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The Planters' Advocate.

UPPER MARLBOROUGH:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, February 18, 1857

☞ An absence from our post prevented the receipt, in due course of mail, of the second dish of amusement which was served up for us by the *Leonardtown Beacon's* correspondent, "St. Mary's," in its issue of the 5th instant—which circumstance will explain our not having expressed our thanks therefor in our last paper.—We were sufficiently grateful to "St. Mary's" for the gratification afforded us by his first letter; but we really are under many additional obligations to him for the rare amusement of which his second epistle is the vehicle. Indeed, we think we may fitly compare his rejoinder to that "fretful porpentine" of which Shakspeare speaks—for it literally bristles all over with fun-provoking suggestions, and all its "points" have operated to "tickle" us into another one of those "hysterical laughs," which have evidently set the teeth of St. Mary's so much on edge. His antics, his fretfulness, his indignant refusal to be led when nobody wanted to lead him, his contradictions, and the manner in which he has allowed us to wheedle him into an open confession of the covert innendoes of his first letter, have had an exhilirating effect upon our risibles quite different from what appears to have been the action of our "hysterical laugh" upon his nervous functions. He says we are a volunteer in the controversy between himself and our correspondent, and yet he sufficiently discloses that we had due reason for taking a hand at it. For we originally noticed the matter to defend ourselves from what we took to be certain slurs aimed at us in his first letter, in which we were indirectly charged with some agency in that paragraph of our Washington correspondent's letter which "St. Mary's" interpreted as a reflection upon a certain nomination. We couched our reply in such a pleasant manner that "St. Mary's" has dubbed it a "hysterical laugh." But it is exceedingly amusing to see how this same hysterical laugh has completely unwrapped and exposed the original drift of his first letter, and how such an astute gentleman as he has suffered himself to be laughed into an avowal of those very unjust and unworthy imputations on us which we suspected him to design! For, this second letter is very free in its references; intimating that we were our own correspondent on that occasion, suggesting a collusion of secret schemes between us and our correspondent, (not a very consistent charge, by the way, with the allegation of *identity*,) and alluding very plainly, indeed, to some imaginary clique, composed of the ADVOCATE, its correspondent, certain other people from some certain quarters, headed of course by the mysterious "Somebody from somewhere else," leagued together for the accomplishment of some indefinite purposes, but especially to lead "St. Mary's" by the nose. What a sharp fellow must "St. Mary's" be to allow such insinuations as these to creep out in the same letter in which he professes that he did not design to "involve" us in any imputations! And how happy must he be in the contemplation of his own shrewdness, when we assure him that our "hysterical laugh" has pumped out of him the very things we wished to have disclosed! He is found in the position of having made at random these unworthy allusions against us out of mere spite, prejudice or partiality, and without a little of evidence that would make them probable—at the same time that he *professes* no intention to make them! We thus have him in a fix where we could spank him to our heart's content—except that we choose to leave him to contemplate the ridiculous attitude in which his frowardness has placed him, and to regale ourselves with another good laugh at him!

He continues his reproaches against the original paragraph of our correspondent—but he advances no reason therefor that we did not once before sift down to chaff. He still battles for the propriety of "early announcements" of candidates, and still impliedly denounces any criticism of such announcements—which was the worst thing our correspondent was charged of attempting. Does "St. Mary's" so rule the roast that nobody can except to the propositions he chooses to make? Our correspondent never censured the nomination referred to; we never censured it; as far as we know, no ubiquitous "somebody from somewhere else" ever censured it. All the first individual did was to make the most modest suggestion that, possibly, so early a movement might occasion trouble. Is the Regency to which "St. Mary's" belongs so potent that even so mild a suggestion as that may not be made on its decrees? And touching "cliques" and "schemes," we have already placed our serious denial against any suggestions of our being in the interest of any man, set of men or faction; and all we will now interpose to shield us from such reckless assaults, is the suggestion that charges of cliquism *always smell of cliques*, and intimations of factions almost invariably proceed from factious sources. And if our amusement at the antics of "St. Mary's" did not make a bad humor impossible for us on this occasion, we think we could refer to a little institution of that sort, composed of some people from some certain sources, having at heart, now for some time, sundry schemes which they would be pleased to have realized—its location being somewhere or other, perhaps not a full thousand miles from ourselves. Upon the supposition that the effusions of "St. Mary's" have been thence inspired, we can probably account for their bitterness, or rather peevishness, upon the principle that "hope deferred maketh the heart *sick*."

Finally, "St. Mary's" will pardon us if we suggest to him that if he be not more careful in his insinuations he may yet cause our correspondent's advice to be verified in one way. Perhaps "early announcements" may be very proper in themselves—but may they not prove quite "treasonable to their own good purposes," by reason of the peevish-tempered efforts so soon elicited in their support? Certainly this imagining everybody to be hostile to his favorites, and this accusing everybody of selfish and scheming purposes, is a poor way to make friends. He is blowing his horn a little too soon, and a little too violently, and a confiding public may come to mistrust the unselfish motives of so peevish a champion as he. And so it may fall out, that long before the summer's solstice shall bring near the trysting day, the shrill notes from his little horn will have died upon the public ear, and have left no melody behind them. Then he will wish he had taken our correspondent's advice and not been so hasty in his wrath; and then, perchance, he will repent having neglected the friendly words we speak when we assure him that neither we, nor our correspondent, nor any clique, faction, principality or power, nor even any "somebody from somewhere else," as far as we are aware, have the least idea of biting him unawares; and when we advise him that to save himself from being the victim of any more "hysterical laughs" he had better stop running against people who are subject to hysterics, and retire into his hole as quietly as possible. For this good counsel we make no charge, in consideration of the amusement he has afforded us; and so, wishing him better luck in picking himself up, we add the compliments of the season.—Good morning, sir!

☞ Mr. GEORGE PEABODY, the celebrated American banker of London, who has been sojourning for a few weeks in Baltimore, his former residence, and has been entertained there with great eclat, has just announced his purpose of making a donation of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars for the establishment of an Institute in that city, which, to use his own language, "may 'become useful towards the improvement of the 'moral and intellectual culture of the inhabi-'tants of Baltimore, and collaterally to those of 'the State, and also towards the enlargement 'and diffusion of a taste for the fine arts."

His intention is announced in quite a lengthy letter, addressed to twenty-five citizens of Baltimore, who are constituted a board of trustees to carry out his design. The Institute is to be very comprehensive in its plan, and is to be open to all classes of people—embracing an extensive free library; lectures from the best men procurable, on literature, science and the arts; galleries of painting and statuary; an academy of music; and prizes for proficiency to graduates of the public schools. It is also to furnish apartments for the exclusive use of the Historical Society of Maryland, and that corporation is to have the custody of the buildings, and is to superintend, through committees, the operations of the various departments of the Institute. Our Baltimore cotemporaries speak in terms of deserved commendation of this instance of the munificence of the distinguished donor.

☞ Messrs. WILLIAM M. GWINN and DANIEL C. BRODERICK have been elected to the United States Senate from California. Dr. GWINN was once before in that body, where he earned great reputation as an efficient business member. Mr. BRODERICK was originally from New York, and has been several times warmly supported in California for the post he has now attained. It is said that when he started for California, seven years ago, he had just enough of money to take him there and $25 over. He returns now with a fortune of about $250,000.

MONUMENT TO GEN. HARRISON.—The Cincinnati *Times* says it is now an established fact that an effort is to be made to raise a fund for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of the hero of Tippecanoe. A ball is to take place in Cincinnati on the 23d instant, the proceeds of which are to be applied to the purpose. The memory of the pioneer general, the hero of a long and bloody Indian war, is certainly worthy of such testimonials from those who are now enjoying the privileges for which he struggled, and endured the privations incidental to a frontier life.

PREFERS SLAVERY.—Some years ago, says the Richmond *Dispatch*, a gentleman of Washington County, Va., Mr. James Reed, died, leaving a provision in his will for the manumission and removal of his slaves at the death of his sister. His sister dying some three or four years since, the slaves were set free and removed to Pennsylvania. A few months ago a gentleman received a letter from one of these servants, requesting permission to return to that county and become his slave. He prefers slavery in Virginia to freedom in Pennsylvania, and he has had a fair experience in both States.

SELECT THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE.—A New York letter says:

A funny affair, in the fashionable world, is on the *tapis*. A number of ladies attached to a benevolent institution, are going to get up a select theatrical performance, for the benefit of the funds of said institution. They have waited upon Laura Keene, and solicited the use of her establishment, and Laura, it is said, consents.—What makes this thing *funny* is, that ladies prominent in the cause of moral reform and benevolence should thus be pressing the once tabooed stage into their service. Verily, the ways of fashion in New York are past finding out.

A machinist at Memphis, Tennessee, has contrived what he calls a marine locomotive, which he is confident can be constructed so as to make thirty miles an hour. The invention consists in using two huge parallel hollow screws in place of the present keel, and revolving them by means of steam power, so that they will cut their way through the water as a common screw cuts into wood.

THE TWENTY-SECOND OF FEBRUARY.—The ensuing anniversary of the birth of Washington is to be appropriately colebrated at St. John's College, Annapolis. Mr. SEATON MUNROE, of Washington city, is to read Washington's Farewell Address, and Mr. JOSEPH K. ROBERTS is to deliver an oration.

HONORS TO MR. BROOKS.—The remains of the late Preston S. Brooks having reached the State of South Carolina, the bells at Charleston were tolled on Thursday, the flags of the shipping placed at half mast and minute guns fired.

The Fredericksburg *Herald* says: "The late Sheriff of this county, (R. C. Duerson,) sold a farm of 200 acres for $800. The purchaser put 8 acres in Tobacco, which he cured and carried to Richmond, and after paying all expenses brought home $1,100."

Hon. A. J. Donelson, who was a candidate for the Vice Presidency, was robbed on the 5th inst., on the steamboat Daniel Boone, from Nashville, of a draft on New Orleans, of four thousand dollars and a gold watch.

ORATION.—J. Mortimer Kilgour, Esq., of Maryland, has accepted an invitation from the Leesburg (Va.) Debating Society, to deliver an oration in Leesburg, appropriate to the occasion, on Saturday week, 21st of February—the 22d occurring on Sunday.

ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Hon. Wm. L. Dayton, late Republican candidate for Vice President of the United States, has been nominated by the Governor of New Jersey as Attorney General of that State.

Miss Antonia Jones, a young Virginia actress, is spoke of in terms of unqualified admiration in articles in the Richmond *Enquirer*, apparently from the pen of Mrs. Mowatt Ritchie.

Hon. HENRY WINTER DAVIS and Miss NANNIE A., daughter of John B. Morris, Esq., of Baltimore, were united in Marriage on Tuesday the 27th ult.

Thursday, February 19th, has been fixed for the election of two U. S. Senators by the New Jersey Legislature.

A bill is before the Legislature of New York to abolish the three days of grace on bank drafts.

MARYLAND AND Mr. BUCHANAN.

The opinion that no cabinet officer or other high functionary will be taken from this State by the new President appears generally to prevail, and she seems to be set down by the politicians as marked for exclusion from much consideration in the new government. Several prominent Marylanders have, however, been named with much confidence as fitting recipients of high honors, and some of them, were are sure, had Maryland been "in the ring," must have presented very grave claims. Among these, we have been gratified to hear that Col. GEORGE W. HUGHES, of Anne Arundel, was prominently named in connexion with the Secretaryship of War, and that he was so strongly recommended to Mr. BUCHANAN for that post from such high and influential sources, that his appointment would be quite probable, were a cabinet man to come from Maryland. His long experience as a military man, his knowledge of the wants and of the management of the army, and his being conversant with all matters in the scope of that department seemed, in the views of those who proposed him, to point him out as best fitted to succeed the present efficient secretary—whose active and intelligent superintendence of the war office was probably the result of his having had the same sort of experience as Col. HUGHES.

Mr. BUCHANAN'S alleged intention to advance prominently no Marylander is said to have been occasioned by a general outcry or opposition on the part of all other sections when such a thing was suggested. Whether he is obliged to take this course as a political necessity, we know not; neither do we assume to say that it may not, as such, be justified. But we very much doubt whether, as a matter either of principle or of expediency, that course is in any way inevitable, or necessarily a wise one. For, as a new President's duty and desire no doubt generally are to secure the best and most efficient counsellors, he is merely narrowing the circle of his choice when he is guided by the political lights and shadows of the map. And it does not appear so evident that the minority of any State which happened to oppose the advent of the new administration should therefore be put under the ban of exclusion, because that minority may comprise most efficient men and because the failure of their State can hardly be said to be their fault. Nor does it seem right that high honors should continue to be lavished upon those States only which have rarely varied—because they have generally had their full share. And again, in point of expediency, judicious selections from an opposition State, it should seem, would tend to rectify it rather than otherwise. Indeed, in every way it may be viewed, this system of meting out high offices to some States as rewards, and withholding them from others in the way of punishment, does not seem to be founded in any very strong reason or necessity—for its effect is to foist on the President a different rule than what is imposed by the duty of his position, and to set up a theory of political merits and demerits, of partizan performances and short comings, in reference to matters in which such distinctions are really absurd. Hence comes the rotten notion of "claims upon the administration" on the part of localities that have done thus and so, which has already too much prevailed, and which causes whole communities to pass in judgment before certain political managers, who execute laws of their own making for the moral and punishment of good or evil in nations which they alone have constituted as "good" or "evil." We think the President should look upon the country as a whole—at least that in the selection of high functionaries, he should regard his own party as an entirety, irrespective of its local successes or failures.

☞ The counting of the Electoral votes of the States in the presence of the two Houses of Congress was quite an interesting spectacle on Wednesday last; but was the occasion of developing a very grave difficulty, involving a great defect in the law, which might have led in a certain contingency to serious trouble. In process of counting the returns it appeared that the vote of Wisconsin had been cast by the Electors on the 4th December instead of the 3rd, as required by law. Objection was made to its being counted, and this brought the question to a focus at once: Who had power to exclude it? It was clear that such a power was not resident in the presiding officer; but was it resident in the two houses, assembled together? If so, whence their authority to reject votes, inasmuch as their functions are limited to *witnessing* the *counting* of the votes only? Or *how* could they reject votes, or take any action whatever? They do not constitute one body, have no corporate existence as a joint-convention, and no specified powers except that of being witnesses to the mere fact of counting. It did not even appear that any proposition whatever could be submitted or entertained in such a convention of the two houses—for how was the vote to be taken? Not *per capita*, for that would have swallowed up the Senate representing *States*; nor yet by States, for that would have abridged the weight of the House, representing the people. Had Congress the power to throw out the vote, as matters stood? If so, whence the authority? And suppose some of the returns had been fraudulent, or there had been two or more returns from the same state, who was to verify the genuine votes and judicially determine their validity? These considerations were quickly evolved in the discussion, and considerable confusion for a time prevailed. It was easy to see what an alarming crisis might have been precipitated had the vote of Wisconsin been necessary to decide the election. The explanations of the difficulty only complicated it, inasmuch as most of them ignored its true cause and failed to observe that it arose from a palpable defect in the law. To that conclusion however both houses eventually came, and the point was quietly dropped without the establishment of any precedent. Some provision of law, either organic or statutory, is obviously needed to point out the authority that is to *verify* the returns.

AN AFFECTING SCENE.—A Washington correspondent of the Montgomery (Ala.) *Advertiser* and *State Gazette*, describes a touching scene that occurred over the dead body of Hon. P. S. BROOKS:

About ten minutes after his death the venerable old Senator (Butler) whose locks are now white with the frosts of age, came into the room, and upon seeing him cold in the embrace of death, threw himself upon his bosom and wept as if his heart would burst from its bounds.—Judge Butler had lavished the attention and affection of many years upon Mr. Brooks, and he seemed to be the important object of his solicitude and existence, and while the death-sweat still stood upon the brow of the immortal sleeper, the old man called to the fleeing spirit in tones of sorrow that moved the pitying hearts of those who stood round to tears—"My boy, my boy, my boy!" and such a scene of mourning and sorrow as was witnessed there cannot be comprehended, much less repeated here.

The legislature of Mississippi adjourned on the night of the 2d inst., after a session of two months. The new code was completed.

Letters from the People.

For the Planters' Advocate.

The Chesapeake and Potomac Canal.

This canal, chartered by the State of Maryland in 1854, is designed to connect with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal near Washington city, and from thence across to the Patuxent river—within the vicinity of Upper Marlboro'—a distance of seventeen miles; and from thence across to the Chesapeake Bay, at a cove called Herring Bay or Fair Haven—a distance of six miles from the Patuxent river, the whole distance from Washington city being only twenty-three miles. This canal, when completed, will shorten the water communication between Washington and Baltimore two hundred miles, between Washington and Philadelphia three hundred, between Washington and New York four hundred, and between Washington and Boston five hundred.—Canal boats then leaving Cumberland will be able to go through to the above named cities without transhipment, thereby greatly increasing the supply of coal or fuel in those cities, reducing the price, and greatly relieving the suffering poor. This work, too, when completed, will enable the General Government to ship or transport anything from Cumberland to Harper's Ferry or Washington, direct through to Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, without the risk of the seas, at all times, or the navy of an enemy in time of war; and that, too, gratis, if the General Government will only give four hundred thousand acres of public land to aid in the construction of the canal. This, too, is a very moderate request, taken in consideration that the Government is to have at all times the privilege to pass anything through gratis. And the canal would greatly increase the trade and business generally of Washington, thereby greatly enhance the value of property, both private and public, and also increase the trade on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, in which the people of the District of Columbia as well as those of Maryland, and the public generally, have a large interest. Another reason why the General Government should make this small appropriation, the people of Maryland and those of the District, at an enormous expense and under a heavy tax, constructed the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, from and through the District to Cumberland. The State of Maryland also gave to the General Government all of the territory within the limits of the District; furthermore, her citizens, at a great expense, constructed the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, from the very steps of the Capitol of the United States, and over this road passes the great Western and Eastern mails of the country, in less than one-third the time formerly taken, and at one-third the expense. That is not all. Over this road passes the President of the United States, the heads of the Departments, Congressmen, soldiers and munitions of war, in one-third the time and at less than one-third the expense, as formerly; and strange to say, indeed, under all these circumstances and advantages, and national benefits, the General Government should refuse to give a few acres of the public lands to increase these advantages, by assisting or aiding to construct a canal from the seat of Government, the short distance of twenty-three miles, across to the Chesapeake Bay, when she has given millions of acres to several of the States for similar purposes. WASHINGTON.

Court of Appeals, December Term, 1856.

ANNAPOLIS, February 11, 1857.—No. 42. John Hutchins and A. G. Bowen, administrators of John Hooper et al., vs. Basil S. Dixon, executor of James Hooper—appeal from the Circuit Court of Calvert County, was argued by Parran and Randall for the appellants, and by Brewer and Causin for the appellee.

ANNAPOLIS, February 12th, 1857.—No. 42. John Hutchins, &c., vs. Basil S. Dixon, Ex'r of James Hooper—appeal from the Circuit Court of Calvert County, was further argued and concluded by Randall for the appellants.

No 177. Joseph K. Roberts and Samuel L. Brook vs. James S. Morsell—appeal from the Circuit Court of Calvert County, was argued by [illegible] for the appellants, and by Parran for the appellee.

No. 44. Zadok Sasseer vs. Benjamin Whitley et al.—an appeal from the Circuit Court of Prince George's County, was argued by Causin for the appellant.

ANNAPOLIS, February 13th, 1857.—No. 44. Zadok Sasseer vs. Benjamin Whitley et al.—appeal from the Circuit Court of Prince George's County—was further argued and concluded by Magruder for the appellees and by Digges for the appellant.

ANNAPOLIS, February 16, 1857.—No. 45. Albert H. Berry vs. Robert B. Griffin and others—appeal from the Circuit Court of Prince George's County—was argued by Pratt and Berry for the appellants, and by Magruder for the appellees, and submitted upon written arguments by Chew and Hance for the appellees.

Nos. 48 and 142. Walter Smith vs. Wm. Clark—appeals from the Circuit Court of Prince George's County—were argued by Digges for the appellant.

Charleston Races.

Third Day.—First race: Jockey Club purse, $500; 2 mile heats. Entries: C. P. Coyle's Marksman; John Reilly's Maid of Charleston; D. McDaniel's Carolina; Thomas G. Bacon' Sally Roper; H. C. Caffrey's Dallas. Marksman won, in two straight heats. Time: 3.51—3.44¼. Carolina was distanced the first heat. Second race, for Hutchinson's stakes, 2 mile heats. Entries: W. H. Gibbon's Nicholas 1st; J. & T. W. Doswell's Revenue; Arthur Towle's Ada Tevis; Puryear & Watson's Charleston. Nicholas won the first heat, and Charleston the other two.—Time: 3.43¾—3.44.

Last Day.—Handicap for Jockey Club purse of $600, 3 mile heats. Sixteen horses entered, only two ran—Mary Blueskin and Marksman.—The latter won in two straight heats. Time 5.53¾—5.46¾. *Second Race.*—Single dash 3 miles—Jockey Club purse $300. Entries—Alice Jones, Adelgiza and Dallas. Won by Dallas.—Time 5.48¾.

AN EDITOR IN HEAVEN.—An exchange, under the above head, makes some feeling comments upon the demise of a cotemporary. He does not seem to doubt but that the editor went straight to Heaven:

Are we not glad that such an editor is in Heaven? There the cry of "more copy" shall never again fall upon his distracted ears. There he will no more be abused by his political antagonists with lies and detraction that should shame a demon to promulgate. There, he shall no more be used as a ladder for the aspiring to kick down as soon as they reach the desired height, and need him no more. There, he shall be able to see the immense masses of mind he has moved, all unknowingly and unknown as he has been, during his weary pilgrimage on earth. There, he will find all his articles *credited*, not a peal of his thunder stolen; and there shall be no horrid typographical errors to throw him into a fever.—We are glad the editor is in Heaven.

RACE HORSES AND THEIR WINNINGS.—A London witer, in giving a description of the sales rooms of Messrs. Tattersall, in that city, says:

"The value of the property which passes under the hammers of the Messrs. Tattersall seems immense, when we consider that the number of lots put up for sale during the year, and the great price for some of them. Mameluke sold for four thousand guineas; Bay Middleton realized three thousand five hundred; Plenipo five thousand; whilst six thousand five hundred guineas was paid for Hibble Noble." "One may cease to wonder at such prices," says the Birmingham Journal, "when we find that the Flying Dutchman won his owner nearly £20,000 in stakes alone, and the winnings of himself and his half brother, Von Tromp, who belonged to the same owner, amounted to £34,000. Cotherstone won at three years old £12,765; West Australian £10,975; and Surplice £10,975.

The first daily newspaper published in Virginia was in 1790, and the subscription price was $50 per annum.

Major Jack Downing is preparing a history called "Thirty Years Out of the Senate." It goes ahead of Col. Benton's.

Dr. Southey Nottingham, who left Norfolk for Northampton County, Va., to be married, died on the 16th ult., a few days after the ceremony.

Washington Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, *Feb.* 15, 1857.

The session of Congress is rapidly drawing to a close, and yet much important business remains on the Speaker's table or in the hands of committees. The Tariff may be disposed of in some way, though the action of the House on the project of Mr. LETCHER would seem to shut out much hope of a compromise between the extremists on both sides. The surplus revenue still accumulates, and by the next session of Congress, under the Tariff of 1846—the one now in operation—the amount will augment beyond all precedent. The fate of the Submarine Telegraph in the House is in some doubt, and that question may be laid over for the action of the next Congress. How the KNOW-Nothings can support a huge system of telegraphic communication, all of which will lie on *foreign* soil, is marvellous; and yet they support it with right good will.—There can be no doubt of its great national utility, provided the bill lending the sanction of our Government to the enterprise shall be so hedged in that the United States can always enjoy equal privileges with the British Government. In point of national advantages, the better position would be enjoyed by Great Britain. We have no colonies in Europe, whose uprising in case of revolution it would be important for us to be apprised of at the earliest moment. Our relations with the Governments of the Old World are those of peace and commerce; and the delay of a week or two in the transmission of important intelligence would, at most, involve but a few dollars and cents, (very good things, by the way, in their place,) while circumstances may arise that would make it of the last importance to us that the political movements—arising in Canada, for instance, should not reach England until Brother Jonathan had first fully digested such an important event. Still, we live in an age of progress, civilization and commercial acheivement, and these contingent disadvantages may be more than balanced by the positive present good which such a mode of communication with Europe would confer.

The Baltimore *Metropolitan*, for this month, handles Lieut. GILLIS's mammoth Report on Chili without gloves. It seems that this officer was sent by the Government to Chili to make some scientific researches, chiefly astronomical, and report the result. The Report embraces two or three large folio volumes—full, no doubt, of much useful information on the legitimate subject of Lieut. GILLIS's mission; but it steps beyond the Observatory, and discusses the theology of the Chilian faith, for which task the *Metropolitan* denies his competency, and backs up its denial with some hard knocks. Unless the Chilians are, like their ancient Mexican neighbors, worshippers of the sun, I do not see how Lieut. GILLIS can justify his departure from the scientific subjects confided to him;—but it may be that they are in reality sun-worshippers. If so, the theological portion of the Report would be clearly germain to the general purposes of his mission, and unquestionable within the *scope* of astronomical observations. I suggest the point, as the author will, no doubt, vindicate his work, particularly as Uncle Sam *foots up* the cash for printing and binding it.

The press generally speaks in terms of the highest commendation of Gen. BOWIE's recent reply to Mr. DAVIS's on Freesoilism and the Know-Nothings.

The speech of Hon. JOHN KELLY, of New York, also in reply to Mr. DAVIS as well as to Mr. ACKERS, of Missouri, is spoken of as being a complete exposition of the position and principles of the New York Democracy during the late election, and as an able refutation of the doctrines put forth by these gentlemen in their speeches.

No change in political stocks since last week. *Consols* are advancing, inasmuch as it is found best by the aspirants for office to *bunch* their chances and afterwards settle the *spoils* between them—on a *pro rata* basis. VINDEX.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—The War Department has received intelligence from Gen. Wool, dated Benici, California, January 3d, saying that peace and quiet prevailed throughout the department of the Pacific, which he has no doubt will continue as long as the Indians are treated with ordinary justice. The disposition of the troops is such as not only to give protection to the white settlements, but to restrain the Indians should they exhibit any intentions to renew the war, which, from the information he has received, he does not in the least apprehend.

Among the fifty Senate bills reported by Mr. Washburn, of Illinois, in the House to-day, were three for the improvement of Lake Michigan, the Hurlgate Channel, the Hudson and the Illinois rivers, and the harbors of Providence, Cape Cod, Chicago, Erie and Michigan city. The program is to unite them all in one bill, in favor of which it is ascertained there is a large majority, but want of time may prevent the consummation of this scheme.

The witnesses from Western New York in the corruption investigation are expected to arrive here to-night. If so the committee will then meet to receive their testimony. The report is anticipated to-morrow, though it may not be made till Wednesday.

The Central American treaty was discussed several hours to-day by the Senate in executive sesssion. Its further consideration was postponed, by five majority, until the 5th of March, the Senate at the same time ratifying the extradition treaty between the United States and the Netherlands.

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury in the Burdell Murder Case--Mrs. Cunningham and Eckel as principals and Snodgrass as accessory, &c.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The long pending investigation by the Coroner in the Burdell murder case was brought to an end yesterday evening. The verdict of the jury hands over Mrs. Cunningham and Eckel to the grand jury as principals in the murder and Snodgrass as accessory. The result is universally approved. Since the close of the testimony another witness has appeared, who was willing to testify that he saw Farrall on the stoop of Dr. B's. house on the night of the murder—and also that he saw the door open with a man standing in it in his shirt sleeves.

Dr. Woodward testified that he had tried a duplicate of the dagger purchased by Snodgrass in Broadway, on a dead body, and found the wounds the same in all respects as on Dr. Burdell.

The jury considered Helen and Augusta Cunningham in possession of the facts of the murder, and that it was the duty of the coroner to hold them for the future action of the grand jury.—Farrall is also retained as a witness, the city providing for his family.

Anonymous letters have been sent to the coroner threatening his life because of the course he pursued in the examination. It is understood that the grand jury will commence with the case immediately.

Appointment.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—George H. Jones, for many years chief clerk in one of the public departments, and private secretary of the late Vice President King, has received the appointment from the President of assistant secretary to sign land warrents.

Railroad Accident.

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—A collision occurred on the Rock Island Railroad on Friday night, by which three lives were lost. Several cars were crushed. The killed were the engineer, fireman and brakeman.

Local and Personal.

Christ Church, Akakeke, in St. John's Parish, Prince George's and Charles Counties, destroyed by fire on Christmas eve, is to rise from its ruins at once, enlarged and much beautified. Nearly $1,000 were subscribed for the purpose on the day after the fire; and within three weeks, the plan for rebuilding with improvements had been procured, the estimates obtained, and the sum required ($2,500) all made up, with something beside for extras, within the parish. For promptness and for liberality, this is a most commendable example. It may be hard to find its equal in Church doings.

The old walls are understood to be servicable. They are to be altered by the substitution of first-pointed for round-headed windows. A chancel and porch, or little tower, are to be added. An open roof is to crown the whole.

It is hoped to have the church completed during the month of May.

We regret to learn that Mr. JOHN BURKE, an aged citizen residing at "Horse Head," in this county, died on Monday morning last. He was Postmaster at that place, and was Principal of "Oak Grove Seminary, in that neighborhood.—He was a very worthy and intelligent man, and was highly respected wherever known.

The fine, open weather which has succeeded the terrible storm period, is but little removed from a genuine spring season, and is beginning to create a little out-door activity. Stripping tobacco and preparing tobacco-beds are tasks now engaging the attention of the farming community very generally. The roads are improving.

The Recent Assault upon an Editor.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Feb. 15.—In the case of DeKay, held to answer the charge of violently assaulting Mr. Carter, the editor of the Argus, the former plead guilty to the offence and was held in the sum of $1,200. In addition to this, Mr. Carter has commenced a private suit against DeKay, to answer in which he has been held to bail in the sum of $15,000.

The Burdell Murder.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Coroner Connery had a private examination of Eckel, Mrs. Cunningham and Mr. Snodgrass this morning. All protested their innocence. The latter added that if any one knew anything about the murder it is Miss Augusta Cunningham or her mother. The case was presented to the grand jury.

The Inauguration Ball.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—Eleven hundred tickets have already been subscribed for the national inauguration ball. These, at $10 each, make an aggregate of $11,000. The number of tickets taken is likely to reach over fifteen hundred.

Marine Disasters.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 16.—The ship Pocahontas, from New York, is ashore; but will probably be gotten off by lightening her. The ship Columbia, of Bath, from Newport, is ashore on the South Breakers. She went on to-day, and will probably be a total loss.

AFFAIRS IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY.—We copy the following from the Leonardtown *Beacon*:

Celebration.—The "Washington Society" of Charlotte Hall have completed their arrangements for an appropriate celebration of the birthday of the "Father of his Country" on Monday, the 22d instant. R. D. Posey, Esq., will read Washington's Farewell Address, and John A. Price, Esq., will deliver an Oration.

The Ice.—The mild weather of last week had the effect to break up the ice in the Potomac and Patuxent. From Drum Point at the mouth of the Patuxent, quite a fleet of craft of all kinds were enabled to take their departure.

Farming Matters.—The mild weather of last week has set many of our farmers busy in preparing their tobacco-beds, and getting ready for spring operations generally.

The South Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in California, recently in session at Sacramento, defined their position on the slavery question, by deciding to let it entirely alone.

Fanny Kemble writes an indignant letter to the Milwaukee Sentinel, pitching into the hotels of that place. One week's board cost her ninety-one dollars.

THE MARKETS.

SATURDAY, *Feb.* 14.—*Wheat.*—The offerings of Grain on the Corn Exchange continued limited. About 2000 bushels offered to-day, and no sales of white reported. We quote fair to good white at $1.52@1.56, and prime do. at $1.58. Sales of 400 bushels fair to good red at $1.42@1.44 ₱ bushel. *Corn.*—A good demand. About 2700 bushels offered to-day, and sales of 500 bushels white at 60@62 to 64 cents, and 1500 bushels yellow at 62½@64 cents. Choice samples of both white and yellow Corn would readily bring 65@66 cents ₱ bushel. *Rye.*—About 200 bushels offered to-day, no sales reported.—We quote nominally, Pennsylpania at 80@82 cents, Maryland at 72 cents, and Virgina Rye at 75 cents ₱ bushel. *Oats.*—About 2000 bushels offered to-day, and all sold at 43@45 cents ₱ bushel. A prime lot of 1300 bushels Oats sold at 46 cents ₱ bushel. *Seeds.*—A good demand for Cloverseed. Sales to-day of 130 bushels at $7.75. Also, 150 bushels at $6.75@7.68, and 50 bushels choice Cloverseed at $8 ₱ bushel.—No sales of Timothyseed. We quote it held at $3.75@4 ₱ bushel.

MONDAY, *Feb.* 16.—The market had a drooping tendency for all descriptions of Grain to-day.—*Wheat.*—About 4200 bushels offered on 'change, and sales of fair to good white at $1.48@1.53, and good to prime do. at $1.57@1.58. Sales of 600 bushels fair red at $1.41, and 100 bushels choice Zimmerman do. at $1.46 ₱ bushel. *Corn.* About 2600 bushels offered to-day, and sales of 200 bushels mixed at 60 cents; 300 bushels damp yellow at 60 cents, and 1500 bushels choice yellow at 62@64 cents. We quote good to prime white Corn 62@65 cents ₱ bushel. *Rye.*—A good demand. Sales to-day of 100 bushels Maryland at 75 cents, 700 bushels Pennsylvania Rye at 80@82 cents ₱ bushel. *Oats.*—About 1800 bushels offered to-day, and sales of prime at 43@45 cents, and 100 bushels choice Oats at 46 cents ₱ bushel. *Seeds.*—A fair demand for Cloverseed. Sales to-day of 250 bushels good $7.75, and 50 bushels prime Cloverseed at $7.87½ ₱ bushel.

TOBACCO.—The receipts of Tobacco during the past week were very light. There have been no sales of Ohio and Maryland. The demand continues good for shipping and manufacturing purposes at the quotations. We quote the range of prices as follows, viz: Maryland sound common $6.50@7.25; good common to middling $7.50@8.37½; good to fine $9.12½@13. Bays Tobacco—Tip $7.87½@8.37½; seconds do. $12@13; superior $17.50@25.50; yellow $25.50@32.50, as to quality. We quote Ohio as follows: Inferior to good common brown, $8@8.50; middling to good reds $9@10; good to fine reds and spangled $10@13; good to fine yellow $15@20; fine red segar wrapper $12@15. The inspections for the week were 57 hhds. Ohio.

MARRIED,

On the 27th ult., Mr. JAMES P. WHITE and Miss ANN CRAEGG, of this county.

On the same day, Mr. BENJAMIN L. DUCKETT and Miss REBECCA KINGSBURY, of this county.

On Tuesday, the 2d inst., Mr. HEZEKIAH GARDINER and Miss SARAH MORKADEE, of this county.

DIED,

In Bladensburg, at the residence of her father, Thomas Clements, Esq, on the 15th ultimo, of Consumption, Mrs. MARY ANN DOWDEN, in the 43d year of her age.

VALUABLE NEGROES At Public Sale.

BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER OF THE ORPHANS' COURT OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, passed on the twenty-fifth day of November, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, the undersigned, as administrator of Caroline M. S. Rawlings, late of Prince George's County, deceased, will offer at public sale, at the late residence of said deceased, in Aquasco District,

ON WEDNESDAY, the 11th day of March next,

if fair, if not, on the next fair day thereafter, THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PERSONAL PROPERTY, *viz:*

One Young Negro Man,
One Negro Boy, about 16 years of age,
One Negro Woman and Child.

TERMS OF SALE:—Cash, or accepted drafts on Baltimore, at four months, with interest included.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock, a. m.

JAMES H. RAWLINGS,
Adm'r of C. M. S. Rawlings.

February 18, 1857—ts

Valuable Meadow for Sale.

SALE POSTPONED.

THE undersigned will offer at public sale **ON TUESDAY, the 17th day of February next,** at the Court House Door, the tract of **MEADOW LAND,** lying north of the village, containing about

Twenty Seven Acres,

belonging to O. C. Harris, which said land was purchased a few years since by said Harris from Miss Sarah Forrest. The soil is well adapted to the growth of corn and all kinds of grasses, and in fertility of soil it cannot be surpassed.

Terms made known on the day of sale.

Sale to commence at 10 o'clock. a. m.

SAMUEL B. HANCE,
Agent for O. C. Harris.

January 28, 1857—ts

☞ *The above sale is unavoidably postposed until THURSDAY, the 26th day of FEBRUARY, at the same hour and place.*

SAMUEL B. HANCE,
Agent for O. C. Harris.

February 18, 1857.

PUBLIC SALE.

THE UNDERSIGNED, wishing to change his business, will offer at public sale, at T B, in this county,

ON MONDAY, the 2nd day of March next,

His Entire Stock of Goods,

consisting of DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, &c. His stock consists, in part, of the following articles, viz:

Callicos, Cottons, Linens,
Cloths, Blankets, &c. Also, a fine lot of Boots and Shoes, of all kinds,
Hats, Caps, &c. Also, a lot of
Tea and Whiskey, and many other articles too numerous to be