DUCK SHOOTING.

To the Editor of the Elkton Press.

SIR:—It may not be uninteresting to some of your distant readers, to be informed of the manner of shooting wild ducks on the Susquehanna; and though many of them may be incredulous, no citizen of Cecil county will doubt the sequel.

The phrase *toleing ducks*, peculiar to this part of the world, is not understood any where else, and is practised in the following manner: When a gunner discovers a flock of ducks floating at too great a distance to be shot from the shore, he crawls near to the water, and conceals himself behind a blind, which he previously erects for the purpose, of logs covered with river grass. He has with him a dog trained to run after chips or small stones; the color of the dog should be red or white, though almost every color has been found to answer at times. Concealed from the ducks, the gunner throws a stone near the edge of the water, and the dog instantly springs from the blind and runs after it. At the sight of the dog playing on the shore, the ducks stretch out their long necks and gaze with apparent amazement and curiosity, like a gang of negroes at Punch in the puppet show. The gunner continues to throw stones right and left, and the dog should be kept running as fast as possible, and not allowed to stop, if it can be avoided, for an instant; his large bushy tail ought to be constantly in motion. The ducks in the meanwhile are delighted with the singular spectacle, and swim towards the dog as fast as their feet can paddle them. So great is their impatience to get a nearer view of him, that those which are furthest off will fly light between him and those that were nearest. All the time the ducks keep their eyes fixed upon the dog, and seem to be governed by a spell which they have not power nor inclination to break, like birds charmed by a black snake. As soon as the gunner perceives that the ducks take notice of his dog his hope is raised frequently to be disappointed; for if the ducks see the gunner, or if his dog run behind any thing on the shore that conceals him from their sight, or if from fatigue or laziness he decline running, or if he bark or lie down to gnaw the stone that was thrown for him, which frequently happens, instantly the spell is broken, and the ducks take to their wings. If, however, no accident happen, and every thing works right, as the duckers say, often a flock of ducks that cover a half acre of water is *toled* as it were by a magic, from six hundred yards or upward to within 20 feet of the gunner. The numbers that are killed in this way is incredible; for there are generally two or three gunners that shoot from the same blind. I will not attempt to account for *toleing* ducks; by what instinct or impulse they are ruled in coming to the dog, whether it be curiosity or magic, I know not; but I know that the fact exists as I have stated, and can be attested by hundreds of gunners on the Susquehanna; and I defy *Mr. Mitchell*, or any other sage, to give a satisfactory explanation of it, I have seen the same flock of ducks *toled* to shore three times in one day by the same dog, and shot at each time. It is not to be supposed that the dog is conscious of the effect he produces on the ducks, or knows that they come to the shore to see him; he is engaged playing with the stones that are thrown for him, and thinks of nothing else. There is difficulty in training a *toler;* most dogs are too lazy, and refuse to run as soon as their feet get cut by the stones and shells on the shore, and few of them will play after they have seen the ducks shot, but stop to look at them when they approach the shore, and sometimes plunge into the water after them before they are near enough to be killed.

A gunner should be provided with several dogs to bring the ducks he shoots out of the water, and never suffer his *toler* to do it, lest he contract the habit of neglecting his play to swim after the ducks before they are shot. The New-foundland breed make the best water dogs, and will plunge into the rapidest stream or break through the ice in the coldest weather, to bring out ducks. Ducks are not to be *toled* at all times, nor the same flock very often, and there are several kinds that will never *tole*. Early in the season; that is, the latter part of October or first of November, the canvass-back and red head, the most delicious of all feathered creation, *tole* to abundance, but after being shot at several times, they become wild, and will fly at the sight of a dog. Some of the Susquehanna gunners can ascertain 9 times out of 10, without making the experiment, by watching the motions of a flock of ducks, whether they are in the notion of *toleing*, or will fly from the dog. This is the last art that a gunner acquires and is not to be learned except from experience. No state in the union abounds with water fowl of every description equally with the land of Maryland. They are to be found in the bay below Havre-de-Grace, numerous enough to darken the air, and the thunder of their wings can be heard when they rise from the water, at the distance of ten miles. The art of *toleing*, like many other curious arts, was discovered by accident; and tradition says that a gunner concealed behind a blind, watching a flock of ducks, presently saw a fox playing on the shore, and was surprised to perceive the ducks swimming to shore to gaze at him; if he ran up the beach, they swam in that direction, and gazed at him in silent admiration; or if he ran down the beach, they followed, approaching as near as they could without leaving the water. Reynard, though proverbially cunning, had no design upon the ducks; he was rolling and prancing for amusement; but the gunner took the hint, and after shooting a great number of the ducks that the fox, without intending, had *toled* for him, he started his dog to running on the shore, by throwing pieces of bread for him, and to his great delight, discovered that the project succeeded.

The Chesapeake Bay and its tributary streams supply every city in the Union with ducks, swans, and geese; and sometimes they are exported to London. Here are to be found an army of the most unerring marks-men in the world, consisting of gentlemen who shoot for pleasure, as well as gunners who shoot ducks for sale. I have not time to speak of the mode of shooting ducks on the wing, as practised in this state.

A SPORTSMAN.

From the American Farmer.

ICE HOUSES.

JOHN S. SKINNER, Esq.

SIR:—Some enquiries have been made of you, I observe lately, about the proper mode of constructing ice houses, which have given rise to several communications from your correspondents on the subject.—As I always feel disposed to add my mite of experience to the columns of your useful Journal, I will give you in as few words as possible, the construction, dimensions and cost of an ice house which I have on my lot, the chief recommendation of which is its cheapness, and the little mechanical skill necessary for its construction, as mine was built entirely by the common labourers on my farm.

I dug a circular pit seventeen feet deep, the diameter of which is eighteen feet at the surface, and twelve at the bottom. The bottom, which was a fine yellow sand, I made to incline from the sides to the centre, and immediately in the centre, which was the lowest point, I dug a well three feet square and four feet deep, in order that the water might drain off immediately from the ice, when any thawing took place. —On the bottom of the pit over the well, I placed four large locust sills, and on them put a floor of locust logs, as close together as they would lie.—I then put down logs endwise, sixteen feet six inches in length, with the small ends downwards, until the whole pit was lined round with logs; at the bottom of the logs where they came in contact with the floor, and at the top I put a strong hoop, (made by splitting long white oak saplings,) nailed to every log, and two similar hoops in the intermediate space, in order to keep the logs securely in their places—on the surface over this, I erected a light roof of boards, and lined it on the inside with corn stalks, which are excellent non-conductors, and in that sheltered situation will last many years. I consider the plan of putting the logs down endwise as much the best, because when they begin to decay, it is but little trouble to draw one out at a time and replace it with a sound one, whereas, in the other plan of building log pens, if one log should decay near the bottom, the trouble of repairing is almost equal to building a new one. In filling my ice house, I place a thin cover of green cedar brush at the bottom, on which the ice is thrown, and take care when getting the ice, to have every large piece struck with the eye of an axe, so as to reduce it to pieces of about a pound in weight.—I place a small quantity of straw between the ice and the wall of the house, and when full cover the whole with dry, clean oak leaves, which I have found to preserve the ice much better than straw. During the summer I have dry straw stuffed in between the walls and the ice, (as the latter recedes by melting from the walls,) which is easily done with a long pole.—This ice house, which you will perceive is an inverted frustrum of a cone, contains when full, about 1800 bushels of ice, and although three (private) families are supplied from it constantly, it has never given out.—

Cost of building.

Digging the pit,	$9 00
Cutting logs, &c.	1 34
Getting boards, &c	1 75
Hauling all the timber a few hundred yards,	1 50
Putting down floor and side logs,	2 00
Putting up roof,	3 00
Nails and door hinges,	1 00
Making and putting up door,	75
Whole expense,	$20 34

In the construction of ice houses, it is a great convenience to have the door made sufficiently wide to receive with ease the tail of the cart or waggon within it, in unloading, as it can be done in half the time. All the ice houses should have a window in the upper part of the gable end, with a shutter to it, as it is absolutely necessary in very hot weather, to ventilate them. In the estimate above, I have calculated all the expense that a farmer could possibly incur in building an ice house of the kind recommended; but mine was done at a very leisure time, and therefore I did not actually incur all the expense stated.

Yours, respectfully, D

UNSTOPPING THE EARS OF THE DEAF.

From the Richmond Compiler.

I am persuaded that in the great majority of cases deafness is caused by some stoppage in the external organs of the ear. If the nerve be sound I can see no impossibility in curing the disease. Let a deaf person put a watch into his mouth, if he can hear the ticking distinctly, he may be assured that the nerve is not injured, and that there is the strongest probability of his being relieved by removing the external obstruction. I do not positively say, because the deaf person does not distinctly hear the ticking of the watch that therefore the nerve is insensible; for it may happen that the interior tube from the mouth to the ear, may be closed up as well as the external duct to the tympanum. But, if there be any reason to believe that the nerve is good, the deaf person should not despair but resort to the proper expedients for relief. I am acquainted with a gentleman from whom I have received the following account of his deafness and his cure.

He had been a long time incapable of hearing: As he says himself, he was as deaf as a post. Even the voice of a Stentor could not reach him. Some time since he was fortunate enough to meet with a young physician, bold, and persevering, who told him if he would put himself under his practice, he was satisfied he could administer relief. The deaf gentleman was very far from being sanguine: indeed he did not permit himself to entertain much hope but determined to try the experiment. The first thing the physician did was to procure a powerful syringe more than a foot long and two or three inches in the pipe. With this he began to inject warm water copiously into the ear; then varying with a solution of Windsor soap, and sometimes with warm milk just drawn from the cow.—Occasionally pluggets steeped into oil of almonds were introduced into the ear and the ears were tied up with handkerchiefs. The gentleman piqued himself on his perseverance & well was he rewarded for it. For six days there was no sensible good effect produced, but after that time, and on repeating the injections with the syringe a small quantity of hardened wax came out and for the first time the voice of the physician broke upon the ear of the patient. This encouraged him to the repetition of the experiments, and a piece of wax as large as an almond, and perfectly hard, came out; and from that time to this, the gentleman has heard as well as any of his acquaintances. The only protection he uses is in case he catches a little cold to tie up the head, or use a little cotton dipped in oil.

He is now convinced that in nine cases out of ten deafness proceeds from similar causes, and may be cured. We have persons professing to cure most of our diseases; we have oculists for the eye, dentists for the teeth, ladies to cure stammering (I think the tongue falls properly within their jurisdiction.) Why have we not professional gentlemen who make it their business to 'unstop the ears of the deaf?' I am sure that if I were as deaf as some of my friends and all sort of communication 'at that sense quite shut out,' I would freely give a good thumping fee to any person who would cure me. I would spare neither money nor pains to recover one of the five senses and that so important a one which Providence has given me. In fact, I am not very certain that the time will not come when surgery will be able to cure those who are born deaf, as she does those who are born blind. But hypothesis apart. All I now abide by is the fact I have stated

PHILOS.

BALTIMORE, Dec 25.

FEMALE RIGHTS IN GEORGIA.

This may indeed be called an age of innovation, in which all the received notions of justice and of government are to be supplanted—in which expediency is more to be consulted than permanent policy; and in which political quackery seems to have commenced a crusade in search of adventures.

We have of late often been convinced of the existence of this spirit of innovation in our legislators, but never more forcibly than a few days since, while perusing a letter to the Editor of the Savannah Georgian containing a detail of the proceedings of the Legislature of Georgia. In this letter we find it stated, that a bill has been introduced, and passed one branch by a vote of 60 to 43, 'to enable the husband under any circumstances, to dispose of his real estate without consent of the wife, as far as regards the right of dower or third.'

It may be said probably, that this is a regulation exclusively affecting the state of Georgia, & that we have nothing to do with the domestic policy of that State; to such an assertion we enter our dissent. Though this regulation does not affect the rights of wives in Maryland, we conceive it involves principles so abhorrent to those of justice; so contrary to those of an enlightened policy and so destructive to the rights of the fairer portion of society, as to require the expressed disapprobation of every liberal and honorable mind.—Though this spirit of entrenching on female rights has not yet passed the confines of Maryland, if not met ere it reaches us, its contagion may be wafted within our borders, and we shall be obliged to use a curative instead of a preventive —

Chronicle.

BOSTON, Dec 25.

On Saturday, at 9 o'clock, on the opening of the Circuit Court of the United States, Merchant and Colson, who had been convicted of murder, were brought in to receive sentence. Judge Story, after a solemn and impressive address, pronounced sentence of death, to be executed on the first day of February next. The prisoners, so far from manifesting any just sense of their awful condition, or any compunctions for the atrocious crime they have committed, conducted themselves in the most indecent and intemperate manner, and addressed the judge, the jury, and the officers of the court, in the most abusive and profane language. The conduct of these unhappy men, in the commission of the crime for which they are to suffer, and since they have been on their trial, has been that of the most hardened and depraved of human beings. The particulars of the crime have been mostly stated heretofore, when the news of the event was announced. The schooner Fairy, sailed from Boston on the 8th of August last, for Gottenburg, with a cargo worth about $7000, and six persons on board, viz: Edward Selfridge, son of the late Thomas O. Selfridge, master, Thomas P. Jenkins mate, the two prisoners seamen, with John Murray a seaman, and Hughes, steward.

The last named persons, (with Capt. Hook and Mr. Pike, who assisted in the arrest,) were the principal witnesses on the trial. In the course of the voyage, Merchant inquired of Murray if there was money on board. He also complained of being kept too long at the helm, and Colson complained that the captain had thrown water on him. On the night of August 27 it was the captain's watch on deck, with Colson and Hughes, until 12 o'clock; and the mate's, with Merchant, after 12. At 12, the captain and Hughes went below, and went to sleep. At 4 o'clock in the morning, watch was called. Murray, who had been below, and asleep all night, and Hughes got up, found the hatch of the forecastle closed and fastened, although the weather was hot. After a short time the hatchway was opened, and Hughes and Murray went up. They found Colson at the helm, and Merchant sitting on the rail. One of them inquired for the mate, and Merchant replied, "we have killed captain and mate, and thrown them overboard." This declaration was confirmed by Colson, in language the most vulgar and profane. —He said they were willing to suffer for it, if they were caught.

Merchant ordered the steward to get the best breakfast in the vessel. He and Colson threw overboard anchors, cables, &c. and stove water casks, as Colson said, to lighten the vessel, and make her sail faster. After breakfast they took out the captain's desk, and destroyed part of the papers. They divided the captain's clothes, Merchant taking his chest, and Colson putting the clothes into his own chest. They discharged the pistols, four in number, and reloaded them, taking two each. The bed clothes were gone from the captain's birth, there was blood on the pillow, on the cabin floor, the steps, the quarter deck, and rail, and on Merchant's trowsers.—They steered various courses, and in three days made the coast of Nova Scotia. Merchant and Colson then bored auger holes in the vessel and put in plugs. When about 5 miles from land, they got out the boat, put provisions, 3 chests, a sextant and compass into it; the two witnesses were ordered into it; the plugs were taken out; and Colson cut holes in the side of the vessel, near the water's edge, to make her sink faster. They then made for the shore. Colson and Merchant agreed to say they belonged to brig Fame of Philadelphia, which had foundered at sea, that there were eight hands in all, and that the captain and mate, and two of the crew had taken to the other boat, which had parted company in a fog.

Towards evening, August 30, they entered the harbour of Louisburgh. They were seen coming in by Capt. Hook, and Francis Pike, mate, of the schooner Sally, of Newburyport, who had put in there for water. To them, whom they met shortly after landing, they told the story which they had agreed on. Murray and Hughes the next morning found an opportunity to disclose the truth to Hook and Pike, who immediately took measures to have the murderers apprehended, in which they succeeded on the following morning. Capt. Pike stated on the trial, that when Colson was arrested and brought in, after the examination of Merchant, Colson said to Merchant, "Oh Charley, if you had heard to me, we should'nt have come to this." "I know I have got to die, and I'll tell the truth, you (Merchant) killed the mate and I killed the captain; I was forward, heard you strike a blow, heard the mate fall, and when I came aft you was throwing him overboard;" then Merchant picked up a bolt and said if Colson did'nt go and kill the captain, he should be killed too. Colson went below with the axe, but his heart failed him. Merchant then followed him down again with the bolt, when Colson struck the captain with the axe—captain screeched—Merchant then sprung down, dragged the captain out of his birth, and finished him on the cabin floor—then both hauled him up the cabin stairs, and threw him overboard through the port hole. Merchant made no reply.—*Daily Adv.*

For the Easton Gazette.

MR. EDITOR,

Having observed in your last paper an article which professes itself to have emanated from one who has great regard for 'Justice and merit' and which proposes to transfer all merit from Governor Kent or others to General Smith for services rendered the state in the recovery of the interests due her for monies advanced during the late war. I propose to give you a short history of the proceedings in that case, which will not vary substantially from the truth, and which will shew that Governor Kent is entitled to at least a full share of the credit for this act, and it will further shew that the insinuation of 'Justicia' and his statement has been devised for 'a reason perfectly apparent,' and which reason is, to degrade Governor Kent before the people for sinister purposes and to elevate General Smith, for like purposes.

It will be recollected, by any one conversant with the late proceedings of Congress, that the entering wedge to the recovery of this claim was a bill or resolution in favour of paying to the state of Virginia a claim of exactly the same description, which was, I believe, originated in the senate, and passed both Houses, before the admission of the Maryland claim. In this bill which went to establish the principle, General Smith I think, as a matter of course, moved to include Maryland, but his motion was rejected.

Immediately upon the establishment of the principle, by the passage of the resolution or act as above, Governor Kent, *then a member of Congress, wrote to Governor Stevens* and suggested to him the propriety of stating forthwith the claim of Maryland, and to back the members from the state with their Executive authority to press the claim speedily upon congress or the Secretary of War. This letter was followed by others of like import from General Smith himself and other members of congress, and if I recollect right Gov. Stevens in his message to the legislature at the last session, while touching this point, overlooked the services of *Gov. Kent, Gen. Smith himself, and all others*, and thought only of the services of Mr. *Kerr*, late the agent for the recovery of those claims. In fact I consider no individual person as entitled to any very exhorbitant share of credit for the recovery of this claim, founded as it was in no intricacy, and bottomed upon a sheer principle of justice which had been adopted and recognized by a previous resolution or act of congress—But in the promptness and zeal displayed by Governor Kent, in this ,as in all other cases in which his state and constituents were interested, he was exceeded neither by General Smith nor any other person.

Now what was intended by your correspondent in quoting his second resolution in *Italics*, but to endeavour to deceive the readers of your paper into the belief that it was impossible that Governor Kent could have aided in this matter, as he was 'then Governor of the state' and a mere 'organ' of the legislature? It is not to be disguised that there are a few men in the state, and particularly one or two on this shore, who have been long *jealous of the weight of character of Governor Kent in the state, and particularly of his weight and influence while in Congress with that body and with the executive of the United States*, and such gentlemen would not only eject him from the government of the state, which he is discharging with so much credit to himself, and with so much redeeming credit to the character, dignity and respectability of the state. So also, as it is supposed, his character throws something of a shadow upon that of General Smith, and he is believed, (though I apprehend it is not his desire) to stand in the way of the General's re-election!

I should infer that Governor Kent would desire to fill out his term of three years and would prefer his present office to that of a United States Senator.

From General Smith's reputed revolutionary services, his age and his misfortunes from whatever cause, we had desired to withhold the expression of our sentiments concerning him; but as his friends are so desirous of subtracting from Governor Kent and unwilling to allow Kent any 'merit' and so prompt to charge his friends with improper reasons for mentioning his merits; General Smith and his friends from motives of self-defence become from the necessity of the case, fair game.

For my part I have long ceased to admire or respect General Smith—His Degan and Purviance business—His and his brother's pitiful and abortive attempt to pull down Mr. Madison at a critical period of the government—His puerile and miserable conduct as commander in chief on the occasion of the attack on Baltimore—His defalcation in the United State's Bank—and finally his attempt to cram Mr. Crawford down the people's throats of his state, when he knew so overwhelming a majority was against him, all conspire to satisfy many old men in the state, that General Smith ought not to hold the distinguished appointment in the state which he is now about to return to the hands of his constituents. His popularity with certain classes of politicians in the state at present—his popularity with *you* Sir, if I may use the expression, is a matter of wonderment, and affords a rare example of the fickleness of popular sentiment. There was a time when the federal party would as soon have supported his Satanic Majesty, as the General—not as they alleged so much from his want of political, as common honesty!! I could never support the General for the reasons given above, and I believe his conduct, with the conduct of one or two others in the state, has done more to degrade Democracy in this state than all the efforts of federalism together. Is this the reason now, in candour, that he has become so popular with his old opponents?—But he is a great commercial man! —If then you will take the trouble to look at Niles' Register, you will find that he has thence been furnished with more speeches than one, that he has not given credit for, and that, as a commercial man, he has received rather more than his share of eclat.

A DEMOCRAT.

Dec. 27th, 1826.

Extract from the exposition of the President of the United States' Bank to the Stockholders, 1st October 1822—see Niles' Register, 23d vol. page 91.

In the office at Baltimore of which James A. Buchanan was President, Samuel Smith & Buchanan, of which firm, Jas. A Buchanan was a member, J W. McCulloh and George Williams (the latter a member of the Parent board, by the appointment of the Government, had obtained of the Parent Bank, discounts, in the regular and accustomed manner, to the amount of $1,957,700 on a pledge of 18,290 shares stock of the bank. These men, without the knowledge of either board and contrary to the resolves and orders of the Parent Bank, *took out of the office at Baltimore*, under the pretence of securing it, by pledging the surplus value of the stock, already pledged at the parent bank for its par value and more, and other like surplusses, over which the bank had no control, the sum of $1,540,000; when this stupendous fraud was discovered, attempts were immediately made to obtain security and it was obtained nominally to the amount of $900,000—It was probably really worth $500,000.

"The losses sustained at the office of Baltimore alone, the great mass of which grew out of this fraud and others closely connected with it, have been estimated at the immense sum of $1,671,222 87 cts.

McCulloh was Cashier and dependant in a great degree on Buchanan for his appointment.

George Williams was a Director of the Parent Bank and not a member of the board at Baltimore, of course had no control over it and is not blameable.