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The Planters' Advocate.

UPPER MARLBOROUGH:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, January 7, 1857.

☞ The rendition of common justice to a faithful but maligned public character, although tardily yielded, is a gratifying thing to see from any source—and especially when proceeding from a quarter which has been most prominent in its denunciations and in its ignorant fault-finding, prompted by prejudice or malignity. No concern, we are sure, has labored more faithfully to break down the reputation of President PIERCE than the celebrated *London Times;* yet perhaps he has never received a handsomer practical compliment than may be gathered from a recent article on the President's Message, in which, speaking of his treatment of the slavery topic, it says:

"But how does President Pierce deal with it? With admirable logic, and profound constitutional lore, and triumphant success. We take it there can hardly be a question on the subject after his able exposition of the law. It is a private affair of each State that is, or is to be. The State alone can alter its own institutions. Not all the States together that now are can lay down the law for any State that is to be, either on this side that line of latitude or on the other."

This commendation of the great Kansas principle, to the success of which the present administration has been so devoted, is simply another evidence of how its truth and reasonableness must finally be allowed when fairly canvassed in any quarter. And we take it to be an indication also of that full measure of justice which the intelligence, patriotic intentions and nationality of President PIERCE will one day receive; when, after the petty partizan strifes of the hour shall have passed and become forgotten, all sensible men will be proud to recognize and do honor to that inflexible, stern and persevering devotion to the Constitution and to the Right which have so marked his character during the period of his Presidency.

☞ Congress has been occupied for the past few days in recovering from the holidays and in endeavoring to get down to a working lick. As yet no business of any great importance has been acted upon. In the Senate, on Monday, a report was made adverse to Mr. HARLAN's claim to his seat from Iowa, and the Revolutionary-soldiers-claim-bill was discussed. In the House, communications were received from the War Department, transmitting the official Army Register, showing the annual pay, rations, &c. of officers; also, a statement of the expenses of the national armories and of the military establishment.—Communications were also received from the State and Treasury Departments.

Ineffectual motions were made to suspend the rules to allow the standing committees to report. The importance of allowing the Military Committee to report the bill to increase the pay of the army officers, and the Naval Committee to report the reform bill and others in their possession, was urged without effect. Like efforts were unavailing in regard to the Pacific railroad bill, the bill concerning pensions to widows of Revolutionary officers and soldiers, and the bill to amend the act to graduate and reduce the price of the public lands.

Friday next was set apart for the consideration of all private bills to which there may be no objection. Pending a motion to introduce a resolution on the subject of re-organizing the courts of the United States, the House adjourned.

Maryland Finances.

The fiscal year of the State of Maryland ends on the 30th of September, and the Comptroller's report is required to be made to the Governor, in the recess of the Legislature, within ten days of the first Wednesday in January. The Baltimore *Sun*, however, has been informed, in advance of the official report, that the finances of the State are in a very flourishing condition, and that, notwithstanding the reduction of the rate of the direct tax from fifteen to ten cents in the $100 and the repeal of the stamp-tax law at the last session, there has been an increase in the revenue over that of the previous year. There is said to be a balance in the Treasury, from the receipts of last year, of about $238,000, which, added to the surplus remaining of the previous year, gives a total surplus in the Treasury of nearly $600,000, being about $592,000. The receipts of the State for the year are about $1,230,372, and the disbursements about $1,003,293. The total receipts from licenses for the year ending September 30th are nearly a quarter of a million, being about $238,470, of which, however, about $40,000 are from stamps received previous to the repeal of the stamp-tax law. The revenue from one-fifth of the receipts from passengers on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is $73,059.

THE DEATH OF MRS. JUDGE DANIEL.—The terrible death of Mrs. DANIEL, wife of Judge DANIEL, of the U. S. Supreme Court, which occurred in Washington on Saturday night, about 10 o'clock, is announced by the *National Intelligencer*. The *Intelligencer* says:

Mrs. DANIEL was sitting in her chamber at a low table preparatory to retiring for the night, having on a calico robe. From some cause, now unable to be assigned, the candle on the table by which she was lighted, fell and communicated its flame to her robe, which she endeavored to put out, but in vain. In this way she screamed aloud, and ran into the passage outside the chamber, when a burst of air gave new force to the thoroughly ignited robe, and before obtaining the assistance of her husband, who ran from his study, and of a servant from below, Mrs. DANIEL was most severely burned.

Her person was as quickly as possible enveloped with carpeting, and such articles as were at hand, but the destructive element had done its fell work too completely, and, after suffering four hours of great agony, though partially alleviated by medical aid, she expired. The only words by which she was enabled to indicate the manner of the accident were "the candle! the candle!"

The members of the U. S. Supreme Court, deeply sympathizing with Judge DANIEL, adjourned over from Monday till to-day.

DEATH OF THE "ANGEL GABRIEL."—The "Angel Gabriel"—properly called John Sayers Orr—is no more. Late intelligence received by the N. Y. Times from Demerara announces his decease at the penal settlement in that colony in November. His disease was dysentery—his age about 35. It will be remembered that he was tried, convicted and sentenced to hard labor in Demerara for exciting an insurrection of the blacks, which resulted in the destruction of a large amount of property belonging to the Portuguese, including several Catholic churches.

The editor of the Louisville *Journal*, in his issue of the 31st ult., corrects Hon. HUMPHREY MARSHALL, wherein that gentleman, in debate in the House hall, is reported to have said that its (the Louisville *Journal's*) preference for Morton (Rep.) over Willard (Dem.) in the late Indiana State election, did not meet the approval of the American party in that section of Kentucky. The editor thinks that its views in that connection met the approval of nineteen-twentieths of the American party of Kentucky.

Did Buchanan Speeches Cause the Present Slave Troubles?

The last number of our neighbor, the *Port Tobacco Times*, contains a communication from some gentleman in Charles, who signs himself "A Slaveholder," which has been evoked by the late rumors of insurrectionary movements among the negroes of this section of the State. The opinions of the writer are so well expressed that we should have been pleased to transfer it to our columns, (our general rule in respect of articles to which we take exception,) but for its length—an omission which, we hope, will be repaired by the fairness with which we shall state its positions.

But that this omission would seem to preclude us from a right to state any *general* objections to the views of "A Slaveholder," we might, we think, very reasonably indulge, at the outset, in some animadversion upon the *tone* of his communication, and upon that *nonchalant*, and, as it were, non-committal manner in which his subject is handled, and which would, perhaps, with many readers in this latitude, cause him to be regarded as a rather lukewarm "Slaveholder." But we will confine ourselves only to a few observations upon particular points. And we may remark, that so far forth as he indicates a disbelief of any insurrectionary intention, as a general thing among the slaves, we have the happiness to agree with him; but we cannot see that this conviction, however reasonable and certain, necessarily evinces the utter inutility of the patrols that have been organized: for such movements on the part of the whites must not wait on a clear proof of actual danger ahead, but are amply justified and, indeed, necessitated, in a slave community, by the merest rumors or appprehension of such a contingency. This, we think, is too plain a thing to need any words beyond the mere statement of it. That the effect of the patrol somewhat restrains the innocent, as well as the probably guilty among the slaves, (a point quite earnestly stated by this writer,) may be, it should seem, disposed of in as little space: for such inconvenience is what the very best citizens must submit to in a time of public fear or peril, and, if regarded as an evil or injustice, is certainly at such times a *necessary* one that must be borne. Minor privileges, like those he refers to, must, with white and black alike, succumb before the demands of the general safety; and "A Slaveholder" might as well have argued against the patrols upon the ground that it exposes many citizens to the loss of sound sleep while on duty at night.

But the kernel of the nut is far from being contained in any of these points. It rather consists in the charge made by him that the friends of Buchanan are responsible for the rebellious disposition of the negroes!—and this is evidently *the* object of his letter. We shall not hold "A Slaveholder" responsible for the origination of this idea; for having already seen it bandied around in the choice circle of certain very low and unscrupulous Know Nothing papers, we take it for granted he will not claim its paternity. But we will take the liberty of saying that such a taunt as this, coming from Southern Know Nothings, and applied to the very men who have rescued them from a great danger, despite themselves, is about as unblushing a piece of effrontery and presumption as we have lately met with; nor do we know of any other instance of the sort with which to compare it, unless it be that extraordinary boast made by some of the same gentry after the election, when, having for the first time realized the extent and danger of the Fremont movement, they actually claimed to have been the cause of electing Buchanan, whom, during the canvass, they had done their best to defeat! The present taunt may be even worse than the former boast, and if so it only shows them to be in a morbid state of mind which has caused them to increase in impudence as they have lessened in strength.

The gist of the charge brought by "A Slaveholder" is simply this: That, during the canvass, the friends of Buchanan continually argued the slavery question upon the hustings; that they represented Fremont to be in favor of the direct abolition of slavery, and Fillmore as not much better; that these things were heard by negroes and by them disseminated, &c. Which things, in his opinion, plainly account for the milk in the cocoa-nut, and thus put upon a firm basis his theory of the present troubles. Like a celebrated caviller, who preceded him, he seems, however, to fail in indicating any "copula between the assigned cause and the effect," and we are mistaken if he has not taken a very short cut to his conclusion. For, if by these means the negroes were persuaded they could be freed in the event of Fremont's or Fillmore's success, they must also have understood that Buchanan's triumph would be adverse to their hopes; and thus, it should seem, their plans of a rising, if any, would have been matured upon the happening of one of the former contingencies, and not of the latter. And it does not seem, therefore, to be in accordance either with sound logic or a correct view of the ordinary motives of human action, to assign any actual attempt at revolution on their part to the language used by the orators referred to, *after* the attainment of that very result which, from the same mouths, they were taught to believe was to prove directly antagonistic to their effort, and was in fact to render it hopeless.

Now how stand the facts? Did any Buchanan speaker, in this region, in the presence of negroes, inspire their hopes of successful rebellion by any such declaration as that they would all be free in the event of Fremont's election? Or was any similar declaration made in reference to Fillmore's success? It is true they may often have referred to the former as being an abolitionist. The term is one which our people generally apply to those Northern men who are prominent in their opposition to Southern rights, institutions, and interests: nor are any of them mealy-mouthed upon such a subject, except, perhaps, the *Baltimore Clipper* and a few of its allies in Maryland, who, sincerely sympathizing with the anti-Nebraska sentiment of the North, so continually strive to impress the distinction between an abolitionist and a freesoiler—a labor which we do not bebrudge them, inasmuch as one of these days, for the safety of the bacon of these gentry, it will be necessary for that distinction to be clearly known and appreciated by the communities they live in. And even if that term was applied to Fremont, for our humble part, we doubt not the justice or propriety of the act, believing as we do, with Franklin Pierce, that Northern opposition to the Kansas bill is a mere cloak for a still more violent opposition to the vested rights of the Southern States and people, darkly lurking as yet from a want of *power*. Doubtless, then, Buchanan men may have publicly spoken of Fremont as an abolitionist. They may also have intimated that his election might endanger our rights. But to assert that they ever endeavored to persuade our people that his election would, *instanter*, wrest their negroes from their possession, is to draw too largely upon our credulity. Such a thing could not have been done by them without implying an insult to the common sense of their auditors. In point of fact, we believe no such thing was done.

But, during all this time, what were the *Fillmore orators* saying? Oh, if writers could only see all the sides of a barn at the same time, how many imperfect views of it would be prevented! What, pray, did Mr. Fillmore's friends have to say in Mr. Fremont's behalf, here in lower Maryland? Did they not paint his position in full as strong colors as the Buchanan men? Did they not vindicate Fillmore's "soundness on the goose issue," by lapping it into Fremont and his cause? Did they not deprecate his election for the same reasons that the Buchanan men did, and go as far as they in indicating those reasons? Surely, with some exceptions, they did. We know it, because we heard the thing spoken. It will hardly do for "A Slaveholder" to intimate now that the Fillmore men occupied a sort of outside, looker-on position upon the late slavery issue, and merely stood upon the doctrine of "no discussion" of it. If they were thus lukewarm in fact, most of them hereabouts (and we give none others this credit) were not so in appearance, and such sentiments, therefore, if they held them, they dared not avow. Some prominent advocates of Fillmore, it is true, were sufficiently cold-nosed upon that topic—such as Mr. Winter Davis and others who made profound Northern arguments before Southern audiences. [And, to change the tack a little, should not *these* performances seem to have had something to do with present discontents?—for a little masked treason, like a little leaven, "leaveneth the whole lump."] But it would be probably an injustice to the *generality* of Fillmore speeches made in this region to intimate that they were not marked by the same hostility to Fremont, the same representations concerning his cause, and the same discussion of the slavery topic, that were prominent in the remarks of the Buchanan speakers. Can not "A Slaveholder," then, let in some of these orators also as constituting a part of the causating agency at the bottom of this mischief? A multiplicity of causes would not, perchance, weaken his conclusion. How very charitable and considerate in him to lay the lash on the Buchanan men alone!

Now it may or may not be true that the recent discussion of the slavery issues through the South did operate to help put unquiet notions into negroes' heads. In a former paper we indicated our opinion that this thing, taken in connection with co-operating causes, may perhaps have partly produced the present uneasiness. And it may or may not be true that these issues were chiefly insisted on by those who spoke publicly in behalf of Mr. Buchanan. For which thing, who are principally responsible—the conductors of the argument, or they who made the argument necessary? Who caused the discussion of such topics; who made it essential that they should be discussed? Who, by their declarations, forced such a theme to be handled before the people, but that Know Nothing faction which, by its blind and unreasonable course, (as the result proved,) nearly succeeded in dividing the South, when division would have been destruction? It was that faction which covered over the real meaning of events by false issues; which endeavored to persuade the people there was no danger of Fremont's election, that he would not have a show for it, that there was no reason for such an apprehension. It was that faction which, by a system of unparalelled braggadocio, made large numbers of the people believe that *they* would carry a large portion of the North and of the South. It was that faction which also tried to persuade them that no harm could follow an election by the House—that a majority of Black Republicans would elect Millard Fillmore in preference to Fremont! It was that faction which, in every way, strove to divide the suffrages of the South at a time when they should have known that the South ought to be an unit. In this way, they forced upon the friends of the Southern policy that was in issue, the necessity of defending it before the people of the South.

But for these errors of a foolish and insane course, discussion of slavery here would have been entirely supererrogatory, and no new light would have broken upon the brains of the negroes; and but for these, that faction itself would not have been startled after the election, as if waked from a dream, by the proof which the result gave of the madness of the policy and the folly of the expectations they had indulged in, and would not have been under the painful necessity (by pretending to have helped Buchanan) of claiming to have aided in averting the calamity which their own blindness so nearly brought upon the country.

THE WORCESTER SHIELD.—We learn from the Annapolis *Republican*, that this establishment has been purchased by our old friend THOMAS E. MARTIN, Esq., formerly Editor and Proprietor of the "*State Capitol Gazette*," of that city, which was conducted by him with marked ability. The citizens of Worcester will find Mr. Martin a generous, warm hearted man, and as the conductor of a paper courteous to political enemies. We have no doubt the "*Shield*" will be the leading paper on the Eastern Shore.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Mr. Mason, by the request of Mr. Bright, presided over the Senate to-day, but inasmuch as the latter's power to appoint a substitute is limited to one day, and as Mr. Bright will be absent several weeks in Indiana, Mr. Cass will, to-morrow, move to go into an election for President *pro tem*.

Secretary Guthrie has replied to the inquiry of the House, asking to be informed of the reason for not paying certain clerks of that body the extra compensation heretofore voted. He agrees with Mr. Whittlesey that neither House of Congress could lawfully increase the compensation of officers whose salaries are fixed by law, without the concurrence of the other House and the President, which he says he is not the fact in this case.

Conviction of Tuckerman, the Eastern Rail Road Defaulter.

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—The jury in the case of Tuckerman, who is charged with defrauding the Eastern Rail Road Corporation, this afternoon, after six hours' deliberation, rendered a verdict of guilty. Rufus Choate, counsel for the defendant, immediately filed a bill of exceptions, to be argued before the final disposition of the case. Tuckerman remains at large on bail. The present verdict was for appropriating $5,000. Numerous other indictments are pending against him, his aggregate peculation being about $180,000.

Illinois Legislature.

SPRINGFIELD, Jan. 5.—The Illinois Legislature met to-day, when the Democrats forcibly expelled Mr. Bridges, the Republican Clerk of the last House, whilst he was calling the roll, and organized finally by the election of Samuel Holmes, (dem.) as speaker, and Mr. Leile (dem.) clerk.

Snow Storm and Travel Eastward.

BOSTON, January 5.—About a foot of snow fell here during yesterday and last night, and it is considerably drifted. All the railroad trains from New York to-day were late.

Hon. Mr. Sumner's Health.

BOSTON, Jan. 5.—The Chronicle of to-day contains a statement which says that Mr. Sumner will not leave for Washington, as he intended, owing to the order of his physicians.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The weekly statement of the City Banks show increases as follows:—Loans, $550,000; Specie, $780,000; Circulation, $215,000; Deposites, $8,500,000.

Dispatches from Gov. Geary.

NEW YORK, January 5.—Mr. E. Hogland, of Kansas, passed through this city, en route for Washington, with despatches from Gov. Geary.

Naval Intelligence.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—United States sloop of war St. Louis was at Loanda on the 14th of November—all well.

From the Baltimore American.

TOBACCO TRADE.

General Remarks.—The Tobacco market this year throughout the whole country, has ruled at unusually high rates. The demand throughout the year not only swept off all the stock remaining from the previous year, but great competition prevailed among buyers and the end of each week found the market almost entirely cleared of the receipts. This state of things continued to the present time, and the year closes with no stocks of any moment in the hands of commission agents. There is still a demand, the orders from Europe not being filled, and but little progress made in the fulfilment of the French contract, so that there is no doubt the market will open at high prices in the Spring, and that the first receipts will be eagerly taken out of market. Tobacco planters, in packing their crops, will do well to use more than ordinary care in handling their Tobacco, so as to make the quality in each hogshead as even as possible. This precaution will be amply compensated for in the increased price which the well assorted article will bring.

It is a matter of no small surprise that the Baltimre market is not availed of by the growers of Tobacco in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, who usually send their crops to New Orleans.—It is true that the cost of transportation to the latter city may be considerably less than to Baltimore, but the advantages of this market, we think, will more than compensate the difference of expense. By the judicious arrangements of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad with the various lines leading from all points as far West as St. Louis, freight is receipted through to Baltimore, and delivered in a very short time. The article suffers no deterioration from the climate, and is subject to much less expense than is charged in the Crescent city.

For the information of those who desire to know the charges made in this city on Tobacco, we append the following paragraph from our former annual statements: "The expenses attending the consignment of Tobacco to this market are small, and great advantages are allowed the owner, both before and after its sale. It is received and stored in the State Fire Proof Warehouses, and immediately inspected, and may remain therein for twelve months without charge for storage, being perfectly secure from heat, moisture or anything likely to injure its quality or impair its value. When sold, the item of drayage to the warehouse, and a commission of 2½ per cent. to the commission agent, are the only charges paid by the planter. The small charge by the State ($1.25 per hhd.) for inspection and storage, is paid by the purchaser or shipper when he withdraws his Tobacco from the warehouse."

Maryland Tobacco.—During the whole of this year the sales of Maryland Tobacco were made at prices very satisfactory to the growers and to them the season has been one of unusual prosperity. At no time during the year has there been any want of demand, and all descriptions found ready sale as soon as they passed from under the inspectors' hands. Prices ruled so high, and shippers showed such an eagerness to purchase, that very few planters evinced a disposition to hold on to their crops, prudently preferring to sell at the current prices than to run the risk of a decline in price or a diminution of the demand.

In the month of January, the whole stocks in the hands of factors did not exceed 3,000 hhds., and the prices ruled at $4.50@5.50 for inferior to common, and $6@8 for middling to good brown. As nothing could be shipped at this season, purchasers bought sparingly. In February, however, there was a considerable demand for home consumption, and about the middle of the month a speculator cleared the market of ordinary and good common, taking about 600 hhds. of these descriptions at $5.50@6, principally at the latter. Holders then demanded an advance of 50 cents to $1 ℔ 100 ℔, and nearly all the stocks on hand were taken at the improved rates. The navigation remained closed, and there was no prospect of early receipts, and the weather continuing cold and very dry, planters could not pack their crops for market as early as usual.—Consequently receipts were very light during the months of March and April. Orders for shipping now pressed upon the market, and the factors demanded increased rates for the small stocks on hand, and shippers readily took all that was offered at $6@6.50 for ordinary, and $7@8 for the better kinds. In May the receipts were large, but the market continued very firm, and sales were readily effected at very full rates. In June and July the demand continued very steady, and the receipts large. In August the receipts were still larger, the inspections running ahead of the same period last year, yet the market showed no signs of giving way, and shippers abated nothing of their avidity to take all the lots put upon the market. In September the reports of the short crops in the West, and the injury to them by early frost, caused increased anxiety on the part of shippes to fill their orders, and the active demand raised prices 50 cts. to $1, principally on the leafy descriptions suitable for the English market, for the supply of which the purchases this year have been greater than usual. From October to the close of the year the demand has been active and prices steady, the prevailing rates being $6.50@7 for inferior, $7.50@8 for common, $9@12 for fair to good brown, and $13@16 for extra.

The receipts of Maryland Ground Leaf, which is the first gathering of the new crop, generally appear in October. The quantity as yet brought to market is not more than half as much as is usually received before this period. The first parcels brought $6@10. As the receipts increased buyers lowered their offers, and holders submitted to a decline of 50 cts. to $1. The demand continuing brisk, however, the market soon rallied, and at the close prices range from $6@10, the bulk of the sales being made at $7@8. The stocks in the hands of commission agents are very small, and from the indications of the prevalence of cold weather very little may be expected until the opening of navigation in the Spring.

The crop of Maryland Tobacco, which has just been gathered, is thought to be an average one, and generally of good quality. In some portions of the Tobacco growing counties there is a falling off in the quantity ordinarily produced, but the yield on the whole will be about as large as usual. We hazard little in predicting that prices this year will be quite remunerative to the planter, and we doubt not unusual efforts will be made during the coming spring to set out larger crops than were ever before raised in the State. It is to be hoped that the planters will make free use of guano in the preparation of their lands, and increase the produce of this important staple of Maryland, which annually draws from abroad such large pecuniary returns.

Inspections of Tobacco in 1856:

	hhds.
Amount remaining in the five State Warehouses on the 1st January, 1856,	7,137
Amount inspected during the year,	52,852
Total,	59,985
Amount shipped and consumed during the year,	55,895
Stock on hand, December 31, 1856,	4,094

Inspections of Tobacco at five State Warehouses in 1855:

Maryland,	38,494	hhds.
Ohio,	13,183	"
Kentucky,	1,017	"
Virginia,	153	"
Total,	52,852	

Estimate of Value.—An intelligent merchant, fully conversant with the Tobacco business and largely engaged in it, estimates the average value of Leaf Tobacco this year at $60 per hhd. for Maryland: $72.50 for Ohio; $110 for Virginia; and $120 for Kentucky. According to this estimate the value of the Tobacco sold in Baltimore in 1856 will be in round numbers, as follows:

Maryland,	$2,215,000
Ohio,	950,000
Kentucky,	160,000
Virginia,	10,500
Total,	3,435,000

Inspections of Maryland and Ohio Tobacco for the last Sixteen Years:

YEARS.	INSPECTIONS. Maryland.	Ohio.	Total.	Stock on hand Dec. 31.
1841	29,980	7,692	37,672	10,900
1842	33,759	11,279	45,038	9,850
1843	29,617	13,465	43,082	12,354
1844	32,183	15,320	47,503	12,605
1845	39,844	26,716	66,560	15,342
1846	41,027	28,862	69,889	22,416
1847	33,729	15,671	49,400	28,467
1848	22,953	9,845	32,098	22,751
1849	30,965	13,618	44,583	19,628
1850	27,085	13,965	41,040	10,617
1851	25,013	16,791	41,804	17,699
1852	29,570	17,720	47,290	11,760
1853	29,248	17,947	47,195	9,779
1854	26,048	10,332	36,410	3,715
1855	28,470	10,097	38,567	4,273
1856	44,779	6,510	51,289	4,094

Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, *Jan.* 4, 1857.

To-morrow, it is hoped, both Houses of Congress will commence in earnest to expedite the important measures of national legislation which now encumber the table in both Houses. But little has been done since the commencement of the session of practical benefit to the country at large. It is true there has been much and able speaking—eloquent and elaborate discussion on abstract questions, embracing both law and gospel; nor can it be denied that this discussion has been productive of much good in opening the eyes of the people to the fratricidal measures which were disguised beneath the cloak of excessive Americanism on the one hand, and mad fanaticism on the other, during the recent Presidential contest. Never before in the history of our country have our liberties drifted so closely upon inevitable destruction. Never has civil and servile war been more imminent; and never have our people had more abundant cause of thankfulness and gratitude to a Superintending Providence for averting from our land the fearful calamities of both.

Among the acts already passed by the present Congress, is one making prepayment of postage on all transient printed matter obligatory before it can be transported in the mails of the United States. To give effect to this law, the Postmaster General has established additional post office regulations, of which the following is a brief: Books not weighing over four pounds may be sent in the mail prepaid by postage stamps, at one cent an ounce, any distance in the United States under three thousand miles, and at two cents an ounce over three thousand miles, provided they are put up without a cover or wrapper, or in a cover or wrapper open at the ends or sides, so that their character may be determined without removing the wrapper. Unsealed circulars, advertisements, business cards, transient newspapers, and every other article of transient printed matter, except books, not weighing over three ounces, sent in the mail to any part of the United States, are chargeable with one cent each, to be prepaid by postage stamps. Where more than one circular is printed on a sheet, or a circular and letter, each must be charged with a single rate. This applies to lottery and other kindred sheets assuming the form of newspapers; and the miscellaneous matter in such sheets must also be charged with one rate. A business card on an unsealed envelope of a circular subjects the entire packet to letter postage. Any transient matter, like a circular or hand-bill, enclosed in or with a periodical or newspaper sent to a subscriber, or to any other person, subjects the whole packet to letter postage; and whenever subject to letter postage, from being sealed or from any cause whatever, all printed matter, without exception, must be prepaid or excluded from the mail. It is the duty of the postmaster, at the mailing office, as well as at the office of delivery, carefully to examine all printed matter, in order to see that it is charged with the proper rate of postage, and to detect fraud. At offices where postage stamps cannot be procured, postmasters are authorized to receive money in prepayment of postage on transient matter; but they should be careful to keep a supply of stamps on hand.

Hon. THOS. H. BENTON has got himself into a newspaper muss on the subject of the ladies, which promises to be as protracted and *Irish* as his "Thirty Years View." Mr. B. first stated in the *Intelligencer* that the word *lady* does not occur in the Bible, and was immediately beset by a host of zealous philologists who pointed out his mistake in a spirit of criticism, by the way, which showed that they do not always invoke the proper spirit when perusing the sacred Word. The critics seem to have forgotten that Old Ballion was right after all, for in no part of the sacred writings is the word *lady* to be found, although it does occur in the English translation of the Bibel.

It is thought a bill will shortly be introduced in Congress increasing the pay of the officers of the Army. This would be a popular measure, as its justice has long been acknowledged by the press and the public sentiment of the country.

I paid a visit, during the holidays, to Georgetown College, to see some of my Maryland acquaintances pursuing their studies in that flourishing institution, and was gratified to find that Maryland still maintains her reputation of being the banner State in her appreciation of that farfamed and deservedly popular seat of learning. Out of some two hundred and fifty pupils, our State, I believe, contributes nearly one fifth. A healthier, more contented, or more interesting assemblage of American citizens could not be found within the limits of our country.

The present President, Rev. B. A. MAGUIRE, enjoys the merited reputation of possessing administrative abilities of the highest order, and is, withal, exceedingly courteous and obliging to strangers visiting the institution. The Prefect of studies, Rev. GEORGE FENWICK, is a native of our State, descended from the Pilgrim fathers of St. Mary's, and is no less efficient and active now, than when he discharged the same functions during the college days of your correspondent, a quarter of a century ago. Then, as now, Father GEORGE was the general favorite. VINDEX.

Public Meeting.

Agreeable to public notice, the citizens of the seventh election district convened at Davis' Store, in Queen Anne, on Saturday evening, 3rd inst., at the hour of 3, P. M. On motion, WM. D. CLAGETT, Esq., was called to the chair, and J. G. MITCHELL appointed secretary. The chairman having stated the object of the meeting to be to take some steps to stop the wholesale system of plunder carried on by the negroes in the district, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the election district be divided into four patrol districts according to the plan laid down by the Chairman.

Resolved, That the gentlemen residing in each patrol district be and are hereby constituted the patrol for said district, vested with the power to choose their own captain every two months, and to be subject to the rules and regulations adopted by the citizens of the election district.

Resolved, That a patrol, consisting of not less than four men, shall turn out every night under the direction of the captain or his deputy.

Resolved, That an invitation be again extended to the citizens of the district to meet us on next Saturday at the same place, at the hour of 12 o'clock, M., to perfect the police system.

Resolved, That these proceedings be signed by the Chairman and Secretary and published in the Planters' Advocate and Marlborough Gazette.

WM. D. CLAGETT, Ch'n.
J. G. MITCHELL, Sec'y.

Restoring Old Steel Pens.

J. Pimont, of Rouen, France, has obtained a patent for the following method of restoring old steel pens which have been thrown aside as worthless, by long use or bad ink:

The old and injured pens are exposed in a suitable vessel to heat, in a furnace, until their temperature is raised to about a red heat. They are afterwards allowed to cool, and afterwards cleansed from the dirt that may adhere to them. The cleansing process may be performed by shaking them together for some time in a close box containing a little soap and sand.

Local and Personal.

The Holidays being now well over, work must take the place of pleasure, and all manner of men settle down to the routine of duty which the new year imposes. Albeit the season appeared generally to command the observance of our people, we doubt whether, in these days, it receives that welcome and celebration, here or elsewhere, which it had at the hands of our forefathers, in a time when its pleasures and its moral significance both seemed to be realized and enjoyed. In those days the good things of this life, enjoyed in a rational spirit, were not held incompatible with personal dignity or consistent propriety; and the men of an earlier period presented strong examples of vigorous, thorough and manly character. In our day, we fear, the religious aspect of life and its more worldly relations have become so separated by an "unco guid" spirit, that we can hardly witness any social pleasure which is not forced, for the want of proper guidance, to run into excess, or much religious tendency that does not culminate in an insipid and morbid puritanism. We seem to have lost that faculty possessed by our forefathers of uniting harmoniously, in one character, the hearty subduer of the earth and the Christian man. We thus seem to fail in our realization of the importance of such festal seasons to our individual and social well-being. That such periods should sometimes come and be recognized, and should, in their turn, monopolize the thoughts and anxieties which, at all other times, business enthrals, is essential we think to the attainment and appreciation of that sturdy, *human* style of life which marked the men of a stouter generation than ours—a knack we shall probably not attain, until we shall return to their "simple-minded" ideas, from which the hurry and "utility" of a fast age have enticed us.

The Ice-Crop, that important wintry harvest, is now in process of gathering. A portion of the holidays was availed of by many of our people to partially fill their houses, a work that will doubtless be completed during the present cold snap. The ice is very fine in this region, and the weather very favorable to securing it; so that it is to be hoped none of our citizens in town or country will fail to be fully supplied with this indispensible article, which, in summer time hereabouts, is so much better than physic—for many purposes.

John Winkler, probably the oldest citizen of this place and one of the oldest in the county, died on Wednesday night last, after a very short illness. He served in the war of '12, in the several campaigns in this region. He has for a long time and up to his death been keeper of the Court House, messenger, &c., and by his constant attendance upon the sessions of the Court, was familiarly known to the people of the county. He was a man of integrity and always had the general respect.

We learn it is the intention of the Vestry of St. John's Parish, Piscataway District, to rebuild their church recently destroyed by fire, if sufficient means can be secured for that object.—The church had been but recently improved at considerable expense to the congregation, which renders their loss all the more heavy. We are glad to see it stated that the brick walls are not so much injured but they can be used in the reconstruction of the edifice. And we have no doubt that liberal aid will be extended for that purpose from sources outside the parish.

An Election of seven Trustees to manage the affairs of the Academy was held on Saturday last, when the following board was chosen: Dr. JAMES HARPER, DANIEL C. DIGGES, M. S. PLUMMER, THOMAS CLAGETT, Dr. RICHARD W. BOWIE, GEO. W. WILSON and HORATIO C. SCOTT. The officers of the board for the ensuing year are HORATIO C. SCOTT, Esq., President; DANIEL C. DIGGES, Esq., Treasurer; and GEO. W. WILSON, Esq., Secretary.

Doings on the Patuxent.—The Baltimore *Sun*, of Monday, says:

Our local columns contained a statement the other day of a series of scenes of violence on the shores of the Patuxent during a Christmas frolic of some hands attached to the Philadelphia oyster-boats. A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* contradicts the statement in the *Sun*, and maintains that all who were present will sustain his denial. He says the party enjoyed the day in innocent mirth; that harmony and good order prevailed; that no law was violated nor any affront offered to any one.

Drowned.—We learn that a gentleman named Woon, from Calvert County, was drowned in the Patuxent River at Nottingham on Friday night last. He had been on this shore upon business, and attempted to ride into the ferry-boat for the purpose of re-crossing, when he was carried under the ice. We have not heard of the body being recovered.

We call attention to the advertisement, in another column, of Messrs. THOMPSON, HAMILTON & Co., Grocers, 393, Penn. Avenue, Washington. They have a large and fine supply of all articles in their line, and patronage given them will be well bestowed.

Sale.—On Thursday (to-morrow) C. C. MAGRUDER, Esq., as Trustee, will offer at public sale on the premises, the valuable farm near this village, belonging to the estate of the late Richard Osborn; and on the same day JOHN T. OSBORN, Esq., as Administrator, will sell the personal property, except negroes, belonging to the same estate.

We are pleased to be able to state that all the excitement concerning the negro troubles appears to have definitely subsided in the county. The nightly patrols have expired by limitation, and it is not thought there was any intention or plan of a rising.

The Board of Commissioners of Tax will meet on Tuesday next for the purpose of examining and settling the accounts of Supervisors of the roads, &c.

Fits! Fits!! Fits!!!

Persons laboring under this distressing malady will find DR. HANCE's Epileptic Pills to be the only remedy ever discovered for curing Epilepsy or Falling Fits. These Pills possess a specific action on the nervous system; and although prepared especially for the purpose of curing Fits, they will be found of especial benefit to all persons afflicted with weak nerves, or whose nervous system has been prostrated or shattered from any cause whatever. The dyspeptic patient, whose stomach has lost the power of duly converting food into a life sustaining element, is relived by a single course of these extraordinary Pills. The gastric fluid re-acquires its solvent power, and the crude nutriment which was a load and a burden to the sufferer, while his digestive organization was paralyzed and unstrung, becomes under the wholesome revolution created in the system, the basis of strength, activity and health.

Sent to any part of the country by mail, free of postage. Address SETH S. HANCE, 108 Baltimore Street, Baltimore, Md. Price—one box $3; two $5; twelve $24.

MARRIED,

On the 30th ult., by the Rev. Dr. Linthicum, WILLIAM H. PERVEIL and Miss ELIZABETH HOWELL, all of Queen Anne district.

On the 23d ult., Mr. RICHARD B. SELBY and Miss CAROLINE E. SOPER, both of this county.

On the 25th, Mr. JAMES T. GREENWELL and Miss SARAH E. ARMIGER, both of this county.

On the same day, Mr. JAMES WHITE and Miss MARY ELLEN BURGESS, of this county.

On the 30th ult., Mr. WILLIAM A. HARRAN and Miss CAROLINE M. JOHNSON, of Piscataway district.

On Tuesday, the 20th ult., at Saint Luke's Church, in the city of Baltimore, by the Rector, the Rev. Charles Rankin, Dr. THOMAS J. FRANKLIN, of West River, and MARY D. FITZHUGH, daughter of the late Daniel D. Fitzhugh, of Baltimore county.

On Tuesday, the 16th ult., by Rev. Mr. Beckwith, B. G. STONESTREET, Esq., of Charles county, and Miss MARY ELLEN, second daughter of Richard Sellman, Esq., of Anne Arundel county.

At St. Patrick's Church, in Washington, on the 1st instant, by the Rev. Mr. Boyle, Mr. LOUIS G. F. VASNATTAN and Miss MARY V. HODGSON, both of that city.

DIED,

Near Piscataway, in this county, on the 30th of December, Mr. JOHN B. SPALDING, aged 64 years.

Near Prince Frederick, Calvert county, in November last, Mrs. E. T. WILSON, a native of Massachusetts, but for several years past a resident of this State.

On the 11th December, at Ravenswood, in this county, at the residence of John Bowie, Esq., CHARLES L. GANTT, in the 70th year of his age.

THE MARKETS.

SATURDAY, *Jan.* 3.—*Wheat.*—The market today was very dull. Receipts light, and prices generally unchanged. About 2,500 bushels offered, and sales of good to prime white at $1.50@1.58. Red at $1.40