The Ægis and Intelligencer

FREDERICK W. BAKER, Editor.

☞ THE ÆGIS has a more extended circulation among the intelligent farmers and business men of Harford than any other paper in the county. The attention of advertisers is directed to this fact.

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BEL AIR, Md.

Friday Morning, - - December 23, 1887.

Christmas.

It is often said, and we have been tempted thoughtlessly to agree thereto, that the subject of Christmas, that subject so mystical, and so merry, so pathetic and yet so jovial—has been exhausted. Exhausted! not so. If we admit that Christianity is a living, progressive principle, not a decaying force, then the topic of Christmas has only been treated as it were in prefaces and by prologue. Leigh Hunt, who in life was the incarnation of a spirit that is emphatically of Christmas, declared that volumes remain to be penned upon the mere separate items which we associate with this wonderful season. He mentions upwards of seventy of these, beginning with "roast-beef and plum pudding" and ending, characteristically, with "love, hope, charity, and endeavor," concerning which he exclaims "*esto perpetua*, and plum-pudding enough by-and-by all the year round for every body that likes it."

Christmas is often called "the children's festival." Truly the eager, joyous anticipations, the intense enjoyment and bright happy faces of the little ones of the household, as they gather around the Christmas tree, add a merriness and a charm to the blessed day which no other accompaniment can give. It is doubtful whether the preparation of the Christmas tree, the evening before Christmas, does not give as much pleasure to the grown folks as the tree itself does to the little ones, as their admiring eyes look upon it lighted with tapers and hung with manifold gifts, each marked with the name of the person for whom it is intended.

Formerly, and still in some of the smaller villages of North Germany, the presents made by all the parents were sent to some one person, who, in high buskins, a white robe, a mask and an enormous flax wig befitting the bug-bear of children known as *Knecht Rupert*, goes from house to house, is received with great pomp and reverence, calls for the children and bestows gifts upon them according to the character which he hears from the parents after severe inquiries. Woe to the young delinquent if there are "bad marks" against his name! Happily for the children in our highly-favored land good old *Santa Claus* is not so severe a personage, so we may hope that each little stocking will be full of good things and each little heart with gladness.

It is too much the custom to treat of the claims of of Christmas in its secular and social aspect only. The birth of Jesus Christ, the deliverer of the human race, the mysterious link connecting Deity with human sympathies and affections, should be considered the most wonderful and glorious event that ever happened and the one most worthy of being reverently and thankfully commemorated is a proposition which must commend itself to the heart and reason of every one who aspires to walk in the footsteps of His most holy life and share in the inestimable benefits which He has purchased for mankind. The observance of Christmas was at one period denounced by the Puritans as superstitious, and we are told by an early writer that in the days of Knox in Scotland some of the ministers preached against the observance of all holy days, caused their wives and their servants to spin in open sight of the people upon "Yule Day," and their "affectionate auditors" constrained their tenants to yoke their plows in contempt of Christ's Nativity. But the faithful chronicler goes on to relate that this was not left unpunished; "thair oxin ran wod (mad), and brak thair nekis, and lamed sum pleughmen, as is notoriously knawin in sundrie parts of Scotland."

It is now, however, matter of remark and congratulation that there are few who dispute the propriety of celebrating the anniversary of Christ's nativity by a religious service.

The first authoritative command to keep the time holy is attributed to Clement, a colaborer with St. Paul, and mentioned by the latter in the Epistle to the Philippians. Clement says: "Brethren, keep diligently feast days, and truly in the first place, the day of Christ's birth." It is Chrysostom, the "golden-mouthed," who, referring to Christmas, eloquently terms it "the most venerable and tremendous of all festivals, the metropolis and mother of all."

The custom of decking houses and churches with evergreens at this season is becoming every year more common among all Christians. It was an old belief among the heathen, that sylvan sprits might flock to the evergreens and remain un-nipped by the frost till a milder season. In old church Calendars Christmas eve is marked: "*Templa exornantur*" (adorn the temple.) Holly and ivy are in England the most esteemed Christmas evergreens, though at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge the windows of the College Chapels are decked with laurel.

From a curious old song preserved in the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum, we learn that it was considered peculiarly lucky when Christmas day fell on a Sunday. If there is any truth in this, we may congratulate our readers that in 1887 Christmas day falls upon Sunday, for it gives promise of a good winter and a fair summer; peace throughout all lands and good things; among these good things. "He that stealeth shall be found out soon."

Somewhat akin to the above is the belief in some parts of England that if the sun shines brightly at noon on Christmas-day a plentiful crop of apples may be expected the following year.

Of all festival times Christmas is the one most independent of the weather. Though storms and tempests roar without, within each home, at least on this blessed day, there is warmth and radiance. How like to the ideal life of the Christian in this world! Let the outward circumstances that surround him be what they may; let storms arise and foes assail, still within his heart is that "peace" which angels proclaimed more than eighteen hundred years ago to the wondering shepherds on the plains of Bethlehem.

> "O clouds and tempest, rain and sleet,
> Vain forms of elemental strife,
> How can ye chill that subtlest heat,
> Which warms and thrills to glorious life
> All hearts, by cordial thoughts enticed
> To bless this day the deathless Christ."

To all good folks everywhere and to the readers of the *Ægis* especially, we hope that this Christmas will bring happiness and good cheer in the fullest meaning of the words; but "Christmas cheer" around an air-tight stove, or a "register" in the wall seems to lose much of its mellow brightness. Let all who can do so, if only for the sake of "auld lang syne," gather around an old-fashioned wood fire, and for this one day, in all the year, enjoy its warmth and cheeriness.

A Proposed New Road Law.

The Committees appointed by the Deer Creek, Fallston and Wilna Farmers' Clubs met in Bel Air on Monday and discussed the provisions of a proposed new road law for Harford county, which is to be submitted for the consideration of the public at a meeting called to take place in Bel Air on the 2d of January next.

The bill provides that at the congressional election in 1888 three "competent and judicious freeholders, citizens of Harford county," shall be elected to serve as Road Commissioners. The one receiving the highest number of votes to serve until 1893; the one receiving the next highest number of votes to serve until 1891, and the one receiving the next highest number of votes to serve until 1889.

In 1889 and at each succeeding general election one road commissioner to be elected for six years, so that every two years a change will be made in the composition of the board.

These Road Commissioners are to have control of the work of repairing the roads and bridges of the county, and of opening such new roads and constructing such bridges as the County Commissioners shall direct to be opened or constructed.

They are to choose, "after careful examination and inquiry into his competency, ability and general fitness, a civil engineer and experienced road mender," at a salary of not more than $2,000 a year, who shall hold his office at the pleasure of the board. This engineer is to be required to devote his entire time and attention to the duties of his office; to inspect all the roads and bridges of each election district at least twice in each year, and report to the board each month—specially of the condition of the roads of one district and generally of the roads of other districts.

This Road Engineer is to apportion the roads and bridges and name the persons to repair them, under his direction. The County Commissioners to approve or reject the nominations made by the said engineer.

The bill provides that after examining the work done by each supervisor he shall certify the same upon the supervisor's account, with his approval or disapproval of the character of the work done and amount charged for the same.

The engineer is also to serve as Secretary to the Road Commissioners without extra pay.

The Road Commissioners are to publish, before the 1st of April, each year, a detailed account of their receipts and expenditures and an estimate of the probable cost of repairing and maintaining the county roads and bridges for the ensuing year, and present these accounts and estimates to the board of County Commissioners, who are to levy not less than sixteen cents on the $100 of assessed property for the repairs of roads and bridges, and as much more as the said County Commissioners may deem necessary and judicious. The amount so collected by taxation is to be known as the "road fund," and is to remain in the hands of the County Commissioners, by whom all road accounts are to be paid, upon drafts signed by the Road Commissioners and approved by the Road Engineer.

In opening new roads the engineer is to be one of the three examiners appointed by the County Commissioners.

The salary of the Road Commissioners to be $2 per day, when actually in session.—They shall meet on the first Monday in each month and shall not hold a session of more than two consecutive days. Their accounts to be open to inspection and examination by the County Commissioners or any one appointed by them.

Provision is also made for the use of road-scrapers and other improved road machinery where its use would be economical and ensure better roads.

It is also provided that where private individuals contribute a sum of money for the improvement of a certain part of a public road the County Commissioners shall levy an equal amount for the same purpose, provided the Road Commissioners approve the same, the money to be expended under the supervision of the Road Engineer.

The above is merely an outline of the main features of the bill proposed. It will be seen that it does not take the work of mending the roads out of the hands of the farmers living adjacent to them, but instead of five supervisors the entire duty of looking after the roads is given to one man. It may be urged that this is more work than one man can properly perform, but it is believed by men of good judgment that the right kind of a man can and would perform all the duties required of him.

The most important change proposed by the bill is in the manner of giving out the road warrants. It provides that they shall be given out by the Road Engineer, subject to the approval of the County Commissioners. Under the present system they are given out in each district by the General Supervisor, under the direction of the County Commissioner for the district.

The new plan, while it relieves the County Commissioners from a troublesome part of their duties, leaves them to hold the county purse-strings and thus to prevent extravagance on the part of the road board. The change of system, as far as the public is concerned, would not be perceived except in increased efficiency on the part of road-menders and a more rapid improvement in our public thoroughfares. At any rate the plan proposed is worth a trial. It will cost no more than is spent at present, and the work, in most cases, will be done by the same persons who do it now. The only difference will be that our roads will be repaired under competent supervision, which is not always the case at present.

The Postal Telegraph Scheme.

Petitions have been circulated in Bel Air and have received many signatures, asking our representative in Congress, Hon. Frank T. Shaw, to use his influence in favor of a bill providing that the United States government shall erect and maintain a telegraph line in connection with the Postoffice department, and that Congress shall appropriate four millions of dollars for the purpose.

Competition with that grasping monopoly, the Western Union Company, is very desirable, we admit, but we believe there are grave reasons why the government should let this matter severely alone. The institution proposed would add at least 20,000 persons to the already vast army of government officials. The most of these appointments would be made for political reasons, and therefore they would not be open to every young man who is or who desired to become a telegrapher. It would thus deprive many persons who are now employed as telegraph operators from earning their living in the only occupation with which they are familiar.

Besides, the appointment of these officials would add greatly to the strength of the party in power, rendering it more difficult for a majority of the people to dislodge it if they desired to do so, because it would give the party controlling the telegraph the means of discovering the secrets of the opposition that might be sent over the government wires.

There is also a fear, grounded upon the experience of nations long since passed away, that the enormous number of government officials which this bill would create might, at some future period in our history, be the means, in bold, ambitious hands, of destroying our liberties. The project is at variance with Democratic principles, as we understand them, and is a step in the onward march towards a strong, centralized government.

—The most important news of the week—if we may judge from the space givan to it in the news and editorial columns of the daily newspapers—is the great prize fight between Jake Kilrain, of Baltimore, and Jem Smith, the noted English pugilist, which took place on the island of St. Pierre, in the river Seine, France, on Monday. The men fought savagely for two hours and a-half, and after 106 rounds the English referee declared the fight a draw. The advantage, it was conceded, was with the Baltimore champion. The fight was for the diamond belt championship of the world and $10,000. The course of training required to fit a man for the prize ring develops to the utmost degree his qualities of courage, endurance and fortitude, and these qualities excite the admiration of most men, but prize-fighting is, after all, merely an exhibition of the brute side of humanity. There is nothing in it to inspire elevating or ennobling sentiments, and it is very properly forbidden by our laws.

A FAITHFUL OFFICER.—The term of office of State's Attorney George Y. Maynadier will virtually end with the adjournment of court to-day, and on Monday, January 2d, 1888, Mr. J. Edwin Webster, the newly elected State's Attorney, will take his place. Mr. Maynadier was first elected in 1879, as the successor of Mr. J. T. C. Hopkins, and was re-elected in 1883. In the performance of the important duties of the office Mr. Maynadier has been a zealous and faithful guardian of the people's interests. He has not only gained the confidence of the public but carries with him in retiring from office, the respect and esteem of his fellow-members of the bar. Mr. Maynadier, it is understood, will resume the active duties of his profession as a practicing attorney.

Local Affairs.

LITTLE LOCALS.

—The Public Schools of the county will be reopened on Tuesday, January 3d, 1888.

—Col. Herman Stump left on Thursday for New York, where he will spend the Christmas holidays.

—Mr. B. M. Slade, formerly of this county, has removed from Perryville to Lowell, Kent county, Michigan.

—We are indebted to Mr. E. A. Brown, Principal of Forest Hill Public School, for an excellent report of the Teachers' Institute.

—The annual Christmas tree entertainment of Mt. Carmel Church, will be held at the church, on Tuesday evening, December 27th.

—Prof. G. G. Curtiss, of Oakland School, Fallston, says there fell last Saturday night 15 inches of snow, which melted, gave 1.65 inches of water.

—Mr. David Ely, of Pleasantville, who has been very ill for some time, is now improving rapidly in health, to the great gratification of his friends.

—Wednesday, December 21st, was the shortest day of the year. The sun rose at 7 26 and set at 4 34. According to the almanac winter began on the 22d.

—Mrs. Catherine Thomas, wife of Daniel P. Thomas, of Kirkwood, has been ill with congestion of the lungs, but is improving under the treatment of Dr. Hickman.

—John Butler had his wrist dislocated, last Friday week, while skylarking at Whiteford Lyceum. Amos Norris acted as surgeon in the case and reduced the dislocation.

—Miss Sallie E. Gorrell, daughter of Mr. James Lee Gorrell, of Deer Creek, has gone to Washington to visit friends, and expects to go to Delaware before returning home.

—Miss Birdie and Miss Eugenia Amos, daughters of Mr. Corbin G. and James H. Amos, both of the Upper Cross Roads neighborhood, have gone to Washington to spend the holidays.

—Rev. Jos. P. Wilson, formerly pastor of the M. E. Church in Bel Air, will deliver a lecture in Abingdon M. E. Church, on Wednesday, December 28th. Subject: "Love, Courtship and Marriage."

—The annual Christmas tree celebration at Friendship M. E. Church will take place on Friday evening, December 30th. The exercises will consist of singing, recitations, lighting the Christmas tree, distribution of presents, &c.

—A very fine lecture was delivered in the Jarretsville Southern Methodist Church, Wednesday evening, by Rev. J. Watts Shoaff, of Baltimore. His subject was: "Brains and How to Use Them." It was largely attended and highly appreciated.

—We present to the readers of *The Ægis*, this week, our annual supplement, *The Christmas Guest*, which will be found brim-full of interesting and instructive matter pertaining to the holiday season, and we take time wishing every one of them, young and old, a Merry Christmas.

—A telegraph office has been opened at Forest Hill, with Mr. B. Howard Amos as operator. Mr. Amos, it is understood, will have a share of the the receipts of the office.—He is a deserving young man and we hope the citizens of the neighborhood will lend him a helping hand.

—Cards are out for the wedding of Miss Sallie Gorrel, daughter of Mr. Henry S. Gorrell, of Dublin district, to Mr. Charles E. Jackson. The ceremony will take place on Thursday, December 29th, in Dublin Southern Methodist Church, and a reception will afterwards be held at the residence of the bride's parents.

—Messrs. Wm. M. Marine S. Webster Bradford have associated themselves together as attorneys at law, their office being on Courtland street, opposite the Masonic Temple, Bel Air. They are both popular gentlemen and experienced in their profession, and business entrusted to one will receive the attention of both.

—Mr. Harry Gulifoyle, of South Delta, requests us to say that no threatening or abusive letters were received by him. Mr. John Cooper, however, did receive threatening letters and was attacked several times on the road by unknown persons. He was prostrated with a nervous affection in consequence, but we are pleased to state is now recovering.

—It is not generally known, says the Towsontown *Union*, that the law prohibits postmasters from delivering letters to girls under 18 and boys under 21 years unless by order of their parents or guardians. The exact reading of the statute is "All letters addressed to girls under 18 years, or boys under 21 years of age, will be placed in the care of their parents or guardians."

—On Tuesday Mr. John J. Alexander, agent for the Farmers' Fire Insurance Company, of York, Pa., received a draft to pay to Mr. Josiah M. Herrman, $495, being the amount of Mr. Herrman's loss by the burning of his barrack, near Bel Air, several weeks ago. The loss of Martin Purcell, by the burning of his dwelling house, at Forest Hill, has also been adjusted by the same company.

—A terrific boiler explosion occurred at West Chester, Pa., on the 19th instant. Six men were killed and as many more injured. Among the killed was T. Walter Embree, an intimate friend of the Hoopes family, of Harford. Arthur Hoopes, a nephew of Darlington Hoopes and Charles Russell, of this county, was severely scalded. The boiler was used in connection with the electrical apparatus of the place, and Mr. Embree was the Superintendant of the works.

—Our Chsistmas turkey, which lingered in doubt for awhile, is now a dead certainty. On Thursday Mr. James Tobin, of Harford Furnace, and Mr. Joseph McGuigan, Thomas' Run both resolved the doubt. Each of them presented to the editor a fine large turkey for his Christmas dinner. This, we must acknowledge, is rare good luck, even for an editor. These fine birds are not only seasonable and pleasant reminders from valued subscribers and friends of *The Ægis*, but most timely and acceptable, under the circumstances. Christmas comes but once a year and when it comes it brings—two good fat turkeys to the editor—sometimes.

THE FOUNTAIN GREEN MUSICAL AND LITERARY UNION held another very enjoyable meeting at the residence of Mr. James Hamby, Calvary, on last Friday evening. A regular programme, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, reading, tableau, &c., was excellently rendered. Besides the regular members there were present Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gorrell, Miss Martin and Mr. David Mitchell.

—Mr. J. M. Whiteford, the popular proprietor of Whiteford's Hotel, Calvert street, Baltimore, was married on the evening of the 13th instant, to Miss Annie C. Christopher, daughter of Mr. Elisha Christopher, of Lauraville, Harford Road. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Thos. S. Lee, at the Cardinal's residence, Baltimore, in the presence of only the immediate relatives of the bride and groom. The bride is a well known and highly esteemed young lady. The groom, who has hosts of friends in Baltimore county, is a brother of Dr. Chas. R. Whiteford, member-elect to the Legislature.—*Towsontown Union.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.—The Commissioners met on Monday.

The committee appointed to inspect the new bridge built by Wm. Silver, near Glenville, reported in favor of accepting it. Their report was approved and Mr. Silver was allowed $25 for extra work upon the said bridge.

The bridge at Henderson's fording was accepted and Mr. O. H. Tolley was allowed $15 for extra work upon it.

The board will meet again Jan. 2d.

A BRILLIANT WEDDING.—One of the most brilliant weddings that has taken place in Upper Harford for some time occurred on Thursday of last week. The happy pair were Mr. John C. Streett, of Bristol, Pa., and Miss Annie Atkin, of Whiteford, Harford county. After the ceremony was over and the bride and groom had received the congratulations and good wishes of their friends, the guests separated and the happy couple left for their future home in Bristol.

PAINFUL ACCIDENT.—Last Saturday as Wm. Daughton, carpenter, was engaged in digging post-holes at North avenue station, M. C. Railroad, Baltimore, he was accidentally struck on the head by a stone four by six inches in size and painfully injured. He was brought to Bel Air on the afternoon train and taken to Dr. Wm. S. Richardson & Son's drug store, where Dr. Munnikhuysen dressed the wound. The skull was not fractured but was crushed in one spot almost to a jelly. The wound is an ugly one but is not considered dangerous.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE.—On Wednesday, Matthews & Kirkland, auctioneers, sold at public sale, at the Court House door, for L. M. Reynolds, Attorney for mortgagee, "Magnolia Mills," Winter's Run, consisting of a large grist mill and 329 acres of land, better known as Snow's Mill, to G. Leimbach, of Michigan, for $9,850. Also "Bella Vista," formerly the residence of Mr. Edward Snow, situated near Abingdon and containing 80 acres. It was purchased by Wm. Swartz for $4,950.

Mr. John Concannon has sold his property, near Harford Furnace, containing about 14 acres, to John McVey, for $1,350. Mr. Concannon intends to remove to Portland, Oregon, where his sons reside.

WHITEFORD LYCEUM.—This lyceum met last Friday evening. The programme included reading by J. D. Stearns, Miss Sallie Henry, C. H. Glacken and T. C. Day; recitation by Misses Reba Atkin, Annie Jones, Minnie Williams, Gussie Whiteford, Edith Atkin and James Torbert; dialogue by Misses Nellie and Lizzie Williams; singing by the South Delta Choir; duet, Tarbert Bros., &c. The debate was upon the question, "Which deserves more credit, Columbus for discovering America or Washington for obtaining its freedom?" "The affirmative was argued by J. S. Beattie, and J. C. Webster and the negative by T. C. Day and L. J. Day. The Judges decided in favor of the affirmative.

The next meeting will take place Dec. 24th.

OFFICERS ELECTED.—Mill Green Lodge, I. O. O. F., has elected officers for the new term as follows:

Samuel J. Norris, N. G; W. B. Rigdon, V. G; B. G. Treakle, Secretary; Alonzo Huff, Treasurer; D. Hoopes, Marshal; G. B. McAbee, Chaplain; E. T. Treakle representative to Grand Lodge.

On Tuesday night Mount Ararat Lodge, A. F. and A. M., of Bel Air, elected the following officers:

Dr. E. Hall Richardson, W. M.; Walter W. Preston, S. W.; John T. Harkins, J. W.; Isaac Amos, Treasurer; Geo. R. Cairnes, Secretary.

These officers will be installed on St. John the Evangelist's night, Dec. 27th.

THE SNOW STORM of Saturday last took everybody by surprise. The weather-wise, it is true, predicted snow but no one imagined it would be more than an ordinary storm. It began snowing about two o'clock in the afternoon and by ten o'clock the snow was nearly a foot deep. It is estimated that at least fifteen inches of snow fell. The roads were blocked in many places, rendering locomotion even in sleighs very difficult. By Monday the tracks were somewhat broken and those who had sleighs dragged them out from their dusty receptacles and proceeded to enjoy themselves. Under the mild temperature of Monday much of it disappeared and the rain of Tuesday also melted it.—Between the two the sleighing was pretty well done for, particularly on the most frequented streets and roads.

OBITUARY.—Mr. Samuel R. Tucker died on Wednesday, 14th instant, at his residence near Forest Hill. He was buried on Friday last at Centre M. E. Church, Rev. J. Fred. Heisse officiating. The pall-bearers were his brothers Ellis J. Tucker, William H., John C. and D. L. Tucker, John C. Stonebraker and David Deaver. N. Dean & Son were the undertakers. Mr. Tucker was 40 years of age and leaves a wife and three children. He was an honest man, a quiet, good citizen, and was greatly respected by all who knew him.

Mrs. Sarah Galloway Whitaker, aged 86 years, died of old age on the 9th instant, at the residence of her son-in-law, Gustavus Folk, in Waverly, on the York Road. She was born in Harford county. Her husband was Dorsey H. Whitaker, now deceased.

HER NINETY-THIRD BIRTHDAY.—On Thursday, December 22d, Mrs. Mary Farnandis celebrated her ninety-third birthday, at her residence, "The Homestead," near Bel Air, by a family dinner. There were present her sons, Hon. Henry D. Farnandis, James Farnandis, Dr. George Farnandis, Walter Farnandis and Edward Farnandis; her daughter, Mrs. R. H. Mitchell; Mr. R. H. Mitchell, Mrs. Henry Farnandis, Mrs. Walter Farnandis, Dr. Wake Munnikhuysen and family; Miss Bessie Farnandis, Mr. J. H. C. Watts, Mrs. James Ridgely, of Baltimore, and members of the immediate family of the venerable old lady. Mrs. Farnandis's health is good, considering her advanced age, and she enjoyed to the utmost degree the reunion of her children, grand children and great grandchildren.

A HOUSE UNROOFED BY THE SNOW.—The weight of snow which fell on Saturday night was too heavy for the roof of Zephaniah Heaps' brick house, in the fifth district. The rafters on one side broke loose from the wall about 11 o'clock Saturday night and slipped off the house. The other side of the roof, having nothing to support it, fell on the joists. The family, which consisted of Mr. Heaps' father, his children and his sister, were much alarmed, fearing the walls would fall. The house was built at different times, the part first built, about 50 feet in length, being the part unroofed. The roof on the addition remained in position. Mr. Lloyd Heaps, the occupant of the house, is 84 years of age and very feeble.

The same night the roof of Mr. Hugh T. Heaps' wagon house fell under the weight of 17 inches of damp snow upon it.

A VENERABLE LADY'S DEATH.—Mrs. Mary Young, aged 87, wife of Mr. Wm. S. Young, died last Friday night at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. James W. Cole, No 535 North Fulton avenue, Baltimore. Mrs. Young was taken sick at her son-in-law's residence last Monday week, and continued to sink rapidly. Mrs. Young was born in Baltimore, but spent most of her life in Harford county. Her mind was most active up to the time of her sickness. She had a great fund of anecdotes, and delighted her numerous young friends with her recollections of olden times. She was a member of Harlem M. E. Church, and was well known throughout that congregation. She leaves three daughters and two sons. The latter are Mr. William Young, the well-known attorney, of Bel Air, and Mr. A. J. Young, of the freight department of the Pennsylvania Railroad. She has a large number of grand children and great-grandchildren.

A PRACTICAL ROAD MEETING.—The road question is occupying a large portion of public attention at this time, and if all that has been said on the subject in the three Farmers' clubs of our county could have been transformed into paving material, old Harford could boast of the finest roads in the country. But by constant agitation of the subject, and holding a few more public meetings such as gathered in the open air near Wilna, on the 14th, we will mend our ways in a more practical manner than has resulted from any meeting held in cheerful halls or warm parlors. The meeting alluded to was called to order by Jos. B. Hoskins, who understands the art of road-mending as well as keeping a farm in No. 1 order.

The gathering was extremely harmonious, in fact but little was said and debate was very limited; but actions spoke louder than words, and what has been a very bad piece of road for years was made passable by a great quantity of stone; a culvert was built and a hill in the road cut down and removed.

The following persons sent men and teams: George Archer, J. B. Hoskins, N. T., A. B., Thomas and Barclay Hollingsworth, R. T. Bowne, Charles Creswell, W. I. Price and Hudson Bateman. The timber for the culvert was given by Garrett Amos.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The public school teachers of Harford County have an association, which meets during the Institute.

The Association was called to order on Monday night, in the Masonic Hall, by Prof. R. W. Eubank, President. Prof. M. A. Newell, State Superintendent, delivered a lecture on "Educational Mistakes," being an exposition of good teaching. This was followed by a fine instrumental solo upon the organ, "Waves of the Ocean," by Miss Mattie S. Richardson, and recitations by T. C. Day and Charles Gaskin. The exercises closed with music by the choir and reading by Miss Tacy Matthews and F. Penrose Smith.

On Tuesday night the exercises opened with a solo by Miss Lizzie Carver, "What Shall the Harvest Be?" Mr. F. P. Smith read "Orpheus and Eurydice." Miss Virginia Waples followed with a select reading, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" Miss Rosa Brown gave an instrumental solo, "Mildred Gavotte," which was followed by a calisthenic exercise by a class of young ladies, Misses Hallie Worthington, Tacy Matthews, Tilly Woodhall, L. H. Kilgore, Maggie Harry, Nellie Barron, Gussie Galloway, Virginia Waples and Sadie Hilberg. Miss Worthington made a very successful leader in this exercise, which gave great pleasure to the audience. Miss Rosa Brown and Miss Lizzie Carver sang a duet, "Sweet Genevieve;" Miss Alice M. Youse read the "May Queen" and Miss Mattie S. Richardson gave an instrumental solo, "Floweret, Forget-me-Not Gavotte." A lecture followed by Rev. John S. Bowers, of Stewartstown, Pa., his subject being "Investigation and its Influence." The choir sang, as a closing selection, "What Hast Thou Gleaned To-Day?"

AMATEUR DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT IN BEL AIR.—The dramatic entertainment in the Masonic Temple, Wednesday evening, by amateur actors from Perryman, was a great success. The hall was filled and the interest in the performances was well sustained from first to last. The young ladies and gentlemen who assumed the various characters knew their parts perfectly and while all did well some of them displayed considerable dramatic talent. The orchestra gave excellent music, between the acts. It was composed of Louis Knofler (organ,) Oliver Smith, Colie Sheridan and B. B. Mitchell (violins) Wm. A. French, (cornet) L. C. Mitchell (guitar.) Miss Sallie Smith also sang "When the Swallows Homeward Fly."

The first piece was a little farce, entitled "The Irish Linen Peddler," in which some ludicrous situations were developed, keeping the audience in a roar of laughter all the time. The cast of characters was as follow:

Pat O'Doyle, L. P. Michael; Mr. Darling, J. H. Numbers; Mr. Flannigan, Thomas B. Numbers; Mrs. Wade, Miss M. Gussie Galloway; Miss Darling, Miss Ida Moreau; Mollie, Miss Mollie Gallup.

The other piece was full of patriotic sentiment mingled with a little darkey fun by "Ginger." It was entitled "One Hundred Years Ago" and portrayed scenes which were of frequent occurrence in those stormy days, when the colonies were fighting for freedom from British oppression. The characters were taken as follows:

Obed Sterling, a Quaker, B. F. Keene; Ephraim Sterling, his Son, N. C. Gallup; Elmer Granger, a Young Patriot, Thos. B. Numbers; Uriel Bosworth, a Quaker Convert, B. F. Johnson; Pretzel, a Dutchman, R. Emory Taylor; Ginger, a Nigger, L. T. Michael; Burke and Blucher, Tories, T. A. Cronin and T. O. Swift; Rachel Sterling, the Quaker Mother, Miss S. P. Galloway; Ruth Sterling, her Daughter, Miss Rosa Taylor; Prudence Granger, Elmer's Sister, Miss Ella Cronin. The costumes and scenery were well arranged and the entire affair was carried through in most excellent style and without a break. Mr. Thos. B. Numbers was stage manager and Mr. R. Emory Taylor, prompter. The proceeds of the entertainment will be divided between the Masonic Lodge and some benevolent object.

Matrimonial.

Mr. Wm. H. Howlett, of Prospect, and Miss Ella F. Scarborough, of Union Cross Roads, were married at Emory M. E. Church, Wednesday evening, by Rev. T. E. Peters. The wedding was a very quiet one. Benjamin Scarborough, brother of the bride, and Nelson Howlett, brother of the groom, were the ushers. The wedding march was played on the organ by Mrs. John B. Scarborough, Jr. The bride, who is a daughter of Rev. John B. Scarborough, was neatly attired in a dress of cream-colored cloth, and the groom, as usual, wore black. A reception was given to the bride and groom, at 8 o'clock, at the residence of the bride's father.

A license was issued from the Clerk's office on Wednesday for the marriage of Mr. Wm. Gibson, of Norrisville, to Mrs. Margaret Herman, of Bel Air. The wedding ceremony was to take place yesterday, at Norrisville.

CARSIN'S RUN.

Mrs. Charles Gilbert, of this place, died at her residence on Sunday, Dec. 4th. The funeral took place Monday, Dec. 5th. Interment in Smith's Chapel, Rev. H. C. Smith officiating.

Business in this section is not so brisk, as most of the canners have sold their goods.—Some think that cans will be higher next year, on account of the scarcity of tin.

The recent snow has created a demand for cutters.

There is talk among the young folks of this community, of organizing a Lyceum.

Mr. L. Payhill, who has spent several weeks ducking, has returned.

There will be a pigeon and glass ball shooting at Carsin's Run, on Monday, Dec. 26th, for which valuable prizes will be given.

Mr. Geo. A. Baker and nephew, who have been visiting their relatives in the West, have returned to their home at Mechanicsville.

Mr. and Mrs. John Keithley are visiting relatives in Virginia.

The pupils of Jefferson school gave an entertainment, last Friday, to several invited guests, after which they presented to their teacher, Samuel M. Webb, a fine silk handkerchief, with his initials worked thereon.

Several weddings are anticipated during the holidays, and more to follow.

FROM WEBSTER.

School closed last Friday until after the holidays. Miss K. J. Evans, the teacher, gave the scholars a nice treat of candies and nuts, which they duly appreciated.

Mrs. Bertha Klippenger, of Philadelphia, is visiting Mrs. G. W. Botts.

Miss Ida Connolly, of Baltimore, is spending a few weeks with her mother, Mrs. S. A. Mitchell.

Mr. Robert Hanna, of Rock Run, paid Webster a visit, a few days ago, for the purpose of shooting partridges. He killed a large number and is a boss shot.

Mr. James Richards has commenced to beautify his premises, by making new fences, wagon sheds, &c.

Messrs. Earl & Hopper have received their new boiler for their large canning house. They have the foundation now up. Messrs. Hastings & Gallion are the stone masons.

XMAS.

Parker's Super-heated Steam Cooker.

The inventor of the former dry-air Cooker, C. J. Parker, formerly of this county, has recently applied for patents on a new device, an improvement on his dry-air Cooker, so many of which have recently been sold in the neighboring counties. The invention consists of the attachment of a pan at the bottom of the old dry-air Cooker. This pan contains water and effectually protects the bottom of the crock. It is infallible, so far as burning is concerned, and the combination of the hot air at the top of the Cooker and hot water at the bottom, give the most penetrating heat known—super-heated steam. Over fifty of these Cookers have been sold in Bel Air and they have the endorsement of the most prominent men in the State, among them, Prof. Curtiss, of Fallston, and Prof. Newell, of the State Normal School. They are also used at Barnum's Hotel, Baltimore.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND QUERIES.

For the Editor of the Ægis:

DARLINGTON, MD., Dec. 14, 1887.

DEAR SIR: It has been suggested by a friend who is deeply versed in historical research, and the suggestion is warmly seconded by myself, that one or more of the Harford county newspapers open a column to contributors, under the title of "Historical Notes and Queries, and Answers," —where questions relating to our local history may be propounded, and answers subsequently given to the same.

This channel for intercommunication would serve as an important conduit towards realizing the objects of our County Historical Society.

Under such a heading, the first questions, for example, that we would ask are these:

1st. At what date, and by what authority, was our well-known Deer Creek, a large stream running entirely through the eastern section of Harford county, so named?

2d. Is there any record of its ever having been known by any other name? And,

3d. What creek in Harford county, or in Baltimore county, for both were included under the latter name previous to 1773, was called "Delph Creek" two hundred years ago, in 1683?

We believe, sir, that a column, or part of a column, in *The Ægis*, each week, devoted to such subjects, would elicit information of incalculable value to the Historical Society, and to the public generally, from sources now sealed; and would awaken a large degree of interest in the mind of every reader of the paper. Hoping that you may view the subject in the same light, I remain, my dear sir, Very truly yours,

W. STUMP FOXWOOD,
Pres't Harford Historical Society.

[In compliance with the above request, we say that the columns of *The Ægis* are open, as they always have been, to the discussion of questions pertaining to the local history of our county. The questions should be succintly stated and the answers thereto brief but explicit.—ED. ÆGIS.]

FROM JARRETTSVILLE.

The ladies of Salem Evangelical Church gave an oyster supper, on the evening of Dec. 13, 14th and 15th, in the old store building formerly occupied by T. R. Jarrett. The proceeds will be used towards liquidating the debt upon the new church.

Jarrettsville Weekly Review is the title of a newspaper established in connection with the Literary Association. Z. T. Kellogg is editor and A. Norman Ward assistant.

J. G. Glenn, Principal of the Public School, has purchased an Estey organ for the school room.

H.

Knabe Pianos for Executive Mansions.

Messrs. Wm. Knabe & Co. have just furnished to Gov. Beaver, of Pennsylvania, a beautiful upright grand piano, ordered by him for the executive mansion at Harrisburg. The case is of artistic style in rich variegated rosewood, and the instrumental part of the highest order of merit, with a tone of very rich and sympathetic quality, and a touch of remarkable ease and elasticity. A very fine concert grand was supplied by them recently to Gov. Fitzhugh Lee for the executive mansion, at Richmond, Va., which, excepting on some of the outside ornamentation of the case, is a fac-simile of the celebrated White House Knabe grand, the piano of the President's mansion, described in our columns heretofore.—*Baltimore American.*

—Laxador, the great regulator of the human system does not contain any deleterious substance, and is prompt and safe. Price only 25 cts.

—Mr. H. T. Bess, living in Shandy Grove, Franklin Co., Va., says:—Having thoroughly tested Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup in my family I cheerfully certify to its uniformly good effect, and recommend it as a most excellent remedy.

—Dr. Seth Arnold's Cough Killer is the best Cough Medicine I ever used. Wm. A. Myer, Weston, Ill.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES.

—M. E. Churches.—Bel Air, Christmas Tree and service for Sunday School, Friday night, Dec. 30th, at 7 P. M. Mt. Zion, Christmas Tree and service, Thursday night, Dec. 29th, at 7 P. M. Sunday School will meet on Sabbath, at 2 P. M. Thomas' Run, Preaching on Sabbath, at 10.30 A. M., Christmas Tree and service Wednesday, Dec. 28th, at 2 P. M. Darlington, preaching on Sabbath, at 3 P. M.; Christmas Tree and service Saturday night, Dec. 24th, at 6 P. M.

THOS. WOOD.

—Methodist Protestant Church.—Rev. S. A. Hobbitzell, pastor.—Sunday, December 25th.—Bel Air, A. M., Christmas service, appropriate anthems by the choir and sermon by the pastor. Evening service, 7½ o'clock; subject, "Settling Up Accounts or Giving an account of our Stewardship." Thoughts appropriate for the closing year. Service also at Mt. Carmel at 3 P. M.

—Christmas Sunday School Anniversaries will be held as follows: Union Chapel, Monday evening, Dec. 26th; Mt. Carmel, Tuesday evening, Dec. 27th; Bel Air, Wednesday evening, Dec. 28th. At all these services there will be appropriate recitations, responsive readings and singing by the school, followed by the usual refreshments for the children. The churches will be also decorated for the occasion and a pleasant time is anticipated. Public cordially invited.

Deer Creek Circuit. Appointments for Sunday, Dec. 25th, 1887.—Preaching, Mt. Tabor 10.30 A. M., Deer Creek, 3 P. M.