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The Planters' Advocate.

UPPER MARLBOROUGH:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, February 11, 1857

Death of Col. Merrick.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to record to-day the death of Col. WILLIAM D. MERRICK, of Charles County, formerly a Senator in Congress from this State. He had been indisposed for a few days only at his lodgings at the National Hotel in Washington, and was thought to be convalescing, when an unfavorable aggravation of the symptoms of his disease again prostrated him, and he gradually sunk till about 9 o'clock on Thursday morning last, when he expired.

Southern Maryland has lost in him one of her noblest and most gifted sons, and the interests and opinions of her people are deprived of one of their ablest and most indefatigable defenders. He had long been one of the leading Marylanders, enjoying a national reputation, having been as well and favorably known as any one whom our State, in recent years, had sent forth as her representatives before the nation. And within the confines of the State there was probably no man who, to such an extensive, accurate and minute knowledge of her history and politics, added a truer devotion to her best interests or a greater care for her prosperity and influence.—To the latest period of his life, amid all the distractions of questions of larger extent, his acquaintance with the past legislation of Maryland was remarkable for its thoroughness—probably because of his long personal connexion with public affairs and his identification with most of the principal measures of State policy which were agitated in his day.

He was in the Legislature of Maryland from 1833 to 1838, where he took a leading and commanding position; an evidence of which was the success of the Eight Million Bill, which, it will be remembered, was chiefly attributed to his influence and perseverence. In '38 he was elected to the Senate of the United States (over other very prominent gentlemen who were candidates for the place) to fill the unexpired term of the late Gov. KENT. He was afterwards re-elected for a full term, and served in the Senate until 1845.—He maintained in that body a considerable reputation for general ability, and always preserved the respect and confidence of his associates. In this connection he is perhaps principally remembered as having cast the vote which secured the admission of Texas into the Union, and for the energy and ability which he displayed in engineering through Congress the Cheap Postage System.

In 1855 his strong repugnance to the doctrines of the Know Nothing party induced him to be a candidate for the House of Delegates from Charles, to which post he was of course elected. The details of what he said and did there were so fully published by us at the time that all our readers will be able to recall the vigorous eloquence and the tact and untiring persistency with which he resisted the operations of the majority of the House; and his minority report on the "Nunnery Question" is a monument as well of his ability as of his enlarged and liberal principles. At the time of his death he was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of Maryland to prosecute the State's claim upon the General Government for a large amount of money—which required his almost continual presence in Washington.

He was in private life just what a man of such large endowments would be expected to be; and the public regret at the decease of an efficient public servant will not be greater than the social sorrow which will lament the loss of so good a man and so valuable a citizen.

☞ Mr. BUCHANAN appears to have left Washington without giving any definite hints of who will be his favorites for the high places of the Government, and consequently "who is to be in the cabinet" is the great question with the politicians at Washington and other points. Outside of strictly political coteries, extremely little interest is taken in the matter: the result propably of a popular conviction that Mr. BUCHANAN may be safely trusted to form unaided a strong and conservative Government—an opinion in which we very potently believe. There are some little indications, however, of the nature of reasonable presumptions, arising more from the necessities of his position than from any revelations he may be supposed to have made, which are furnishing matter for discussion. According to these, the great difficulty appears to be the selection of a Secretary of State, it being generally conceded somehow or other, that Gen. CASS will not *get* it, and that HUNTER, of Virginia, will NOT *have* it. It is said that ROBERT J. WALKER, who was a colleague of Buchanan in the Polk Administration, has been pressed for the place, but without success. There are some, however, who still hold to CASS, and others who will "go a small pile" on MARCY's retention. As to the rest, the suggestions have been numerous. Among them are TOUCEY, of Connecticut; CLIFFORD, of Maine; J. GLANCEY JONES, Col. JOHN W. FORNEY and Judge BLACK, of Pennsylvania; Gov. FLOYD, of Virginia; COBB, of Georgia; FRANCIS W. PICKENS, of South Carolina; BENJAMIN, of Louisiana. Of these, according to the "letter-writers," Messrs. TOUCEY, COBB, FLOYD and JONES, are considered the best guesses. Several names have been suggested from our State, but it is considered altogether chimerical to imagine that Maryland will furnish a cabinet officer.

☞ We observe that some of the Maryland newspapers are already "bringing forward" (?) the names of several gentlemen in connexion with the gubernatorial canvass of this year. This has principally been an amusement with the journals in the opposition interest, which, evidently thinking they are to have a dead thing of it next fall, appear to be already eager for the fray. The names already spoken of as candidates for their nomination are well-tried Know Nothings, such as Dr. JAMES U. DENNIS, of Somerset; JAMES B. RICAUD, of Kent; HENRY S. STITES, of Cecil; JAMES WALLACE, of Dorchester; and Col. WM. PACA, of Queen Anne's. These are all doubtless very clever men "in their way," as an old dutchman once said of cold water, but we think any one of them will have some work to do beyond securing his party nomination. We entertain some little opinion of our own concerning the state of parties in this State, and believe that a fair fight next fall will show the Know Nothing party to be in Maryland, as everywhere else, as dead as a salt herring. Therefore, we do not despair of beating any of the above respectabilities, with a man for a candidate such as CRISFIELD, WILLIAMS, JONES, STEWART, MARTIN, or other prominent Eastern-Shoremen, suggested for the support of the Democracy.

It is reported that the Spanish Government has forbidden the introduction of any more Coolies into the Island of Cuba.

FREE-NEGRO POPULATION.

We observe a well-reasoned article in the *Richmond Examiner*, of a recent date, touching a matter which we have always thought to be more important and interesting than was generally considered: the destination of free-negroes South, and their influence on slave population. The *Examiner* is direct in its reasoning and bold in its conclusions. It maintains that it is no longer a matter of doubt whether free-negroes should be allowed to remain at the South, and expresses itself as of opinion that they should either be forced to emigrate or else be reduced to slavery. And whatever may be said of the merits or justice of its conclusions, there is great force in the facts and circumstances which it adduces as proofs of the incompatibility of slavery and "free-negro dom" in the same community.

The position of a free negro is truly a most singular one. It is altogether anomalous. He differs in almost every respect from the people who surround him. In a country where black men are generally slaves and white men free, he is a black man and yet no slave. In a country where freemen have the full measure of political rights, he is deprived of most of them, even though a freeman. He thus has points of resemblances to both the other classes of population—for like the slaves, he is black and ignorant, and like the whites, he is free; and, consequently, points of difference from both, being unlike the slaves in that he is no bondman, and unlike the whites again in that his freedom is circumscribed. He is thus a little above servitude, and considerably below our standard of political freedom. He has no equality with anybody—being, of himself, an "estate" of the community. There is not one single point on which there is complete identity between him and any other "estate" or class. He is a freeman among the slaves, and a slave among the freemen of the region where he lives And his uselessness and his evil influence result precisely from this anomalous character of his position.

For, by reason of the measure of freedom that is guarantied to him, he is debarred from the constant employment to which slaves are subjected. No labor is furnished him by the necessities of his station, to keep him busy. And, for the same reason, a *subsistence* is not secured to him as it is to the slave—he has no master or superior to supply his necessities. With no native industry or capacity, he is thrown upon society to achieve those results of personal success and prosperity, which, even in the case of white men, require much of these qualities for their attainment. And, on the other hand, for the reason that he is necessarily debarred from many of the rights of free people, such as freeholding, the suffrage, &c., he is deprived of those stimulants and inducements which are the incentives to industry and energy. So that he is also necessitated to labar to support existence, while he cannot safely be intrusted with those privileges which render labor agreeable or successful. The necessities of his position, then, give us this involved anomaly: he has all the helplessness of the slave without the slave's guaranties—he has all the need to work that freemen have, without the inducements which incite freemen to labor. Such conditions would probably forbid process to personal development or success in the case of anybody; but, in the case of the free negro, they have necessarily left him ignorant, besotted, unambitious, lazy, and infectious to the community. This is how his *status* results from his position, and its necessities. Yet it is hard to see how this position could have been improved, or its necessities rendered less anomalous. For it is difficult to imagine how he could have been given *less* liberty consistently with his just rights, or how he could have been intrusted with *more* privileges consistently with the good of the community. His position, therefore, is not only destructive to himself and those around him, but it is one *that cannot safely be ameliorated;* and its anomaly is justified by its necessity. It can never be improved, while as it now stands it is working evil to himself and to society. From which considerations it follows that, both for the welfare of the free negro and the people among whom he lives, it is proper that this anomaly should cease to exist; and we are thus brought face to face with the necessity of adopting some wise measures that will abate the nuisance with as little violence and as much justice as is possible, consistently with the interest of society in the premises. What the *Richmond Examiner* proposes will appear from the subjoined remarks:

From the Richmond, Va., Examiner of January 23rd.

It is no longer a subject of doubt whether free negroes ought to remain in a slaveholding community. With few meritorious exceptions, they are idle, vagabond, intemperate, dishonest, indolent. They belong exclusively to the class of consumers, and hang as a dead weight upon the body politic. They are not only a heavy charge upon the public economy in this manner, but, free in the presence of the slave, idle by the side of the involuntary laborer, having liberty of egress and ingress among a population itself denied free locomotion, they at once excite discontent by their example, inflame the spirit of insubornination by their conversation, and present themselves as the ready instruments of correspondents between plantations and of general organization whenever the spirit of discontent and insubordination are ripe for open rebellion among the slaves.

Non-freeholders, they are unfit for employment in agriculture; and if engaging in the mechanical trades and the higher departments of manual labor, they justly offend the self-respect of the important class of whites laboring in those pursuits. The law does not prohibit them from acquiring land, and yet, by a sort of natual destiny, they seem incapable of becoming owners of the soil—barring a very few exceptions which prove the general rule. There is no instance, in our knowledge of the free negro population, of a successful free negro tiller of the soil. If accident places him in possession of land, it gradually dwindles under his tenure into the weed-grown patch, which has been the curtillage of the negro in two continents, and for as many centuries. It has been no more ordained for the African without a master, to till the soil, than for the wild Arab or the Aboriginal Indian. And hence, nothing can be more anomalous, economically, than the free African in an agricultural community.

He is as unfit for the mechanic arts as for agriculture,—wanting the power of combination, of accuracy in measurement and calculation, of mental concentration and of physical application, which are the essentials in mechanism.—Our whole experience of him in the trades has never produced a single instance of a master workman; his highest success in this department of industry, showing him nothing more than a tolerable jobber, or a respectable botch. Besides, as we have said, to encourage him in the trades, is to wound the self-respect of one of the most sterling and respectable classes of our white population, and to drive all of these, but such as are without manly pride of character and occupation, from our community. Hence, nothing could be a greater anomaly in the economy of a community made up in part of citizen mechanics, than a population of free negroes employed in the mechanical trades.

The free negro, therefore, must needs live a vagabond life in the rural districts, performing occasionally the menial offices for the whites for which the slaves are abundantly adequate; or collect about the towns and villages to perform those offices of menial urban service to which the slaves are not adapted—and of prostitution which pay the highest temporary emolument and entail the deepest and most enduring degradation. Thus, too, it is that in performing these menial and infamous offices, the free negro presents an ugly economical anomaly—a putrid, noisome sore upon the face of our society.

The truth is established in the conviction of every intelligent human being, that the African race, except as slaves acting by compulsion of a higher will, cannot sustain itself as a constituent element of civilization, and when individually released from bondage and set free upon civilization, hangs as a dead weight and fasteus as a gangrene sore upon the general system.

The condition of the free negro population itself calls for a change in its social state, no less urgently than the general good of the white and slave population demands some radical measure looking to the extinction of the class in our midst. And thus, the only problem for solution is, how shall our social system be rid of this population. Plainly, there are but two modes of effecting the riddance—those of sending all of them off who shall elect to go—*and selling those who remain, again into the condition of bondage.*

To require the free negro to go North, is only to require that of him which the North encourages his brother and neighbor among the slaves to do. The North are not injured by his emigration thither, as they themselves testify, by enticing our slaves into the same step. The free negro goes from a community in which he is felt and feels himself to be a nuisance, and which labors incessantly to spew him forth, to a community which welcomes his race with open arms, and seems to worship the color of his skin and the curl of his hair.

If he refuses to emigrate to the more hospitable North, then there is no other alternative left under the reasoning in the premises but to sell the free negro into slavery. The Commonwealth has already asserted her right to sell him into bondage by authorising his sale for gaol fees and other debts to herself. The *principle* has thus been long ago asserted and acted upon, so that it is only the *expediency* of the measure which is left to be determined. There are 55,000 free negrois in the State, *the sale of whom would produce to the public treasury* $20,000,000, subject to deduction in proportion to the number who should voluntarily emigrate to the North. There are 238,187 free negroes in the Slave States; which is almost one-tenth as many as their whole slave population. *Their sale and employment in the culture of cotton would enhance the wealth of the South immeasurably,* and do much towards extending the culture of that staple into new regions of domain where now it is not prosecuted for want of slave labor.

Not Unprecedented.

The New York *Day Book* pays the speech of Gen. THOMAS F. BOWIE, recently delivered in the House of Representative, the following just compliment: "The speech of the Hon. THOMAS F. 'BOWIE, of Maryland, on the President's Mes'sage, delivered in the House on the 13th of Jan'uary, is an able vindication of that excellent 'document. Mr. BOWIE shows that Gen. Pierce's 'message was not "unprecedented," as the Black 'Republicans would have the public believe. In 'proof of this he refers to Jefferson's denunciation 'of the alien and sedition laws; Madison's denun'ciation of the conduct of Gov. Strong of Mass., 'during the war of 1812, &c. Mr. BOWIE's con'stituents may congratulate themselves upon hav'ing so true and firm a representative—a favora'ble contrast to such southern traitors as HENRY 'WINTER DAVIS, of the same State."

Burning of the National Theatre.

We are sorry to state, says the Washington *News*, that our Metropolitan Theatre was totally destroyed on Friday afernoon by fire, and as it is generally believed by the malicious act of an incendiary. The flames were first seen to issue from the upper part of the building, between the dome and the roof, as we are informed by an eye-witness residing three doors east of the theatre. The loss falls heavily upon Mr. Winder, the proprietor, who, as we are sorry to learn, was not insured. The late managers and Miss Fanny Morant are also considerable sufferers. The front walls of the building, which were in a dangerous condition, have been taken down, by order of the Mayor.

NEWSPAPER CREDIT SYSTEM.—A rather magnificently proportioned illustration of the credit system can be found in the condition of the *Richmond Enquirer*, when after fifty years of publication, its proprietor removed to Washington, his books showed over $200,000 due from living "patrons." The amount of total loss was not given, but was estimated at $300,000 or more.—Dishonesty seems to find its culminating point in the practice of many newspaper subscribers.

REV. MR. KALLOCH.—This gentleman publishes a card in the Boston papers, in which he avows his determination to act on the defensive in relation to the charges recently made against him, but expresses his willingness to meet any legal investigation his enemies may institute. It is said a charge of adultry against Mr. K. is to be preferred before the grand jury this week. This will bring out the truth. Mr. Kalloch intimates that he has no fear of the result.

DAMAGES.—We understand, says the Annapolis *Republican*, that Mr. BRICE J. WORTHINGTON, of this county, has received five thousand dollars damages for injuries received upon the Washington Branch Rail Road some months since.

A Troy newspaper states that Gen. WOOL's request to be allowed to return home has been granted, and that orders for him to pass his charge over to the next officer in command, are already on their way to California.

Mr. BUCHANAN.—The Wrightsville *Star* states that the President elect "footed" that part of his journey from that town to Lancaster on his return from Washington.

Ex-Governor James H. Hammond is spoken of as a candidate for Congress in the district of South Carolina lately represented by Preston S. Brooks.

There is a negro woman in Virginia who has no ears, and yet can hear distinctly by opening her mouth.

GEO. H. MILES, Esq., of Baltimore, has written a play called "Mary's Birth Day," which is performed with great success in New York.

Mr. THOMAS JENNINGS, one of the carriers of the Baltimore Patriot, has been robbed of $1800, his hard earnings for many years.

WYKOFF, now famous, is in Washington, and quite a "lion."

SOCIETY.—Society, like shaded silk, must be viewed in all its situations, or its colors will deceive us.

Beneficence is the the most exquisite luxury; and the good man, after all, is the genuine epicure.

Retired.

We hear that Roger A. Pryor, Esq., has retired from the Richmond Enquirer, and will probably soon be connected with the editorial department of the Charleston Mercury. We hear, further, that Mr. P.'s retirement from the Enquirer is a perfectly friendly one, caused only by a desire to labor in a field wherein he may probably reap for his family a larger pecuniary return.—*Washington Star.*

Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, *Feb.* 8, 1857.

As the 4th of March draws close the throng increases, and the ropes are pulled more lustily and seemingly with an effort bordering on desperation. The politicians, big and little, from every State, and, one would think, from every county in the Union, are flocking in; but past experience, in its quadrenneal lessons, has made our hotel and boarding-house keepers exceedingly inquisitive when an applicant for apartments presents himself in their presence, and the consequence is that an unusually large number of strangers have been observed of late to *board out* in the different restaurants. A large number will, doubtles, have to *cave* in before the 4th, but still we shall have enough left to fill all the vacancies that may be in the market after that period.—It is, however, quite certain that many—many will return home disappointed. That there will be anything like a general or even a partial substitution of new officers for those who now occupy clerical or other positions under the government, in the District of Columbia, no one, of the Democratic faith, believes for a moment.—That there will and must be many changes—inasmuch as there have been and are now many "scabby sheep" that have, by some means or other, got among the flock—is an event equally certain. The "wolves in sheeps' clothing" too, whose voices betrayed them during their howling last summer, when the Black Republicans were about, will all be stripped of their hides and sent a piping. These salutary operations will necessarily create many vacancies after the 4th of March—and these will, doubtless, be filled only by men who can show a clean card. But, the general harmony and union of all Democrats, of every section of the country, and of every branch of the family, in securing the election of Mr. BUCHANAN, forbids the supposition that there will be anything approximatory to the general *smash up* which would have taken place if either of the respectable members of the family of the F's had been successful. Such a cleaning out, for instance, as marked the advent to power of Tippecanoe & Tyler too, when the Guillotine was under the charge of GRANGER, of New York.

There is one thing which it is believed Mr. BUCHANAN will not overlook, and that is some suitable appreciation of the support he received, during the canvass, from the old line Whigs.—Maryland, although she wheeled into the ranks of the enemies of the South, under the guidance of faithless sons, can present to the nation a phalanx of such patriotic citizens that more than redeems her from the deep damnation of her treacherous defection. While you have such men, in the van guard of your leaders, as JOHNSON, PEARCE, BOWIE and others, your State will soon recover from the spell which fanaticism has cast upon her, and inflict "summary punishment" (I borrow these words) upon those who, for unworthy and selfish ends, have led her astray.

To return, it is believed in Washington that Mr. BUCHANAN will, in some proper manner, acknowledge the great services of the old line Whigs, and surely no good Democrat will object to such an arrangement.

It seems to be settled that Gov. COBB, of Georgia, and J. GLANCY JONES, of Pennsylvania, will be members of the Cabinet. Of this I have entertained no doubt since the result of the election was known—but the precise position in the Cabinet to be assigned to Gov. COBB was, and still is uncertain. Again, the rumor gains credence that Gov. MARCY will be invited to remain in the Department of State. This would be the safest, the most auspicious, and the *luckiest* move Mr. BUCHANAN could make. VINDEX.

Great Flood at Albany--Two Million Dollars Worth of Property Destroyed.

ALBANY, Feb. 9.—A tremendous flood occurred here last night in consequence of the recent thaw, causing an immense amount of damage to property. The loss is estimated at $2,000,000.

The city during the night has been the scene of the utmost confusion, owing to the combined evils of fire and flood, a fire having broken out whilst the flood was at its height.

Laborers have been working all night in removing goods from the first to the second floors of the stores in the lower part of the city, where it was thought they would be safe, but at eleven o'clock the water began rising rapidly and the workmen had to desist and run for safety.

The water continued rising till four o'clock this morning, when it reached a point three feet higher than ever before known, flooding the whole lower portion of the city as high up as Green street. The lower parts of Hermiker and Hudson (parallel streets) are submerged to the first story, and Broadway is flooded from the Exchange to the Delaware House. The stores and cellars on the west side are filled with water, and all the streets between Broadway and the river are navigable by boats. A large number of cattle have been drowned.

About three o'clock the fire bells were sounded in different parts of the city, adding to the terrors of the scene. Warren & Sons buildings in Broadway, and Messrs. Gibson & Dalton's planing mills, and Barrett's warehouse, on the peer, all being in flames at the same time, owing to the slacking of a large quantity of lime. Owing to the height of the water, it was impossible to get the engines to the fire, and therefore the firemen proceeded in boats with buckets, and succeeded in confining the flames to the buildings in which the fire originated.

The glare of the conflagration upon the rushing waters of the river, and the devastating flood in the city, rendered the scene one not soon to be forgotten.

The steam propeller Western World caught fire from the burning warehouse and burned until she sank. It is rumored that several lives have been lost.

Twelve canal boats, three barges and two steam tugs have been sunk.

At noon the water was again rising.

A public meeting has been called for the relief of the sufferers.

The streets are in the greatest excitement.—Several alarms were sounded again at noon.

The families rescued from the flooded districts are landing from flat boats at the post office steps.

The water is still risiug as this despatch is sent off.

The lumber districts are all overflowed and much lumber has been swept off.

The city of Troy is nearly overflowed and the bridges in the neighborhood are in danger. One bridge from up the river floated down against the Troy bridge this morning.

The freight depot at Green Island has been burnt by slacking lime.

The trains are all suspended and business is entirely stopped.

Great Flood on the Susquehanna—Awful Destruction of Property Threatened.

HARRISBURG, Feb. 9.—The flood on the Susquehanna is tremendons.

The ice moved, but gorged four miles below here, and blocks of ice are now piled up on the railroad track 10 to 15 feet high, so that the trains are suspended both ways.

It is reported that a couple of bridges on the Juniata have been swept away with several piers of the Cumberland Valley bridge.

An awful destruction of property seems to be threatened along the line of the Susquehanna.

Dismissed from the Navy.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9.—Lieut. Fleming, of the brig Bainbridge, has been dismissed from the navy, the sentence of the court-martial having been affirmed by the Navy Department.

Letters from the People.

For the Planters' Advocate.

African Slavery in the United States.

MR. EDITOR: In giving my views upon this important subject, which at this time is shaking the very foundation of our Government, I shall carefully examine the three most and only important points or principles connected with the subject: First, that of humanity; second, that of morality; thirdly, that of Christianity. In the first place was it not humane to bring the negroes from Africa, where they were in a miserable, savage state, naked and half-starved, continually killing and sometimes eating the dead?—Therefore the condition of the negroes has been much improved by bringing them to this country; and certainly it is no sin to better the condition of man. They were brought to the South by the North—a miserable, degraded, savage race of human beings, naked and half-fed. The South received and fed them—civilized, moralized and Christianized them, and never suffered or permitted one to starve or go to a poor-house.—Where is another race of men upon the face of the earth who can say as much! This is not all. According to the last census, they increased 22 per cent., while the free negroes in the South only increased 15 per cent., and the negroes in the North, or free States, only increased 8 per cent. This is not all yet. They are never harrassed for debt; they have no house rent to pay, no fire wood, food or clothing to buy; no doctor's bills to pay, and the same physician who attends the master and mistress attends the negroes.

Now, Mr. Editor, compare their situation with the negroes of Africa, the free negroes of the South and North, the poor Indians, who were the owners of this great country, and, you may go further and compare their situation with the laboring people of Europe or this country—for I contend that every person who is dependent upon his daily labor for a support is a slave to necessity, and in very many cases a two or three fold slave:—first, to stern necessity; second, to the wants of his family; and, thirdly, to his employer. In fact every person is more or less a slave to circumstances or necessity. Not only that, the people of North have been and still are as much benefited by the negroes of the South as the people of the South are. Where do they get their cotton, sugar, molasses and rice from? What would become of their manufactories or those who build and work in them, and those who wear and use the goods or fabrics made from cotton—nay, what would become of the working or manufacturing class throughout Europe, if the supply of cotton from this country was cut off? or what would become of the negroes themselves if they were set free? Would they not starve out and decrease as the free negroes of the South have done, to 15 per cent., or those of the North to 8 per cent., or become a nuisance as those of the West India Islands have done? or would they not soon be starved out and shot out as our poor Indians have been? Could they expect a better fate? Sir, the wealth and prosperity of this country, North and South, and in a great measure Europe too, has been owing to the productiveness of the soil of the South, worked in a great measure by negroes, who would otherwise have been miserable savages in Africa, and a curse instead of a benefit to the human family. The immortal WASHINGTON owned negro slaves.

There is a prejudice existing between the Abolitionists and negroes, that neither party appear to be aware of—that is social and equality of feelings. Only ask the Abolitionists how they would like to marry and intermarry with negroes? or how they would like their sons and daughters to marry negroes? Even the very idea of which is offensive to them. It may be in some measure owing to the negro being differently constructed, physically and mentally from the white man. The formation of the foot, heel, leg, mouth, nose, scull, hair, skin, smell and color is different, and the negro only has from 83 to 84 cubic inches of brain, while the white man has from 94 to 96, and the negro no inventive power or quality whatever, and was never known to invent anything of any importance or use.—They appear to be mere creatures, governed by their animal passions and feelings only. They are certainly an inferior race, not capable of self-government. As positive proof, we will look to St. Domingo, the British West India Islands, and to the millions of negroes in Africa.

JUSTICE.

Prince Frederick, February, 1857.

The Burdell Murder.

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—P. M.—Several witnesses were examined to-day in the Burdell case. Drs. Blaisdell and Smith, both having business connections with Dr. Burdell, testified to their belief that the latter was at Saratoga on the 28th of October, the date of the alleged marriage.

Dr. Blaisdell also testified that certain papers found in Eckel's possession, purporting to have passed between Dr. Burdell and Mrs. Cunningham, were forgeries.

Miss Sallenlad, corset maker, testified that one evening late in October Mrs. Cunningham and her eldest daughter came to her mother's house to await the arrival of a gentleman. The latter came and said "all right," and then the three went off together.

The witness was here conducted into another room where there were several persons, and requested to point out the man that called for Mrs. Cunningham, when she unhesitatingly pointed to Mr. Eckel. [The theory of the prosecution is that the night alluded to was the one on which Mrs. Cunningham claims to have been married to Dr. Burdell.]

Eckel was then called up but refused to answer the interrogatories on the plea that he was a party implicated! An exciting discussion here ensued between the counsel of Eckel and the State's Attorney.

William Burdell, of Columbus, Ohio, a brother of the deceased, has given notice of his intention to apply for letters of administration.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The Senate naval committee have prepared a bill authorizing the construction of an armed steamer, of 500 tons burden, for the protection of American commerce from piratical attacks in the shallow waters of the creeks and rivers of China, and asking an appropriation of $120,000 for the purpose.

While the chaplain of the Senate was performing his duty to-day a man, evidently insane, mistaking him for the presiding officer, approached his desk and held up his had as if subscribing to the oath of office. The prayer concluded, the stranger, usurping the seat, prepared to enter upon legislation; but the officers ejected him, notwithstanding his earnest protest against the violation of his senatorial rights.

The rumor that the President, Gov. Marcy and Sidney Webster had been subpœnaed in the filibuster trial at New York is untrue.

The select committee on the alleged corruptions are waiting for witnesses from Western New York before making their report.

The only connection with the South from this point now is the Acquia creek boat, which leaves regularly every morning. The night boat of the line will be put on in a few days. There is no connection with Alexandria except by this route and by foot passengers, or horsemen via Georgetown acqueduct.

The Flood on the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 9.—The ice in the Schuylkill river broke up last night. There were 11 feet of water going over Fairmount dam, and most of the adjacent wharves were overflowed. Considerable quantities of coal, wood and lumber were swept away, and some of the canal boats were left ashore on the wharves by the water's subsiding.

EASTON, Feb. 9.—The Delaware river at this point was 16 feet during yesterday. The ice is broken and drifting. Belvidere bridge is in great danger. The water is five feet above the bridge in some parts. The Lambertville bridge is also endangered. A house in the neighborhood has been washed away. In some places the ice is piled up 20 feet high.

TRENTON, Feb. 9.—A part of Vandere's foundry has been washed away, and the water is covering the streets in the lower part of the town. The bridge is safe unless those above should give way by the pressure of the ice. The ice on the Lehigh is not broken up yet.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—A large delegation of South Carolians, including the brother of Mr. Brooks, arrived here to-day to superintend the removal of the remains of the late Hon. P. S. Brooks.

Local and Personal.

Officers of our Courts.—For the benefit of our numerous readers at home, and abroad, we publish a list of the officers of our Circuit and Orphans' Courts:

Circuit Judge—Hon. PETER W. CRAIN. Post Office:—Allen's Fresh, Charles County, Maryland.

State's Attorney—DANIEL C. DIGGES.

Sheriff—DANIEL R. DYER.

Clerk—CHARLES S. MIDDLETON.

Deputy Clerk—BENJAMIN H. MULLIKIN.

Auditor—JOHN CONTEE MULLIKIN.

Standing Commissioners at Law—SHELBY CLARK and SAMUEL COE.

Commissioners in Equity—C. SMITH KEECH, SHELBY CLARK and THOMAS I. MARSHALL.

Messenger—JOHN H. SANSBURY.

Crier—JOHN R. WALKER.

Keeper of the Court House—JAMES A. MEDLEY.

Officers of the Orphans' Court:

Judges—GEORGE W. WILSON, Esq., Chief Justice; WILLIAM B. HILL and JOSEPH M. PARKER, Esqrs., Associate Justices.

Register—WILLIAM A. JARBOE.

Deputy Register—C. SMITH KEECH.

Number of Marriage Licenses.—By reference to the record in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court for this County, we learn that the number of marriage licenses issued in 1856 was 53—being four less than for the year 1855. During the cold month of January, just passed, when we were all blocked up by snow, and traveling even on horseback barely possible, four were issued.

Land for Sale.—R. W. G. BADEN, Esq., will offer at public sale, in the village of Nottingham, on SATURDAY next, the 14th instant, that valuable tract of land, upon which he now resides, containing 130 acres. To those wishing to buy a small but valuable farm, this is an opportunity rarely to be with. See advertisement in another column.

Col. John F. Dent.—A correspondent of the Leonard Town "*Beacon*," who signs himself "A Buchanan Whig," recommends Col. JOHN F. DENT, of St. Mary's County, as a suitable person to represent this Congressional District in the next House of Representatives.

On the Track Again.—Many of our readers will doubtless be gratified to learn that the stage is on the road once more between this place and Washington. Its trip on Monday last was the first one since Saturday, the 17th of January.

Thanks.—Hon. THOMAS F. BOWIE will please accept our thanks for pamphlet copies of his speech recently delivered in the House of Representatives.

Hon. JAMES A. STEWART has our thanks for public documents.

The Orphans' Court for this county will hold its next regular meeting on TUESDAY, the 17th instant.

Answer to the Enigna in our Last—"The Fourth of March, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven."

From the Baltimore Sun.

"I Can't Afford Reading."

Some years ago there were two farmers, neighbors to each other, one of whom subscribed to a newspaper, while the other did not. It was about the beginning of the Irish famine, and a steamer had arrived, bringing news of the potato rot, the failure of the crops, and the rise of wheat.—Hardly had the first farmer opened his paper and possessed himself of this intelligence, when his neighbor came in, "ready," in his own phrase, "to *dicker* a little, as times *was* dull." After some discursive chat the host asked him what he asked for wheat. The visitor named a price, which he thought high, for it was five cents a bushel more than wheat had brought that season. The other laughed, and said, "You would not throw off something if I took all, would you?" "Well, I dont care," was the reply, "if I do let it go three cents cheaper, I've got a big crop, as you know." With that the bargain was closed, an earnest paid to seal it, and a written bill of sale delivered. The next day the farmer who did not take a newspaper learned how disastrously he had traded off his wheat, having lost as much money by the transaction, as he afterwards said, as would have kept him and his children in newspapers forever.

There are others besides farmers who lose money continually because they think they cannot afford to supply themselves with reading. Nor is it only by neglecting to subscribe for newspapers that they lose their money. He who reads discriminatingly is always, so far forth, more capable than he who does not. Books, well digested, make the difference between the ignorant and intelligent, the dull-witted and the quick, the dunce and the wise man. It is the best informed merchant who always takes the lead. It is the well-read youth who carries off the college honors. It is the statesman who has thoroughly studied the history of his country who is victorious on constitutional questions. Even in farming he is the most successful who brings scientific agriculture to his aid by judiciously adopting certain crops to certain soils and by employing economical manures. Whoever masters the standard books that pertain to his pursuit has acquired all the knowledge extant upon the subject and is therefore a more capable man than his neighbors who have not, and will, sooner or later, find opportunities to bring his information into play to his especial pecuniary benefit. In the race of life, the man who reads has as much advantage over the man who does not as the high-bred Arabian has over the common draught horse.

The absence of books and newspapers in a family is also an injury to the children. A taste for reading is one of the surest safeguards against vicious habits. We should have vastly less rowdyism in Baltimore if education was more universally diffused, and books more generally preferred to the bottle. A century ago, when even the wealthy passed but little of their time in reading, the fashionable amusements were cards, dice, game-cocks, horse-racing and excessive drinking. Gentlemen, both in England and in America, quarreled continually over their cups, or at the faro table, whipped out their swords, and were often carried home stone-dead. The increased taste late among the righ and cultivated for reading has changed all this. The extension of that taste generally will in like manner work a universal reform. Books are better prentitives against brawls than penalties or police officers. Even books of fiction, which aim at nothing higher than amusing the reader, are useful, for recreation is indispensable to man; and while cards, drinking and rowdyism are vicious in themselve, good novels are, at least harmless. There is nobody, be he ever so poor, who "cannot afford reading?" On the contrary, no person under a right view of things can afford to go without it.

Court of Appeals, December Term, 1856.

ANNAPOLIS, February 9th, 1857.—No. 40. H. D. Billingsley vs. G. D. Tongue et al.—appeal from the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel county, was further argued and concluded by Randall for the appellant.

No. 41. Samuel B. Wilson et al. vs. Mary E. F. Smith—appeal from the Circuit Court of Calvert county, was commenced by Causin for the appellant.

Destructive Fire.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 9.—The block of buildings, valued at $60,000, occupied by Gallaher, Dick & Atkinson, Bartley, Johnson, & Co., and Branner and Summers, who are four of the heaviest dealers in the city, were burnt to-day. Nothing was saved.

Remains of Hon. P. S. Brooks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—The remains of Hon. Preston S. Brooks were disinterred to-day and will be taken south to-morrow morning in charge of the committee.

Damage to the Long Bridge.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—A great portion of the wood work of the Long Bridge, between Washington and the Virginia side of the Potomac, was carried down the river. The wood work was at each end. The Washington end and the masonry remains firm. There is much ice still gorged above the bridge. There is no communication with Alexandria, and consequently no connection South. The telegraph which crossed the bridge is down. The steamer Powhatan is not up yet being probably detained by the fog.

MARRIED,

On Thursday, the 4th December, by the Rev. Mr. Martin, of St. John's Parish, Mr. DELANO PIPER, of New Hampshire, and Miss MARION E., third daughter of the late Richard A. C. Magruder, of this county.

THE MARKETS.

SATURDAY, *Feb.* 7.—*Wheat.*—The offerings of Grain to-day were light. About 2200 bushels offered to-day, and sales of 300 bushels good to prime white at $1.56@1.57, and 600 bushels fair to good red at $1.39@1.42. Choice whites, if here, would bring $1.60@1.62 ℔ bushel. *Corn.* About 2300 bushels offered, sales of about 2,000 bushels yellow at 63@64 cents. We quote white Corn at 65@66 cents ℔ bushel, and in demand. *Rye.*—About 200 bushels Pennsylvania Rye offered, and all sold at 78 cents. We quote Maryland and Virginia Rye nominally at 72@75 cents ℔ bushel. *Oats.*—About 1400 bushels offered, and sales at 46@47 cents ℔ bushel. *Seeds.* A brisk demand for Seeds. Sales to-day of 65 bushels prime Cloverseed at $7.50, and 25 bushels Timothy at $3.56. Also, sales of 200 bushels prime Cloverseed at $7.62½. Some holders, however, are demanding $7.75 for strictly prime. We quote Timothyseed at $3.25@3.75.

MONDAY, *Feb.* 9.—*Wheat.*—The offerings of Grain to-day were light. About 2300 bushels offered to-day, and sales of 300 bushels fair to good white at $1.56@1.58, and fair to good reds $1.40@1.41. We quote strictly prime whites at $1.60@1.62 ℔ bushel. *Corn.*—About 6500 bushels offered, and sales of 400 bushels damp yellow at 61 cents, and 2,900 bushels good to prime do. at 63@65 cents. We quote white Corn nominally at 63@65 cents ℔ bushel, no sales. *Rye.*—A fair demand. About 1100 bushels Pennsylvania offered, and all sold at 78@80 cents.—We quote Maryland and Virginia Rye nominally at 72@75 cents ℔ bushel. *Oats.*—About 1600 bushels offered, and sales at 44@46 cents ℔ bushel. *Seeds.*—A fair demand for Seeds. Sales to-day of 150 bushels good Cloverseed at $7.44, and 250 bushels prime Cloverseed at $7.62½.—Some holders however, are asking $7.75 for strictly prime.

TOBACCO.—The inspections of Tobacco during the past week were very limited. Ohio has been sold as fast as inspected. Nothing done in Maryland. Prices have slightly advanced on last week's quotations. We now quote the range of prices as follows, viz:—Maryland sound common $6.50@7.25; good common to midd