THE EASTON GAZETTE.

VOL. 82, NO. 14. * EASTON, MD., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1898. * PAGE THREE

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WORK ON FT. CARROLL.

WILL BE COMPLETED AND THOROUGHLY ARMED.

A Hostile Force Will Meet with a Warmer Reception than Did Ross in 1814.

Old Fort Carroll, which has been in an unfinished state for so many years, will soon be rehabilitated, and made one of the strongholds in the coast-defense system of this country. Fort Carroll was designed to be an inclosed masonry fortification, made from solid granite, set on piles. It is interesting to note that the first engineer in charge of the construction was General Robert E. Lee.

Fort Wool, which is better known as the "Rip-Raps," standing in Hampton Roads, opposite Fortress Monroe, was included in the plan for the defense of the Chesapeake Bay, and work was discontinued there at the same time, about 1871, when it was discovered that masonry fortifications were easily vulnerable under fire from the old style smooth-bore 10 inch and 15-inch Rodman guns, and the muzzle-loading rifles of seacoast artillery.

Fort Carrol to be Completed.

Now the news comes that work will be resumed on Fort Carroll. The masonry, which has never been completed on the sea side, will be consummated, and the entire wall will be covered over with a thick bed of earth and sand. This will make the fortress as nearly impregnable as is possible in these days of heavy rifled artillery.

When the plans for the fort were designed it was intended to lay the guns in tiers; that is, one tier was to be placed above another. It is not known at present whether this scheme will be carried out.

Besides the stone fort in the river Baltimore has in her system of defense two more strongholds in state of preparation. These are at North Point and Hawkins Point. The works at these points will be hidden as much as possible and are hidden so well as to be scarcely visable to a vessel entering the harbor. At North Point the pits and parapets are constructed of concrete, set in a number of layers and covered with masses of earth and sand. The construction at Hawkins Point will be similar in design, though they are not so near completion.

Fort Carroll's Armament.

The armament of Fort Carroll is to consist of three 12-inch breach-loading rifles, of extremely high power, and probably a mortar battery of 12-inch mortars.

The new guns to be used in the coast defense batteries have an effective range of one mile for each inch of calibre, and consequently the carrying power of these weapons will be about 12 miles.

North and Hawkins Points.

The number and strength of the guns to be placed at North and Hawkins Points cannot be ascertained, as the Government will give no information on the subject, but the number of guns to be allowed to Baltimore for the complete system is about as follows:

Five 12-inch rifles, 5 10-inch rifles, 5 8-inch rifles and 16 12 inch mortars, making in all 31 modern high-power guns and mortars. In addition to these there will be placed in various positions in the bay 100 submarine mines, loaded with a charge of gun cotton or dynamite, which will explode either on contact with the hull of a ship or can be discharged by means of electrical contrivances by an observer from the shore.

The officers in charge of the different military posts have maps prepared with a system of squares so that an approaching vessel may be tracked in its course anywhere in the bay, and its position and exact range may be quite easily correctly fixed. The guns may then be aimed at the exact spot by means of this map, and if the ship be near a submarine mine or torpedo this will be discharged.

A mine charged with 250 pounds of gun cotton possesses an effective striking power up to distances of only 20 feet from its centre, hence it may be seen that its effective circle for observation firing must always be less than 40 feet in diameter. These considerations make it evident that ground mines with charges not exceeding 250 pounds of gun cotton are adapted only for observation firing at very close quarters.

Four Search Lights.

Besides these warlike appertenances Baltimore will have four searchlights of high candle-power, to be used in detecting vessels and landing parties in cases of night attack. Also, at each of the posts mentioned before there will be in addition to the guns of large calibre an auxiliary battery of rapid-fire guns, which are extremely effective in the destruction of small boats, torpedoes, and even of observation balloons.

The Government has purchased about 125 acres of land at at Rock Point, which stands at the mouth of Rock Creek. The work of building has not been commenced there as yet.

Foreign warships of a hostile nation in attempting to bombard Baltimore would have to pass by the ship channel through the mouth of the bay, and would thus be brought under the fire of guns at Fortress Monroe.

Many people have expressed the opinion that with the present system completed it would be almost impossible to reach Baltimore. A prominent artillery officer stated some time since that no system of fortifications could be considered as perfect. The entrance to the Chesapeake Bay is 25 miles wide. History will show that a foreign nation, in case of war with the United States, would at once attempt to harry and ravage the shores of Virginia and Maryland.

No System Perfect.

"No system of fortification," said he "could make us free from attack in Baltimore. Admiral Farragut managed to elude the vigilance of the forts and gun-boats on the Mississippi during the late Civil War, and ran the gauntlet without receiving any terrific damage to his vessels."

"The statement that there is not even a remote danger of any hostile ships venturing into the Chesapeake is absurd, for Washington and Baltimore would be the first cities to be laid under contribution by them. We need a thorough and exhaustive system, reaching from Cape Charles and Fortress Monroe right to Baltimore, to guard these two cities effectually against attack without. Warships alone can never guard a port thoroughly, and any one who would make the statement that money expended for coast defense fortifications should go instead to increase the navy, should understand that he is placing his judgment against the weight of experience and knowledge of the officers composing the Board of Ordnance and Fortification of this country.

Fort McHenry the Supply Post.

"If the present plans are carried to completion it is probable that Fort McHenry would serve simply as a base of supplies, or else would be converted into an infantry post. In the latter case Fort McHenry would be the headquarters of a regiment of infantry. To man all the proposed military stations in and around the city fully will require at least two complete regiment of artillery, composed of from 1,000 to 1,200 men each."

.·. DANGER SIGNALS. .·.

ADMIRABLE ARTICLE BY HATTIE T. GRISWOLD.

Many Suggestions That Parents and Teachers Should Carefully Think Over.

Edward Everett Hale has recently called attention to an article in the *Nineteenth Century*, by Prince Krapotkin, which seems to be of sufficient importance for reproduction here. He says:

The admirable observations and discoveries of Professor Hodge and Dr. Mann, show that a nerve-cell, after it has been worked for some time, whether in brain-work or in stimulating a muscle for muscular work, is deeply affected. The nucleus shrinks together, large vacuoles appear in its protoplasm, and some time of rest—*chiefly sleep*—is absolutely necessary, in order that the cell may return to its previous state.

If this condition is not fulfilled an overworked nerve-cell, or a group of such cells, *will never recuperate.* Overwork, without proper rest; will make them lost forever; while other neurons close by, which were not overworked, will remain unaffected.

The many people who fear for the young minds who are subjected to the forcing process in all the so-called best schools, will see in these statements enough to amply justify their fears and they will be more afraid than ever of trusting the delicate brains and bodies of children to those hustling teachers who know no word but "drive" in educational matters. Many parents already dread the forcing process of the schools, but are unable to escape it if their children are to be educated at all. It is that or nothing. And much as they may deplore the amount of strength and energy that are now spent in committing a mass of useless information to memory, they will deplore it still more when they realize that in insisting upon its being committed they are in no wise benefiting the child, but may be destroying the brains they are seeking to fill with knowledge. They feel that a knowledge of all the useless capes and bays, promontories and inlets in the geographies, are not worth the sacrifice of one of these brain-cells by the healthy activity of which, alone, is knowledge possible. Dr. Hale quotes Prendergast as saying that after fifteen minutes, the memory organs of the brain have lost the cream of their working powers, that after those fifteen minutes they should have the chance to rest before they are set to accumulating more.

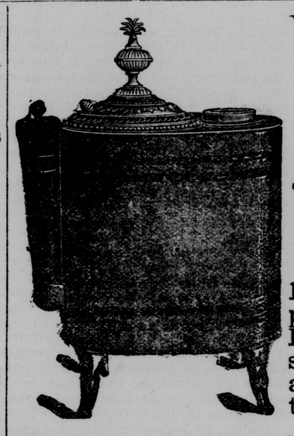
Compare this with what is required of children in all grades of our public schools.

Even short intervals of rest would relieve the tension of the brain, and the work could be planned so that these could be given, if teachers realized its importance. But the teachers are not wholly at fault, in the forcing process of the schools. Many of them deplore its result but are powerless. They must live up to the requirements of the higher authorities or give place to those who will, and these requirements are more and more comprehensive every year. Teachers themselves are fearfully overworked, and their nervous systems often on the verge of collapse. They are driven, and they drive. No body of workers have greater call to strike for their rights, and they should organize for their purpose.

But it is to public opinion alone that we can look to lighten the burden of childhood. Now it is the brightest and best who succumb. The careless and the stupid are protected. The sluggish brain often comes out best in the end, for its own exertions do not destroy it. In these fast, exciting times stupidity wards off many dangers.

There is something startling in the thought of tiny atoms of four

(Continued on page 7.)



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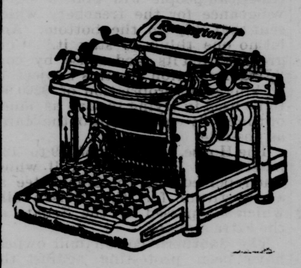
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