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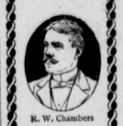
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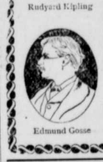
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Interesting Reference to One of Kent's Prosperous Schools.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Believing that journalists must, of necessity, be firm friends of general education, I, of course, regard you as such. Therefore I take the liberty of writing a few lines with reference to general education, and particularly referring to the Betterton public school. Here we have an excellent school, under the efficient management of Miss M K. Goodhand, principal, and Miss M. Hadaway, assistant. Both of these ladies have clearly demonstrated their eminent fitness for the proper discharge of the duties of teachers. Under their able management the school has been brought up to a high standard of excellence, as is attested by the rapid progress made by the children in their various studies. They are both ladies of culture and refinement, and being of pleasant, amiable dispositions, although strict disciplinarians, they seem to understand the nature of children so thoroughly that they control and direct the children through kindness rather than harshness.

A brief visit to our school cannot fail to convince any fair-minded person of the correctness of this statement. Among the children attending this school are many bright, promising pupils, who with continued application to their studies will make honorable and useful men and women of the future, because of the manifold opportunities and advantages held out to them by our present public school system.

In the earlier days of the world's history, the opportunities for acquiring educational knowledge were few, and those that did exist were within the reach of the wealthy only, being as they were, confined almost exclusively to the monestaries of the old world.

But now, thanks to our enlightened age, and the progress of liberality, learning is denied to no class or condition. It is within the reach of all; and its blessings being enjoyed by all progressive, civilized nations of the earth. Through its influence, scientific research has made rapid and wonderful progress; while theology, literature, statesmanship, inventive and mechanical arts, with all that goes to make up an age of intellectual progress, are quickened and perfected by the system of general education.

To-day, educational institutions exist in all sections of our country, as well as throughout the civilized world, the benefits and blessings of which may be enjoyed by all classes. In our own State the opportunities for acquiring knowledge through educational training, are unsurpassed by any other section, as is evidenced by the large number of excellent collegiate institutions, seminaries and public and private schools which are in successful operation in every section of the commonwealth.

Most of our institutions of learning are presided over and conducted by able and efficient instructors, who, by education and practical experience, are thoroughly competent and well qualified for the proper discharge of the arduous duties devolving upon them as tutors.

With the advantages for acquiring education with which we are surrounded, there can be no excuse for a child's growing up in ignorance. The parents or guardians of children should see that those under their care have access to and be made attend some one of the many educational institutions with which they are surrounded. Neglecting to do this they are doing the child an irreparable injury and are alone responsible for the ignorance which must be the inevitable result of neglecting so important a duty.

SCRIBE.

What Dreams Signify.

People whose dreams are few and far between seldom escape some vison or other on Christmas night, and, also, they are always pleasant. Of course, there is a reason for this, but we will leave the explanation of the mystery to the doctors and provision dealers.

To dream of sudden riches is a bad sign.

To dream of a rainbow denotes coming changes.

To dream of an anchor is a sign of hope.

To dream of banquets is a favorable sign.

To dream of birds denotes a lawsuit.

To dream of marriage denotes danger.

To dream of riding in a coach signifies pride.

To dream of death signifies a wedding.

To dream of holding flowers is a favorable sign.

To dream of music indicates that good news is coming.

To dream of seeing a play denotes good fortune.

To dream of ants denotes a grasping disposition.

To dream of a boat on clear water or of playing at cards is a sign of coming good fortune.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

Mr. Westcott's Law Office.

State Senator Charles T. Westcott, of Kent county, who has now an office in the Equitable Building, this city, has closed a deal with Mr. Wm. M. Slay, of Chestertown, for the sale of his old law office and lots in Chestertown. Mr. Westcott owns the next two adjoining lots, and expects to erect another law office on one of them, and to devote several days each week to his county law business. He will retain his legal residence in Kent county, his family living in Baltimore during the winter months.—*Baltimore American.* This is supposed to be official. It was not sent from Kent. Certainly not by the *American's* local correspondent.

THE "JIM PIPPIN OAK"

A Ghost Story from Queen Anne—And a Record of a Thrilling Period.

None of the older citizens of Kent have forgotten the reign of terror and lawlessness brought about by the noted Pippin-Meginnis gang in Queen Anne some thirty years ago. Pippin and his band had their headquarters in the "Big Woods," near the old Dixon Tavern, not far from Sudlersville. The old tavern was not always the quiet orderly section it is to-day. Much gambling, a deal of fighting and even crimes of greater gravity were located at or near Dixon's Tavern. A recent writer has this to say:

"It would be difficult to find a section of the Eastern Shore, which has not its interesting tradition, its thrilling ghost story. One of the best of this section is that of the "Jim Pippin Oak," near the old Dixon's tavern, in Queen Anne. The investigating correspondent saw the ghost-stricken tree.

Some thirty years ago the great woods in which the "Jim Pippin Oak" stood was the rendezvous for a band of men who for miles around gave an unenviable reputation for lawlessness and deeds of violence, running into burglary, arson and even murder. The community was terrorized and lawlessness ran riot. When the sun went down every door and window for miles around was barred and bolted. After the brutal murder and robbery of Benjamin Roberts, a Church Hill merchant, Jim Pippin and a man named Meginniss were arrested. The men were tried, and in spite of the efforts of ex-Senator Charles H. Gibson, Meginniss was convicted of murtier in the second degree, and he was sent to the penitentiary for eighteen years. Pippin was acquitted and returned to his father's home in the "big woods" near "Dixon's Tavern."

"A body of masked men found the man in a sweet potato hole under old man Pippin's home at night. The doomed man refused to surrender or come out and the house was fired. He then surrendered, the fire was extinguished and Pippin was taken to a handsome young white oak which stood within a few feet of the public road, and was strung up. The body was left dangling until late the next day.

"But here is the interesting part of the history of this period of lawlessness and disorder. The white oak is a long-lived tree. The oak on which Pippin was hung was young and vigorous, but it at once began to decay. The strange part of the story is that the fatal limb upon which the man was hanged first withered and died. The blight then spread up that side of the tree to the topmost bough, and then the entire tree began falling to pieces, until to-day only a rugged trunk and rotting limbs are left. The place ever since has been hoodooed, so far as the negro population is concerned, and they give the "Jim Pippin Tree" a wide berth after sundown."

"MILKTODDY HALL."

Interesting History of an Old Landmark Which has Passed Away.

One by one the interesting old landmarks of Kent are passing away, and in their crumbling ruins is being buried much that is most valuable and interesting in our local history. Quaint legend and sweet song alike are going down with these wrecks of the past. "Milktoddy Hall," the curious old hip-roofed residence which stood not very many years ago on the farm now owned by Mr. Robert Hatcherson, was wrapped in a quaint little story of its own. It was, after all, the old, old story of a name, and the name invested the last decaying timber with the interest which the name had brought.

"Milktoddy Hall" was the home of "God" Smith, a curious name, and one worthy of being quoted; but here is the story of "God" Smith and his hip-roofed home, away back in the sixties. Kent, like every other inhabited or inhabitable spot on the globe, has always had many members of this numerous family. This particular Smith (Nathan Smith) married a Miss God, and to distinguish him from the other members of the community named Smith, he was ever afterward known as "God Smith." But how about "Milktoddy Hall?" Well, the story goes that Mr. Smith became abnormally fleshy, so much so that it became impossible for him to swallow solid food. On one occasion he made an effort to eat potato pudding, but could not, and from that day he adopted a liquid diet and selected milktoddy as that peculiar liquid. For over fifteen years, the story goes, no other food ever passed his lips. During all of that time he never drank water or took a particle of any solid or liquid other than his chosen milktoddy. Whenever he went away from home he was accompanied by his bottle of milktoddy. If he staid away for a meal, upon the table sat the irrepressible bottle of milktoddy, that he had carried with him, and that constituted the meal of the guest.

Another story states that "God Smith" stopped eating solids because of the delicate condition of his stomach, and that after living on his milktoddy diet for fifteen years he finally determined to experiment with solid food. He ate only a small particle, but death came with the experiment. All reports agree upon the extent and details of the milktoddy diet, however much they may differ as to other particulars.

Some years ago the old building fell to decay, and "Milktoddy Hall" gave way to a more modern and substantial residence, and only the name and the interesting story of its origin remain.

Mightiest of All.

The pencil beats the pen and sword—
For when the war is done,
The man who writes it up gets more
Than he who fired a gun.

—*Detroit Free Press.*

According to a celebrated anatomist there are upwards of 5,000,000 little glands in the human stomach. These glands pour out the digestive juices which dissolve or digest the food. Indigestion is want of juice, weakness of glands, need of help to restore the health of these organs. The best and the most natural help is that given by Shaker Digestive Cordial. Natural, because it supplies the materials needed by the glands to prepare the digestive juices. Because it strengthens and invigorates the glands and the stomach, until they are able to do their work alone. Shaker Digestive Cordial cures indigestion certainly and permanently. It does so by natural means, and therein lies the secret of its wonderful and unvaried success. At druggists, prize 10 cents to $1.00 a bottle.

A NEW YEAR'S RETROSPECT.

Only a bundle of essays old,
The paper yellow, the writing faint;
Some concert programmes, a flower or so,
A fan of fashion old and quaint;
An army button, a curl of hair,
And the pictured face of a maiden fair.

She died long ago—the maiden fair—
If early or late, ah, who can tell?
And her name is borne by one whose hair
Is streaked with grey and upon whose face
Time's graving tool has made its mark
In the netted lines he loves to trace.

Ah gentle maiden, with brow serene,
With pure clear eyes and cheek of rose,
'Twas a sorry path that your tender feet
Took toward the goal that the woman knows!
And just when and where you lost by the way
Your girlish grace, ah who can say?

But whatever lives in the woman's soul
Of faith and honor and love and trust,
Comes not from wisdom the years have brought,
Nor knowledge gained by the world's hard thrust;—
Ah no, 'tis a legacy ever dear,
From the maid whose face is pictured here!

State Officers Paid in Pelts.

Probably few people to-day know that the original name of the state of Tennessee was Franklin, or that in 1788 the salaries of the officers of this commonwealth were paid in pelts, but the following is a correct copy of the law:

"Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of Franklin, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, that from and after the first day of January, 1788, the salaries of this commonwealth be as follows, to wit:

"His excellency, the governor, per annum, 100 deerskins.

"His honor, the chief justice, 500 deerskins.

"The secretary to his excellency, the governor, 500 raccoon skins.

"County clerk, 300 beaver skins

"Clerk of the house of commons, 200 raccoon skins.

"Members of the assembly, per diem, three raccoon skins.

"Justice's fee for serving a warrant, one mink skin."—*Murfreesboro, Tenn., Independent Banner.*

Protection for Soldier and Sailor.

We have the most superb army and navy on this earth; in courage, in *morale*, in proficiency, intelligence and patriotism, no finer bodies of men exist anywhere. Their achievements gleam like stars in the firmament of our national glory; they deserve the best we can give them in all things—the best ships, the best guns, food, clothing, the best protection. And the best protection means not only armor for their ships and walls for their forts; they are entitled to protection in life, liberty and reputation. These men did not leave behind them all these things, so dear to every citizen, when they entered the army or navy; in proceedings where all or any one of these three jewels of American citizenship are involved, the solder and the sailor should be given the same privileges and should be hedged about with the same safeguards as are demanded by the law for the protection of all other American citizens.—From "The Existing Court Martial System," by Earl M. Cranston, in *North American Review* for February.

Klondike Prices.

A returned miner from the Klondike says that in the latter part of October flour was selling at $16 per hundred weight; corn meal, 25 cents per pound; bacon, from 35 to 50 cents per pound; beans, 15 cents per pound; rice, 25 cents per pound; baking powder, $1 per pound; canned butter, $4.50 per pound; milk, $1 per pint can; beefsteak, 75 cents to $1 per pound; moose meat, 60 cents per pound; sugar, 35 cents per pound; potatoes, 50 cents per pound; green apples, 25 cents each; watermelons, $25 each; cranberry and custard pies, $1 each. There are only two milch cows in Dawson, and although feed is high, hay being $440 per ton, the owner is coining money.

Good-Bye, Old Year.

Good-bye, old year! go softly, Time,
Have careful thought for me and mine.
Then outward sail—out into space,
To bid some sphere, some other face
A gay New Year,—
Good-bye.

We press thee by thy finger tips,
As once some vanished, sweeter lips—
Then come again to soothe this soul,
So love I thee, away dost roll,
For gay New Year,—
Good-bye.

Didn't Use a Lantern.

An old country gentleman, returning home rather late, discovered a yokel with a lantern under his kitchen window, who, when asked his business there, stated he had only "come a-courting." "Come what?" said the irate gentleman. "A-courting, sir. I'se courting Mary." "That's not true. What do you want a lantern for? I never used one when I was a young man." "No, sir," was the yokel's reply, "I don't think yer did, judging by the missis."

A New Drink.

Englishman—What will you take?

Frenchman—I will take a drop of ze contradiction.

Englishman—Contradiction! What on earth do you mean?

Frenchman—Vell, you put in ze whisky to make it strong, ze water to make it weak, ze lemon to make it sour and ze sugar to make it sweet. Den you say, "Here's to you," and you take it yourself.—*Spare Moments.*

The Skating Championship.

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Jan. 30.—Eight men started in the one mile Hudson Valley championship Saturday afternoon, as follows: Hoffman, Cohoes; Kent, Cornwall; Gibb, Newbury; Sager, West Point; Boock, Tarrytown; Galbraith, Poughkeepsie; Thomas, Newburg; Roosa, Newburg. The finish was as follows: Thomas, first; Sager, second; Gibb, third; time, 3m. 12s.

Beats the Klondike.

Mr. A. C. Thomas, of Marysville, Tex., has found a more valuable discovery than has yet been made in the Klondike. For years he suffered untold agony from consumption, accompanied by hemorrhages; and was absolutely cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. He declares that gold is of little value in comparison with this marvelous cure; would have it even if it cost a hundred dollars a bottle. Asthma, Bronchitis and all throat and lung affections are positively cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Trial bottles free at M. A. Toulson's drug store. Regular size 50c. and $1.00. Guaranteed to cure or price refunded.

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