# THE EASTON GAZETTE.

VOL. LXXXI NO. 20. EASTON, MD., SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1897, WHOLE NUMBER 4182.


## THE YACHTMAN'S MECCA.

### The Home of the Canvas Back, Oyster, and Terrapin. The Abode of Health.

If there is one thing more than another that holds a charm for boys, it is the life of a sailor, for the sea irresistibly draws ambitious youths to long for "A Life on the Ocean Wave."

In the long ago, when wars were common among nations the world over, and our noble cruisers and fleet privateers sailed the waters blue and did battle on every sea, our young men risked life to win fame as bold mariners, and our naval history is one long list of triumphs.

**Midshipmen of Twelve.**

In those days it was no uncommon thing to find a lad of fifteen an officer upon an armed deck, and several of our greatest naval commanders began life as midshipmen of only twelve and thirteen years of age.

What men of that time could make of themselves, their descendants can today become, though it may be that in the broad glare of science, much of the glamour, the romance and fascination of sea life may have in a measure disappeared.

The wooden hulls, towering masts, flowing sheets and wind-driven vessels of our early naval history have been supplanted by steel hulls, protected sides, revolving turrets, breech-loading guns, and steam as the propelling force.

**Revolutionizing the Navies of the World.**

The desperate duel at close quarters between the Monitor and the Merrimac, the latter commanded by Admiral James Buchanan, one of Maryland's bravest sons revolutionized the navies of the world.

And now within a couple of cables' lengths of "The Rest," the Maryland home of Admiral Buchanan, of Merrimac fame, within the sound of a bugle call of his last resting-place, in the peaceful cemetery of historic Wye House, and within sight of another mansion of history, "The Anchorage," where dwelt another naval hero, Commodore Lowndes, has been appropriately established the "Maryland Nautical Academy," a nursery for lads who love the sea.

**An Historic Mansion.**

The mansion selected for the corner-stone, as it were, of the Nautical Academy, was built at a cost of over one hundred thousand dollars, is one rich in memories of the past, grand of structure, commodious, attractive and surrounded by park-like grounds, while it is situated upon a point of land formed by the forks of the beautiful St. Michaels River, really a magestic arm of the Chesapeake.

"The Villa," as the handsome place is known, is at present the hospitable home of Captain H. H. Balch, a New Yorker, and a well-known Cavalry officer.

Captain Balch is the Commandant of the Nautical Academy, and he is well backed by the financial sinews that make the enterprise a grand success.

**A Picturesque Eden Land.**

The country surrounding the Marine Villa is beautiful, picturesque and delightful in the extreme, with woodlands, splendid roads, striking scenery, and many pleasant homes in this "Eden Land," as Talbot county might well be called. No better climate, no place more thoroughly healthful could be found, while the pretty city of Easton, a league distant, can boast of a Maryland society that dates back centuries, fine schools and churches, being the Cathedral town of the Peninsula and residence of Rt. Rev. Bishop Wm. F. Adams, D.D., D.C.L., of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Md. Its banks, a fine hotel, the Avon, excellent stores, telegraph, telephone, electric lights and all the luxuries and necessities of the largest cities, two railroads and three steamboat lines, Easton, its citizens claim, is the very centre of the universe, and yet saloons and gambling dens are unknown, a strong recommendation indeed for a town near an Academy for boys.

**Superb Vistas of Marine Scenery.**

Upon one side of Easton is the beautiful Avon River and on the other the St. Michaels, the homewaters of the Nautical Academy. The Villa Academy looks down the St. Michaels half a dozen miles, and upon each side are the broad forks, a superb vista of marine scenery. At its doors are the finest oyster beds, while fish are plentiful and game abundant. Near the Villa is an anchorage ground, deep enough for large vessels, while boating, sailing and bathing opportunities lie at its doors and are unsurpassed.

The promoters of the Nautical Academy determined to make it a training school for boys and young men, having three terms a year, with encampments in the summer time, and military training, with the complete and thorough drill of the Navy, with Naval officers for instructors in the sea branches of the service.

**A Nursery For Sailor Lads.**

A vessel will also be attached to the Academy for cruises in Chesapeake Bay and along the coast of the Atlantic, and the sea cadets will learn all that there is in being a sailor of today.

Many are the Boy Sailors, sons of the Gentlemen Farmers of Maryland who now sail these waters in their fleet "Chesapeake canoes", and it will not be very long before this part of Maryland will become the

**Mecca of Yachtsmen**

and be dotted with scores of lordly homes all along these picturesque shores, and Captain Balch is to be congratulated upon having dropped anchor in this haven of refuge, which well might be called a Marine Eden.

There is one particular fact notable in the schools established in this part of Maryland that draws patrons from afar, and that is the certainty of those who go home for a vacation bringing back with them their chums, who are influenced by the stories told of this exceptionable land of beauty and delightful living. There is no better judge of pleasant surroundings to dwell in than a boy, and where he is willing to cast anchor is a pretty sure indication that his judgment has not run him upon a lee shore.

**Talbot County a Favored Site.**

Oxford, the pretty village half-score of miles from Easton, was selected as the site of a military academy, founded by General Tench Tilghman in the forties, but the war ended its career, and the buildings were destroyed by fire. Later the same site was selected for the Maryland Naval School, but gross mismanagement destroyed its usefulness and it closed with a full corps of cadets.

**Maryland Nautical Academy.**

The Villa Nautical Academy followed, springing as it were, Phoenix-like from the ashes of the others, and where this part of Maryland, with its beautiful and unequaled water scenery and privileges was selected for this especial kind of an institution, it must be remembered that the founders of the United States Naval Academy hit upon Annapolis across the Chesapeake from the St. Michaels as the best site from every point of view for a training quarters and waters for the future admirals of our Navy.

Without a word of disparagement of the other shore, it is safe to say that this one, of which Easton and its environs are the centre, is in every way more desirable, for there are no large cities within easy ride, to tempt the cadets with their manifold and often hurtful attractions.

**DIED.**

Mrs. Annie Owen Chamberlain, wife of George Chamberlain, of Rosedale, New Jersey, died of consumption at her home on April 1st, 1897. The deceased formerly resided in Easton, and was the daughter of the late William H. Bostwick.


**Piano for Sale.**

A good piano will be sold cheap and on easy terms. Apply at the
2-6-tf GAZETTE OFFICE.

For truck, use Hubbard's Farmers' I. X. L. Apply to Leander R. Hooper, Manufacturer's Agent.


## TALBOT'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION.**

**An Increase All Along the Line—Several Schools Enlarged—The Oldest Examiner in the State.**

In the Thirteenth Annual Report of the State Board of Education, showing the condition of the public schools of Maryland for the fiscal year ended July 31st, 1896, we note the following interesting statistics for Talbot:

The number of school houses is 63, 62 of which are owned by the county. Two of these are brick, the others frame.

The number of teachers is 90, divided as follows: white males, 14; white females, 56; colored males, 7; colored females, 13. This is a gain of 7 teachers over 1895.

The number of pupils for the year was 4,309, a gain of 82. They were classified as follows: white males, 1,422; white females, 1,396; colored males, 778; colored females, 713.

The examiner paid 133 official visits during the year, against 124 in 1895.

The number of schools having outbuildings is 62, a gain of 3; with sufficient blackboards, 46, against 40 last year; with good furniture, 58, a gain of 1.

The average attendance during the year was: white, 1,642; colored, 707: total, 2,349. Last year the attendance was 2,268, a gain of 81.

The number of pupils above 16 years of age was 127 white and 99 colored, an increase of 8 over last year.

Six school houses were built or enlarged, at an expense of about $4,500.

The total expenses for the white schools were $32,969.34, of which $26,234.50 was for teachers' salaries. The colored schools cost $5185.36, of which $4115 was for teachers' salaries.

The excess of disbursements over receipts for the year was $902.97.

Two white schools were closed, in St. Michaels and Trappe districts.

The above statistics, it will be seen, show an increase in almost every item. This is a very good showing for these times, and it is doubtful if any other part of the State can make so good a report.

The present School Commissioners of Talbot are Dr. Edward M. Hardcastle and Mr. Michael B. Nichols, of Easton, and Dr. Robert A. Dodson, of St. Michaels. Commissioners Hardcastle and Nichols are Democrats, and Commissioner Dodson is a Republican.

The Secretary, Treasurer and Examiner is Prof. Alexander Chaplain, who has held that position almost 30 years, the longest incumbency of any officeholder now in the State.

**Art in Reality.**

Mr. Clark S. Marshall of Easton has just finished two very handsome paintings which are now on exhibit in the windows of Patchett & Son, Dover street. These paintings are original and one represents the melon contest where 4 happy pickaninnies each have four slices of watermelon and with grinning faces are waiting for the word "go." The study is bright and will provoke a smile from all who see it.

The other scene is "Life's Sunset" marine view, and shows the breakers and a washed up corpse, while a vessel peacefully rides before a background of beautiful sunset. This study is very effective and both have been pronounced by able critics worth far more than Marshall asks for them.

**Money Under False Pretenses.**

Constable Stoops arrested this week a man named John W. Anderson for obtaining money under false pretenses. The way Anderson worked the racket was this: A friend of his had died and as he was very poor left nothing to defray funeral expenses, so Anderson started a subscription paper to raise the amount neccessary. He had secured about $5.00 when he decided to have a good time and immediately put himself on the outside of a considerable quantity of intoxicants. Squire Coburn heard the case, and released the man under $300 bail.

**Easton's Town Election**

Candidates for town commissioners are already on the field. The GAZETTE started the ball a rolling last week when the election was announced. Mr. Willis Flowers has announced himself a candidate, and the friends of Mr. S. E. Whitman are urging him to allow his name to be used as a candidate. Others who have been mentioned in this particular are Alexander Fountain, O. F. Sturmer and M. B. Nichols.


Don't buy your Spring Fertilizer until sou see Leander R. Hooper. He will give you good goods at bottom prices.


## News of The Week ... Told in Brief.

Avon Cycle Club expects to give a Garden Party in the near future. It is expected to surpass all previous occasions.

R. Harry Patchett is building a new residence on Harrison street on the Hotel Avon grounds. It will be two and a-half stories high and frame. Mr. Patchett expects to occupy it by the first of June.

The Peninsula Business College was opened in Easton this week with over twenty scholars. It is in the Moreland Building, second flour. Prof. Wright of the Maryland School of Commerce is in charge.

Joseph E. Pilot was arrested Tuesday, charged with having two wives. He was lodged in jail and there awaits trial by court. His first wife lives in Cambridge, and his last wife on Tilghmam's Island.

J. E. Price, road supervisor, has improved Peach Blossom hill by a coat of marl dug from the roadside. This has been one of the worst places between Trappe and Easton, and washed out at each heavy rain, but now it is as hard as a pike.

Miss Margaret Stewart was elected President of the Newly organized lady's Cycle Club, Mrs. Wm. G. Denny Secretary and Treasurer and Miss Freda Trippe captain. The club will meet at the homes of the different members of which there are about fifteen.

Ex-Senator Gibson it is said will be appointed attorney for the Illinois Steel Company in Washington Mr. Gibson was on the senate naval committee, and as the steel company is bidding for government contracts to make armor plate, his knowledge of the armor plate question will particularly fit him for the position.

The Eastern Bay and Miles River Steamboat Company have lost the suit which was instituted against it by R. M. Spedden & Co. and the Steamboat Company will have to pay $7.733.25. The trouble arose over the payment of a note by the steamer people for machinery placed in the St Michaels, and because it was not up to specifications the money was not paid. Hence the suit.

**SHARP COMPETITION.**

**A Number of Easton Merchants Waging War on Each Other.**

Some of the Easton merchants are waging fierce war against each other in the matter of selling coffee.

One of the merchants in question recently reduced the price of Levering's and Arbuckle's coffees, but upon the fact being learned by the other merchants some of them immediately reduced the price still lower. This kept up for a week or so, each day seeing the price reduced one cent lower, until now it is as low as twelve cents. This same coffee at one time sold for twenty-eight cents a pound, and a drummer for this staple told a GAZETTE reporter that the coffee cost the merchants considerably more than twelve cents per pound. Possibly the next move will be to give coffee away.

**Meeting of Avon Cycle Club.**

The annual meeting of Avon Cycle Club was held last Tuesday evening. This was an important meeting, and there was a large attendance. The question of continuing the club was carried, and the election of officers was held. President S. Elliott Shannahan and Financial Secretary Frank A. White were re-elected by acclamation. Recording Secretary William C. Johnson and Treasurer Martin M. Wright declined re-election, and A. Tennyson Wilson and O. F. Sturmer were also chosen to succeed them. The House Committee are Wm. E. Shannahan, chairman; Thomas M. Bartlett and Michael B. Nichols Frederick F. McDonald and W. Harry White First and Second Lieutenants. W. B. Shannahan was made Captain. The other officers will be elected next Tuesday night, and a full attendance is earnestly desired.

**Arbor Day**

Although the Governor's proclamation names Wednesday, the 14th day of April, as Arbor Day, the Easton High School will celebrate the same on the following day, the 15th. This is because of Friday, the 16th, being "Good Friday" and a regular holiday. It would seem poor management to have one day of school on Thursday to follow a day specially used as Arbor Day, where much extra preparation has been made for the exercises. The school will have appropriate music and recitations, mottoes, etc., and Col. Prentiss Ingraham has been asked to deliver the address. The public is welcomed on this and all other occasions where the children of the school are participants.

## SALE OF SHARP'S ISLAND

**TALBOT PROPERTY PURCHASED BY A BALTIMORE LAWYER.**

**His Ownership Disputed by the Inhabitants—Interesting History of an Isle That Will Soon Be No More.**

Sharp's Island has again changed hands. On Tuesday a deed from R. H. Evans, attorney for Marquise John Evans D'Oyley, of France, to Milliard R. Creighton, of Baltimore. The amount paid was $3000.

The island is gradually washing away and is now not more than a third the size it was several generations ago, yet Mr. Creighton lays claim to a considerable extent of water adjoining it, where are vast numbers of oysters.

Although people who are familiar with the bounds of Sharp's Island would say that Mr. Creighton bought only about 150 acres of land, yet the deeds really call for 700 acres, and the missing 550 acres are water instead of land. The deed which was filed this week in a clause defining the boundries of the island directs attention to the original deed which calls for 700 acres.

Under the water there are valuable oyster beds that will make the purchase of Sharp's Island valuable to Mr. Creighton if it shall ever turn out to be valuable.

For years the oystermen of Talbot county have been digging on the 700 acre water farm, and they are under the impression that they have a right to dig there and it was expected that they would make a strong objection to the sale. Mr. Creighton is not saying much, the fact that he should go to the trouble of paying $3000 for an island that is wasting away at a lively rate by the action of the waves is evidence that he has been doing a good deal of thinking.

Mr. Creighton says: "It is true that I have bought the island, and it is true there are valuable oyster beds within the tracts called for by my deeds. As to what the beds are worth no one knows. What it is really worth will be developed in time. I think I own 700 acres there, because I bought that much, and the deeds call for that area. If only 150 acres is land, I do not think that will invalidate my claim to the remainder which is water.

"If I can establish my claim to those oyster beds, I intend to do it. The method of procedure would be either through the legislature or through the courts of Talbot county.

The matter will bring up some knotty points. The oystermen will tell Mr. Creighton that they and their ancestors have been digging oysters so long that "the mind of man runneth not to the contrary," and that, therefore, they have a right to continue at it. But Mr. Creighton's mind runneth very much to the contrary, and he will tell them he has deeds for the tract.

It is said that the island is washing away so fast that it will be gone in 10 years. If that is so, it is thought Mr. Creighton's claim will be under the law for oyster beds, which provides that the title must depend on the claimant owning land adjacent. If Mr. Creighton's land is carried away by the Chesapeake, it is claimed his right to oyster beds will go with it.

**History of the Island.**

The island gets its name from a former owner, Dr. Peter Sharpe, but it has been known by other names. It was originally patented Feb. 23, 1659, to one John Bateman, a member of the Council in 1660, and was said to contain 700 acres of land. It subsequently fell into the possession of Peter Sharpe of the Cliffs. In the year 1675 it was sold by Wm. Sharpe, son and heir of Peter, and a resident of Talbot county, to John Eason. By Eason it was left to his son of the same name, who sold it to one John Viner. During the time of the ownership of these several persons the island bore the names of the possessors, as appears from many records. In 1693 it was owned by one William Morrison, and sold (as 700 acres, for eighty-two pounds sterling) to Richard Bennett.

It does not appear that it ever received the name of either of these persons, but though sometimes called Eason's and sometimes Viner's Island, the name of the Quaker Physician of Calvert clung to it, and will ever be used to specify a little patch of earth, diminishing year by year and destined at no very remote geological period to disappear beneath the waves of the Chesapeake, unless we shall have another of those secular upheavals that first lifted it and the whole Eastern Shore out of the sea.

But if priority of designation should be allowed to govern us, the proper name for this Island is "*Claiborne*." In the deed of Will. Sharpe to John Eason, (Sept, 10th 1675, Lib. I, fol 348) it is expressly stated that this Island "was formerly known by the name of *Claborn's Island*, and now or lately by the name of Sharp's Island." This is repeated in other and subsequent conveyances. There is little doubt that Col. William Claiborne, the original settler, if he may not claim the title founder of Maryland, visited and took possession of, and gave his name to this island. All the world knows that before the "Maryland Pilgrims" came in, he had established a trading post on Kent Point, and it is believed that his friend and follower, Richard Thompson, held under him Poplar Island, also.

## ABOUT PEOPLE YOU KNOW.

Miss Daisy Walters, of Baltimore, is visiting Mrs. I. A. Barber on Washington street.

Mr. Joseph Kirby, a former resident now living in Baltimore, was in Easton last week.

Mrs. Charles H. Leonard has returned from a week's visit to her mother in Cambridge.

Mrs. Robert B. Dixon, of Baltimore, has been in Easton week.

A. Keener Roe, of Baltimore, spent a few days with friends in Easton this week.

Miss Minnie Mathews of Baltimore, who has been visiting relatives in Easton and Ridgely has returned home.

Miss Virgie Kirk, is visiting her friend, Miss Mamie Moore, Baltimore.

Miss Madeleine Haddaway is visiting her aunt Mrs. Lewis Wilson, Baltimore.

Miss Jennie Causey, who has been visiting her sister Mrs. Thos. H. Jenkins, returned home Thursday.

Mrs. Isaac H. Dixon and Mrs. J. Kemp Bartlett, Jr. are spending a few days at Bloomfield.

Miss Mary Norris of the Eastern Shore is visiting Mrs. Wheeler at her home in Baltimore—*Baltimore News.*

**IN OUR CHURCH CIRCLES.**

**Items Of Interest Of The Doings In Our Churches.**

Rev. Edward R. Rich, of Greensboro, preached at Trinity Cathedral on Tuesday evening. Mr. Rich is a man of uncommon ability, and his sermon on this occasion was thought by many to be the best he ever preached here.

Rev. H. J. Wirgman, the new pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, South, will preach to-morrow at 11 a. m. and 7.30 p. m.

There will be no service in Calvary M. P. Church to-morrow, Rev. W. M. Poisal being at the Conference in session at Baltimore.

The ladies of the Longwood Baptist Church will have an oyster supper next Friday and Saturday evenings.

A business meeting of the members of the Baptist Church will be held at the chapel in Easton at 2 p. m. today. Full attendance is requested.

Rev. W. B. Forney will preach at the Baptist Chapel in Easton to-morrow at 11 a. m. and 7.30 p. m. and at Longwoods at 3 p. m.

The services at S. S. Peter and Pual's church next Sunday will be elaborate, commencing at 11 a. m with blessing and distributing palms. Reading of the Passion and Solemn High Mass. In the evening at 8 p. m. Vespers Sermon and Benediction. The Altars will be decorated with palm branches. The Easter programme will appear in next issue. Prof. Bowman's full Orchestra has been engaged to assist the Choir.

**Lecture at Matthews.**

Miss Annie R. Stewart, of Chestertown, State Secretary of the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union, will give an illustrated lecture, entitled "Famous Faces and Affairs Afield" in the church, at Matthews, Monday evening, April 12th at 8 o'clock. Miss Stewart is one of the brightest temperance workers in the State and is a fluent and impressive speaker. Admission 15 cents.


**Safe as a Government Bond.**

One of the Leading features of the Legislation of the State of Massachusetts, for the last fifty years has been on the subject of Life Insurance. Under the wise provisions of these Laws, Insurance in the Companies of that State is safe as a Government Bond, and just as available for Cash any year after the first.

We publish in this issue the financial Statement of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, the largest in the State, and one of the oldest.

Festival orders for creams and cakes filled promptly at Walter Garey's Bakery and Confectionery store on East Dover street.

T. H. Hollingsworth & Co.'s millinery opening to-day.