OLD KENT

BY COL. GEO. A. HANSON, M. A.
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COMMUNICATION No. 2.

(The following rapid narration is condensed from the authors previously cited, chiefly from Bozman.)

ISLE OF KENT.

This beautiful Island was settled, as we have seen, between the years 1627 and 1630, by William Clayborne, its government organized as a Colony of Virginia and as such represented in the General Assembly of Virginia, which was "holden at James Citty the 21st of February 1631-2, O. S.

It appears, that towards the latter part of the year 1637, O. S., the Isle of Kent had been in some measure reduced to the obedience of the Lord Baltimore. Clayborne had failed in his attempts to retain possession of it, by force, and had, as before stated, been sent by the Governor of Virginia to England, to seek what remedy he might find there.

It now became necessary to extend and establish the civil authority of the Lord Proprietor over the Island, as a part of the Province of Maryland. Accordingly, on the 30th day of December, 1637, O. S., Loanard Calvert, Governor of Maryland, constituted and appointed his "good friend Captain GEORGE EVELYN, of the Isle commonly called Kent," "to be Commander of the said Island and the inhabitants thereof," with power to elect and choose a Council, and to call a "court or courts," to hear and determine "all causes and actions whatsoever civil" not exceeding in damages or demands the value of ten pounds sterling, and with the criminal jurisdiction of a "justice of peace in England," not extending to life or member, etc.

Notwithstanding, and although, Clayborne was absent, many of the inhabitants did not hesitate to express their contempt for and resist the constituted authorities; and it was deemed necessary that the Governor, assisted by Captain Thomas Cornwaleys, one of the Council, and a competent armed force, should proceed to the Island and reduce its seditious inhabitants, by martial law if necessary.

The Governor thought the emergency a serious one; and he appointed Mr. John Lewger, his secretary, to act in his stead during his absence from St. Mary's.

On the 22nd day of April 1638, O. S. Governor Calvert appointed WILLIAM BRAINTHWAYTE, to be "Commander of the Isle of Kent in all matters of warfare by sea and land necessary to the resistance of the enemy or suppression of mutinies and insolencies," in all matters civil and criminal to exercise the jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace, to hold a court or courts, and to hear and deterimne all causes civil "not exceeding in damages or demands to the value of one thousand weight of tobacco."

Hereafter we shall find the weight of tobacco to be the standard of all valuations.

A General Assembly met at the Fort of St. Mary's, (on Monday, the 25th of February, 1638,-1639, N. S.) Mr. Nicholas Browne, planter, and Mr. Christopher Thomas appeared, among the Burgesses, as the Delegates from Kent. Their credentials, the returns from the Isle of Kent, were certified by twenty-four (24) signatures. Supposing these signatures to have been the names of all the male heads of families, then on the Isle of Kent, as they most probably were, it would afford a tolerable datum, from which might be inferred the aggregate white population of the Island at this period of time. Accounting five to a family, the usual computation, the population would amount to one hundred and twenty souls.

At this Assembly (1638-39) the powers of the Commander were more clearly ascertained, and a "Court of Record" was erected, to be called—the HUNDRED COURT OF KENT; of which the Commander of the Island was to be the judge, and from which court an appeal lay to the County Court at St. Mary's. Provision was also made for the Supreme Court at St. Mary's to sit occasionally on the Isle of Kent.

In consequence of dangers arising from the hostility of the "salvages," "Captain GILES BRENT, Esqr., one of the Council," as commissioned, February 3rd, 1839, O. S., to be CoCmmander of the Isle of Kent," with military powers. This was for special and temporary purposes. He remained on the Isle, in commission, but a few months, for it appears that on the 14th day of August, 1640, WILLIAM BRAINTHWAYTE was acknowledged by the Governor as Commander of the Isle and "GILES BRENT, gent.," as the "treasurer of our province."

The Indians had, again become so hostile, that the Governor on the 10th day of July, 1641, issued his proclamation, prohibiting all persons whatsoever" to harbour or entertain any Indian," under pain of the penalties of martial law, and declaring it "lawful to any inhabitants whatsoever of the Isle of Kent, to shoot, wound, or kill any Indian whatsoever coming upon the said isInad."

On the 16th day of December 1642, O. S., MR. GILES BRENT, was appointed, by commission, "to be Commander of our Isle and COUNTY OF KENT; to be Chief Captain in all matters of warfare; and to be Chief Judge in all matters and things civil and criminal, happening within the said Island, not extending to life or member or freehold." In the same commission, also, "William Ludington, Richard Thompson, and Robert Vaughan, gent., were appointed to be commissioners within our said island to all powers and effects as to commissioners of a county by the law of the province do or shall belong." Commissioners of a county appear to have been then considered as having, not only the powers of conservators of the peace at common law, but as thereby authorized to hold a county court. These gentlemen seem, therefore, to have been now first authorized to hold a county court in the Isle of Kent.

If any such Court was held by them the Record, and all evidence of it, has been lost.

The Isle of Kent, whilom, the proud but beautiful Virgin Queen of the Chesapeake, deserted by her erring faineant lover, was now joined in the bonds of holy wedlock with Maryland; changing her state, she also changed her name, and together with all her possessions will hereafter be known as

KENT COUNTY,

until, irreverent hands carved away with invisible lines her ancient domains; and herself, sole relic of the olden time, deprived of her marriage crown, was given as a dowry to the daughter of her eldest sister.

As seen before, about this time, 1644, William Clayborne was at his old tricks, troubling the Colony, providing about and instigating the Indians to make war upon the inhabitants. Governor Calvert was about as much alarmed as a shepherd is, who sees, some fine morning, the tracks of a well known offender, a wolf, around his pasture lands; accordingly, about the 1st of December, he sent a reconnoitering expedition under the command of Mark Pheypo and John Genalles to spy out the land, and "to enquire whether Captain Clayborne, or any other, have made any disturbance of the peace, or committed any outrage upon the island, and to learn what force he did it with, and what strength he is of there at sea or shore, and what his intents further be, and how long he means to stay." They were also authorized to publish a proclamation declaring Captain William Clayborne, Esqr., and Richard Thompson, enemies of the Province, etc. The result of this expedition is not known. Clayborne did not show his teeth, on that occasion; he was not ready to bite.

Another expedition was sent against William Clayborne, who had again resorted to open force to regain his former possessions. We have before seen him, immediately after the dissoluaiton of the old charters of Virginia, placed in the conspicuous stations of Councillor and Secretary of that province. He had also in the year 1642, experienced the King's favor in the year 1642, experienced the King's favor in appointing him to the office of "King's treasurer within the dominion of Virginia during his life." We may therefore consider him as having been for some years past an inhabitant of Virginia, agreeably performing the duties of his office; but now for interested purposes he had forsaken his King and benefactor, and arrayed himself under the banner of the Parliament. It is not improbable, but that he acted also under the ordinance of Parliament, of November 1643, whereby the superintendence of the Colonies was invested in the Earl of Warwick, with a council of five Peers and twelve Commoners, who were authorized "to nominate, appoint, and constitute all such subordinate governors, councillars, officers and agents, as they shall judge to be best affected, and most fit and serviceable for the said plantations, and to remove others." Interest is a powerful persuader of the affections, and they might with confidence, count upon, "one Captaine William Clayborne."

WILLIAM BRAINTHWAYNE, Esq., was, again, on the 1st day of January, 1 44, O. S., commissioned "to be Commander of Kent, with all authority civil and criminal, which heretofore to any Commander hath belonged, and in absence to depute such person as he shall think fit, and John Wyat, Robert Vaughan, gent., John Abbott, William Cox, commissioners."

In the early part of the year 1647 O. S., Governor Calvert proceeded to reclaim and reduce Kent Island to the obedience of the Lord Proprietary. We have no information as to the circumstances, whether peacefully or otherwise, attending the repossession of the Island. All that we know is, that the inhabitants "submitted themselves again to his Lordship's government" and took the oath of fealty to Lord Baltimore.

The most of Clayborne's adherents fled to parts unknown, an act thought to be "acceptable to God, not displeasing to his Majesty, and an assured happiness unto this Colony."

Some few, however, remained, took the oath of fealty and were pardoned, the 16th of April, 1647, O. S. Their names were Thomas Bradnox Edward Comins, John Metham, Thomas Belt, Robert Short, Francis Lumbard, John Ayres, Zackary Wade, Richard Catesford, Edward Lannin and Walter Joanes.

Governor Calvert, also, the 18th day of Aprl, 1647, O. S., commissioned Robert Vaughan, gent., to be "chief Captain and Commander," under him (the Governor) "of all the militia of the Isle of Kent, and with it to command and execute whatsoever shall be by him thought requisite for the said Island agains tall intestine for the said Island against all intestine mutinies or seditions," invested him with the power of martial law; "provided that where the offence shall deserve the forfeiture of life or member, that such offender for his trial be referred, and judgment to the provincial court, to be held by his lordship's governor and council of this province." He further authorized "the said Captain Robert Vaughan to award all process necessary, according to the law and custom of this province," etc., and he also authorized the said Captain Robert Vaughan, William Cox, Thomas Bradnox, Edward Comins, Philip Conner, and Francis Brooke, gent., or the major part of them, hereof the said Robert Vaughan to be aways one, to hear, try, and judge, according to the laws of this province, all actions and causes civil," except "where the freehold of any one shall come in question," provided that it shall be lawful for any man at any time before execution served," "to appeal unto the provincial court;" and he also invested them with criminal jurisdiction, "excepting when the life or members of any one person shall come in question."

Before the Governor left the Island, he issued, on the 20th April 1647, O. S., another commission "to Captain Robert Vaughan and the rest of the commissioners of the Isle of Kent," requiring them to cause all the property "belonging unto any of the late rebels," those who "had fled from thence or were remaining" who had refused "to take the oath of fealty," "to be attached and kept in safe custody," etc.

After his return to St. Mary's, on the 5th day of May, he issued a Proclamation prohibiting the departure of any person out of the province without leave or the entertainment of any stranger, "until they had been first at the fort of St. Inigoes."

He further authorized Captain Vaughan, by commission dated the 31st of May "to collect, demand, and receive, for the use of the lord proprietary, all customs, confiscations, forfeitures and escheat by any means, and at any time due to his said lordship upon the said island," and also by two other commissions to Mr. Francis Brooke, he was required to take into his custody "all neat cattle belonging to his lordship in the said Island," and particularly, "all the estate of John Abbott, late of said island."

These were the last acts of Governor Leonard Calvert; a few days afterwards on the 9th of June 1647, O. S., he died, after having appointed by a verbal nomination Mr. Thomas Greene as his successor.

Having now faithfully traced, by the light of general history, the History of Kent County from its first settlement, I will now confine myself to the channel marked out by

THE OLDEST EXTANT
RECORD OF KENT COUNTY.

It commences "on ye 3rd of January, 1647, O. S. To illustrate and impart a knowledge, of which, is the sole and proper motive of the preparation and publication of these papers.

(continued next week)

The Fable of the Vacation at Home

By GEORGE ADE

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ONCE there was a Business Slave whose much Better Half was all feverish to pick up and go as far South as the Tickets would carry them. She had been reading those Palm-Tree Ads which show an improved Garden of Eden decorated with the Idle-Rich until she was fair Cuckoo. This Woman had a lurking Desire to see her Picture in the Rotagravure Section along with a Cluster of those camera-shy Celebrities wearing that ruddy Facial Tint which can be acquired only in the Locker Room of a high-class Country Club. She wanted to go where Night was turned into Day and Day was turned into a Massage Treatment. She wanted to step out. Such are the Cold Facts in the Case.

Now this Typical American Husband was disposed to give Sweetie everything in or out of Reason but he was sitting in a Game of High Finance in which no Player dared to look out of the Window or wipe his Spectacles, leave alone taking a long Journey. She was afraid to go alone, for fear that someone might take her for a Widow and want to dance with her. She could not dig up a Female Relative or Acquaintance who wasn't either too Staid and Conservative or else short on Snappy Wardrobe. Besides, a Party of Two Persons when both are acting as Chaperons never did develop any Excitement, so the whole Situation was very dark.

Imported Atmosphere.

The Provider knew that she was moping over the Prospect of being penned up in a $50,000 Prison, with only four Servants to wait on her and no Place to go except Theaters, Moving Pictures, Musicales, Bridge Parties, Receptions, Dog Shows, Art Exhibits and Auction Sales of Antique furniture. So he tried to frame up a Scheme to give her right at home, some of the celestial Delights of which she was being cheated on account of his selfish Ambition to avoid going into Bankruptcy.

When he had laid all of his Plans he divulged them to her as follows: He said it was out of the Question for them to think of traipsing off to the Tropics, but he had fixed it so as to give her most of the Thrills which she would get almost anywhere between Jacksonville and Panama.

"Listen, Honey," he began. "I have arranged with Mr. Wilgus of the Wilgus Floral Company to get the use of their large Conservatory. We can sit under the high Dome and be entirely surrounded by Palms, Rubber Plants and Orange Trees. The Temperature will be well above Ninety, so we can wear our very lightest June Stuff, including the Sailor Straws and White Shoes. When we get thoroughly Steamheated and are surrounded by all of that equatorial Vegetation, the Illusion will be so convincing that we can very well imagine ourselves to be away off yonder in the dreamy Southland which is now just as dreamy as any Boiler Factory you ever listened to."

"You are certainly mapping out a Gay Time for me," said the Skeptical Missus. "What would be the big Idea in sitting under a lot of sheltering Palms for Hours at a Time?"

Fish, Jazz, and Bell-Hops.

"You forget," he reminded her. "You forget that about once an Hour you would retire to a small Apartment furnished with a Pine Bedstead, two Chairs and a Calendar and make a complete Change of Costume, clear down to the Rigging. I have arranged to build into the Hot House an accurate Replica of the usual Bedroom at the typical Tourist Hotel. I have even gone so far as to order a Cake of everlasting Soap and alter the Plumbing so that the Tub can be filled the same Day. I may have some trouble in locating any Mosquitoes, but if they are to be had, you will get them. Also, the Setting will be so contrived that, by looking in any Direction, you will see a Stuffed Fish. In the Semi-Distance, half concealed by the luxuriant Growth, will be Window Dummies draped in late and expensive and exceedingly brief Gowns of the most summery Description. You can see what my Thought is—to provide you with every possible Reminder of an overcrowded Caravansary at the Height of a hectic Season."

"It doesn't sound like much," persisted his wife. "Am I supposed to sleep in the Room during this imaginary Visit to the Land of Sunshine?"

"You know it! And you will have one Pillow which will be all right unless you happen to get it into your Ear. What's more, I will see to it that many giggling Night-Hawks stand outside of your Door and talk most of the Night. Everything is going to be Realistic.

"While I am going through with this idiotic Performance, am I supposed to meet any People or indulge in Conversation," she inquired.

"That has all been provided for. While you are sitting there among the Cocoa-Nuts I will turn loose one of these new-fangled Talking Machines which is just twice as loud as Paul Whiteman. It is impossible to Chat in the Presence of Jazz, so you will be just as well off as if you were entirely surrounded by the Elite of Omaha, South Bend and New York City. As a Substitute for the Talk which is usual at every Center of Gaiety I will permit you to read the Ratings of all our First Families as set down in Dun and Bradstreet. As a further Preventive of Ennui I will have a Colored Boy in a Blue Uniform come and stand in front of you every few Minutes. For no Reason whatsoever you will hand him Two Bits. Or, if you wish to hear him say 'Thank you,' it will be advisable to slip him One Buck."

"That is not my Idea of a Lark," said she, "hiring Bell Hops to go away."

Just a Good Idea Gone Wrong.

"It isn't any one's Idea of a Lark but it is one of the large incidental Features. But don't become impatient. You haven't heard the Half of it. As we sit there, basking in the Warmth, I will have several Cuties wiggle by in their One-Piece Suits. This will give you an excuse to say to me 'What are the Young People of these Days coming to?' Then, in order to keep right up with you, I will say, 'I don't know,' which will be the Truth, and also about as Important as most of the Remarks overheard at a Bathing Beach."

"The Scenario does not appeal to me," said the Wife, giving him one of those looks.

"Ah, but you haven't even yet learned of all the alluring Details. Every once in a while I will say to you, 'I can let you have Five Hundred Feet with an Ocean Frontage for Eight Thousand Dollars a Front Foot,' whereupon you will Yawn and say, 'No, if I build at all, I want a Big Place.' Bear in mind, too, that it is just as easy to send out Colored Post Cards from this synthetic Paradise as it would be from any of the Places you wish to visit. And you don't have to travel Hundreds of Miles in order to eat on the American Plan.

"I will see to it that while you are on this supposititous Spree you will subsist entirely on small Side Dishes of Canned Goods and float your Cereal in Milk which is made by melting a White Powder. You will be expected to complain about the Service. In fact, if you enter into the Spirit of this Thing, wholeheartedly, you will be pleased to learn that practically all of the usual Experience can be manufactured right here in the Frozen North."

"Before I married you," said the Good Woman, "All of my Relations warned me that you were Eccentric but I do not recall that anyone tipped it off to me that you were plum Gone."

"I was afraid it wouldn't go through," said he, very humbly. "The trouble is I couldn't work in a long Railroad Ride or a Mess of Scandal or employ a sufficiently large Corps of Gin Peddlers. But cheer up! Maybe we can go next Year."

"That's what you've said every winter since the War. By the Time you get ready, there won't be Standing Room."

MORAL: You cannot get a Sunstroke out of a Radiator.

Matter of Raiment

Eleanor was playing with a neighbor's puppies. She seemed to prefer the smallest of the group, the one whose breast was pure white while the rest of his body was brown. Mrs. R. asked, "Why do you like that one best, Eleanor?"

"Oh," she answered, "because it has that cute, white shirt on."

What Not to Say

An Indiana woman recently received a parrot. One day she was shocked to find her young son talking to the bird in questionable language.

"Why, Jimmie," she said, "you mustn't teach Polly to swear."

"Oh, I'm not, mother," he answered; "I'm just telling her what she mustn't say."

This condition can't last . . . we're all going to live, and after the Lord has chastened us sufficiently for the excessess of the past, the broad road to prosperity will be opened up again. —Alfred E. Smith.

FURROWS



BY JOSIAH ALLEN WEATHERBY

Farmers' lives is a good deal like the dirt roads in the county, full of ruts. They git in the habit of doin things in certain ways and they just keep on doin 'em the same way. Most of the things farmers do is done without much thinkin ahead. They plant the same crops every year, and keep on plantin in the same way, in spite of the fact that fer a good many years we have had a county agent supported by the Government to show us how to improve our methods of farmin. Some says it don't do no good to use improved methods in farmin fer all that does is to increase the production and lower the price we git fer our crops.

Now, that's all foolishness. And that's just where one of the ruts comes in. Improved methods without reduction acreage will add more to the surplus. But here is where the sense ought to come in. If you can raise the same amount of a crop on one-fourth less land you save on the labor used in growin that crop, and that labor can be used fer some other crop, say makin a good garden, or it could be used fer some much needed rest and enjoyment.

I wuz talkin to a miller not long ago about this very thing, and he said: "Why, the farmers don't need no rest. They git more rest than any other class of men I know. They come to my place in the mornin and set around fer hours talkin about things that don't amount to nothin. They waste a lot of time." "Well," says I, "at that, them same farmers puts in more time than you do. You didn't start to work till around seven o'clock in the mornin and most of them farmers wuz workin at four. They had to start then to git their milk to the station on time. And you quit about five or six o'clock, but them farmers worked till the sun wuz down and then had to do the milkin and feedin after that time. And by the time they got all their night work done and had supper it wuz time to go to bed."

Well, farmers do waste a lot of time, but it ain't generally wasted by doin nothin. It's wasted doin work that they could save by usin their heads a little more. There ain't much real plannin by most farmers, and that's one reason some of 'em don't git along no better. Jed says that the best crops is growed by usin brains fer fertilizer. And I reckon he ain't so fer off, at that.

As a general rule farmers don't keep no books, and don't figur out how much each crop costs to grow. And that's another rut. But I reckon most farmers is too tired to set down and figger out costs of labor, fertilizer, rent on the land and depreciation of tools, and all that stuff. But it would pay to do it fer then a man could know just how much he wuz losin on each crop. When merchants (the business-like ones) find that they lose money on a certain lot of stock they change that stock to something else that will pay a profit. Farmers ought to do the same way with losin crops. Zeke says, "Land sakes, if I done that way, Josiah, I wouldn't do no farmin at all, fer I lose money on all my crops."

"Well Zeke," says I' "accordin to Jed you don't mix enough brains with your fertilizer." You hear a lot of farmers sayin they lose money on all their crops, but they can't tell you just how much they lost on each crop, and how they know they lost money. They ain't got no figgers to prove it.

I reckon it's too much trouble to do much thinkin about costs and profits and labor and losses, just like it seems to be too much trouble to put the farm tools in the shed out of the weather. Most farmers has to pay a heavy tax to the weather fer leavin their tools lyin around where they wuz used last, and I reckon they pay a heavy tax to loss by not usin more head work in their business of farmin. But farmers is like a lot of other people in this world. It seems to be a lot easier to travel in ruts than it is to git out, so they just keep on in the same old way, wearin the ruts deeper.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has obtained from the Orphans' Court for Kent County letters Testamentary on the personal estate of

MARY ELIZABETH CAPEL

late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased's estate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchers thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of August, 1933, otherwise they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said deceased's personal estate.

All persons indebted to this estate must settle at once.

Given under my hand this 21st day of February, 1933.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR, Executrix.

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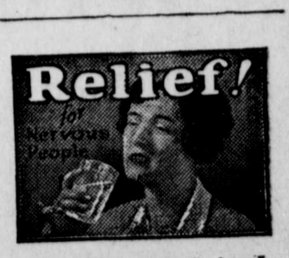
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