners—and under the deepest agony of feeling addressed Shelton, saying "why did you murder my children," to appeal S. quickly and indignantly replied "I never saw your children;" Mr. Cosden then shook hands with the prisoners expressing his forgiveness, after which the Rev. Dr. Jones, of the Episcopal Church offered up a prayer full of the most profound pathos and piety, during the delius of which his own feelings were so wrought upon, as to impede and choke his utterance. During the prayer Taylor also wept profusely, and at its conclusion, arose under the most perfect calmness and composure & addressed the immense throng as follows: I am going to be hung innocently, that man Shaw has sworn my life away; I had not seen Murphy for 5 years, and I never saw Shelton until I met him in jail; I am as innocent as that boy in the crowd."

He then took his seat, after which Murphy arose, and looking towards Heaven, said, "Gentlemen, I am an innocent man, and I call on my Savior to witness it; I was home in bed with my wife by 8 o'clock on the night of the murder; I was not within 8 miles of the place; I shall soon be with my Saviour, I have nothing more to say," and turning to the Sheriff, said, "finish me as saon as possible."

Shelton made no movement to address the crowd, but to those who interrogated him on the scaffold denied all knowledge of the murder.

The ropes were then adjusted, and while the Sheriff was in the act of drawing the noose around the neck of Taylor, he remarked "that is the way to kill a rabbit." The caps were drawn down; the preparations were now complete & after the lapse of a short interval, the attendants all descended the Scaffold, and at 21 min. before 11 the drop fell. The prisoners had a fall of about 7 feet, and it was instantly apparrent that Shelton and Taylor had passed into eternity, A more trying ordeal was reserved for Murphy. From some unaccountable cause, the knot by which he was suspended slipped off his neck, and he fell to the ground, stunned and bleeding. A moment elapsed, before his conciousness was restored; the bodies of Taylor and Shelton, in the mean while, suspended above him, until the medical attendants should pronounce them dead. He was taken up and placed on a chair, and sat in this position for half an hour until the bodies could be taken down and deposited in their coffins. During this awful process he gazed steadily at the corpses, called for water but could not drink it; and continued to protest his innocence. The drop having been replaced at 15 minutes past 11 o'clk he again accended the scaffold, and made suggestions as to the adjustment of the rope. His emotion was intense, he seemed constantly occupied in prayer, and still asserted his innocence; his last words being, "Is'nt it a pity that an innocent man should suffer death in this terrible way." At 20 minutes past 11 the drop again fell, the body instantly passed through but he continued to struggle, and vitality was not entirely lost for about 11 minutes. During his struggles his cap became deranged and his features were disclosed.

At about 10 minutes before 12 the body was deposited in its Coffin, and having been placed with the others in a wagon, they were brought to Chester Town, and during the day removed by their friends.

The number present was variously estimated, our own impression that it would reach 7or 8000. Yet in a crowd so immense, no disturbance whatever occurred.

The highest commendation is due to the guard, both civil and military, for the promptness and precision of their movements, and the distinguished military bearing of the commander, Col. Camp, elicited general approbation.

So ends the closing scene of this terrible tragedy, the details of which were unparalleled in the records of crime, and have astonished and alarmed the entire country. True it is that the wretched culprits have gone into the othes world asseoerating their innocence, in a manner revolting to every moral instinct, if they be guilty—and yet the firm conviction of their guilt, which had taken possession of every mind after the revelations made by Stephen Shaw remains undisturbed, while the elergymen who have attended them since their conviction, have found nothing in their conduct to shake their confidence in the righteousness of the verdict and justness of the execution. Some powerful motive, perhaps shame at the commission of a deed so atrocious, so unprovoked, so cowardly, so destitute of every manly ingredient as the butchery of defenceless women—united with a callousness, which either in the guilty or innocent, would be almost incredible, have enabled them to appear in the presence of God, with a falsehood upon their lips.

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THANKS.—Hon. Jas' A. Pearce will accept our thanks for a copy of a Report on the Geology and Topography of a portion of the Lake Superior and Land District in the State of Michigan.

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GIPSEY KING.—This wonderful necomancer gave two of his Beautiful Exhibitions on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, to high, respectable audiencies, his tricks are truly wonderful and fully equalled his wide spread popularity—he intends to visit Centreville Easton, Cambridge and Annapolis, and we cheerfully reccommend him to the favourable notice of the Public.

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## WHIG MEETING.

At a meeting of the Whigs of Kent County convened at the Court House on Tuesday the 5th inst., in persuance of public notice, Dr. Jacob Fisher was called to the Chair and Geo. B. Westcott appointed Secretary.

The Chair stated the object of the meeting to be, to select Delegates to the Congressional Convention, which will meet in Chestertown on Thursday the 14th inst.

Whereupon on motion the Chair appointed James B. Ricaud, Geo. W. Spencer and Thomas Baker a committee to nominate one persons from each election district as Delegates to said Convention, who retired and in a short time returned and reported the following names:

JACOB G. MASLIN, from 1st District.
GEO. B. WESTCOTT, from 2nd do.
WILLIAM MOFFETT, from 3rd do.

And which report was unanimously adopted.

On motion resolved; That the Delegates have power to fill all vacancies which may occur.

On motion resolved; That it be recommended to the Whigs of the County to meet in their respective election districts on Saturday the 16th inst, at 3 o'clock P. M., for the purpose of selecting a committee of ten from each district to meet in Convention in Chestertown on the following Wednesday at 11 o'clock A. M. for the purpose of taking into consideration the organization of the part and to reccommend a time and place of holding a Convention for the purpose of nominating County officers to be elected under the New Constitution.

Resolved that the proceedings of the meetings to be signed by the Chairman and Secretaries, and published in the Kent News.

The meeting then adjourned sine die.

JACOB FISHER, Chairman,
GEO. B. WESTCOTT, Sect.

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THE RIGHT OF SECESSION.—A gentleman of North Carolina recently addressed a letter to Daniel Webster, asking him the following question:—

"Do you believe that a State has a right to secede from the Union?"

To which Mr. Webster replied, as follows:

AUGUST 1, 1850.

DEAR SIR:—I have received your letter of the 20th July.

The Constitution of the United States recognises no right of secession, as existing in the people of any one State or any number of States. It is not a limited Confederation, but a Government; and it proceeds upon the idea that it is to be perpetual, like other forms of Government, subject only to be dissolved by revolution.

I confess I can form no idea of secession but as the result of a revolutionary movement.. How is it possible, for instance, that South Carolina should secede and establish a Government foreign to that of the United States, thus dividing Georgia, which does not secede, from the rest of the Union.

Depend upon it, my dear sir, that the secession of any one State would be but the first step in a process which must inevitably break up the entire Union into more or fewer parts.

What I said at Capron Springs was an argument addressed to the North, and intended to convince the North that if, by its superiority of numbers, it should defeat the operation of a plan, undoubted, and undeniable injunction of the Constitution, intended for the especial protection of the South, such a proceeding must necessarily end in the breaking up of the Government—that is to say, in a revolution.

I am, dear sir, with respect, your ob't serv't

DAN'L. WEBSTER.

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THE FOOTE AND QUITMAN DIFFICULTY.—Gen. F. has issued a card relative to his recent difficulty with Gen. Quitman, which resulted in blows given and returned—sustaining, by various certificate and opinion of those present, his assertion that General Quitman was the aggressor. A certificate of N. G. Williams, addressed to Gen. Foote gives the following version of the rencontet:

"Governor Quitman, in the closing speech, said that any one who insinuated that he was guilty of larceny in the removal of the arms of the State from the arsenal was mean, ungentlemanly and cowardly. This arrested the ear of Gen. Foote, who walked up to Governor Quitman and asked him whether he intended those remarks for him, (Foote) emphatically disclaiming at the same time any insinuation of the kind. Gov. Quitman remarked that he would not be disturbed in debate.—Foote then remarked that, according to agreement, he had the right to interrupt him in personalities, and repeated the same question, again disclaiming any intention of involving Quitman in the criminality of that transaction. Gen. Foote again put the question to him the third time, when Gov. Quitman replied, 'I do say you made such insinuations,' when Foote replied, "You are a liar,' and instantly struck him with his fist, which Quitman returned, when they closed, and were separated by their friends.

"Touching the conduct of the President in regard to Gov. Quitman's trial at New Orleans, I thought your remarks wholly justifiable; and in relation to the abstraction of the arms of Mississippi from the arsenel, I remember to have heard you disclaim all intention of involving Gov. Quitman in the criminality in that transaction"

General Foote, in his card to the public asserts that on no occasion did he introduced the Cuban affair first. On the contuary, Gevernor Quitman introduced in his first speech in Yazoo city, and in most of his subsequent speeches, whilst Mr. Foote from first to last, remonstrated against its introduction, as unnescessary and improper.

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*For the Kent News.*

CHESTER TOWN, August 6th, 1851.

MR. EDITOR:—On Wednesday last I attended with much interest the public examination of the Young Ladies of Mr. Bassford's School. Though the day was unfavorable the Court House was pretty well filled, and I have yet to hear one dissenting voice to the sentiment of the most entire gratification while many of the parents and friends who were present felt a pleasure amounting almost to surprise at the proficiary and accuracy exhibited.

To particularise would be unpleasant as well as needless amid so much excellence nor have I time for critical detail. The Graver studies of Philosophy, Geography, History &c., if grave they may be colled, for they seemed more like pleasure thou talks, were relieved by recitations of select pieces of speeches; and music aed song.—Should the theory of "Woman's Rights" prevail, we have a prospect of being able to present in a few years some fair Candidates for Congres who will add the eloquence of speech to woman's more legitamate eloquen ce of eyes—this port of the exercises was however with great good taste confined to the younger part of the school.

The songs were very pretty, and generally sung with good taste and sweetness; while the pieces of music boosted the charm of having been selected rather for their beauty than their length. The Lady who has charge of this department carry's with her the indie of patience and perseverence blended with great amiability and kindness—she scarcely needs the testimonial of success which the skill of her pupils so handsomely afforded.

To these too hasty and meage comments, I will add a word upon a matter which lies I think at the basis of success in all institutions of this character. Mr. Bassford seems eminently to possess the happy focualty of blending with the most entire discipline so much Zest and kindness ss to render his whole system rather one of pleasurable exercise than of painful duty, and instead of the gloomy faces of Schollars driven to an irksome task. They have the bright and happy faces of girls engaged in a game of pleasure.

The school is one of great promise may it meet with all success.

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For the Kent News.

Mr. Editor; Having noticed a communition in your last issue, respecting the conduct of two persons, from Baltimore, who left your place without paying their bills, and who styled themselves "Mons. Adrian & Co." but whose real names are James William Foy, and George W. Harvey, formerly conductor of Kunkel's Nightengale Serenaders. The original Monsieur Adrien is now performing at the Baltimore Lyceum, corner of Charles and Baltimore sts. and has been there for several weeks—he is a gentleman in every sedse of the word and would scorn to commit any action unbecoming n man of honor. As this party ave acted in like manner elsewhere, and may do so again, whereby the public may be led to believe that it is the "original" and not the "spurious" Adrien, you will confer a great favor upon him, as well as upon other HONEST performers by giving the above a place in the columns of your invaluable paper.

JUSTICE.

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**MARKETS.**—BY CAPT. BROWNE

Baltimore August 7, 1851

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| White Wheat, | 85 | to | 90 |
| Red do, | 75 | to | 80 |
| Yellow Corn, | 61 | to | 62 |
| White do, | 57 | to | 58 |
| Oats, | 27 | to | 30 |
| Rye, | 62 | to | 65 |

## Married.

On July 27th by the Rev. J. Dale, Mr. Joseph Middleton to Mrs. Mary E. Hatcheson, all of this county.

## DIED.

In Centreville, on Saturday 26 ult after a protracted illness of bilious dysentery, Mrs ELIZABETH, wife of Mr. Colin R. Furgerson.

In Centreville on Thursday 31st ult., Mrs. MARGARET ELIZABETH, wife of Mr. Samuel E. Briscoe, in the 45th year of her age.


# New Goods.

## WILMER & FRANCIS

HAVE just returned from Baltimore with a lot of TIN, STONE and WOODEN WARE, with a good supply of

## GROCERIES,

Good sugar at 6¼ and 8 cts., preserving at 10, crushed and loaf Sugar—Coffee at 12½ and good Molasses at 31¼—also Lamp and Machine Oils; with a good stock of

## WINES, WHISKEYS & BRANDYS,

as money is scarce we will sell the above goods cheap for the cash or exchange them for produce and allow the highest prices, and no mistake. Call and judge for yourselves.

August 2, 1851.

P. S.—Also a good lot of DRY GOODS.

W. & F.


## *In Chancery.*

5th of August, 1851.

ORDERED that the report of James B. Ricaud trustee for the sale of the Real Estate of Thomas Miller late of Kent county decease be ratified and confirmed unless cause to the contrary be shewn before the 6th day af October next, provided a copy of this order be published once a week for three sucessive week in some newspaper printed and published in Kent county before the 15th day of September next.

The Report state the amount of sale to be $7000

True Copy;
Test.
LOUIS GASSAWAY,
Reg. Cur. Can.

August 9, 1851.


## CARPENTERING.

THE UNDERSIGNED respectfully inform the public that they still carry on the above business in Chester Town, and are prepared to do all work in their line in the best manner and at the shortest notice. Their shop is up town, opposite the late residence of Geo. B. Usilton.—They would call the attention of persons wishing Buildings erected to this advertisement, believing as they do, that they are masters of their profession.

WM. O SMITH,
H. W. LAMBERT.

August 9. '51.

## FOR RENT

FOR the Ensuring year the Dwelling & Store House on High Street, now in the occupancy of Chas. T. Ireland.

ALSO the Dwellings on cannon Street, now in the occupancy of Jas. Quimby, and Wm. R. Longfellow.

For Terms apply to

GEO. B WESTCOTT.

August 9, '51.


## Personal Discharge.

NOTICE is hereby given to the creditors of William B. Pearce, that a Personal discharge hath been granted to said insolvent debtor and that 24th day of September, being the first Wednesday of our County Court next, succeeding this date, hath been set apart, for the final hearing in his case, where his creditors may attend and shew cause if any they have, why a final discharge shall not be granted said debtor.

Test,
JOS. REDUE.
Clerk Kent County Court, Md.

June 7, '51.


## 1000 TONS PERUVIAN GUANO.

THE subscribers will receive during tha months of August and September 1000 Tons best PERUVIAN GUANO which they offer for sale as low as it can be purchased in the United States, and on pleasing terms.

BELT & BOWIE,
47 Light Street Baltimore.

August 2, 1851.—7w

*Another Scientific Wonder!*—*Dr. Houghhton's Pepsin the True Digestive Fluid, or Gastric Juice!*—A great Dyspepsia Curer, prepared from Rennet or the *Fourth Stomach of the Ox*, after directions of *Baron Liebig*, the great Physiolgical Coemist, by *J. S. Houghton, M. D.*, Philadelphia, Pa. This is a truly wonderful remedy for indigestion, Dyspepsia, Jaundice, Liver Conplaint, Constipation, and Debility, cuing after Nature's own Agent, the Gastric Juice. Pamphlets containing Scientific Evidence furnished by Agents gratis.

☞See Advertisement in another column.

## For Sale.

A pair of OXEN, Young and well broken. Any one wishing to purchase can have choice of two pair.

☞Apply to

D. C. BLACKISTON,
near Massey X Roads

July 12, 1851.

VERY CHOICE TEAS. Superior Old and Young Hyson, Gunpowder, Imperial. Oulon, Powchong and other varieties of TEAS, in metelic wrappers, just received and for sale by

W N E WICKES.

May 24, '51.

SUPERIOR PORT WINE for sickness, forsale by

WILMER & FRANCIS

March 29, '50.

## SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHING.
## COSTUME HALL.

*Cor. Pratt st. and Centre Market Space Baltimore.*

THE largest and best stock of READY MADE CLOTHING ever offered in Baltimore. Dress, Frock and Sack Coats, all colors, qualities and sizes, from $2.50 to $5.50 and upwards. *Pantaloons* at $1 to $3.50, and upwards, embracing all styles of fancy, plain and plaid *Cassimeres*.—*Vests* of every variety at corresponding prices. Also a large assortment of *Boys' Clothing*.

Importing our own Cloths direct from Europe, and manufacturing on the most extensive scale, enables us to offer inducements to purchasers not to be surpassed by any Clothing Establishment in the United States. The proprietors are determined to make the Wholesale Rooms the point of great attraction, and have now made up more than 50,000 *Garments*, from the finest qualify to the lowest in price

In the Custom Department will always be found the choicest selection of *Cloths, Cassimeres and vestings*, which will be made up at the shortest notice, and in the latest style, and a fit always guarantied.

☞The one price system strictly adhered to.

Rememember the name and place, corner Pratt st. and Centre Market Space.

H. H. COLE & CO.

April 12, 1851. 1y

## TRUSTEES Sale.

BY VIRTUE OF A DECREE OF THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY the undersigned will expose to

## PUBLIC SALE

at the tavern porch of Mr. John McDaniel, in chester Town, on

## TUESDAY

the 26th day of August 1851, at 11 o'clock A. M., all that

## FARM AND PLANTATION,

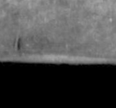
lying and being in Kent county, adjoining the lands of Mr. James F. Woodland and the late Benjamin Merritt's heirs, on the main road leading from Chester Town, to George Town X Roads, and about four miles and a half from the latter place, commonly called

## "MOTHER'S CARE,"

containing

## 145 Acres,

more or less.



There is a **frame dwelling** on the land—s well of excellent water in the yard—it is within 100 yards of a school and in the vicinity of church, mill, &c.

The situation is healthy and the neighborhood a good one.

The Tenant, will shew the premises to any one who may dispose to examine them

## THE TERMS

OF SALE, will be cash on the day of sale or on the ratification thereof by the Chancellor.

Upon the payment of the purchase money the Trustee is authorised by the decree to execute a deed for the premises.

GEORGE VICKERS,
Trustee.

Chester Town, August 2, 1851 } tds

## Notice.

WAS left at the granary of the subscriber in Chestertown, some time in December last, a new saddle. The owner can have it by proving property and paying charges.

HIRAM BROWN.

July 12, 1851.