The Easton Star.

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Foreign and Domestic News.

EASTON, MD., TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1881. VOL. XVI.—NO 20

THE EASTON STAR

T. E. ROBSON, Editor.

TERMS:

One Dollar and Fifty Cents cash in advance, or *Two Dollars and Fifty Cents* if not paid within the year. Clubs of ten, *Ten Dollars* in advance.

☞ No paper will be discontinued, except at the discretion of the editor, until arrearages are paid. No subscription taken for a shorter period than six months. Subscribers out of the county $3 in advance, which includes prepayment of postage.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING.

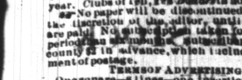
One square—8 lines—one insertion, $1; and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. A liberal reduction made to those who advertise by the year or quarter.

Advertisements without the direction marked upon them as to the number of times to be inserted, will be marked TF and continued till ordered out, and charged according to regular rates.

Special Notices in Local column, 10 cents per line for each insertion.

To Travelers

MARYLAND STEAMBOAT CO.



CHOPTANK ROUTE—Winter Arrangement. Commencing Saturday, January 1st, 1881.

The steamer ENOCH PRATT, (weather permitting,) will leave Baltimore, Pier 4, Light street, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 3 o'clock p. m. for Oxford, Cambridge and Intermediate landings on Choptank river, reaching Denton the next morning. Returning, will leave Denton every Monday at 10 a. m., and Medford every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 1 p. m., Cambridge at 5, and Easton at 9, arriving in Baltimore at 4 a. m.

Freight taken at low rates and carefully handled.

The steamer Highland Light will be withdrawn for the season, on and after Friday, December 31st.

HOWARD S. ENSIGN, President.
Office 28 Light street, Baltimore.
ROBERT E. DIXON, Agent at Easton.

Winter Arrangement.

ST. MICHAELS & WYE RIVER,

STEAMER OLIVE, Capt. E. N. Dodson.

On and after Monday, Nov. 29th, 1880, will leave Tunis' Mills at 10.30 a.m., St Michaels 12 m. and Claiborne at 12 45 p. m., every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, arriving in Baltimore 4 p. m. Return, leave pier 12, Baltimore, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 12 m; arriving at Claiborne at 5 p. m., Tunis' Mills 6.30, and St Michaels 7 15.

Wye River Arrangement—Leave Public Landing at 7.30 a. m., Wye Landing and Trimble's at 8 30 a. m., for Baltimore every Wednesday and Friday. Wye River passengers from Baltimore on Tuesday and Thursday will have to remain on steamer until following morning.

H. O. DODSON, General Agent.

LG

Delaware & Chesapeake

RAILWAY.

Summer Arrangement.

ON and after Monday, Sept. 26th, 1880, (Sundays excepted,) trains will run as follows:

GOING NORTH.

STATIONS.	No. 1.	No. 2.
Oxford, Leave,	7 30 AM	10 00 AM
Trappe,	7 42	10 13
Easton,	8 00	10 37
Woodland,	8 18	10 56
Cordova,	8 29	11 06
Hillsboro,	8 45	11 23
Ridgely,	8 57	11 35
Greensboro,	9 15	11 55
Goldsboro,	9 29	12 10 PM
Henderson,	9 41	12 23
Marydel,	9 51	12 68
Slaughters,	10 04	1 07
Kenton,	10 22	1 35
Clayton, Arrive,	10 37	2 00
Wilmington,	12 20	6 40
Philadelphia,	1 50 PM	8 25
Baltimore,	3 22	9 20
New York,	4 45	3 45 AM

GOING SOUTH.

STATIONS.	No. 3.	No. 4.
New York, Leave,	11 55 AM	8 15 AM
Baltimore,	7 05	10 05
Philadelphia,	8 10	11 45
Wilmington,	9 25	1 05 PM
Clayton,	11 10	2 35
Kenton,	11 26	2 56
Slaughters,	11 44	3 17
Marydel,	11 56	3 32
Henderson,	12 06 PM	3 44
Goldsboro,	12 16	3 55
Greensboro,	12 33	4 15
Ridgely,	12 47	4 32
Hillsboro,	12 59	4 46
Cordova,	1 15	5 02
Woodland,	1 23	5 16
Easton,	1 41	5 38
Trappe,	2 03	6 05
Oxford, Arrive,	2 15	6 20

All Freights must be at the various stations at least Thirty (30) Minutes before starting of trains, otherwise they will lay over twenty-four hours.

Freight Trains will have Passenger Car attached, which will be subject to delays incident to the Freight business.

O. S. SANFORD, Supt.

Oxford, July 23d, 1880.

Notice to Travelers.

The omnibuses of the subscriber run regularly from the hotels in Easton to the cars and steamboats, to convey passengers to any place they may desire to go. Passengers at private residences called for at any hour by leaving word at my office, on Railroad Avenue. Horses and carriages for hire at all times at my livery stable. Travellers conveyed to any part of the county or peninsula. Handsome turn-outs always on hand.

LUTHER W. COVEY.

Easton March 25th, 1879.

Farmers and Merchants Packet Line.

The Schooners Clara M. Leonard and Annie M. Leonard.

THE above boats are making weekly trips between Easton and Baltimore, and will do all kinds of freighting as cheap as any other line. Every chess will be made, to give satisfaction. Our boats are new and built out of the very best material. Orders left with Messrs. G. E. Bowdoin & Co., Commission Merchants, corner of Bowley's Wharf and Pratt st., Baltimore, will be promptly attended to. Grain bought or taken at the lowest freight rates. All Grain stored in our Warehouses, in case of fire will be at the owners risk. Agricultural Lime delivered at the lowest cash price. Feeling thankful for past favors, we hope by strict attention to business, a continuance of the same.

C. S. LEONARD & BRO.

Office in same room with R. E. Dixon on Dover street, Easton.

may8,77

BRICK HOTEL

Livery, Sale and Exchange Stables,

EASTON, MD.,

SOLOMON PIPPIN, Proprietor.

Horses and Carriages

for hire. The carriages are all new and of modern style, and the horses quick draft, safe and reliable.

Passengers conveyed to any part of the peninsula.

Ample accommodations for horses at livery; also good shelter for carriage.

An Omnibus regularly to the cars and steamers.

HORSES & MULES

Always on hand and for sale or exchange. A polite and attentive assistant at the Stables in the proprietor's absence.

Fair Dealing and Low Prices the Motto.

The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. apr15,79

Ready Mixed Paints.

In 1 gallon cans, in ½ gallon cans, in quart cans, in pint cans, in ½ pint cans, any shade or color, for sale by E. J. Tripp.

FOR SALE.

A good Family Horse, sound and gentle, and well broke to harness, and pleasant in the saddle—will be sold cheap. Apply to

dec14tf WM. T. TOWNSEND.

Lumber Business.

BUY YOUR

LUMBER,

SHINGLES, LATHS,

Sash, Doors, Bricks, &c.

AT LOW PRICES FROM

SAML. BURNS & CO.,

104 Light Street Wharf,

BALTIMORE.

OAKLAND

STEAM SAW & PLANING MILL.

PINE, HEMLOCK, CYPRESS

AND OAK

LUMBER

SHINGLES, LATHS, PICKETS, MOULDINGS, CASINGS, FRAMES, SASH, DOORS, BLINDS, LIME AND HAIR,

LOCUST AND CEDAR POSTS.

We have always on hand a full supply of *MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, GEORGIA and WHITE PINE, and HEMLOCK*

Timber,

with facilities unequaled in the State for manufacturing and filling orders promptly and delivering anywhere. We invite a comparison with city or other dealers.

Our constantly increasing business is an evidence of fair prices

We have also *BUILDING HARDWARE* and a full line of General Merchandise for country trade.

W. W. TUNIS & BRO.,
OAKLAND MILLS. *EASTON, MD.*
January 14, 1879-1yr

LUMBER!

--AND--

Building Materials,

Shingles, Laths,

Lime, Hair, &c.

DOORS, SASH, BLINDS.

and Mill Work generally.

PRICES LOWER THAN EVER.

My long experience in the Lumber trade should be a guarantee to purchasers of my ability to suit them both in quality and prices.

Prime articles of No. 1 White Pine and White Hemlock Fencing now in stock.

Principal office in Easton and Yard at Easton Point connected by Telephone.

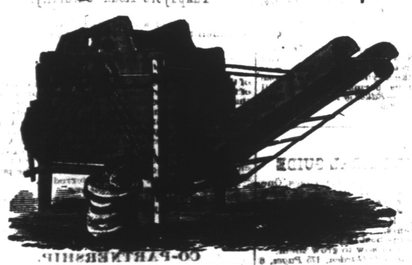
Deliveries made on navigable water free of freight.

Comparison of Quality and Prices Solicited.

ROBERT B. DIXON,
Dover Street, EASTON.

The Young America Sheller & Separator.

Both Hand and Power.



The Best is the Cheapest.

Capacity 2,000 BUSHELS per Day.

N. TUTHILL, Easton, Md.

Select Poetry.

MONEY.

Oh, money! what a power is thine!
Thou mak'st this weary life divine,
And where thou art heaven's light doth shine
With cheering ray.

Without thee our existence here
Hath naught our ragged path to cheer,
Then all around is dark and drear
On life's highway.

Some may, unwisely, call thee trash,
Unlike them, I'll not be so rash;
I honor thee, thou sainted cash,
With all my heart.

Both rich and poor hath ever found
That plenty doth thy path surround,
While sweet content and smiles abound
Where'er thou art.

The poor thy power oft hath blest,
Though seldom with thy gifts possessed,
They welcome thee, a pleasant guest
Around their hearth;

While in the rich man's gilded hall,
Where comfort holds its festival,
Thou spread'st thy cheering light o'er all
With smiles and mirth.

Not like the miser counting o'er
With gloating eye his shining store
And driving from his darkened door
The light of day;

Nor like the rich with pompous pride,
Who oft with scorn the poor deride,
While they in gilded chariots ride
With bright array—

I'd seek thee, money, but to spend;
Sometimes to cheer a worthy friend,
For pleasant 'tis to have to lend
To one who's scant;

I'd seek thee that I oft might feed
Some hungry fellow in his need,
Or for some kindly neighbor-deed
To those in want.

Miscellaneous.

THE CHARITIES OF TALBOT:

Being Contributions to the Social Annals of that County.

THE FREEMASONS.

CONTINUED.

How long Lodge No. 76 continued its work, from such information as can be procured, it is impossible to state. It made no report to the Grand Lodge after the year 1806, about which time it surrendered its charter and its papers. It is therefor presumable that at some short time previous to this date it became extinct, sharing the fate of so many societies of a purely benevolent character.—One of the most astonishing circumstances connected with the history of masonry is its great vitality. This may be said to be really wonderful when it is considered that there is no set or order of men personally interested in its maintenance. Every one can call to mind institutions which have been perpetuated long after the object of their formation has been attained, or has disappeared, even long after their very meaning has been forgotten, simply because a class of men, which may stand in relation to them as a kind of priesthood, has been formed whose livelihood is dependent upon their continuance. That freemasonry survives and even flourishes notwithstanding that it has no paid hierarchy nor salaried official staff, and the other fact that even its members have no legal claim upon its charity, is not only a curious social phenomenon, but an indication that it satisfies some natural want in the human mind which justifies as well as secures its continued existence and prosperity. The philosophy of this it is not proposed to study. What is here said is intended merely to call attention to the effux and reflux of the tide of masonry in this county, which sometimes has seemed to ebb out entirely and forever, but which returns again in full flood, to rise higher than ever. One of these flood tides occurred in the year 1823. The old lodge seems to have become extinct, and had been so for a long time. In this year, year, namely, on the 11th of November, some of the old masons who had not lost their love the order secured from the Grand Lodge a new charter for a lodge to be named in honor of the first grand master of Maryland, Dr. John Coats, and to be numbered 76. These gentlemen are named as the charter members: Tristram Thomas, John Leeds Kerr and William Hayward, Jr.; and the first meeting of record was held November 15th, 1823. The 27th of December, the anniversary of the nativity of St. John the Evangelist, was selected as the day for investiture and installation of the officers of the lodge. The following is an abstract of the account of the ceremony as published in the Easton Gazette and the Republican Star, the editors of both of which journals were of the order: "On Saturday, the 27th ultimo, being St. John's day, the ceremony of installing the officers of Coats' Lodge, No. 76, was performed in the upper hall of the Court House in Easton, by Major Keyser, the Grand Marshall of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, assisted by several other experienced brothers and craftsmen, in the most solemn and impressive manner. At 12 o'clock the work which required the seal of masonic secrecy having been duly finished, the light casements which divide the hall were thrown open and the assembled brotherhood, to the number of one hundred clothed with white gloves and aprons and distinguished by the appropriate colors and badges of their respective orders, presented themselves to public view. * * * The officers then in due order were presented with the jewels of office. Dr. Tristram Thomas, the Worshipful Master was first invested by the Grand Marshall, who at the same time delivered to him the ancient charges, and addressed, as well the Master as the surrounding brotherhood, in the ancient form, but in a fluent dignified and impressive style; and the Master was conducted to his chair." Mr. John Leeds Kerr, Esq., was invested as Senior Warden, William Hayward, Jr., Esq., a Junior Warden, Thomas P. Bennett as Secretary, William Harrison, Jr. Esq., as Treasurer. After each investiture and the accompanying charge, a band of music from the city of Baltimore diverted the large assemblage of gentlemen and ladies who had collected to witness the ceremonies. After the officers had been installed, "Robert H. Goldsborough, Esq., a Grand Inspector of the Grand Lodge, addressing himself to the Worshipful Master, delivered a highly interesting and eloquent discourse on the principles and practice of masonry, and vindicated them from the objections that have been usually alleged against the craft. His historical view of Ancient York Masonry, and the glowing contrast he drew between its pure and noble objects and usages and the ..... plots and principles of *illuminatism*, attracted the most respectful attention from all present and afforded a peculiar gratification to the brethren." A procession was then formed and moved "from the Court House to the Methodist meeting house" in the usual masonic order, which need not be transcribed. "An excellent Masonic sermon was then delivered by the Revered Brother Rawleigh;* after which the procession returned to the lodge, and in a little time the brethren were called off to partake upon the *level*, of a sumptuous dinner, provided by the worthy brother. Lowe, at which perfect harmony and social glee prevailed during the evening." The occasion seems to have drawn together a larger concourse of people than had ever before assembled at Easton. The lodge thus founded and inaugurated prospered exceedingly, drawing into its mystic circle many of the most respectable characters of the county and even from the counties adjoining. By the year 1826 it reported to the Grand Lodge a membership of sixty-eight, being then the largest lodge within this jurisdiction, with but a single exception in the city of Baltimore.†

Very soon after the organization of this lodge the subject of providing a suitable building for the accommodation of the order in Talbot engaged the serious attention of the members, who had become discontented with the plain structure and restricted room which their predecessors had occupied. When the authorities of the town of Easton proposed to erect a new market house upon Washington street, it was suggested that the masons should put a room above the part intended for the homely uses of a market, and to accomplish this an order was passed by the lodge that a committee be appointed to prepare a petition to the General Assembly of the State for the authorization of a lottery to raise funds for the erection of this superstructure. Of this committee these gentlemen were the members: Doct. Tristram Thomas, John Leeds Kerr, William Hayward, Robert Henry Goldsborough, Theodore R. Lockerman, Thomas P. Bennett, and George W. Nabb, Esquires. It does not appear that this procedure resulted in anything of a practical nature. Certainly no lottery was drawn, no hall built, and the masons continued to occupy their old lodge room until the year 1857, as will appear in the sequel.

On June 24, 1826, there was a public installation or investiture of the officers of the lodge, as far as masonic law permits publicity. This was attended by a procession through the town, an oration by the Hon. Robert Henry Goldsborough upon the "advantages of the masonic institution, and in vindication of the order from many unfounded cavils and objections that had been raised against it." These were followed by a dinner, prepared by Mr. Low, at which there were toasts drunk, speeches made, and much hilarity indulged in by the members. The officers at this date were these: Hon. John Leeds Kerr, Worshipful Master; William Hayward, Jr., Senior Warden; Thomas Hennix, Junior Warden; Thomas W. Lockerman, Secretary; John D. Green, Treasurer; Francis Parrott, Tyler, and the Reverend Mr. Rawleigh, Chaplain.

It is well enough to notice here the continuance of a laudable custom which had prevailed in the old lodges of having sermons or orations delivered upon the anniversaries of the order. In the year 1826 Lodge No. 76 went beyond the ancient custom, and, by way of commending masonry to the people, and increasing the zeal of the membership, engaged the Reverend Mr. Rawleigh to preach six masonic sermons, one in each successive month, for which it was agreed he should receive thirty dollars—no munificent sum, but evidently this brother sought his compensation in the satisfaction of serving the order. The Reverend George Cookman, of happy memory, was the preacher in 1830.

It was while the lodge was enjoying this prosperity, while it was strong in numbers and yet stronger in the character of its membership, and in the zeal by which the brethren were inspired, that the thought originated, was cherished and finally acted upon, of more fully honoring the reputed founder of Masonry in Talbot, and the first Grand Master of Maryland, and of more conspicuously and permanently commemorating his services to the order than by the mere adoption of his name. In July of the year 1828, the following appeared in the Republican Star: "A monument to the memory of Dr. John Coats, first Grand Master of masons in the State of Maryland is about to be erected in this place by Coats Lodge No. 76 and others of the fraternity. The consent of his only surviving child has been obtained, and the ceremony of removing the remains of the deceased and the dedication of the monument will take place on Wednesday the 23rd instant. A funeral procession of the fraternity will be made by Coats Lodge on the occasion at which all worthy, free and accepted Masons are invited to attend. By order of the lodge. William Mullikin, Horatio L. Edmondson, James Benny, Committee." The expenses of the erection of this monument and the removal and deposit of the masonic relics at its base were defrayed by private contributions from members of the order in this county, supplemented by a donation of one hundred dollars from the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The whole cost was between three and four hundred dollars.

Before giving an account of the ceremonies of this notable occasion in the history of Talbot freemasonry it is proper that the story should be presented of the life of the man in whose honor they were performed. It is also proper to premise that the materials for this narrative are few, incomplete, disjointed, and some of them of questionable authority.

John Coats was born in the city of Philadelphia on the eleventh of July, seventeen hundred and fifty-one. His parents, who are thought to have been Friends, or Quakers, were people in apparently comfortable if not affluent circumstances, for they were able to give their son not only the advantages of a good academic and professional education, but after their death a considerable patrimony which, as will presently be noted, was most kindly and unselfishly expended. He received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the celebrated school established by Shippin in the city of Philadelphia, and had entered upon the practice of his profession in his native place just before the commencement of hostilities in the war of the American revolution. Being young, ardent, generous and patriotic he shared in those impulses which drove many of the very elite of Philadelphia to abandon the careers they had chosen, and to enlist in the military service of their country. Whether he took his place as one of the rank and file or as an officer, is not known, but it would have been characteristic if he had become but a common soldier, for he was impulsive and unselfish. It was his fortune to be one of that devoted army that followed Arnold into Canada in 1776, and to share with that army all the hardships, fatigues and dangers of the remarkable march through the wilderness of the north to join Montgomery beneath the walls of Quebec. He was one of those to follow their leaders in the desperate assault upon that city and fortification, to witness the death of his chief in command, to be severely wounded while scaling the ramparts, to suffer the mortification of defeat, endure the privations and miseries of a winter seige, and finally with an army disgraced, defeated, discontented, dispirited, disbanded, undisciplined" almost naked and starved, to return to the American lines. But neither wounds, hardships, mortification deterred him from again embarking in the cause of his county. His devotion seemed to glow with redoubled warmth. After recuperating his health and strength, he undertook the task of recruiting a company. With an entire unselfishness, a trait which seems to have marked every important act of his life, he devoted his whole patrimony to the enlisting and equipping a body of soldiers at his sole expense, and in command of these he joined the main army under Washington.* What his particular services were during the war, in what engagements he participated, what additional wounds he received, if any, what further privations he endured, history has failed to report. That he bore himself honorably and creditably while in the Continental army, is attested by the fact mentioned by one having a personal acquaintance with him, that almost to the end of his life he enjoyed the esteem and friendship of many of the officers whose acquaintance and intimacy he had formed while in the military service of his country. With some of these he long maintained a friendly correspondence for the purpose of keeping alive the memories of the times of trial, and preserving fresh those sentiments of mutual regard which were engendered by a personal knowledge of each other's merits.†

How long Dr. Coats continued his connection with the army is not certainly known. While one authority says, until near the close of the war, authentic records show that as early as as 1779 he was settled again in the city of Philadelphia, and probably practicing his profession. In this year his name is first mentioned in his relation to Freemasonry. We find him acting as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, a position indicative of the confidence reposed in his masonic knowledge, as well as in his personal character, by his brethren of the craft, who were men of the best social standing, intelligence and wealth in the city of Philadelphia, at the time. His name figures conspicuously in the records of the Grand Lodge up to the time, and even after, of his leaving that city and of his taking up his residence in Easton, in this county, namely in the year 1780. From what is written of him, it would appear that while none excelled him in zeal for the order few were his equals in a knowledge of the rites and regimen of masonry. Thoroughly imbued with its principles he was as thoroughly devoted to its practices. While its symbols were his delight, the virtues which they typified were his admiration. In that which he so "loved and enjoyed it was ever his desire others should participate. He thus became as it were an apostle of masonry, spending time and labor in founding new, confirming weak, instructing ignorant and correcting erring lodges. More than one lodge in this State, and doubtless in adjoining States may trace their paternity to Deputy Grand Master John Coats: others might trace their legitimacy to his care and yet other the purity or regularity of their ritual to his teaching. Of his part in the origination and organization of the Grand Lodge of Maryland sufficient has already been said in this contribution. In that connection the estimation in which personal and masonic character was held by the brethren of the parent lodge has been indicated. He continued to be the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, as before noted, until 1798—with an interval of two years. When it was determined to hold the sessions of this lodge in Baltimore instead of Easton, the inconvenience of attending in that city on a person of impaired health, as Dr. Coats at this time appeared to be, determined him to resign his position of Grand Master. The Grand Lodge upon the reception of his resignation passed the following resolution, at the Communication held in Baltimore May 6th, 1794:

"Resolved, That the unanimous thanks of this Grand Lodge be returned to the Worshipful Grand Master, Dr. John Coats, for his indefatigible care and attention to all the fraternity of Freemasons laboring under his directions. We lament the reason in proportion as we lament our loss, which induced him to dis-

* The Reverend Samuel Rawleigh was a local preacher of the Methodist church, and a member (in 1829) of Washington Lodge, No. 50, at Denton, Caroline county. Tradition says he was a resident of Dorchester county, and a man of good sense and repute.

† But a single member of Lodge No. 76, of those living in 1828, still survives—Mr. Thomas Oldham Martin, of Oxford.

* It should be said though this interesting incident is explicitly stated in a notice of Dr. Coats printed immediately after his death, the writer of this contribution, after most diligent search, has not been able to verify the statement by any record.

† There is a tradition that Dr. Coats kept a journal of his life while in the army, and that his executor, Dr. Moore, for reasons which may have been satisfactory, destroyed it after his death. His correspondence possibly perished at the same time.

‡ Through his whole life subsequent to the assault on Quebec he suffered from the severe wound then received. In the latter portion of his life this wound became more and more painful.

continue his care of the society; but sincerely hope it will contribute essentially to his future well being; and we affectionately wish him happiness while on this terrestrial globe and bless in the eternal religion of Christ his adopted.

To this Dr. Coats returned the following reply:

"Dear Brethren: Having to the utmost of my abilities endeavored to discharge the important office you were pleased to place me in, and having resigned its duties, I trust you are assured that I sincerely wish the honor of God and the benefit of Mankind, may be the spring of all your actions and devices. May your Society long continue an ornament to our own, and a shining example to other counties. May the indigent, the fatherless and the widows find occasion of rejoicing from your benevolent entertainment. May no excess or intemperance, no discord or divisions give a just cause of offense or occasion of interrupting your *agape*, or feasts of love. May your communications serve to warm your affections and to cherish and raise your friendship; and as our wise Grand Master hath it in Eccles. IX. 7, 'May you eat your bread with joy and drink your wine with a merry heart,' and whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, may all be done to the praise and glory of God. And may you all after a long and innocent enjoyment of each others society in this world be translated to the blessed company of just men made perfect in that which is to come." Before Dr. Coats death the lodge at Easton had dispersed and lost its organization. He was therefore for many years deprived of the enjoyment of masonic companionship, which he so much prized, and the advantages of masonic support and sympathy which he so much needed. There is no doubt whatever that he suffered by this deprivation not only in bodily and mental comfort but in moral vigor.

After his settlement in Easton in the year 1780 he entered upon the practice of his profession for which he seemed fully equipped by the possession of excellent natural abilities, extensive scientific acquirements and polished manners. It is said that "for many years he reaped all the emoluments that could be looked for from a country practice.* But," continues the same authority, "the business of the sort of life in which he found himself employed was neither adapted to his taste nor fitted for the display of those superior endowments which all but the envious allowed him to possess. A sense of such a disadvantageous situation would soon impress itself on an enlarged and ingenuous mind and naturally cause indifference to rise. To indifference would would succeed disgust, and habitual neglect would finally produce consequences of the most injurious cast." This may be interpreted as meaning that Dr. Coats conceived that the emoluments of his profession were not commensurate with his deserts, and that he refused or neglected to seek after them. He neglected his patients and as a consequence his practice declined, so that he soon felt the pressure of straightened circumstances. The same writer intimates that relying upon conscious and conceded abilities, he neglected the "dictates of prudence" and those "maxims of life" the observance of which is necessary to success. Driven by necessity he abandoned his profession and accepted the office of Register of the Land Office for the Eastern Shore from the hands of Governor Stone. He took the oaths of office Feb. 3d, succeeding Mr. James Shaw. This office he held during the remainder of his life, and was succeeded by Mr. Richard Harwood. He had been appointed armorer at Easton, a sinecure office, which was given to him in consideration of his revolutionary services. The pay of these two places did little more than keep him from want. Whether he ever received assistance from the masons is one of the secrets of the order, a fundamental maxim of which is that not even the right hand shall know what is done by the left, when it is done in charity.

His services in the revolutionary war entitled him to the honor of a membership of the Society of the Cincinnati. He is recorded as of the Maryland branch of that order of American knighthood, and as holding the rank of Captain.

In his religious views he is thought to have been exceedingly liberal. Whether he had a birthright among the Friends is not certainly known, but some of his most intimate friends were of that society, and he certainly had adopted some opinions which had been almost peculiar to the Quakers, notably on the subject of slavery. His name appears on the records of St. Peter's parish as a vestryman, and his church connections were with that communion, if these were any more than nominal.

An appreciation of the advantages he had enjoyed in early life, and a relish for the pleasures which flow from the cultivation of letters and of science made him the friend of education. He was one of the original projectors of the Easton Academy, and he is named as one of the Trustees of that institution in the act of 1799 by which it was incorporated.

There is no evidence that he was ever deeply interested in party politics. Soon after parties began to be formed, he is upon record as acting with the Federalists and in opposition to the Republicans. His name is found among those who assembled in public meeting at Easton in 1795 to urge upon Congress the adoption of Jay's treaty, a subject which sharply divided the people of the country. Later he appears to have been identified with the Republican party, for he is one of the characters in Dr. Martin's noted dramatic satire called "The Grand Caucus," though it must be said that he is treated with so much respect and tenderness that it is doubtful whether he was in accord with the other persons ridiculed, or with their party. It is very evident from "The Grand Caucus" that if Dr. Coats was a Republican or Democrat, he was an partisan, and that he heartily disapproved of the course of that party, and rather revolted at being associated with some of its leaders in this county for whom he expresses much disgust or contempt. It may be added that this satire gives us a view of some traits of Dr. Coats' character which but for it we had not known, for allowing for its exaggerations of caricature, Doctor Geographos, as he is called, is a true portrait.

Fortunately we have another portrait of Dr. Coats, drawn with a pencil which was not dipped in the acrimony, and in colors unmixed with impurities of politics. It is from an obituary notice of his death published in the *People's Monitor*, and probably written by Mr. W. B. Beach, the editor. After speaking of the deceased as "a man who has been distinguished for his patriotism, his philanthropy, his accomplishments," and of his having spent "a life devoted to the public benefit, and remarkable for the endearing fulfillment of the social virtues" and after giving a brief sketch of the more striking incidents of that life, he proceeds to say: "In a long continued scene of social intercourse the subject of our notice exercised, to the delight and satisfaction of an extensive acquaintance, those peculiar powers of graceful address and agreeable conversation for which it is acknowledged few were his equal. His general conduct and sentiments characterized the true man of feeling and his deportment uniformly displayed the gentleman and the christian. Such were the qualities and character of the man whose decease we record; such was he known and admired in the circle of his private life, for a long course of years, by many who now survive him. In the evening of his life bodily infirmity and a dejected mind withdrew him from society. His infirmities were not, perhaps, few nor light; but it must be acknowledged he yielded too readily to their pressure and suffered the feelings of a tender melancholy to degenerate into gloom and misanthropy. His mind was enfeebled as his constitution wasted in decay. We might even venture to say, without irreverence for the dead, *the living man was changed.* Ahlas! we know not, when the hour of adverse vicissitude shall come, is come it may, when evils press sorely, what we ourselves shall be, or how far the mind might not even be perverted from the purity in which happier days had preserved it. * * * Every benevolent mind will * * * suffer the faults and frailties of a fellow creature to lie buried in the ashes of the grave; whilst public gratitude and individual friendship will blazon every deed of patriotism and every instance of private kindness and munificence. These suggestions are given out to liberal minds as principles by which the judgment of conduct and character ought always to be tempered: and Christian charity, it is to be hoped, will never fail to pitiate the wanderings of frail humanity." It would not be difficult to translate this rhetorical effusion into intelligible language; but the veil of obscurity which the writer very properly throws over the later life of the subject of his obituary notice must not be lifted, but be allowed to conceal the infirmities of a broken man or even to give a pleasing aspect to what it fully displayed would leave a painful impression. *Sunt delicta tamen quibus ignoscisse velimus.* Another notice of his death refers to his "cultivated mind" his "noble heart" and "his generous hand that never let distress pass by unnoticed." It is evident from what has been said, that the good in the character of Dr. Coats much overbalanced the evil. He was a man of excellent natural abilities which had been improved by a liberal education, of pleasing address, fine sensibility, impulsive disposition and possessed of a heart that responded to the most generous feelings of humanity mature; but he was unstable in purpose, without worldly prudence, and of weak moral stamina. One who remembers him well says that in personal appearance he was of short stature, thick set and portly in habit, with dark but florid complexion. His manner was sedate and his movements deliberate, walking habitually with his head bowed, and with his hands behind his back. He died November 30th, 1810, with few friends, but without an enemy, except himself. He was buried at his own request in the common burial ground of the town of Easton—a burial ground which he had been chiefly instrumental in securing for the poor and for strangers, and for which he paid largely from his own slender means.*

Dr. Coats was married June 22d, 1779, to Susannah Murray. By this lady, who died September 15th, 1804, several children were born to him, of whom but a single one survived him, a daughter who married Walbert Bellaire Posey, of Charles county, Maryland. Another daughter married John Maxwell, of Kent county, Maryland. A son, John H. Coats, was a lieutenant in the United States Navy, and died in 1807, in the twenty-first year of his age. It is not known whether there are any surviving descendants of the second generation. Dr. Coats also left an *adopted* daughter, the child of his housekeeper, for whom he made provision in his will. This will is a curious document. He says it was written with his own hand, in his own office, and in obedience to the commands of his own conscience. By it he evidently meant to make what amends he could for some wrongs he had done. He was without real property, and his personal estate was small, consisting chiefly of slaves, hardly considered as property, all of whom he emancipated. He was especially solicitous that these should not fail to secure their freedom according to his wishes, and requested his executor, Dr. Robert Moor, a Friend, should call to his assistance, if it should be necessary, the Society for the Abolition of slavery.† Of this society it is not unlikely Dr. Coats was a member.

Such was the character and career of the man whose remains after eighteen years of neglect the masons determined to remove from the common burial ground where they lay unmarked by the simplest stone, to a more favorable site, and to erect a suitable monument over them commemorative of the services he had rendered to the order. On Wednesday, the 23rd of July, 1828, this pious work of removal was performed, the monument having been previously erected. The lodge at Easton was assisted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and by numerous visiting brethren. One of the newspapers of the county gives the following account of the ceremonies: "At an early hour the brethren assembled and marched to Potter's Field, where the remains of Dr. Coats had been taken up by committees of brethren and placed in a handsome coffin prepared for that purpose. Masonic grand honors were given on arriving at this place, and the procession returned to the Episcopal Church in the following order:

[CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]

* This plot of ground is now and has long been called the "Potter's Field," and is used exclusively by the colored people for the burial of their dead. It was not originally intended for them, though from the first one portion of the ground was set apart for their special use. It was bought in 1803 by contributions from many persons, solicited and secured by Dr. Coats.

† The full name of this society was "The Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and for the relief of persons unlawfully held in Bondage." Its headquarters were in Philadelphia, but there were branches in Maryland, and one of these, which commonly met at Greensborough, Caroline county, occasionally assembled at Easton, where there was not a few members, all of whom were not of the Friends. Its principal duties, in this state were to oppose a sentiment hostile to the continuance of slavery, but more especially to secure to the colored people such rights as they were legally entitled to, but of which they were unlawfully deprived.

* In 1782 he was chosen the physician of the county alms house, by the board of Trustees of that year.