OLD KENT

COMMUNICATION No. 3

BY COL. GEO. A. HANSON, M. A.

Reprinted from issue of The Transcript of March 26, 1875.

The next paper but one will be founded upon and exclusively illustrative of the ANCIENT RECORDS OF KENT COUNTY; and will embrace events subsequent to the year 1649, in which was enacted,

.."THE ACT CONCERNING RELI-.. GION."

About it there has been so much sentimental twaddle indulged in, and so many false inferences have been drawn, that I feel it incumbent on me to make a remark, lest silence might be misinterpreted.

Many Roman Catholic writers, for the sake of the argument, to the American people, claim the credit of its passage, if they admit that it was creditable, (?) as due to members of their own Church. Especially, is this true of Mr. James McSherry. Some Protestant writers rather admit or concede this claim, chief among whom is Mr. George L.L .Davis. I will not, unconditionally, admit the fairness of the former, and I distrust the courtesy of the latter. Let not any one suppose that I impugn the personal character of either! "Amicus Plato, amicus Socrates, sed majis amica veritas." I knew them both intimately. From my earliest childhood I saw Mr. McSherry almost daily, and, in the latter years of his life, I conversed with him upon literary and historical subjects nearly every day. I know that he was an honorable, modest, refined gentleman,—and a devoted Roman Catholic. Besides his "History of Maryland," which I always open with pleasure and close with regret, he wrote several works of fiction and among them one, in which he revamps the scandals propagated by the infamous renegade and degraded Churchill, and thereby blackens the personal reputation of one ot the grandest characters in English History; of whom every man who speaks our language ought to be proud; and in this Mr. McSherry unveiled the bias of his mind.

With Mr. Davis my relations were equally as intimate, though less familiar; our intercourse being, necessarily, more infrequent and constrained. We corresponded, exchanged frequent letters, through many years. He was eccentric, even, to the verge of singularity, had his own peculiar peculiarities, and had a right to have them, as we all have: but a better citizen, a more high-toned, truthful, chivalrous, romantic gentleman, never trod the land of Maryland. I was, at his special request, one of his pall bearers, and assisted to lay him down, reverently, in his native soil that he loved so well.

Now, mark! "The Day-Star," upon which he rested his fame, was composed, written and published during the heady fever of the "Know Nothing" excitement when politics joined in illicit yoke with religious fanaticism and sought to disfranchise a portion of his fellow citizens. Like a chivalrous knight, as he truly was; he couched his lance in defence of those who suffered wrong. In the "melee" he often disarmed a friend to assist an enemy and, therefore, I distrust the courtesy of the philanthropic author.

The GRANT of the Charter for Maryland was one of those special Providences, unparalleled in history and for which we hunt in vain for a precedent.

CHARLES I. was a Protestant; the King of a Protestant people, who, had, recently, been ruthlessly persecuted by the Bloody Mary: and of a government pledged to uphold and defend Protestantism. CECILIUS CALVERT was a Roman Catholic, and the son a Roman Catholic, and the son of a pervert. (McSherry, p. 22). It was extraordinary that Charles I., would give to him a "Proprietary Charter;" and it was natural t hat he (Charles I.) should and did exact toleration of Protestantism. It was surprising, almost a miracle, that Cecilius Calvert, a Roman Catholic, could, in that age, lay aside the prejudices of his recent education, disregard the teachings and traditions of his Church, and in good faith, accept it; but it was a natural matter of course, that, he, covetous of wealth and power, would faithfully redeem his pledge, once given, being well assured that itwoul d be sternly required of him. Of this, he was often and continually made, painfully, aware.

But, be this as it may, Cecilius Calvert, Baron, of Baltimore, did, in this great matter, preserve his honor, untarnished; and, for this, has deservedly won and secured the affectionate gratitude of every lover of religious toleration throughout all Christendom.

The praise, of the ACT, itself, its BESTOWAL, must be laid as a votive offering upon the grave of him, Charles I., whose untimely fate excites our commiseration and appeals to our sympathy; but the crowning glory of its fulfilment and development is due equally to each and all who participated in the Acts of the Assembly of 1649. Upon their brows, therefore, let us, with no invidious distinctions, gratefully, tenderly and lovingly twine the civic wreath of IMMORTAL PRAISE. Surely the laborer is worth of his hire!

Let it not, hereafter, be considered a disparagement to Protestantism, that this fair Fabric of Toleration was rudely hewn down, hacked to pieces and mutilated by the "apostolic blows and knocks" of the Puritans; for they were sui generis, a law unto themselves, a peculiar people, fearfully and wonderfully made, under the protection of CALIBAN, that freckled whelp, whose dadm was SYCORAX, or some other foreign Devil.

It was about the year 1648 or 1649, during the administration of Governor William Stone, that, the Puritans made their lair in Maryland. They called it Providence. It is now known as the city of Annapolis. They came uninvited and were only "received and protected," as their historian, Mr. Leonard Strong, quaintly observes. They took possession of the land without leave or license. They were, for the most part, refugees from a malignant conventicle which the authorities of Virginia had broken up. Their leader was an elder named William Durand who, in company with Strong, we shall hereafter see, paid his respects to Kent. They acknowledged no law, except the edicts framed in their congregational conclaves, refused to take the oath of fealty to Lord Baltimore; and asked for and received no title deeds for the land they dwelt upon. They are, therefore, fairly entitled to the distinction of being called the first "squatters" known in American History. As long as they kept their "hands from picking" at other people, they were permitted, unmolested, to pursue, their "principle of things." "For why!—because the good old Rule

Sufficed them, the simple Plan,
That they should take, who have the power
And they should keep who can."

Very soon the settlement, by recruits from other Provinces whence they had been ignominiously expelled, became a very cave of Adullam; "every one that was in distress," on account of other people's sins; "every one that was in debt" to the violated laws of his country; and "every one that was discontented," by reason of the blessings God had given to his more worthy and fortunate neighbors, "gathered themserves" there.

"Providence" held itself aloof from the rest of the Colony until Governor Stone visited and, in person persuaded, them to send delegates to the General Assembly which met, 6th April, 1650, O. S., when it was erected into a County, called Anne Arundel after the late Lady Baltimore, recently deceased, who was the beautiful daughter of Lord Arundel of Wardour. For further particulars of the settlement of the Puritans the reader is referred to that very interesting book, the "Annals of Annapolis, etc." by Mr. David Ridgely.

The leaven, of Puritanism was immediately felt and noted in oru hither to dignified and quiet Legislature. It stealthily wormed itself into power and finally culminated in the disgraceful revolution, vulgarly called, either from want of charity or of discernment of the true philosophy of historical events, the Protestant revolution of 1689.

When true Protestantism again prevailed, Toleration, which is a fundamental idea with all Protestants, "ubique, semper et omnibus," diffused its vivifying warmth throughout the whole Province.

It is due, however, to say that every thoughtful and studious reader of history will admit, that, the sad excesses and concomicants of the revolution of 1689 were, only, remotely produced by religious feeling. It was a personal matter. One class of men were arrayed against another class. The direct and moving cause was the general belief in the truth of a cruel slander, designedly, concocted abroad, with sinister purposes, and perseveringly circulated here,—that the Roman Catholics, led by their Jesuit Fathers, were engaged in a secret plot, with the Indians, to massacre the whole white Protestant population. One who is at all familiar with the story of those times, when the distant and sparsely peopled settlements were daily exposed to the dangers of the scalping knife and tomahawk, can readily imagine what a thrill of horror and of fear such a belief produced.

We can laugh at the silly story, now, but then, the mother took it to bed with her children, and trembled when her good man went afield to pursue his avocations.

Fear makes cowards of us all, and cowardice is always suspicious, intolerant and cruel. Those of my readers who, during the late civil strife, lived near the border, within the sound and sight of contending armies, and saw how this, the most despicable of all human passions, severed all ties, whether of Church, blood, or friendship, can easily understand what I mean when I assert that it was a spell more potent than differences in religious conviction, which evoked the fell Demon of Discord in and among the pleasant vales of the "Land of the Sanctuary."

As soon as the minds of the inhabitants recovered from the amazement engendered and created by Puritanism, "HE who helpeth them to right who suffer wrong," tempered the affections of the people and restored peace, tranquilty and brotherly love.

When I reflect, how good, well behaved, amiable and beloved the first Roman Catholic settlers are acknowledged to have been, I can come to no other conclusion than the one I have expressed.

As for mysif, I have no patience with the Puritans. Out of chips of the same old block still crawl vermin, descriptively named after him who first "carried the bag," and known, of all men, by the enphonius and expressive title "Carpet Baggers."

Ye Gods, what a name for a white man and a brother!

Besides all that, which is away down yonder in the sunny South, here in Maryland, my native, my beloved State, they turned God's peace into Devil's spite,

"Armed one Christian 'gainst another,
Discord sow'd 'twixt sister, brother,
Husband, wife, and warmest friends:
They darken'd every ray that lends
A charm or hope to human life!
Through the town they crawl'd along
leaving everywhere the slime,
Of thir slander and their crime.
A toad's heart, a snake's soul
Impel or check, excite control."

And yet, forsooth, they did good service in their troubled day; for which posterity is mildly grateful. They scouraged, like a spongy besom, many vices; were the political chimney sweeps of all England, and in the end were ten times more the children of darkness than they were at the beginning. They ought to have done to themselves what they did unto others,—washed.

Alas! that it should be spoken; they "Compounded for sins they were inclined to,
By damning those they had no mind to."

It is comforting to know that they, as such, made no lodgment and effected no serious social influence among the inhabitants of Kent, who were too debonair to admire their lantern jaws or to digest their patched and piebald languages. The plentiful supply of canvass-back ducks, diamond-back terrapins, oysters, and other delicacies and the general "bonhomie" of the people took all the stiffening out of their starch, if it failed as to their cups, and they speedily became humanized and civilized like other folk.

I have used the expression "Many Roman Catholic writers," etc., advisedly; for they are not all of the same mind. I, therefore, quote with emphasis, the following significant and pregnant language from an authoritative source, which may be ex cathedia: "The Catholic colonists still retained in 1649 an ascendancy in the Legislature, and passed an Act which provided, that no Christian believer should be disturbed on account of his religious opinions. The wisdom or prudence of this legislation has been questioned; but it is difficult to understand how a different course could have been pursued under existing circumstances; for if the Maryland Charter did not require the Proprietary to tolerate Protestant sects, he was at least compelled by the increasing anti-Catholic spirit and influence in the mother-country to manifest the most liberal policy." P. 604, vol. vi., of "A General History of the Catholic Church from the Commencement of the Christian Era to the Present Time, by M. L. Abbe J. E. Darras. First American from the last French Edition, with an Introduction and Notes by THE MOST REV. M. J. SPALDING, D. D., ARCHBISHOP OF BALTIMORE, NEW YORK, P. O'Shea, Publisher: 1865.

"Verbum sat sapienti."

It is interesting to us to know that our beloved county was represented in the Assembly of 1649 by Captain Robert Vaughau, gent.; and that he voted for the "ACT CONCERNING RELIGION."

GHACCB

(continued next week)

Agricultural Notes

(BY COUNTY AGENT McVEAN)

GARDEN INFORMATION

Many people will want a garden this year who may be out of practice in the art of gardening. To meet the need of such people and any interested in gardening, a splendid bulletin "More Vegetables From the Home Garden" may be had at the County Agent's office.

The bulletin is simple, complete and has many tables of useful information. It will help the beginner in gardening as well as the experienced gardener.

A good garden is one of the most efficient means of overcoming reduced income or of reducing the living costs. A good garden is worth well over a hundred dollars in the saving it makes possible in the cost of living.

The bulletin will guide the gardener along practical lines and may save many mistakes.

Silo Used As Ice House

Mr. Earl Nickerson, living near Blacks Station, has worked ou ta splendid aid to economical dairying. He built two silos which extend down into the ground eleven or twelve feet. These provide succulent roughage to lessen the cost of milk production, then when one silo was emptied, Mr. Nickerson filed it to the ground level with ice from a nearby pond. This he has a means of keeping his milk cold over night, which insures a high percentage of acceptable milk at the cooling station door.

This is a happy combination. There are plenty of opportunities for this combination in Kent. There are also plenty of opportunities to reduce the cost of reducing milk by taking advantage of special conditions and by "taking up the slack" in production methods in use.

Kent Soil Map Now Available

A booklet containing a discussion of the soils of Kent County has been issued by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Maryland Geological Survey and the Maryland Experiment Station.

Many will recall Mr. H. B. Winant and his assistant J. P. Bewley who did the soil survey field work here in 1930.

The booklet is of real value to farm owners, farm operators and to prospective buyers of farm property. It Extension workers materially in advising farmers who call at the office for information as to crops to grow; soil treatment; fertilizer recommendations, etc.

The booklet is not available for free distribution but may be purchased from the Superintendant of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

The Public Service Commission refused this week to grant a permit to Woodland N. Payne of Pocomoke City Md., to operate motor vehicles in the transportation of freight from Crisfield to Snow Hill, by way of Marion, Westover and Pocomoke City.

A hearing in the matter was held February 27, when the permit was protested by the Victor Lynn Transportation Company, which is engaged in a trucking business on the Eastern Shore.

Three Chincotague men narrowly escaped drowning Monday afternoon when their car burst a tire and plunged through the railing of the Chincoteague channel bridge and dropped into twelve feet of water. The accident occured at Queen Sound bridge near the Chincoteague approach.

Breaking the windows of the car all three swam ashore escaping with a few cuts and bruises.

FURROWS



BY JOSIAH ALLEN WEATHERBY

Jed has started his plowin and I reckon when Jed begins to make a crop it's about time fer other people to do the same. He is about the most sensible farmer in these parts. He has a way about his farmin that gits results. He wuz one of the first farmers in this community to try deep plowin. It worked out all right fer Jed and then some of the other neighbors took it up. Jed don't do all of his plowing deep like. He only plows deep when he is breakin his land, specially in the fall if he wants it to lie fallow and take up the winter rains.

He says farmin is like the rest of life. If you use good common sense you git along, and if you don't it will cost you a lot. Fer instance, he says a lot of people on the farms don't take no care of their stock and poultry and they pay fer it in lack of production. Some people think stock and poultry never needs no water, and that they don't mind drinkin dirty water. Well, good clean and fresh water and plenty of it fer poultry and stock will make a lot of difference in their health. Healthy hens lay more eggs, and healthy stock does better work. Jed says his poultry and stock is mighty nigh human anyway.

Winter is a hard time to git over. But when Spring comes along it makes people feel better, and I reckon birds and animals on the farms feel better, and I reckon birds and animals on the too. Spring is a good time to have a general cleanup around the place so as to let things git started off better. Nobody can work if there is filth lyin all around. It's just the same with hosses, cows and poultry. They can't do their best in filthy quarters. Jed has got his place all cleaned up long ago, afore the rest of the people in our neighborhood realized Winter wuz over. But that's the way with life. Some people is always a step ahead.

Most of the farmers out our way depend a lot on commercial fertilizer, but Jed makes most of his and he most always makes good crops. He has been puttin out manure fer a good while now and except fer what the heavy rains washed away a good deal of it has soaked into the ground by this time. He says commercial fertilizer is good fer a stimulant but ground needs bulk to help it hold moisture. I reckon if more farmers would try to make more of their own fertilizer they wouldn't have to grumble so much about not havin money to pay their fertilizer bills with. That's one place where common sense comes in.

Most every year Jed tries some new crop. He says he ain't one to git into a rut and stay there. If a crop ain't suited fer his land he quits plantin it and tries some other one. He says he don't make no big money out of any one crop but makes a little out of several. I been knowin him a long time and he ain't never made a complete failure yet. No crop is too little fer him to leave go to waste. He saves everything, turns it to account. I reckon if we could git to seein things like he does we would all be better off in the end. There is t oo many that depends entirely on money crops. But it takes people a longtime to learn about their mistakes. It's the same in life with other kinds of business. People don't learn how to save till it's too late. But folks is that way.

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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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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

ETHELINE P. HACKETT

late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased's estate are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the proper vouchrs thereof, to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of October, 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 28th day of March, 1933.

SARAH H. HACKETT, Executrix.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.50 per annum.

NOTICE TO CITY TAXPAYERS

The time limit for the payment of city taxes will expire on April 1 according to law. All taxpayers who have not yet paid their taxes on their real estate, personalty, and automobiles are urged to do so at their earliest convenience. On all taxes unpaid as of January 1, 1933, interest is due from September 1, 1932. The time is approaching when spring and summer work will begin, and in order to make needed improvements and to meet outstanding obligations promptly, it is necessary that all outstanding taxes be paid on or before April 1. Please give this matter your prompt attention.

By order of
THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL.
Thos. D. Bowers, Clerk mr25-2t.

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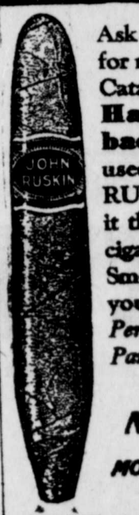
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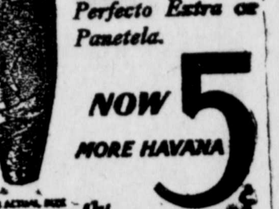
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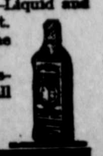
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