Kent News

SATURDAY, - - - FEB. 15, 1896.

THE SWIFT-WING MESSENGER!

DR. SAMUEL BECK'S SUDDEN DEATH AT HIS HOME IN CHESTERTOWN!

Mrs. Josephene Usilton also Died Yesterday.

Our whole community was startled last Sunday by the news "Dr. Beck is dead!" The sad event took place at his home on Front street the night before, and without a moment's warning. It was almost impossible to realize the truth of such intelligence, as he had been seen on the streets of the town and in business places the day before in his wonted health. But it proved only too true! We chatted with him for an hour late Saturday afternoon; apparently he was never happier or healthier. He had se nt several days of bad weather with Mr. H. M. Brown on the gunning shore; they had poor luck, but he was in his usual good humor concerning the trip, notwithstanding the adverse winds and waves. A few neighbors were invited and a duck supper enjoyed that Saturday evening. After the supper the company adjourned to the parlor where vocal and instrumental music formed part of a pleasing pastime, and Dr. Beck himself was persuaded to take the tenor part in a duet with his wife. About ten o'clock he excused himself and said he felt a little out of sorts—he thought possibly his trouble was a slight attack of indigestion—and said he would go to bed. His daughter, Mary, went to his room with him, but he said he did not want anything and she returned down stairs. A few minutes afterwards Mrs. Beck went up to see that the Dr. was all right, and the first glance into his face almost paralyzed her. He was in bed, and lying on his left side, one hand under his head and gasping for breath. The alarm was given—Dr. Hines, who lives just across the street, was soon at hand, but too late. The swift messen ger had done his work effectually, and the black pall of death fell in thickest folds over every room—every heart—in that dwelling which a few moments before was lit in every part with the joys of an ideal home life!

Dr. Samuel Beck was one of the most conspicious figures in the community—in the business world, in politics and in social life he was recognized as a leader; as such his admirable qualities of head and heart peculiarly fitted him and no man in the county was more sought after. He was a good judge of human nature and he seldom erred in his estimate of men.

Dr. Beck was a native of the county. His father, Horatio Beck, was also quite a prominent man and served in the Legislature. The latter's fine estate near Lankford, now owned by Mr. George Beck, was not only a home of refinement and of lovable characteristics, but it was a sort of social centre as well. Dr. Beck received his education at Dickinson college and in medicine graduated at the University of Maryland. He was happily married to one of Kent's most gifted daughters, Miss Ellen Constable, Jan. 15, 1863, who in the long years intervening has walked beside him in perfect love and trust. The children born to this happy pair have as their best inheritance the beautiful devotional traits of the mother and the manly nobility of the father.

Coming home from the University Dr. Beck thought to establish himself in medical practice in Chestertown, and located in the building now occupied by his son. He was not satisfied here, however. His prospect was anything but flattering in competition with such celebrated and old physicians as Whaland and Houston and Meeteer. In 1861 his father purchased a tract of land for him at Hanesville, it being a part of the Hurlock "Hill Top" farm; upon this a comfortable dwelling was erected, and from this centre Dr. Beck spent the next eighteen years of his life in the active practice of his profession. Worton has had quite a number of popular and skilful physicians, but none more so than Dr. Beck.

In 1879 the Doctor entered the political arena as a candidate for county clerk, and ever since has been in active politics. He was twice elected clerk after hard fought campaigns both for the nomination and election, and during his twelve years' incumbency of that office he made hosts of friends in every section of the county. A more efficient or popular officer never discharged the duties of that important position. He was also chairman of the State Central Committee for the county four years, and his fidelity and effectiveness was never surpassed. As a member of the Board of Visitors of Washington College his services will be greatly missed; at the very last meeting, not many days before his death, he served as chairman of the board in the absence of Judge Wickes, the President. The Dr. was also a vestryman of the Episcopal Church and he never failed to manifest a proper interest in every enterprise and need of his Church. His family have for years been noted for their service and devotion to "the Courts of the Lord's house."

After leaving the Clerk's Office Dr. Beck formed a copartnership with Mr. Wm. S. Walker, and they purchased the fertilizer manufacturing plant of Mr. Wm. H. Cacy, on Chester river near town, and opened an office in the NEWS Building. In this business the firm has been successful beyond their best expectations. They dealt fairly and squarely with all, and so popular have their brands become that they found much difficulty in supplying the demand. Who can take his place in the firm?

Dr. Beck was fifty-seven years of age last September. He leaves a widow and eight children, namely: Horace W., of St. Louis; Wm. W., attorney, of Chestertown; Mrs. Allen A. Harris; Samuel, of Texas; Henry and Misses Mary, Sallie, and Isabelle. The two sons in their far-away homes were promptly wired the sad news, but as their engagements are now pressing them it was suggested to them not to go to the great expense of a trip home to attend the funeral.

The funeral took place at the residence on Front street on Wednesday morning. A great concourse of people were present to attest their regard for the deceased, and Mr. John N. Dodd, who had charge of the funeral arrangements, was as careful and successful as usual. In the hallway the body lay in a beautiful casket surrounded by magnificent floral offerings; the embalming was so perfect that the familiar features and appearance of full health was remarked by all. Rev. Dr. S. C. Roberts, in his most impressive way read the scriptural selections and church service and closed with prayer. The church choir rendered most beautifully the hymn entitled "Thy Will be Done." A long line of carriages followed in the procession to the sacred old precincts of St. Paul's church-yard; here another great company witnessed the closing scene. The services at the grave were conducted by Dr. Roberts and Dr. Denroche—the following gentlemen acting as pall-bearers: Richard W. Jones, R. Sterling Jones, George Beck, James L. Beck, Wm. S. Walker, Allen A. Harris.

MRS. JOSEPHINE USILTON, relict of the late Aquilla A. Usilton, of Chestertown, died at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. S. Hicks, yesterday afternoon in the 64th year of her age. She has been ill only a few days. Thus passes away a good Christian woman. She leaves two sons—who reached her bedside a few moments before her death—John W., and Leroy P. Usilton, of Washington, three daughters, Mrs. Lillian (Sam'l G.) Lee, Mrs. Josie (Samuel) Hicks, and Mrs. Emma (Charles) Hodgkins. The funeral will take place Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock—Rev. W. P. Compton officiating. Interment in Chester cemetery. The two sons, three sons-in-law, and J. W. Copper will be pall-bearers; E. C. Reiche undertaker.

HARRIETT W. CARVILLE, formerly of Kent county, died in Baltimore on Monday last, aged 85 years. The remains were brought over in the Gratitude on Wednesday and interred at St. Paul's. Mr. Thos. H. Carville, of Philadelphia, was here on Tuesday looking after the funeral arrangements of his deceased aunt.

HENRIETTA N. HATCHERSON died at the Home for Incurables in Baltimore last Monday, aged 77 years. The remains were brought to Quaker Neck by the Ford on Tuesday and interred in the Comegys-Brown cemetery on the Walter Trew farm—Rev. Mr. Cooper officiating.

JOS. H. LINTON, a deaf mute, 62 years old, died at his sister's near Westminster, Jan. 24. He spent some time in Chestertown the past summer taking pictures.

Lynch's Notes.

Mr. Frank Hepbron of this place has sold his store and good will to Mr. Spencer Biddle; the latter will conduct the business at the old stand. We wish him success.

The birth-day party for the benefit of Lynch's chapel held at the residence of Mr. Samuel Mann on Wednesday evening was well attended; the party numbering about 85 persons.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather, one evening last week, quite a number of masqueraders were entertained at the residence of Mr. J. B. Crowding, near here.

It was about the middle of Jan., 1894, instead of '95 as stated in your last issue, that Messrs. Walter W. Crowding, J. B. Crowding, Jr., and Carson Harris rode on horse-back across the bay, from Barnard's wharf to Stoney point and back, a distance of 16 miles; the ice measuring 18 to 24 inches thick. They made the return trip in 28 minutes, riding all abreast and in full canter. They are now all three married and we do not think their wives will allow them to try it again.

Some of our farmers are taking advantage of the good weather by cutting thorns, burning brush, plowing, etc.

Mr. Chas. P. Norris has a whole field plowed. TROLLY.

What the People Talk About.

MESSRS. EDITORS KENT NEWS:

I will tell you a little—some of the smooth things. In the first place you say, Mr. Brice, you voted for me; let that be as it may, the people in Chestertown say you must have lost a little or had an axe to grind, when you did so. When you said on the streets of Chestertown if you knew any of your sons to vote for the Black Republicans you would "chop their heads off," I suppose with that axe, that is what the people say. Now, Mr. Brice, we did not cultivate that vine for 28 years to give a red hot Democrat the only good fruit on it. Nor did the people of Chestertown think you, or any Democrat think they are entitled to it or any other office.

Now, Mr. Brice, you want to lower the taxes; you offered to be clerk to the board for $400; you said you could do it all, and that you were a school teacher, but you did not say it was for your son-in-law; the people say it was for him, and I would not like to say what they say. You know, and they know better than I do, as I don't know him at all. I will leave that to you. But will say if he is or you are a first-class book-keeper or could fill the clerk's office for the board of commissioners or any other position, he should go *up*, instead of down in pay. That is the way we Republicans always lived.

Now, Mr. Brice, you say you voted for me, and that Messrs. Hatcherson and Todd would vote for you, you thought I should do so; but they never brought up your name. So you see how much they thought of Mr. Brice. You were "not in it." Now you say Capt. Woodall would take the bridge for $100; you know and he knows that if he would do it for nothing he could not get it. I know he wants to lower his taxes but why not return $50 a year for the past? We will accept it. If it is too much now, or could be done for less, why could it not have been done before? That's what Democrats say! Capt. Andrew is poor, and, of course, has need of a soft snap. That is what the people say. D. HILL.

ROCK HALL LOCALS.

During the foggy weather last week, a number of dredgers laid at anchor on the "Jay Bird" oyster bar, but they were by no means idle; they would run their dredges off in their yawl boats, and wind them in filled "chock ablock" with oysters. This they did all day long, while the tongers were at work just a short distance above them. Of course Captain Stevens could not see them from Swan Point.

On Friday night Stevens encountered the dredgers on Swan Point Bar and put them to route. A number of shots were sent after them, but without injury. It is said Capt. Stevens had to disarm one of his crew in order to prevent the killing of one of the dredge captains. Monday morning the dredgers seemed to think they had everything to their liking, and 18 of them were combing Swan Point Bar for all it was worth, the police boat being temprorarily absent, but as soon as she could be gotten away from Love Point the dredgers scampered for other parts. Stevens followed them for some time, but failed to capture any.

Captain Urie, of the Hugh Bolton, seems to have considerable trouble with dredgers in Chester River, as they lay in two squads, one on the buoy rock and the other on the Beach, and while he is routing one the other plies their vocation, thus keeping the police boat busy preventing them from being very successful in their catch. Capt. Urie has about all he can do to keep his vessel afloat, as she is in very bad condition, much less keeping off dredgers.

The terrific wind and rain storm of last Wednesday night and Thursday, accompanied by a very high tide, caused considerable apprehension among many of our oystermen. Quite a number of boats were sunk at their moorings, while numerous others were blown ashore. Very little damage was done, however. Several families deemed it advisable to vacate their dwellings as the rushing waters approached, threatening an inundation.

Capt. G. T. Sewell met with a painful accident on Thursday. While in the act of hoisting the mainsail of his vessel, preparatory to starting for Baltimore with oysters, the tackling above gave way, causing the mainsail to come down with a crash, catching the captain beneath it and injuring his ankle. He was compelled to return home.

It is now manifest, that very radical changes will be made in the oyster law, which, according to those who have had a conference with the committee, will be very detrimental to our tonging interest. While tongers in Kent, Talbot and Dorchester counties are resolving and ranting, dredgers, scrapers and their pals are sawing wood and getting in their work.

Hog-killing has been in order during the week with Messrs. F. T. Hogens and B. F. Sewell, some very fine porkers being slaughtered, being hold-overs from last season's pens.

Mr. Geo. Davis is engaged in building an oystering boat for his son George, who is about to graduate with honors. With a pretty girl and a fast and pretty boat, George has indeed struck a stream of good luck.

Our people geneally are rextremely pained to learn of the death of Dr. Beck.

Mr. James Thomas, who took unto himself a wife during last November, brought his wife home on Monday last. During the evening the village serenading club gave them a grand send off.

One of our East Neck young farmers asserts with positiveness that he and a companion came in contact with a headless dog, a few nights ago, which ran before them for a mile, and then disappeared as suddenly as he appeared.

Mr. Thomas Warrem, has erected in Alexville, a boot and shoe shop, where, in the future, like Daniel Tuorum of old, is always prepared to minister to the necessities of the souls and soles of his fellowmen.

Owing to Downey's Hall being occupied by the show company the Oystermen's Prosective Union held no meeting on Saturday night.

Sassafras Items.

The wedding of Jesse L. Shepherd, of Middletown, and Miss Bessie Caulk, of near Sassafras, is announced to take place Wednesday. Mr. S. is a business man of ability, while Miss Caulk is one of Kent's handsomest and finest daughters. She is the daughter of the late B. F. H. Caulk, and on account of her father's death the wedding will be very quiet.

The wind last Thursday drove the tide up to an alarming extent; at 7 P. M. the water was up to our crossing.

Dr. Clarke, and wife, of Millington, were the guests of Mrs. Louis Dreka one day this week.

There was no service at either church Sunday on account of the bad weather.

Mrs. Augustus Dreka is somewhat improved but not yet able to leave her room.

Miss Agnes Clarke, of Millington, has been spending some time with her cousin Miss Alice Dreka.

Kent Lodge, No. 74, last week presented Mr. Augustus Dreka, their oldest member, with a handsome badge, and Mr. D. takes much pleasure in showing it to his friends.

Benjamin Hessey moved from Sassafras Thursday to Alexander Maxwell's farm, near Middletown. We have lost a good, honest citizen.

We are pleased to report Mrs. Ruth Vansant convalescing.

Mr. Jacob Shallcross, who has been ill for some weeks, we are glad to report is very much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood, of near Warwick, have been spending the week with their daughter, Mrs. Harry Griffith, near town.

Rev. Mr. Bichell, the evangelist, is still assisting Rev. Mr. Truitt with his extra meetings, which will continue this week.

Oliver Foreacher is improving. A. L.

MILLINGTON ITEMS.

The recent donation at the M. E. Parsonage was one of the best in the history of Millington donations. Nearly a hundred people were present, and besides the six gallons of ice-cream and stacks of cake, and lemonade and milk, which the crowd consumed, they supplied the cellar and larder for months to come, while presents and cash were given the different members of the house. It was a spontaneous outburst of genuine friendship on the part of the people towards the recipients.

The liberality in the M. E. Sunday-school the present conference year, notwithstanding the stringent times, has been a matter of general surprise; and has undoubtedly been stimulated largely by the weekly reports by classes, something new in school. The average per capita is frequently two or three cents. Mr. John Weist is present superintendent, and is introducing some additional modern methods which already are producing good results. The missionary anniversary is now preparing for the evening of the first Sunday in March.

The work of the Ladies' Aid of the M. E. Church the past year is worthy of a hearing through the columns of the KENT NEWS. Their receipts for the past year were $40, they expended in the parsonage $29, and have $11 in the treasury. They have also taken out an insurance policy of $500 on the furniture. A noble band hard to beat.

Mr. Henry S. Cook has purchased a splendid piano for his wife, a gift worthily bestowed. He and his family have recently returned from a prolonged visit among Mrs. Cook's Pennsylvania relatives. The business of this popular merchant and citizen seems steadily increasing.

A popular young man left Millington thirteen years ago to seek his fortune in the far West in the ranching business. His energy and thrift could but bring the coveted reward. He has amassed a fortune already. A few weeks ago he returned. Among his generous deeds since his return is the sending of a niece to a Baltimore business college, where he meets all expenses. But the best investment after all is his capture of the affections of one of our most popular young ladies, who will return with him to his distant ranch, and bring hence to his house the transformation he, no doubt, long has yearned for. This seems to have proven "love at first sight" on the part of both, and the current of courtship has run smoothly and sweetly and swiftly. It was courting for a purpose, and when the parties know of each other well, prolonging the time is only a waste of time, and brings no better results. During a courtship of *years* each conceals the worst from the other. The law of affinity of natures has a deal to do in the case, both during the courting period and the wedlock state that follows. Here is a case others of Kent might very profitably imitate.

Mrs. Ellasha's house took fire from an unknown cause last night and everything was destroyed, the occupants barely escaping. Mrs. E. lived with her son-in-law, Mr. North, near this town, and had a lot of notes taken at the sale of her husband's stock. These notes, together with $75 in cash, were destroyed. Mrs. E. is 62 years old and the loss to her will be keenly felt.

Edw. W. Spear has recently equipped his mill with a new turbine wheel, which, together with other improvements makes it one of the best on the Shore. J. E. Biscoe and B. M. Hazell did the work, costing about $800.

Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Cook has returned from Pennsylvania, bringing with them a handsome piano. Mr. Cook is now busy taking an inventory of stock. He will no doubt acquaint the public of some bargains shortly as "he takes the lead," at least so he advertises.

Mr. George Hazell, of Colorado, is visiting his brother, Mr. Benj. M., and, it is said he will not go home alone, his marriage being announced to one of our town ladies.

Mrs. James Nickerson, who died here recently, just six weeks after her husband, leaves two small children, aged 5 and 8 and two older boys, Watson and Elmer.

Miss Mattie Hazell left last Saturday for Baltimore High School.

F. S. Bottomley shipped 33 crates of eggs to Philadelphia Tuesday.

J. Henry Hurtt, of the Voshell House, Chestertown, visited relatives here this week. He purchased a large bill of goods of his brother, C. M. Hurtt.

Mrs. Henry Powell and children of near Chestertown, spent last Saturday with her cousin, A. L. Stower.

Wm. H. Harrington, a well-known blacksmith of Cordova, spent Sunday with parents here.

Deputy-Sheriff Jos. Owens visited our town a few days ago, his mission here being to arrest Mrs. John Johnson, for whom he had a writ. Mr. J. was charged with selling intoxicants. The brave officer walked into Mrs. J.'s presence and read the writ to her. Mrs. J., rolling up her sleeves, and with a determinied look on her face, said "now, sir, you arrest me, if you dare!" The officer looked about for the door and got out of Mrs. J.'s presence as soon as possible. He says he can wrestle with a man but is afraid of a woman. He hunted up Constable Voshell and gave the writ to him, but when he went to serve it the lady had left the place. B. H. U.

School Book!

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOOKS AND EVERY THING USED IN A SCHOOL-ROOM, at M. A. TOULSON'S,

out.

Meeting of Teachers.

The County Teachers' Association held its regular session in the Chestertown school room on Friday of last week. The meeting was called to order by President E. F. Perkins. Thirty-five of the sixty-three teachers responded at the calling of the roll. No unfinished business was brought before the association so that after the proceedings of the last meeting were read and accepted, the first regular question, "How may our pupils be taught to apply practically what they learn theoretically from books?" was taken up for consideration. At the close of the discussion the Literary Committee submitted the following questions which were adopted for discussion at next meeting.

1. How may pupils be taught the meaning and use of words?

2. Do our public schools meet the reasonable demands of the community in regard to the teachings of morals; if not, how may they be made to do so?

The address of the day was delivered by Prof. James I. Stephens, of Washington College, subject, "The story of Creation." The gentleman showed a careful preparation of his paper and a very thorough knowledge of his subject. The address was followed by adjournment until 2 P. M.

At that hour forty-eight teachers were in the school-room. The session was opened with the essay written and read by Miss Bertha Miller. "Pretension" was the subject of this good paper. "How may Civil Government be taught in our schools?" was discussed at length. The examiner followed with some very pertinent remarks relative to the tardiness of teachers in attending the association. He stated that this tardiness on the part of the teachers is a failure to fulfill their contract and in his opinion the cases should be brought to the attention of the School Board. Before adjournment Messrs. Starkey and Topping were appointed a committee to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of our late commissioner George W. Davis who died since our last meeting of the association. The resolutions read as follows:

WHEREAS, since the last meeting of the association death has invaded the School Board, and removed George W. Davis, and whereas the teachers desire to give expression to their sorrow, and to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of their late commissioner.

Therefore, Resolved, That in the death of Mr. Davis, the teachers have lost a sincere friend, one who has always had the best interest of both the schools and the teachers, at heart; one who has ever stood ready to encourage them, and to sympathize and cooperate with them in their school work.

Resolved.—That we extend to his bereaved family our heart-felt sympathies, in the hour of their affliction.

Resolved.—That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the association, be published in the KENT NEWS and *Transcript*, and a copy be sent to the family of the deceased.

Committee { I. R. STARKEY. THOS. H. TOPPING.

Fencing.—Mr. Joseph Guest, of this town, calls the attention of all who may be in need of fencing such as fancy yard, garden or farm fencing, also fence materials and tools, to his stock. He also deals in steel roofing, weather-boarding; lubricating, harness and axle oils. Anyone having a leaky roof should give a trial to "Guest's leak stopper." It is good for wood, tin, slate or iron. Read his ad. elsewhere.

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E. S. VALLIANT, - Church Hill.

THOMAS W. ELIASON, PRES'T.
GEORGE B. WESTCOTT, Sec'y and Treas.
A. M. KENDALL, Surveyor.

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