THE KENT NEWS:
PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT
ESTERTOWN, KENT COUNTY, MD
OFFICE IN KENT NEWS BUILDING.

WM. B. USILTON. FRED. G. USILTON.
WM. B. USILTON & SON,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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strictly in advance. If not paid in advance $1.50 may be charged.
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LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE solicited, but all articles must be accompanied by responsible names.

Kent News.

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JOB-PRINTING:
—SUCH AS—
HAND-BILLS, CIRCULARS, BLANKS, BILL-HEADS, &c., executed with neatness and dispatch at satisfactory prices.

We Commence Today
—WITH OUR—
GREAT CLEARING SALES
—OF—
Men's, Boy's and Children's Suits.

WE begin little sooner this year with Our Reduction Sales, as We are Determined to GET RID of OUR ENTIRE WINTER STOCK.

OVERCOATS! OVERCOATS!
For MEN, BOYS and CHILDREN at PRICES YOU HAVE NEVER HEARD OF. They Must Go. We Don't Want to Carry any Winter Stock Over. Come and See for Yourself.
Respectfully,
A. FRIEDMAN & CO.,
Opposite Stam's Hall. Chestertown, Md.

THIS IS THE SEASON
—FOR—
HEAVY FOOT WEAR!

Now is the time to get the best, and get it cheap from our grand new stock of popular goods, new styles, seasonable attractions and complete assortment of

Boots, Shoes, Slippers, Rubbers, Overshoes.

A clean fresh stock of desirable gopds at fairest figures. We show the latest novelties; keep strictly first-class goods and make the lowest prices, quality considered.

Patronize a safe, sure and reliable house, and you will get the worth of your money always.

The stove, table and chair will be given away January 1st, '93. Each pair of shoes one guess.

Stop in and have your measure taken for a nice pair of hand made shoes. Get you up any style you want. Fit guaranteed.

T. G. WROTH,
Nov. 19, 1892. The One-Price Shoeman, Under Stam's Hall.

WHAT KIND OF STOVES
ARE YOU GOING TO GET THIS FALL?
---LOOK OUT FOR---
J. L. McFEELY & CO.'S
Stove Advertisement of a Large Assortment and Prices from the Cheapest to the Highest!
SEXTON' "GRAND" FIRE-PLACE HEATER LEADS THE MARKETS.
Have your Old Fire-Place Heaters REPAIRED early, before the great rush,
at J. LLOYD McFEELY & CO.'S,
Sept. 17, 1892. HARDWARE AND STOVE STORE.

Special Inducements!

FLOORING and SHINGLES,

Building Lumber Generally,
Doors, Sash and Blinds.

GET OUR VERY LOW PRICES BEFORE BUYING

GEORGE F. SLOAN & BRO.,
144 Light St. Wharf — Baltimore, Md.

JOB-PRINTING
DEPARTMENT.
We are now giving Special Attention to Job-Printing. Our Job Department is supplied with New and Modern Types and Presses, and we are prepared to execute on short notice and in the most approved style every description of
JOB -:- WORK,
—SUCH AS—
Bills, Posters, Dodgers, Programs, Circulars, Cards, Letter Heads, Bill Heads, Envelopes.

REASONABLE RATES.

All Orders Receive Prompt Attention.

WM. B. USILTON & SON,
Printers and Publishers.
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

HO! FOR
THE NEW YEAR!

WE HAVE MADE EXTENSIVE PREPARATIONS!

Want to Accommodate Everybody!

Now We are Ready for the Trade!

COME ONE, COME ALL!

WE HAVE PRESENTS IN ABUNDANCE
From OUR DRY GOODS DEPARTMENT,
OUR SHOE DEPARTMENT,
Ladies', Misses and Children's WRAP DEPARTMENT,
FUR DEPARTMENT,
CARPETAND OIL CLOTH DEPARTMENT,
QUEENSWARE, GLASSWARE AND LAMP DEPARTMENT,
RUG AND HASSOCK DEPARTMENT.

You can select a useful present. Our HANDKERCHIEF DISPLAY IS SIMPLY ENORMOUS! Best Silk and Linen, from 3c. a piece up. Umbrellas, Blankets, Fur Robes, Fur Rugs, Fur Gloves, Cheap Towels, Napkins, etc. Cheap! Cheaper! Than Ever!
Come one! Come all! We greet you!
R. F. PARKS.
Dec. 17, 1892.

New Year Goods

OUR OPENING DAY WILL BE THURSDAY, DEC. 8, 1892.

WE propose to have the FINEST DIPLAY of Christmas Goods ever seen in Chestertown, and we cordially extend an invitation to the good people of Kent and Queen Anne's counties to visit our store on that evening. We want them to come from far and near. We will have a comfortable room for their reception. The opening day will continue from the 8th until the close of the season, but the first day we want to make our store a marvel of beauty and attraction, so do not miss coming in on that day. Our stock will embrace

BOOKS, FINE STATIONERY,
Dressing Cases for Ladies and Gentlemen,
FANCY BOXES-PERFUMERY,
LAMPS for the PARLOR and DINING-ROOM,
ALBUMS,
in Plush and Wood. Fine, Beautiful Vases and articles of Ceramic Ware from England, Germany and France. These latter are the most artistic goods seen in town. In PICTURES we have some beautiful Pastels, which show the fine delicate hand of the artist. You will have to give them more than a passing glance, as they are very beautiful.

CHILDREN, the fresh little Powers who touch our hearts at the sweet Christmas time, have not been forgotten by us, as you will see when you look over the stock of goods we have selected in remembrance of them. In closing our notice we again extend you a kind invitation to be with us on our special opening day.

COLIN F. STAM,
STAM'S HALL.
Dec. 3. 1892.

GOOD CHEER!

W. R. ALDRIDGE
HAS A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF
Christmas Novelties!
HE HAS THE BIGGEST LINE OF
Neckwear in Town,
and invites the young men especially to call and examine it.
GLASS AND CHINAWARE,
all sorts and sizes of Beautiful Christmas Presents in Glass and Chinaware.
Groceries, Flannels,
Dry Goods, Etc.
UMBRELLAS OF ALL STYLES AT LOW PRICES.

STILL POND FARMERS' CLUB.

What They Said and Did at Their Last Meeting of Interests to Farmers.

STILL POND, Jan. 26th, 1893.

The Farmer's Club held its regular meeting to-day at the residence of Mr. Joshua Jarrell, and was fairly well attended. Among the visitors we noticed Mr. and Mrs. Tilghman Shafer, Mr. and Mrs. Redmile and Mr. Bennett. After being called to order the minutes were read and approved. Questions being next in order, Mr W. D. Pennington asked if any of the members were familiar with the Sherwood steel harness, and if it had any advantages over our ordinary harness? None present had ever used them, but cuts and descriptive circulars were produced and shown, which called forth very favorable expressions as to its merits, from various members. Mr. James S. Harris then asked the members what was the condition of their peach orchards. He reported that in examining his trees he had found no damage except in very low places.

E. B. Pennington said he had not been able to detect any damage as yet.

W. D. Pennington reported no damage.

Mr. Jarrell said his were not hurt, and such was the general opinion.

The secretary then stated that the TRANSCRIPT had asked that the club consider the question of road improvement, and although the club had discussed this question at great length some two years ago, it seems as though it was still unsettled. He then read the following report of the committee on roads to the Union Bridge farmers' Club:

"When the committee on roads was called upon for a report the chairman *pro tem.*, Mr. Solomon Sheppard gave the following facts respecting the Liberty and Pipe Creek Turnpike Company.

He said: "So many people speak of macadamized roads as though the building of such roads is the only cost, saying nothing about keeping them in repair. To disabuse the minds of such people, I have examined the treasurer's books and learned that on the ten miles of road embraced in this corporation there were expended in the last four years $4,464, an average of $1,116 per year for the whole line, or an average of $111 per mile. The roadbed has become very solid and requires less repair than a newly constructed road. The most of their stone are put on at the very low rate of 80 cents per perch, broken and spread, which can only be done for that price where the stone is very convenient. It would be safe to say, taking a whole county worked by the average supervisor, that the stone would cost $1 per perch. To macadamize a road fourteen feet wide with a depth of stone in centre of fourteen inches, graded down to six inches at the edges, requires 2,500 perches of stone per mile, which at 80 cents would cost $2,000, or at $1 will cost $2,5000.

"Frederick county has about 1200 miles of county road independent of existing pikes, which, at $2,500 per mile, will cost $3,000,000, to which add 100 miles of corporation pikes, at $2,000, will make a debt of $3,200,000. To issue bonds for this immense sum of money at 5 per cent. and keep the roads in repair at the above estimates would produce an annual cost of $303,000, which, upon the taxable basis of $25,000,000, would put upon the people of Frederick county the enormous rate of $1.29 on the $100 for roads alone. It was the judgment of the club that to macadamize a few of the most important roads and apply good road scrapers to the dirt roads generally would be the extent to which we can go at present; also that bonds might be issued to a limited extent for this purpose."

Mr. J. S. Harris then asked, is there any practical proposition for improving our roads at a reasonoble cost? This question created a considerable amount of talk. The *reasonableness of the cost* being the principal stumbling block. After being run through the fan several times however, the proposition was something like this; the county to purchase at the most convenient place in each school district a sufficent supply of gravel to put the roads in complete order and maintain them, then for the people of the districts to decide which roads should be improved first, the county commissioners shall then contract with the lowest bidder to make a gravel road, sixteen feet wide, with gravel spread nine inches deep in the centre, tapering off to six inches at the sides, and this to continue at the rate of two or three miles each year until our entire system of roads is in thorough condition.

Mr. Harris said he had no objection to other counties building such roads as they saw fit, but a good road could be built by this means at one-tenth the cost of the macadam, and without any increase of taxation for road purposes.

Mr. G. W. Rodenhiser said he thought the proposition a practical one, and as we would not be under the expense of new bridges and culverts in the future as we have been in the past, he thought it could be done without increasing the levy.

It was then moved and seconded that this proposition be laid before the county commissioners for their consideration. This was carried unanimously, and the club then adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The minutes were read and approved. The ladies asked to be excused from reading their's, and after giving them a solemn warning in regard to the future, the president excused them. (But we aint feerd o' him.)

The committee on pear barrels then reported, that the New York barrel, called the "up-river barrel," could be had in thirds, halves and barrels at 38 cents apiece. The committee was continued, with orders to keep his eyes open for anything cheaper.

Mr. E. B. Pennington then stated that the commission men had notified the berry-growers that they would return no crates in the future, and that they must use a crate that they can give away. He, therefore, moved that a committee be appointed to ascertain where the cheapest and best crate could be obtained. Mr. Pennington was then added to the barrel committee, and they were instructed to look after crates also.

Mrs. J. S. Harris then asked Mr. E. B. Pennington how he cajoled his hens into laying so many eggs during the extremely cold weather we have been having. That gentleman replied, that "he hadn't cajoled nobody;" he fed and cared for his hens, and they laid because they couldn't help it. He gave them a good warm feed of bran and corn meal mixed with meat liquor or milk the first thing in the morning; then about noon he gave them some hay-seeds and bits of hay that he gathered in his feed room, and at night he gave them all the corn they would eat, carefully removing what was left, for fear they would eat it before breakfast the next morning. In addition to this, he gave them sufficient bone, ashes and gravel; also a dust-pile to dust themselves in, and they behaved like ladies. He had received as high as 38 cents per dozen for eggs, and considered them profitable even at 12 cents.

The following question was then referred to Mr. W. D. Pennington: What degree of cold can raspberries and blackberries stand without the canes being killed? He replied, "I do not like to see the thermometer get down to zero for any kind of fruit. Raspberries are very apt to kill down to the snow-line when it is below zero, especially the queen, unless it is a young and vigorous patch. Blackberries will stand a little more, but not much."

The question—Do blackberries require to be manured and fertilized as much as raspberries and strawberries?—was referred to E. B. Pennington. He said that he could not speak for the strawberries, but raspberries required an application every year, while blackberries, after a good growth of cane was obtained, would not require any for a term of years; and it was his experience, that after standing ten years, the land would grow as much wheat or corn as that on which the raspberries had grown. When asked if the same ground could be planted back to berries and grow good crops, he replied that he thought not until a good crop of clover had been grown.

How far should the branches of a thorn hedge be allowed to extend from the centre of the hedge into the public road, was referred to G. W. Rodenhiser. He replied that he did not think there was any law regulating the distance, but when they interferred with the use of the road, the county commissioner could remove them.

Would Kent county farmers be benefitted by the so-called Homerule system of assessment? This was referred to Jas. S. Harris. He said he thought not. If one county should assess and tax one species of property and another county exempt it, it would be detrimental to the interests of one or the other. He thought the more uniform the assessment the better it would be for the agriculturalists. Mr. J. D. Kemp also spoke on this question, arguing that Homerule would result in greatly centralizing capital and trade.

The regular question, Can we practice the necessary amount of industry and economy to be successful farmers and still have time for visiting and other social pleasures, was then taken up and opened by Mr. Carson Harris, who took the affirmative. He said the way to do it was to stay home and attend to business during the day and run around at night.

This was endorsed by a general shout from the young folks, while the older heads attempted to cover a guilty look by dividing the proposition, (But we aint feered o'them, neither).

Mr. J. S. Harris said: We are social beings, and our social intercourse is almost a necessity. I know of no occupation whose votaries are better situated for visiting than farmers. Horses and vehicles are a necessary part of his outfit, and there are several months of the year when he is comparatively idle. They can then be used in visiting at no additional cost. Of course, business must be attended to first, but we will still have sufficient leisure to indulge in all the social pleasures that are needful.

Mr. J. D. Kemp said: "We are social beings, and I am glad of it. Of all classes of people and all classes of business, the farmer is the most independent, and in order that he may enjoy the benefits arising from this, he must know his business and the best way to plan for the future. He will learn much by comparing notes with his fellow farmers, by meeting with them and exchanging ideas and experiences."

Mr. Jarrell and Mr. Krusen followed, taking the same side, and everything was just lovely until Mr. E. B. Pennington arose and threw the first brickbat. "If that man were a prohib., I should call him a crank and dare him to take it up." He said if a young man commenced farming with nothing, and expected to make any money at it, he would have precious little time for visiting or social pleasures of any kind. For, said he, he cannot succeed as a farmer under present conditions and adverse legislation, unless he attends strictly to business, even if he has to employ help enough to not make it necessary for him to work himself. The eye of the master should be constantly overlooking the work, then when the days toil is over, it will be necessary for him to use what time he can spare from needed rest in studying his business, planning his crops and watching the markets. Even in winter he will be almost constantly employed in attending to the poultry and looking after the welfare of the stock, etc.

The president made an effort to get the ladies to take hold here, but they seemed too indignant for words; and beyond the remark that the men always seemed to go when they wanted to, and they saw no reason why they should not do the same, nothing was heard from them.

As the hour for adjournment had arrived, the club selected the question—Would it add to the prosperity of a country for the land to be divided into small farms, say fifty acres or less? for discussion at its next meeting, which will be held at the residence of Mr. G. W. Rodenhiser, on the last Thursday in February, and then adjourned. ANNIE ROONEY.

LA GRIPPE has made such terrible ravages among us that the smile that once arose when reference was made to it has now changed into a grave and very serious expression.

THE modern form of football involves excitements of a very dangerous kind. The players put into it the utter recklessness of soldiers on the battlefield.

SOME barbers pack the face after shaving in towels saturated with hot water, and very soothing and refreshing it is too.

AN OLD SAILOR'S YARN.

Captain Eldridge, of the steamer Catharine Whiting, is one of those breezy, old time tars who used to start off from some New England port in a sailing vessel which would return only after a voyage of two or three years. During those lengthy and tempestuous buffetings with the sea Captain Eldridge saw much that was of interest. Some of this he has told with a quaint marine candor worthy of being exactly reproduced. He says:

I saw in *The World* where three men were left on an island in the Arctic. This reminds me of a boat crew that was left on an island in the Antarctic ocean in 1871 by the schooner Franklin, of New London, Capt. James Holmes, master. They were landed on Cape Sheriff to kill what seals they could while the schooner went on a prospecting voyage—that is to say, looking for rookeries or places where seals travel up on the beach to rear their young.

Well they were to stay there until the schooner returned, which would be in ten days at most. So ten days provisions were given them, and when the ten days had expired the men did not know but what the vessel was lost. So they took in their boat the carcasses of seals and started for Potter's Cove, 250 miles away, where they expected to find the bark Nile, for it was expected she would sail on the 15th day of March for New London. They arrived there on the 14th, and she had sailed on the 13th, as it appeared. Now what were they to do without clothes or fuel, no provisions or shelter, and a very cold winter of nine long dark months? As it is so far South the summer is short—say three months—and is as cold as our winters here, but has the advantage of being all day, while the winter is all night. They were in 63 degrees latitude, south.

Well, the season was so far gone that the few seals, or elephants, or other animals that inhabit this part of the globe had gone into the sea for winter. But, however, they did manage to get a few seals and elephants and secured their oil, and on this they lived until spring. For shelter they got an old try works which had been left there by some ship and covered this with snow to keep out what cold possible, and with snow for blankets they lived the winter through.

In the spring they concluded to go back to Cape Sheriff and kill all the seals they could before the vessels began to arrive. Then they would make some bargain to take home the skins. So, without any provisions, they started back, but on going out the straits they got jammed in the ice and had to go back over the ice to Porter's Cove. They would haul their boat from one cake or block of ice to another, and launch when necessary. Well, they got back at last where they started from nearly dead from cold and exposure.

But, however, another trial. Four refused to go, but three of them took another boat which had been left by some other ship and started again without any food, for there was none to be got at so early in the spring. Nevertheless they arrived, then killed 2,200 seals and spread their skins on the snow to keep them from heating but what became of them will never be known. It was supposed that they undertook to cross the straits, but could not manage the boat. However, they were lost. Now about those four that stayed at the Cove, I remember two of their names, but have forgotten the others. One was an Indian from Long Island, some place near Montauk—his last name was Garby—and one by the name of James King, who was eventually the only survivor of the seven, and his tale of suffering was terrible. He had to kill and eat the other three men. They were nothing but skin and bones any way, and he could not have survived more than one day more had we not found him as we did.

We buried the remains of the others in the snow. King then went on board of the bark Nile, and from her he went on board of the schooner Z. P. Simmons and came to New London, where he sailed from. He sued the company, but finally he gave it up and cleared out—no one knew where.

Now, I will give you all the information I can as to why they were left there. It was late in the season and the winds would not permit of the schooner getting back to them. So she sailed for them. What are seven men's lives to some men?

Now, I will give you some idea of the place. It is from 61 to 63 degrees south latitude and the land is of volcanic origin, sprung up out of blue water and hiding in the clouds with thousands of feet of snow on top. The rocks are of soapstone appearance. There is not the first sign of vegetation on them—not even moss will grow on the rocks.

Yes there is a sign of vegetation; what is known as crimson snow. But if you take a handful and look at it without the aid of a misecroscope you will see nothing but a little red on the snow, but with the aid of a microscope you can see the fine roots in the snow. So it is a vegetable.

There are no shellfish on the rock, it is perfect desolation. But in the summer the birds of all kinds—that is, birds of high latitude—are here to breed their young. There are the sea gen, the Mother Cary's chicken, which is found all over the world, and penguin, several species of them. And to see these penguins as they march from their nests to the sea and back in single file and stand erect! They have just merely a small fin to swim with while in water. They just make a hole in the snow, lay two eggs and sit on them as any bird, right in the snow. But nature provides a way out of all these scrapes, as it were. Their eggs are a good substitute for hen's eggs.

A GOOD newspaper story appears in the Bainbridge (Ga.) *Globe:*

"He walked in and planked down two silver dollars that clanked like the sound of carriage wheels in the stillness of the sanctum. Said he:

"'There take that and credit my subscription quick.'

"'What's the matter?' we said.

"'Well,' he said, 'last week I was fishing on Spring creek; a thunder storm came up and it rained and thundered, and lightning flashed all around me. I crawled into a hollow to escape it. The rain made the log swell until I was fastened in and squeezed nearly to death. I began to think of all my sins and to repent. Suddenly I remembered that my subscription to the *Globe* was not settled up, and I felt so small about it that I was able to back right out of the log at once!"

How a Chinaman Kills a Chicken.

One might imagine that the Chinaman who gorges himself with broiled rats and bird's nest soup would eat any kind of meat prepared in any manner, but such is not the case. John Chinaman has his religious notions about things as well as other people. Many of the almond eyed inhabitants of Chicago are not very good Buddhists. Since coming to the city they have become apostate. But watch the orthodox Chinaman when he goes to the market for his Sunday chicken. He will not take a dead one because the probabilities are that the fellow who killed it was not a believer in Gautama and may have chopped its head off with a hatchet. His chicken must have it head on and be very much alive.

John will go to the coop and stir the feathered prisoners up with a stick. If he finds one that cackles and flutters about in a lively manner he will buy it. He has no use for a dumish, sickly appearing fowl.

Having made a selection he takes the chicken home alive, gets out a dirty little image, kneels before it, makes some queer motions with his hands, mumbles a few words, takes from a shelf or drawer a knife with a double edged blade which is extremely sharp, and with much ceremony whacks off the head of the fowl. This done he returns to the image, and kneeling again apologizes for having committed such a wicked deed and proceeds to prepare the chicken for dinner.—*Chicago Tribune.*

Willing to Be of Service.

Judge Hutchingon was called upon to marry a young couple. Julius Wolpe, age twenty-one, and Dora Alberti, a young miss of nineteen, appeared in the county clerk's office and procured a license. After securing the paper the young man was embarrassed and did not know exactly what to do. The couple walked through the building arm in arm, and attracted the attention of a lawyer with an eye open for business.

"What can I do for you?" he asked.

"We want to get married," returned the young man.

The lawyer led the parties before Judge Hutchingon, and without hesitation the judge started in to tie the knot.

"Do you take this woman"——

"Yes sir," broke in the young man.

"Don't be in a hurry," said the judge.

"Just wait until I get through with the question.

Wolpe was then asked if he would take Dora for better or for worse and forever and forever, etc., and he said he would. Dora made the same promises, and the ceremony was over with.

"I hope you people will never want a divorce," spoke up the lawyer as the parties were leaving. "but if you do, why here is my card."—*Chicago Times*

Fuel on Large Ocean Steamers.

Ocean steamers consume much more fuel than the average person is aware of. Take, for an instance, the vessels of the Orient line, which make regular trips between Australia and Great Briton. The fastest steamer of that line is the Austral, which makes the voyage from London to Sydney in thirty-five days. During the "trip out" she never uses less than 3,650 tons of coal, and on the return voyage often as much as 4,000 tons. She has three coaling stations, and bunkers that will hold 2,750 tons without overcrowding. English-American "liners" like the Oregan consume 330 tons of coal per day for every day between Liverpool and New York.

The Sterling Castle went to China for a load of tea. She brought back a cargo of 2,200 tons of that staple Chinese commodity, but consumed 5,000 tons of coal in making the round trip from Liverpool. Immense stocks of coal are constantly kept on hand at St. Vincent, Madeira, Port Said, Singapore and other oriental coaling stations, there often being as much as 200,000 tons in store at the last named place.—*London Letter.*

Death of Prominent Men.

The month of January witnessed the deaths of many prominent men in the United States. The list includes:

Gen. Rutherford B. Hayes, ex-President of the United States.

Hon. James G. Blaine, the brilliant statesman, orator and editor.

Hon. L. Q. C. Lamar, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, famous lawyer, soldier and politician.

Hon. James Campbell, Postmaster General under the Pierce administration.

Gen. Abner Doubleday, who in answering the rebel attack on Fort Sumpter, in 1861, fired the first gun in the defence of the Union.

Hon. John E. Kenna, Senator from West Virginia.

Rev. Phillips Brooks, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts, and the ablest pulpit orator in the country.

Where the Other Half was.

A young minister, in the course of an eloquent sermon on the pomps and vanities of the world, staggered his congregation by exclaiming:

"Here am I standing here preaching to you with only half a shirt on my back, while you sit there covered with gewgaws and other baubles."

The next day a parcel containing several brand new shirts was left at his house by one of his hearers, a kind hearted old lady. Meeting the donor a few days afterward, he thanked her exceedingly, but expressed much surprise at receiving such an unexpected gift.

"Oh," said the lady, "you mentioned in your sermon on Sunday that you had only half a shirt on your back."

"Quite true," added the minister, "but you seem to forget that the other half was in front."

"I DON'T see why I can't keep my husband at home!" said a distressed looking little woman.

"Why don't you try to make home attractive to him?"

"I have, I've taken up the parlor carpet, sprinkled sawdust on the floor and put a beer keg in the room, but some way or other it doesn't seem to make any difference.

SNOW THE FARMER'S FRIEND.

It Protects Growing Plants from Cold and Relieves Drear Monotony.

Snow acts upon vegetation in the same manner that a woolen garment warms the body of a man—retaining the heat of the body and warding off the cold of the atmosphere. It is a very great blessing, and one that we should be doubly thankful for, that during all the recent period of intensely cold weather, lasting over a month, the surface of the earth has been covered with a blanket of snow. The grain and grass crops, the two most important foods, and the many crops of our country valuable to man and beast have been thus protected.

Fruits of all kinds, while the buds are seemingly unprotected, are, in fact, covered with an outer overcoat of nature's own making, and far better than we could do it. All this while the active life of the tree, which is the sap, is buried deep down in the earth, among the roots—its winter home. The writer had occasion to examine a strawberry bed which had been mulched with fine manure early in the fall, and which has been covered with some six inches of snow, and he was surprised to find but little frost in the ground—not more than an inch—and the leaves as green and fresh as in the month of May. In a wheat field not far away, but only slightly covered with snow—not more than three inches, he found the frost four inches in depth, but the wheat leaves green and fresh.

Snow is then a blessing to us in very many ways. When it comes down flake by flake, thus purifying the atmosphere immediately and covering the ground with a deep, soft mantle, it gives renewed joy to young and old. The swift-running sleigh conveys merry parties to and fro, relieving the monotony of country life. The farm produce can be sent to market and the winter firewood hauled from the deep woods and the logs to the saw-mill more quickly and with less labor.

Snow has a tendency to shut us in by our own firesides. But this is not an unmixed evil but rather a blessing in disguise. There are books, there are pictures, there are magazines and newspapers for us to read and study. The telegraph and postal service are within the reach of all. We are shut in to our own thoughts, and if they are good, pure thoughts, it will bring blessings to our own fireside, and to those we come in contact with.

John Bunyan was shut in behind prison walls, but in his cell at Bedford jail he composed and wrote a book that has done untold good, and has a circulation next to the Bible itself. The Swiss family Robinson, was a family far off from civilization, but what a happy and loving family it was! So, then, if any rural reader, of these lines finds himself cut off from outer life by reason of the snow, let them remember that the daily tasks that seem so monotonous and drear to them, if they are done honestly and faithfully, will produce that vigor of mind and contentment of spirit that will more than compensate them in after years for all their trials during this snowy winter.

MARYLAND FARMS AND HOMES.

The Census Bureau has issued a most interesting bulletin relative to Maryland's Farms and Homes.

Among the 203,179 families of the state, there are 124,962, or 61.81 per cent. of the total, which hire their farms and homes, and 77,217, or 38.19 per cent., which own them. Of the families which own, 20,927, or 27.10 per cent., have farm or home incumbrance, and 56,290, or 72.90 per cent., are free of incumbrance. 100 families, on the average, 61.81 hire their farms and homes, 10.35 own with incumbrance, and 27.84 own without incumbrance.

There are 41,372 farm families in Maryland, which is 20.46 per cent. of the total number of families. Of these, 25,969, or 62.77 per cent., own, and 15,403, or 37.23 per cent., hire the farms cultivated by them, while of the owning families 7,794, or 30.01 per cent., have incumbrance on their farms, and 18,175, or 69.99 per cent., have no incumbrance. The average 100 farm families are composed of 37.23 that hire, and 18.84 that own with incumbrance, and 43.93 that own without incumbrance.

In the State outside of the cities, 61.36 per cent. of the home families hire and 38.64 per cent. own their homes; 26.04 per cent. of the home owning families own with incumbrances and 73.96 per cent. without incumbrance, while among 100 home families, on the average, 61.36 hire their homes, 10.06 own subject to incumbrance, and 28.58 own free of incumbrance.

Liens amounting to $25,059,276 incumber the 20,927 owned farms and homes of the State that are subject to incumbsance, $12,753,827 of which is on 7,794 farms and $12,305,449 on 13,133 homes. The value of the incumbered farms and homes is $63,949,013; farms $33,135,792; homes $30,813,221. Ratios of debt to value: Farms and homes 39.19 per cent.: farms 38.49 per cent.; homes 39.94 per cent.

An interest table of the bulletin shows that, while 6 per cent., is the usual rate of interest, nearly two-tenths of one per cent. of the home-owing families pay over 12 per cent.; in one case the interest reaches 30 per cent. on a loan of $200.

The number of families occupying owned, hired, free and incumbered farms in Kent are: owning free, 261; owning incumbered, 138; hiring, 535.

The number of families occuping, owned, hired, free and incumbered homes in Kent are: Owning free, 767; owning incumbered, 208; hiring, 1464.

Perhaps the most important table in the entire bulletin is the fifth, showing the value of farms and homes occupied by owners and unincumbered, and amount and percentage of incumbrance thereon.

In Kent the number of families owning with incumbrance are 346; value $1,536,351; incumberance, $690,170.

Queen Anne's, number of families owning with incumberance, 297; value $1,546,657; incumberance $618,759.

Cecil, number of families owning with incumbrance 833; value, $2,735,866.

IT has been discovered that the wetght required to crush a square inch of brick varies from 1,200 to 4,500 pounds.

"THE physician," says Brown, "is the man who tells you that you need change and then takes all you have."

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