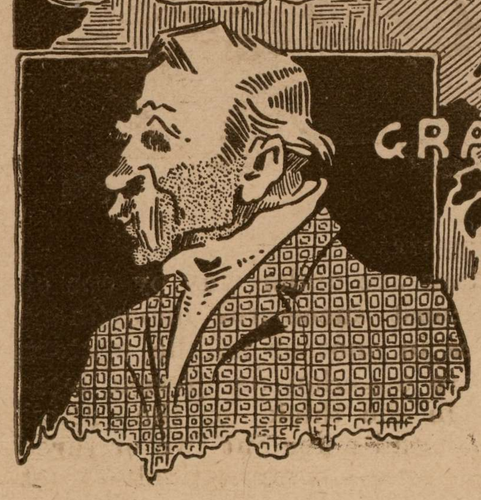
OLD TIME STUFF



WHAT OUR DADDIES AND GRAND DADDIES DID 60 YEARS AGO IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

The following editorial in the Baltimore County American of Nov. 25, 1864, refers to Sherman's raid in Georgia:

"Sherman On a Bender—His Mammoth Raid!—Never, perhaps, since the first gun was fired at Sumpter, has the rebel government had as much mental exercise as at the present time. It is now about twelve days since he cut himself loose from Atlanta and went, whither the rebels know not. His army consisted of some 60,000 veterans, amongst whom were 10,000 cavalry. The wiseacres of our portion of this country have all manner of surmises as to his intentions, but it is all guess work. His plans threaten destruction to the whole Southern country."

The Southern sympathizers in office were in a bad way after the adoption of the Constitution of 1864, for they were all required to take a test oath, and it applied not only to those elected after its adoption but to those in office before its adoption who continued therein. The oath will be remembered by very few, but will no doubt interest many, so we publish it in full:

"Office Holders Take Notice.—Under the 8th Section of the Elective Franchise, in the New Constitution, every person holding any office or trust or profit under the late Constitution is required to take the oath set forth in the 7th Section of said article within thirty days from the 1st day of November, 1864, or their office should be declared ipso facto vacant. This includes Justices of the Peace, Supervisors, Constables, School Commissioners, Tax Collectors, Wood Corders, and probably others, all of whom will be required to take the following oath before the 1st day of December ensuing, said oath to be taken where the parties were originally sworn in, viz., at the Clerk's office:

"Section 7—Every person elected or appointed to any office of trust, or profit under this Constitution, or under the laws made pursuant thereto, before he shall enter upon the duties of such office, shall take and subscribe the following oath of affirmation: I, ——, do swear, (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the office of ——, according to the Constitution and laws of this State, and that since the fourth day of July, in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-one, I have not in any manner violated the provisions of the present, or of the late Constitution, in relation to the bribery of voters, or preventing legal votes or procuring illegal votes to be given (and if a Governor, Senator, Member of the House of Delegates, or Judge) that I will not directly or indirectly, receive the profits or any part of the profits of any other office during the term of my acting as ——. I do further swear or affirm that I will bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland and support the laws thereof, and that I will bear true allegiance to the United States, and support, protect and defend the Constitution, Laws and Government thereof, as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of this or any State to the contrary notwithstanding; that I have never directly or indirectly, by word, act or deed, given any aid, comfort or encouragement to those in rebellion against the United States or the Lawful authorities thereof, but that I have been truly and loyally on the side of the United States against those in armed rebellion against the United States; and I do further swear or affirm that I will to the best of my abilities protect and defend the Union of the United States, and not allow the same to be broken up and dissolved, or the Government thereof to be destroyed, under any circumstances, if in my power to prevent it; and that I will at all times discountenance and oppose all political combinations having for their object such dissolution or destruction.

"Section 8—Every person holding any office of trust of profit under the

(Continued on Page 8)

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