The Chestertown Transcript.

$1.00 PER ANNUM—IN ADVANCE. CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND, JUNE 10, 1897. VOL. XXXVII—NO. 5

Experience

has proven conclusively that better **grapes** and **peaches**, and more of them, are produced when Potash is liberally applied. To insure a full crop of choicest quality use a fertilizer containing not less than **10%**

Actual Potash.

Orchards and vineyards treated with Potash are comparatively free from insects and plant disease.

All about Potash—the results of its use by actual experiment on the best farms in the United States—is told in a little book which we publish and will gladly mail free to any farmer in America who will write for it.

GERMAN KALI WORKS, 93 Nassau St., New York.

C.P. GILPIN, DENTIST,
Chestertown Md.,
MAIN STREET, OPPOSITE THE OLD STAND
OFFICE HOURS:—8.30 to 12 A. M.; 1 to 4 P.M.

☞ Teeth extracted by local anesthetics and comparatively without pain.
Having enlarged my office and added many new conveniences, I am able to offer my patients much greater comfort while under treatment than in the past. Nov. 29-tf.

DR. CHARLES RICHARD TWILLEY,
Graduate of the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery,

taving enlarged and otherwise added to the conveniences of my office on Main street, I am prepared to perform operations in advanced Dentistry in the most approved style.

☞ EXTRACTING TEETH WITHOUT PAIN.

To prevent needless delays, patients may, in person or by mail, make engagements for any hour or date desired, if not already engaged.

☞ I will be at Rock Hall, every Thursday and may be found at the residence of Mrs. Abe Casey. All persons desiring first-class work are invited to call.

DR. CHARLES RICHARD TWILLEY,
Office 115 Main street, with Dr. J. T. Twilley.

EBEN F. PERKINS,
ATTORNEY,
will resume the active practice of law. Business promptly attended to.
Money for several clients to loan.
Office in the same building as the TRANSCRIPT. a6-3m.

HENRY W. CATLIN,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Chestertown, Maryland
Office opposite Court House.

CLARENCE W. PERKINS,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Room 2, Glenn Building, 12 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Md.; will attend the regular terms of the Circuit Court for Kent county.
All business intrusted to his care will receive careful and prompt attention.

C. H. B. MASSEY,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Chestertown, Maryland.

LEWIN W. WICKES,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.
Chestertown, - - - Maryland.

WILLIAM W. BECK,
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW,
Chestertown, Maryland.
Office with M. Dk. Stilith on Court Street.

CHAS. B. LONEY. GEO. B. PROBERT.
COMEGYS BROWN
—WITH—
LONEY & CO.,
Successors to Wright & Loney
FLOUR, GRAIN & COUNTRY PRODUCE
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
No. 215 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, Md.
☞ REFERENCES.—Drovers and Mechanics National Bank, cor. Eutaw and Fayette, Sts.

Established 1877.
J. E. HENDRICKSON & CO.,
Live Stock
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
30th & Market, Philadelphia.
We handle Live Stock, and have all facilities for this line of trade. We solicit the patronage of shippers, and guarantee to make prompt returns. Give us a trial and be convinced.
Jan. 16, 1897.

WILLIAM P. IRELAND,
FRUIT, PRODUCE AND LIVE STOCK
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
No. 121 Callowhill Street,
PHILADELPHIA

Stewart Fruit Company,
WHOLESALE
FRUIT, PRODUCE AND GRAIN
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
118 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore.
REFERENCE, Merchants' National Bank.

Jas. W. Stevens. R. Nelson Stevens.
STEVENS BROS.,
Members Chamber of Commerce,
Grain, Fruit and Produce
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
206 S. CHARLES STREET,
BALTIMORE, MD.
REFERENCE—Merchants National Bank

FRANK WRIGHT & Co.
FRUIT AND PRODUCE
Commission Merchants,
301 SOUTH CHARLES STREET,
Baltimore, Md.
Having removed to No. 301 South Charles St., in the centre of the jobbing trade, and having ample room on the first floor to handle Produce of every description, we respectfully solicit a continuance of past favors, and from shippers generally a trial, we guarantee top market prices and prompt returns.
Yours respectfully,
FRANK WRIGHT & CO.

A LARGE LINE OF
FURNITURE!
WINDOW SHADES,
Paints, Oils and Glass,
IS CARRIED BY
Percy T. McFeely,
CHESTERTOWN, MD
CITY PRICES on All Goods.

NATHAN BROOKS'
Shaving Saloon,
STILL POND.
I desire to inform the people of this and surrounding neighborhoods, that I am permanently located in Still Pond. Shaving neatly and cleanly done. Hair cutting in the latest style. Ladies' and Children's Bangs Trimmed. Shampooing a specialty. Give me a call.
Respectfully, etc.,
NATHAN BROOKS,
Jan. 24, 1896—1. Still Pond.

To-day, Tuesday and Saturday, May 22d,
MATTING BARGAINS.
2000 yards Extra Values and Select Styles. Housekeepers, your chance is this week.
Roasted Coffee, - - - 11¾c. lb.
Water-white Oil, - - 2 gallons 17c.
10c. and 12½c Lawns—worth more. Percales 6¼c. yard. These styles are said to be the best in town. 12½c. Ginghams for 8c.; 10c. Ginghams for 6c.
Saturday will be our Bargain Day on Shoes and Slippers.
☞ RARE BARGAINS IN SLIPPERS. ☜
India Linens 5c., 6¼c., 8c., 10c., 12½c., 15c., 20c. and 25c. Our Dimities are just fine, and mothers, they are just what you should buy for the children for Children's Day.
7 Bars Philadelphia Oline Soap 25c.
Our Teas are the best.
WESTCOTT & DODD.

MELITOTA'S CASH STORE!
The Cheapest in the County.
Large Lot of SALT. LIME for Whitewashing—the Blue Label—the finest on the market. Large lot of BARB WIRE for fencing. GASTAR for corn planting.
WOOD BOUGHT.
I am prepared to buy WOOL for which the highest market price will be paid.
First-Class Barber Shop!
Which is conducted under my personal supervision, where satisfactory work is guaranteed.
I KEEP A LARGE LINE OF
General Merchandise & Groceries,
WHICH ARE SOLD CHEAP.
☞ Eggs, Butter, Poultry, Calves, Sheep and Cows taken in exchange for goods. Give me a call and I will guarantee to please you.
M. M. RASIN,
April 22, 1897. MELITOTA, MARYLAND.

W. S. WALKER. H. M. BROWN.
Beck, Walker & Brown,
FERTILIZER MANUFACTURERS,
Offer to the Farmers of Kent and Queen Anne Counties
FERTILIZERS OF ALL KINDS.
WE WOULD CALL ATTENTION TO OUR
Special Brands for the Spring Crop of 1897.
CORN AND TOMATOES.
We are also prepared to fill orders for special mixtures for all crops, POTATOES, ONIONS, ASPARAGUS, GENERAL TRUCK, Etc.
All of these goods will be in first-class condition, and only the best materials obtainable will be used in their composition. They have been used by a number of our prominent farmers for the past five years, and in all cases have given satisfactory results. We would be glad to refer intending purchasers of Fertilizers to the parties who have used them. All our brands of goods are prepared under the personal supervision of MR. P. B. HOLLIS, who is well-known in this community as an experienced agricultural chemist.
☞ BUSINESS OFFICE in the Kent News Building, where we shall be pleased to see our friends and the public. March 11, 1897.

Just Think for a Moment!
If you are looking for a place to get your work done cheap, just stop in at Urieville and give McKnett, Jr., a call—he will surprise you. A Sixty-tooth Harrow and Chain for $8.50; a Seventy-two tooth Harrow for $9.50. Wheels Hooped for $1.25. New Dearborns for $35. Also, if you are going to have any sawing done, I am prepared to do all kinds.
You may be looking out for someone to thresh your wheat this season, if so, I have a first-class Traction Engine, Thresher and Stacker that I expect to start this season. The old saying—"Kill two birds with one stone," now you have a chance to kill three.
Give me a call.
WATTIE McKNETT,
March 18, 1897. URIEVILLE, MARYLAND.

OUR Made-to-Measure Suits
AT $10.00,
ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
MO ONC. STOUT & CO., Baltimore & Liberty Sts., Baltimore, Md. MERCHANT TAILORS

FERD. H. PAAR,
MAKER OF
Gents' Fine Footwear,
No. 104 N. Howard Street,
BALTIMORE, MD.

"HE THAT WORKS EASILY WORKS SUCCESSFULLY." 'TIS VERY EASY TO CLEAN HOUSE WITH
SAPOLIO

DR. FAHRNEY'S TEETHING SYRUP.
THE BABY'S COMFORT, THE MOTHER'S FRIEND.
One trial, always used. Will cure Colic in 10 minutes; cures curd or sour stomach, relieves all forms of indigestion, can be given to babies 1 day old. Will prevent Cholera Infantum and keep the baby in good, healthy condition through the period of teething. An over dose does no harm; nothing injurious in it. 25 cts. at druggists.
Made only by DRS. D. FAHRNEY & SON, HAGERSTOWN, MD.
Trial bottle sent free if you mention this paper.

"DOLLARS ON WHEELS."

Yes, I will save you a great many dollars if you will buy your bike from me. Have you seen the
CHESTER SPECIAL?
$45.00!
A wheel that is honestly made and sold at an honest price. The best value for the money that has ever been offered. A Handsome Wheel, up to date and thoroughly guaranteed. Come look at it—bring a mechanic with you and have him take it apart and examine each and every piece, you will find it good all through, and the price is $15.00 less than the manufacturer's price. We furnish them in all colors and give you choice of tires, saddles, handle-bars, etc., and a guarantee that is worth something.
I Have Cheaper Wheels
if you want them. I have a house full of Wheels to select from.
A LARGE STOCK OF CYCLE SUNDRIES, REPAIRS, ETC.
Come in, we will talk business to you.
J. H. SIDES,
The Jeweler and Cycle Dealer,
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
Jewelry Store 221—Cycle Store 219 High street.

HAPPY!
WHY NOT?
Our customers are satisfied and well-to-do people. *Why?* Because they know they get the best work for the least money at our place. Trade is good, and we are always busy. Remember, we Hoop your Wheels and do not dish them, and make no charge for extra bolts.
☞ We are glad to see how our Horseshoeing is appreciated. We claim to know how to do it. Bring us your horses and you will be happy
HACKETT'S
Blacksmithing and Horse-shoeing Parlor,
STILL POND, MD.

A GREAT MAGAZINE OFFER!
3 FOR 1

3 FOR 1
The regular subscription price of "Demorest's Magazine," "Judge's Library," and "Funny Pictures," is $3.30.
We will send all three to you for one year for $2.00, or 6 mo. for $1.
"DEMOREST'S MAGAZINE" is by far the best family magazine published; there is none of our monthlies in which the beautiful and the useful, pleasure and profit, fashion and literature are so fully presented as in Demorest's. There is, in fact, no publication pretending to a similar scope and purpose which can compare with it. Every number contains a free pattern coupon.
"JUDGE'S LIBRARY" is a monthly magazine of fun, filled with illustrations in caricature and replete with wit and humor. Its contributors are the best of American wits and illustrators.
"FUNNY PICTURES" is another humorous monthly; there is a laugh in every line of it.
All three of these magazines are handsomely gotten up. You should not miss this chance to secure them.

FOR EARLY APPLICATION THIS SPRING!
TRADE MARK
We Offer the Following Brands of Fertilizers:
The leading farmers and canners in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland speak in its highest praise, declaring our goods to be positively the **CHEAPEST**, the **SAFEST**, and the **BEST** in use. Once a trial, always a patron. Wouldn't it be a good idea for you to try our Fertilizers? Many farmers think that all Phosphates are alike; but a Fertilizer apparently the same by analysis on paper may show a vast difference when tested on the soil.
For Asparagus.
We have an article that has given more satisfaction as a feeder for this plant than $30.00 goods. We will sell it to you for $16.00 per ton. Send for one of our regular Asparagus circulars, giving you full information concerning it.
For Oats.
Use our Special Oat Fertilizer, which has stood the test now for years. It has grown as high as fifty-five and sixty bushels per acre, and many patrons use it year after year.
For Grass.
As a top dressing for Grass our Phosphate has no equal, but it should be applied as early in March as possible. Many of our patrons claim that an application of 200 pounds per acre has made from a third to a half more hay. We have delivered already considerable goods for this purpose. It is cheap and acts well.
For Potatoes.
We have been selling the Truckers of Gloucester county, New Jersey, as well as through Delaware, Pennsylvania and other points, a Special Potato Manure, which has stood the test in competition with Mapes', Yarnell's and Baugh's, in fact, all the high grade goods on the market.
For Tomatoes.
We manufacture a Special Tomato Fertilizer that is particularly adapted to this crop. We sold last year nearly 1,000 customers for this crop alone.
For Corn.
We have a splendid Fertilizer for Corn, which our patrons claim will not fire or burn this crop. The mechanical condition is unsurpassed, and it goes father than most any Fertilizer you ever tried for this purpose. We can sell a special bargain this season on this article.
Then, as Another,
Do not forget your **PEACH TREES** by failing to give them an application of OUR FRUIT GROWER. One patron wrote a few days ago that he received 45 cents more per basket from a buyer for his Elbertos last year that were phosphated with OUR FRUIT GROWER than those which were right alongside of them which were not. He buys again, as well as his neighbors. It will cost you less to fertilize this crop per acre than it would to haul manure and put upon it. We recommend sowing broadcast over the ground in the centre of the row, 250 pounds per acre, as early as the ground will permit to plow, then turn it under, and as the sap ascends, along during the spring, and the goods being unusually available, takes it up in the tree, increases the size of the fruit as well as makes new wood.
We will be glad to have you call in person or correspond with us before purchasing your spring supply. If you have not received one of our Pocket Diaries for 1897, kindly drop us a postal and one will be duly forwarded to you, which contains much useful information for farmers and planters.
Respectfully,
T. R. HUBBARD & SON,
WILBUR W. HUBBARD,
Manufacturers of Standard Bone Fertilizers, Chestertown, Maryland.

BLOOD!
Good Red Blood!
YOU NEED IT!
You can't have good health without it.
We know the secret! Come to our drug store and we will tell you about it.
COLIN F. STAM,
DRUGGIST.

LUMBER. LUMBER.
SHINGLES. SHINGLES.
N. C. FLOORING,
GA. FLOORING,
VA. PINE FRAME STUFF,
GA. " " "
VA. PINE SIDING,
WHITE PINE SIDING,
WHITE PINE BARN & CULL B'DS.
CYPRESS FENCING,
DOORS, SASH
BLINDS,
MOULDINGS, ETC.,
—FOR SALE BY—
T. W. ELIASON,
No. 212 Main St.
IS THE PLACE TO GET
Groceries, Fruits, Confectioneries,
TOBACCO, CIGARS,
and many other articles AT BARGAIN PRICES.
Now is the time we are running our
NOTED SOFT DRINKS
Once a customer always a customer, because our prices are moderate, and we never misrepresent our goods.
WM. S. McDONNELL,
June 14, 1894. Chestertown Md.

Coal. Coal.
HEADQUARTERS FOR
The Best Lehigh Grades of Coal.
Carload lots at reduced rates delivered at any station on the Baltimore and Delaware Bay Railroad. Also at retail prices as reasonable as any dealer in the county.
2240 Lbs. Guaranteed to the Ton.
☞ Authorized Agent for W. S. HILL for the purchase of GRAIN.
For further particulars, address
A. S. TURNER,
June 5, 1896. WORTON, MD

ED. BURKE. TOM KENNEY.
BURKE & KENNEY,
Restaurant, Buffe & Pool Room.
FINE WINES, LIQUORS & CIGARS.
Meals at Popular Prices and served to order.
Ladies Dining Room on 2d floor.
Elegant Furnished Rooms for Gentlemen only.
Furnished Rooms 25, 35 and 50 cents.
714-716 E. BALTIMORE STREET,
Baltimore, Md.
Opposite Monumental Theatre
When you visit Baltimore, try one of our famous
ANDY'S
LADIES' AND GENT'S
PHILADELPHIA RESTAURANT,
620 East Baltimore Street.
☞ Our Meals are the best in quality and lowest in price.
☞ Largest Meals in the city, 10 & 15 cts.
☞ Turkey and Chicken Dinner, daily, 15c.
Oysters and Clams in every style.
No 620 East Baltimore Street.
☞ First-Class Lodging Rooms only 15c. per night.
NEW FIRM! NEW GOODS NEW PRICES!
Having purchased the stock of goods and business interests of Miss Maggie V. Hersch, we announce that a first-class
Stock of Millinery Goods
has been purchased and the millinery business in all of its branches will be conducted at the old stand. Our stock is complete and carefully selected, and prices will be made to correspond with the times. Respectfully,
MRS. L. B. WILKINS & CO.,
Rock Hall, Md.

Oehm's Acme Hall.
OUR MEN'S CLOTHING
Goes all over the United States—we send suits into every State in the Union. By samples—which we are glad to send you—We can fit you perfectly—you there—we here.—In price—well anywhere from $7.50 up.
By the way—our $7.50 suits just now—Summer Suits—are a mark-down from $10.00 and will make a stylish suit for you—well made—good cloth—very desirable. Send for samples.
Clothing for Boys
As full of style and merit here, as that for men. Prices are many—$1.50 and more for Knee Pants Suits—$5.00 to $18.00 on Long Pants kind.
Wall Papers.
Ought to interest you. Certainly ours will. English Washable Leather, 20 cts.—French Damask effect, 10 cts.—Pretty Dresden effects, 10 cts.—new effects in Gilt, 6 cts. Good American Wall Papers from 3 cts. upward.
The Severn's the wheel—$50 is the price—worth any $100 Bicycle you ever saw.
Make yourself at home here, when you're in town—reading and writing-room especially for the ladies—men's smoking-room. Check your bundles free—All at your disposal.—Every car line comes to
OEHM'S ACME HALL,
Baltimore and Charles Streets, Baltimore, Md. *The Starting Point to anywhere else in town.*

Harvesting
—AND—
Threshing
Will Soon Be Here.
The question with every farmer is, where shall I buy my Binder Twine and Soft Coal, Machine Oil, etc.
Turner & Son,
OF BETTERTON,
have handled these articles for years, and still offer you reliable quality combined with close prices.
Binder Twine.
We handle Fitler's, the acknowledged best. No stops, no time lost, but satisfaction.
FOR CASH. Fitler's Pure Manila at 7c. lb. " 600 feet " at 6¼c. " " Pure Sisal at 5½c. "
Look at the tag on the ball for the word Pure. Common Twine is dear at any price. We carry Twine in stock for our customers during wheat cutting—to finish out with. There is some advantage to you in this. Send us your orders by mail.
Soft Coal.
Best George's Creek vein. $3.75 per ton our net price. When you buy Coal, why not get the best? It costs no more here. Keep your machine men in a good humor and make time.
Machine Oil.
We buy by the barrel and sell good Oil.
Our best grade.....35c. gal. } Discount 5% off for cash.
A good Oil.....25c. "
Harvest Table Knives & Forks.
Fair quality.
Per set of half doz. each only 45c. set.
Flour.
Gambrill's Patapsco Superlative Flour, the "Premier Flour of America."
Orange Grove Extra now $4.75 per bbl.
Little Beauty now ..... 4.75 "
Every barrel guaranteed.
A cheaper grade at.....$3.75 "
MEATS of all kinds for little money. Rep't, TURNER & SON, Betterton, Md.
IN SEASON.
Camphor & Moth Balls,
—AT—
M. A. Toulson's Drug Store,
CHESTERTOWN, MD.
25c. Corn Problem Solved.
USE
Black Residuum for Corn!
AND DOUBLE YOUR CROP.
For sale—for the General Agency in Kent and Queen Anne counties, by
JOS. GUEST,
Chestertown, Md.
Livery & Feed Stables.
I AM now prepared at my Livery and Feed Stables, on East Cross street, to supply the traveling public with
FIRST-CLASS TEAMS AT ALL TIMES.
☞ HORSES also taken on Livery and careful attention given to them.
SAMUEL D. SHAWN,
East Cross Street. CHESTERTOWN, MD.

A SHAM "REFORM."

THE REPUBLICAN ELECTION LAW, PASSED IN 1896, SHOWN TO BE A DELIBERATE SCHEME TO RESTORE AND MAINTAIN SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE ILLITERATE COLORED VOTERS.

THE OATH OF THE BALLOT CLERK STEALTHILY SUPPRESSED.

The Secret Ballot Theory of the Australian System Cunningly Perverted and the Illiterate Colored Voters Subjected to the Strictest Surveillance of Republican Partisans.

Evades Its Own Pretended Provisions for the Protection of the Minority Party During the First Two Years of its Operation.

Concocted by Shrewd Republican Partisans, It is a Measure of Partisan Iniquity Little Short of the Odious Force Bill.

[*Published by Authority of the Maryland Democratic Editors' Association.*]

The essential principle of the Australian ballot system, which has sustained public sentiment in many States of the Union in incorporating its cumbrous and expensive provisions into their election laws, is that it affords to the individual voter the privilege of voting a secret ballot. This privilege, thus so dearly supposed to be attained, has been understood to effectually rid the voter from the domination and power of those who may have a controlling influence, by reason of other relations in life, over his individual political action. Upon this ground, solely, of securing liberty of action in the exercise of his elective franchise on the part of the individual voter, freed from the control of those who are in a position to exercise a coercive or intimidating influence upon him, has the Australian ballot system appealed to the favor of the advocates of election reform, and this single and distinctive feature, as has been already stated, is the essential principle of the system. It must follow, therefore, that any law purporting to embody the Australian system, which, instead of freeing the dependent class of voters from the espionage, supervision and domination of the class whose influence and resentment they fear and are subservient to, subjects them more completely than ever before to such espionage, supervision and domination, is a sham reform which ought to have the condemnation and not the support of honest men.

* * *

In States largely engaged in manufacturing industries, corporate works and the like, where the dependent laborers, who were subjected to the controlling influence of their employers, are for the most part men capable of reading and marking their own ballots, the Australian ballot machinery, which screens the voter while in the act of voting from all espionage and supervision, exercises a very salutary influence in securing a free and untrammeled expression of the popular will. The domination in political matters of corporations and other large employers of human labor had grown to be a potent and dangerous influence in elections, and the Australian system as an elective reform has grown in favor as a remedy to this great and growing mischief.

* * *

But the illiterate voter, who cannot read or mark his own ballot, has always constituted a troublesome factor in the problem of giving practical application to the Australian theory. He, instead of being screened from observation by the new machinery, is subjected to more close and complete scrutiny in the marking of his ballot for him by the officers designated for that purpose, who are always the partisans of the leading political parties. Therefore, when the proposition was first made to introduce the Australian idea into the Maryland election law—in 1896—many of the more thoughtful Democratic leaders were apprehensive that the large per centage of illiterates in Maryland, belonging almost exclusively to the Republican party, would give improper advantage to that party in the operation of the system, in that it would subject the illiterate colored voters more completely than ever to the espionage and domination of those who had become the political leaders in the communities where they predominate.

These complaints came more especially from thoughtful Democrats in the Negro-dominated counties, which had at that time, under the old ballot system, just fairly begun to emerge from more than a decade of ruinous Negro domination. A condition of affairs has existed for years in those counties, of which the voters of the other counties and Baltimore city have no fair conception. The extraordinary methods of intimidation and coercion by which the wonderful cohesion of the Negro vote was secured and for many years maintained in those counties and Negro domination thereby fastened upon them, will no doubt be a surprise to many good citizens of the city and of sister counties, who view the matter complacently from a distance, and sometimes upon not great provocation show a disposition to co-operate with those bad forces. A sentiment has been cunningly inculcated into the minds of the ignorant and superstitious Negro voters, and more especially of the women and children who constitute their families, that for a colored man to vote anything but the straight Republican ticket is to be a traitor to his race and a sinner of unpardonable offense. This sentiment, shrewdly disseminated through well lubricated colored preachers and other ingeniously chosen agencies, made a deep impression on the rank and file of the colored population, which still exists to a very general extent, especially among the women.

* * *

But gradually, through the ameliorating influence of daily and neighborly intercourse with the whites, this condition of compact race antagonism began to show evidences of of relaxation among the more kindly disposed of the Negroes, and after a year's experience under the first National Democratic administration demonstrated that they would not be "put back into slavery by the Democrats," as direfully predicted to them at midnight gatherings, many of them quietly and unknown to their political masters voted the Democratic ticket, with the result that in the election of 1885 all the counties of the Southern Maryland peninsula at a single stroke threw off the incubus of Negro domination. This secret ballot the well disposed colored voter was enabled to cast under the old system, when the respective tickets of the opposing political parties were printed on separate ballots and so delivered to him. He would conceal the Democratic ticket, which had previously been delivered to him and which he desired to vote, carefully in his pocket, and then joining the vociferous colored procession would march up to their partisan boss, the Republican ticket holder, and receiving a ticket from him, march along up to the window quite as enthusiastic as any of the rest. But he would easily manage in the enthusiasm of the occasion to make the Republican and Democratic tickets which he carried exchange places, and the latter would go into the ballot box from the hands of an apparently enthusiastic colored Republican. In this way the well meaning colored citizen was enabled cleverly to avoid the disfavor of his white bosses, the ostracism of his colored brethren, and above all the repeatedly threatened and much feared vengeance of the dear (?) ones at home.

* * *

Well knowing the system of intimidation and coercion by which the Negro vote had been compacted and made a controlling force in their communities, and the deceptive methods under the old system by which they had been evaded, the Democratic leaders and press in the Southern Maryland counties, when the Australian system of voting was being considered by the Legislature of 1890, very naturally entertained and expressed grave apprehensions lest its application to the illiterate colored voters might prove to be an instrumentality of again compacting the Negro vote and restoring the bad domination which had proved so hurtful to their section. On the other hand, the Republican leaders in the Negro-dominated section, chagrined and alarmed at the large defection in the Negro vote which had manifested itself in the few preceding years, and which they were powerless to locate and coerce into renewed allegiance, naturally welcomed a system which promised to place the illiterate Negroes under the strict surveillance of their partisans. But the framers of the law so far respected the just apprehensions of the Southern Maryland Democrats that they bound the ballot clerk, who was to assist the illiterate voter, with a rigid oath not to disclose the knowledge thus obtained, which he was required to make and subscribe. The oath was contained in sub-section 152 of section 2 of the Election Law of 1890, and read as follows:

"I will not attempt to ascertain, save in cases and in the manner in which I am authorized by the law to do, for what candidate or candidates any person shall vote, or has voted, or how any person shall vote, or has voted, on any question which may be, or may have been, submitted to the vote of the people, and if such knowledge shall be acquired by me in the performance of my duty I will not directly, or indirectly, by word or act, divulge or reveal the same, or aid in doing so, save when I may be required to do so by law in some legal proceeding, and I will in all things faithfully execute the duties of my office of ballot clerk according to the best of my knowledge, without favor or partiality, so help me God."

This oath, although it may not have exercised a very obligatory force on the conscience of some of the partisan ballot clerks, yet the severe penalties of perjury, which its violation imposed, served to deter them from making any vindictive or punitory use of their knowledge thus acquired. The colored voters soon came to understand this, and so the unknown and undiscoverable defection of colored voters from the Republican ranks in Southern Maryland continued under the operation of the new law, with the result of continued disaster to Republican supremacy in that section of the State.

* * *

Therefore, when the Republican party found itself in control of the State government upon the assembling of its Legislature in 1896, the necessity of making the election law a potent instrumentality for the maintenance of their party supremacy was the chief thought in the minds of its astute partisans. To this end a completely new election and registration law was promptly introduced and ultimately passed. To the accomplishment of this partisan purpose, three several means had been determined upon:

1. To dispense with obligation to secrecy on the part of those who marked the ballots of the illiterates, and thereby subject the 52,000 Negro voters to the surveillance of their white leaders, and thus to restore the old state of affairs in Southern Maryland and solidify the Negro vote throughout the State.

2. To revoke the restrictions imposed by the registration law of 1890 upon the colonization of Washington Negroes into the adjacent counties of Maryland.

3. To subject the counties to a wholly unnecessary new registration of all voters, which in 1882 had proved to be such a partisan advantage to their party—by reason of the fact that while many white voters neglected to register, the Negroes all registered with superstitious punctuality.

* * *

The draft of this important partisan measure is understood to have been the work of Mr. John C. Rose, of Baltimore, who appears to have had for his aid and adviser Mr. Sydney E. Mudd, of Charles county, who became Speaker of the House of Delegates. Rose might be appropriately designated the Johnny Davenport of Maryland, in compliment to his astute, indefatigable and unconscionable partisanship; but he ingeniously hides all these accomplishments under the veil and garb of a devout "reformer," under which hypocritical disguise he has most deceitfully imposed upon many well meaning gentlemen in Baltimore, known as "Reform Democrats." Mudd, on the other hand, makes no such pretensions, but delights to boast of his superior skill in making partisan deals and turning political tricks. Fully equipped by practical experience in the actual work of corralling and intimidating the Negro voters and thereby maintaining Negro domination in Southern Maryland, he gave the points of partisan advantage to be secured in the election law to the resourceful Rose, who was depended upon to give them vitality.

* * *

The subjection of the illiterate Negro voters to the unrestricted surveillance of their white local bosses and thereby to the severe discipline of their race and their families thus clearly appears to have been the principal purpose to be accomplished by the "reform" election law presented by the Republicans. This being the case, a man of more direct methods and less finesse and diplomatic subtlety than Mr. Rose might have gone directly at his work by proposing amendments to the existing law, striking out the oath of the ballot clerks and all penalties bearing upon a disclosure of how the illiterates cast their votes. But this would have revealed, even to the apprehension of the "Reform Democrats," the ungainly cloven foot of the partisan wolf beneath the immaculate fleece of the innocent reform lamb; and Mr. Rose is not accustomed to do his work in that bungling way. Not at all. He therefore brought forward a brand new election law and registration law complete in all its parts and substituting the entire article of the code bearing on that important subject and completely dispensing with the old law. But all the sections of this new law will be scanned in vain for any obligation on the clerks who mark the ballots of the illiterate, either by oath or penalty, not to disclose the information thus acquired. The stringent oath of the ballot clerk, above quoted from the act of 1890, is conspicuous by the absence of every vestige of it, while the penal part of the law will be searched in vain for any penalty of disclosing knowledge acquired in the election room. The clerks who mark the ballots of the illiterates take only the perfunctory oath to support the Constitution, etc., required of the judges and other officers.

* * *

Thus it is clearly made to appear that by repealing the strict oath required of the ballot clerk and all penalties for its violation, all restriction of secrecy is removed from the officers who supervise the voting of the illiterates, and the illiterate Negro voters of the State are thereby subjected to the strictest surveillance. In point of fact, proof can be adduced from the Southern Maryland counties that this change in the law was impressed on the colored voters in the campaign of 1896, and they were thereby intimidated and solidified at the last election.

* * *

Here we have presented to us the remarkable anomaly, the astonishing paradox, of the 52,000 illiterate voters of the State, who, in point of fact, constitute the only element of our voting population that are subject to the domination of a controlling influence, being subjected to the strictest scrutiny, the most complete espionage and surveillance of the very influence by which they are dominated and belonging exclusively to one political party, under color of the Australian ballot system, the essential principle and office of which is exactly the converse of the function it is made to exercise in Maryland elections. The question arises, did any political party outside of the carpet bag governments of the Southern States ever make such a shameful abuse of its power as this? Was any such audacious fraud as this ever practiced on a self respecting people by any political party without prompt punishment being visited upon it? The audacity of this fraud, in making the very machinery designed for the emancipation of the dependent voter do duty for his enslavement, is certainly complimentary to the courage of its authors; but we mistake the temper of the good people of Maryland if they are disposed to reward this particular kind of courage.

* * *

Another notable feature of this extraordinary trick in partisan legislation is the manifestly deliberate and preconcerted manner in which it is so framed as to evade during the first two years of its operation its own pretended provisions for the protection of the minority party. The better to obscure its real purpose of partisan iniquity, the bill as presented pretended to afford to the minority a safe guarantee of honest representation upon the all important board of election supervisors, who are placed in complete control of this ingeniously contrived election machinery. The very first sub-section of the bill provided that the members of this important board, representing a political party, should be appointed by the Governor from persons recommended by the State central committees representing each of the two leading political parties of the State; but in order to effectually offset that great show of fairness it was ingeniously provided in the last section but one of the long bill "that it before the passage of this act the Governor, by and with the advice of the present Senate, shall have appointed under then existing laws supervisors of elections, or any of them, for the various counties of the State, or for said city, such appointments so advised and consented to, shall stand and remain valid to all intents and purposes as if made under the provisions of this act." This bill being ready for introduction at the commencement of the session, and being in fact introduced in the early days, the thoughtful insertion of this important proviso clearly foreshadowed a purpose, afterwards made manifest, of holding back the final passage of the election bill until after the supervisors had been appointed. It was well known to the partisan authors of the measure that the Republican Governor could obtain the consent of "the present Senate" to the appointment of supervisors to represent the Democratic party which no Democratic committee would have consented to. Thus was the partisan trick of deceitfully evading its own provisions until the Republican party should have an opportunity of entrenching itself in power long enough to secure both of the United States Senators and give the electoral vote of the State to a Republican President, shrewdly accomplished. As a result of this last mentioned trick it is known that the Democratic party was defrauded out of many thousand votes in Baltimore city and elsewhere by false counting and otherwise at the last election. It will only be through the aroused vigilance of the Democratic masses that a similar result will be averted in the coming election.

Mr. Isaac Horner, proprietor of the Burton House, Burton, W. Va., and one of the most widely known men in the State, was cured of rheumatism after three years of suffering. He says: "I have not sufficient command of language to convey any idea of what I suffered, my physicians told me that nothing could be done for me; and my friends were fully convinced that nothing but death would relieve me of my suffering. In June, 1894, Mr. Evans, then salesman for the Wheeling Drug Co., recommended Chamberlain's Pain Balm. At this time my foot and limb were swollen to more than double their normal size and it seemed to me my leg would burst, but soon after I began using the Pain Balm, the swelling began to decrease, the pain to leave, and now I consider that I am entirely cured. For sale by M. A. Toulson, druggist.

Spring, the sweet spring,
Is the year's pleasant king.

SUBSCRIPTION to the TRANSCRIPT $1 per annum.

©Maryland State Archives msa_sc3326_scm8211-0329