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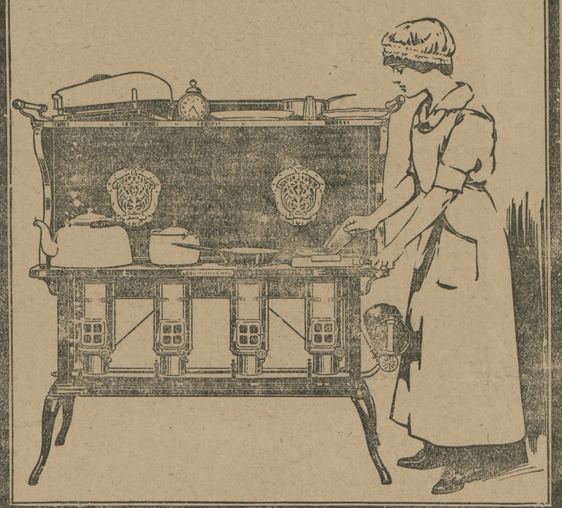

THE FIFTH DECADE OF A WANDERING BOY

(Written especially for the KENT NEWS.)

History is a voice feebly sounding across the centuries the laws of right and wrong. Opinions alter, manners change, credits rise and fall, but the moral law is written on the tablets of eternity.

In 1869 we had one of the most exciting campaigns that we had ever experienced in Kent county. We had two factions like we have to-day, one of which was called the Anti's or Reformers and the other the Ring. At the election we had to nominate the various county officers and delegates to the Legislature. I wanted re-election for county commissioner. I had always been a Ring man, but it seems as though the Ring had decreed that I should be defeated, and they would not support me for county commissioner in the primaries. They had agreed to take up some of my old friends, and their objection to me seemed to be because I refused to vote for a man for Sheriff from the lower part of the county. We had two prominent men whose names began with H. One of these men, who was an attorney here, asked me whether or not I would support the man from the lower part of the county as sheriff, and I answered "No." "Well," said they, "we will beat you." The other H., who held office in the county, had but little to say and stayed in the background. Early in the year the campaign began. I very soon had a movement try to nominate a man for sheriff who was a resident of this town, he and I being boys together, and at that time he was just as deserving as any man in the county. The Ring selected their man to run for sheriff from the lower part of the county and one from the First district, and it looked as if they were secure for two districts; that left them to make a fight in just one district, as they had two. It looked as if they had it without making a fight for it. The fight centered in my own district. In my district they brought out as popular and as strong a man as there was in the county.

So we people who were opposed to the Ring party rallied our forces with a determination to win the second district. So some of my friends and one of my old friends in particular seemed to be in favor of one of my friends for the Legislature, who if he won in my district I was out of it beyond a doubt. He came to see me and I asked him to get out a few days before the primaries. Oh no I cannot get out and come to tell you, that you cannot carry the 2nd District as we want a Legislature man. Well, perhaps I cannot carry it but I shall make an effort. He cut his horse and drove off. I had helped him a great deal and I believe that his conscience condemned him. In the 2nd District were a great many old leaders who thought that they could easily carry it.

Some time before the primaries they met at Kennedyville and named a committee and two of the committee were my old friends, men who would vote for me instead of anyone else. The whole thing had been planned in Chestertown and they selected these men because they thought I would agree to it. I then called a meeting of my young friends at Kennedyville and named another committee this making two committees to vote for in the primaries. My committee was to vote for the man from Chestertown for Sheriff and myself for County Commissioner. The day came and there was a large crowd at the start some of my friends got wrong and voted for two men of the Ring party and the two committee men could not understand that if they were elected my friend from Chestertown could not be Sheriff nor I Commissioner. Finally we decided to name two men for the Legislature and oppose our old friend and we won by a large vote with the understanding that the candidate from Chestertown should be sheriff and myself commissioner and our two men for the Legislature should be nominated. There were many promises made and one of the main places was the almshouse, which I think was promised to seven different people. The commissioners were my venerable friend, Thos. Dixon, and a Mr. Constable. My two old friends that served with me on the old board were candidates, but were defeated.

We organized about the first of December and I was elected president, and we kept our old clerk, who was either Waters Russell or Capt. John Russell, his father. The Ring and some of the Anti's were opposed to me, and I almost stood alone, two to one. One day my venerable friend said to me: "I would like my son-in-law to be physician at the almshouse," and the other commissioner said, "I would like a relative of mine to be physician." My venerable friend agreed to let me select the trustees if I would give his son-in-law the place, and I agreed. Then he wanted to show the list of trustees to the Doctor, who was pleased with them, as they were all his friends. Now, the superintendent was a friend of my father's and mine, and he wanted to serve again, but he thought that one of the trustees would not vote for him. He came to me one day and asked why I had treated him as I had. I said, "Now, you keep quiet and don't complain and we will see what we can do for you." One day the trustees met and invited the commissioners out, as they were going to appoint a superintendent. When I drove up my friend was not in good humor, as there were so many applicants for it who were expecting to get it. They appointed the old superintendent for a new term and my friend's son-in-law as physician. Soon after the superintendent called to see me and apologized, and said that people had been telling him all sorts of tales, the man whom I did not want you to appoint trustee is one of my best friends now. We next appointed the collectors in the respective districts, and while the people talked to make trouble between my venerable friend and myself, we only came closer together. We were together on all occasions, got one-half of the collectors and had those whom I wanted appointed in the Maryland district. More next time.

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Silver Plated Table Spoons, dozen	39c	$1.50 18-quart Saucepans	95c
35c Silver Plated Tea Spoons, dozen	15c	50c Gray Saucepans	39c
Heavy Tin Table Spoons, dozen	8c	Heavy Tumblers, doz	22c
Good Cracked Rice, pound	3c	Large Size Jelly Glasses, dozen	17c
7c Unbleached Muslin, yard	5½c	10c Jar Rubbers, dozen	6c

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$4.00 Double Bed Mattress	2.25	$18.00 Set Carriage Harness	15.00	10c Towels	5c
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