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Kent News.

SATURDAY MORNING.....JAN. 5, 1884.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Maryland Legislature met at Annapolis on Wednesday, and both branches were organized by the selection of the officers agreed upon in caucus on the previous evening. Some objection was made to the swearing in of Senator Hodson, of Somerset, and his case was referred to a committee of five, who had not reported at last accounts. The Governor's message was sent in and read. It is a lengthy document, covering sixty-seven book pages, and is devoted mainly to the financial condition of the State and the questions which have from time to time arisen in connection therewith. We have not space this week or even a synopsis of its contents.

THE LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS.

The members of the Maryland General Assembly, which met at Annapolis on Wednesday, held party caucuses in that city Tuesday night and nominated officers of the two houses. Dr. J. Pembroke Thom, of Baltimore, was nominated by the democratic caucus for Speaker of the House, and Senator Lloyd, of Dorchester, for President of the Senate.

Joseph B. Seth, of Talbot county, was chosen chairman of the House caucus, and R. D. Johnson, of Howard, secretary. There were sixty members present out of the sixty-three. On motion of ex-Governor Thomas, seconded by John H. Handy, of Baltimore city, Dr. J. Pembroke Thom was made the unanimous choice of the caucus for Speaker of the House. Thomas Moore, of Baltimore county, was chosen chief clerk; Dr. Wm. H. Cole, of Baltimore city, reading clerk, and Milton Y. Kidd, of Cecil, journal clerk, all without opposition.

Dr. Geo. W. Bishop, of Worcester, presided over the democratic senatorial caucus, and Senator Lane, of Washington county, was secretary. All the fourteen democratic Senators were present. Senator Turpin, of Queen Anne's, nominated Senator Henry Lloyd, of Dorchester, for President of the Senate. He was chosen unanimously. Senator Hayes, of Baltimore, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in compliance with the requirements of the act of 1882, chapter 459, the following shall be the officers of the Senate, and their compensation shall be that prescribed in said act: Secretary, John M. Miller, of Cecil; reading clerk, John W. Baughman, of Frederick county; journal clerk, Wm. G. Purnell, of Cecil; sergeant-at-arms, Oliver Wood, of Baltimore city; doorkeeper, Benj. F. Shafer, of Washington county; assistant doorkeeper, Dr. Robert Wright, of Queen Anne's; engrossing clerk, George W. Bell, of Wicomico; committee clerks, Charles A. Walshe of Carroll, James W. Diven of Baltimore city, Frank German of Baltimore city, and Charles G. Keller of Garrett county; folder, John T. Toll, of Dorchester; janitor, Thomas Sears, of Worcester; postmaster, Levi Webb, of Howard; messenger to the printer, James D. Powell, of Baltimore co.; chaplain, Rev. Wm. A. McDonald.

The correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* writes:

Mr. John S. Gittings, of Baltimore county, is making an active contest for treasurer, and speaks confidently of his success. On the other hand, the friends of Mr. Compton say that out of the 77 democrats in the Legislature he will get 45, and 39 would be sufficient. An effort is being made to call the caucus on the treasurership early next week, probably Tuesday, and to put through the police commissionership at the same time. For this latter office Mr. John Milroy, the present incumbent, is here in his own interest. Except Col. Joyce, no other name but Mr. Milroy's has been mentioned for this place.

The voting for United States Senator begins by law on the 15th, and the programme seems to be to give that, the great event of the session, a clear deck. It is expected the senatorship will have to be finally determined in caucus, though caucus will not be resorted to until daily ballotings have been proceeded with for some time.

Gov. McLane, who does not go into office until the 9th, will probably begin early on the county appointments which he has to make. His general appointments will probably be deferred until later in the session, as the executive is allowed fifty days in which to do this laborious part of the work.

THE Baltimore *Sun's* correspondent at Cumberland recently interviewed the leading members of the Allegany bar on the subject of a constitutional convention. Of 22 lawyers seen, 10 were in favor of the next Legislature acting in the matter, while 9 thought that 1887 would be soon enough, and 3 were non-committal. They were nearly unanimously in favor of changing the judiciary system so as to make the Court of Appeals independent of other judges and give each county a judge, as under the constitution of 1864. Most of them favored the abolition of the Orphans' Court, and the substitution of one judge learned in the law.

The Easton Star, edited by T. K. Robson, Esq., has this to say on the subject of a new constitution:

"We do not like our judicial system, and never did. It is cumbersome, to say the least, and to pay three men to do what one can do just as well, or better, is an unnecessary expense. We think it would be very much better to elect a judge for each county, and an independent Court of Appeals. But our judicial system might be much changed in the manner provided in the constitution, if the people want it changed, at much less expense than would attend the calling of a convention. A great many people think we ought to have a poll tax in Maryland, which the Bill of Rights prohibits; but it is very doubtful if a constitution providing for a poll tax would be accepted by the people. The will of the people on the subject could be easily ascertained at a trifling expense by submitting to them an amendment repealing the prohibitory clause in the Bill of Rights. We see no great necessity at this time for a constitutional convention, but have no serious objections to submitting this question to a popular vote, which would most probably reject it on the ground of expense."

A PRESENT DECLINED.—Ex-Mayor Whyte, of Baltimore, a day or two ago was tendered by the heads of the municipal authorities of the city a handsome silver waiter costing $450 as a testimonial of regard. To the surprise of his friends he declined the present. In his letter, he expresses his high appreciation of the gift, but continues:

"From the beginning of my political career I have refused to accept any substantial and permanent testimonial in approval of my public conduct, and although I recognize this as an offering of personal friends merely, to be kept as a memento of their friendship, I have concluded, after mature deliberation, that I should not make an exception on this occasion. Your loyal attachment to me guarantees that my action will neither give you offense nor receive your disapproval."

The donors in reply state their appreciation of the ex-Mayor's reasons for declining, and ask that the municipal authorities permit the present to be placed in the City Hall. The waiter is a perfect gem of artistic skill, and greatly reflects upon the taste of the donors. It is 18 by 25 inches, of oval shape, and was made by Warner. In the centre, encircled by a garland of flowers, is the inscription: "Presented to the Hon. Wm. Pinkney Whyte, Mayor of Baltimore from November, 1881, to November, 1883, by the officers under his municipal administration. After faithfully serving his State and country as Comptroller, Governor and United States Senator, his fellow-citizens unanimously called him to the Mayoralty, where he executed his trust with fidelity and ability." In the four corners are the inscriptions: "Comptroller, January, 1854;" "United States Senator, July, 1868, March, 1875;" "Governor, 1872;" "Mayor, November, 1881." The weight of the waiter is 138 ounces.

MR. O'CONOR'S ADVICE.—A writer in the Atlanta Constitution says: "I have it from good authority that Charles O'Conor advised President Davis to escape from the country after he was taken out of prison on bond. Mr. Davis refused to do so. Mr. O'Conor urged the excited state of feeling, that might lead to the worst results. Mr. Davis replied that, other considerations aside he could not think of leaving his bondsmen in the lurch. "Oh," said Mr. O'Conor, "I am able almost to pay the amount of the bond, and I could not devote my fortune so as to give one greater happiness than in paying for your liberty."

AT a dance at Bringler's tavern, twenty-four miles from Catawissa, Pa., Friday night, a free fight occured, during which Ellwood Strauser was fatally stabbed by Matt Cope. Henry Snyder was also fatally stabbed, and Benson Irwin and Mary Asman were shot. Cope and four others were arrested.

THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

The Question of Calling a Convention—Further Expressions of Opinion.

Members of the Chestertown bar have been called upon this week by representatives of the NEWS and Transcript, and gave expression to their views on the Convention question:

R. HYNSON, Esq., said:

I cannot see that there is any urgency to warrant the calling of a constitutional convention by the legislature soon to convene. The present constitution is probably defective in many particulars, but these defects can be reached by legislative amendments, without the calling of a special convention.

The law provides for submitting to the people in 1887 the question of altering the present constitution. That time is only about three years off. Public affairs have been conducted under the constitution as it now stands during the past seventeen years with reasonable facility and promptness, and there is no apparent reason why they could not be conducted three years longer, when the question of making radical changes in the constitution can be submitted to the people. If all this agitation by the Baltimore press of the question of calling a speedy convention has its origin in the fact that Baltimore wants to enlarge her boundaries, certainly this matter could be remedied if thought proper, by legislative amendment.

Frequent change without urgent necessity in the organic law of a State is, to say the least, bad policy. While the constitutional law of a State should not be so inflexible as not to admit of needful changes when such changes become of undoubted necessity, the organic law should at the same time not be considered of so little importance that it can be swept out of existence periodically, upon trivial objections. The present constitution was framed by some of the best and wisest men of their time, and has fulfilled its purpose in the main with fairness and justness. There are some provisions of the present constitution, however, which time has shown may be improved upon. The judiciary system of the State, I think, might be better constructed. I would divide the State into five appellate districts—one to Baltimore city, three to the Western Shore of Maryland and one to the Eastern Shore, making the Appeal Court to consist of five judges, and these to be relieved entirely of district duty. I would not increase the number of circuit judges, but would enlarge their sphere of duty. I would abolish the Orphans' Court and enlarge the duties of the Register of Wills. I would have circuit court judges hold quarterly sessions in each county, for the performance of Orphans' Court duties. The less important and more mechanical portion of these duties I would impose upon the Register of Wills. As to the judicial tenure, I would make it extend until the incumbent should have reached the age of seventy years, unless he be in the meantime physically or mentally incapacitated. I would also have him constitutionally ineligible to any other office upon his acceptance of the judicial office, until two years after he had passed the age limit for which he was elected. Even if he should resign the judgeship, he should still be ineligible to any other office until two years after the time for which he had been elected had expired. I would not, however, affect the tenure of the present judges, and would not apply the age condition until after the expiration of the terms for which they are elected.

Another matter calling for constitutional amendment is the present short tenure allotted to a number of elective offices. The frequency of elections is very demoralizing in its effects upon a community. It has a tendency to take the attention of citizens too much from their legitimate affairs and to engender too large an office-seeking class. Every election, too, necessarily stirs up a degree of strife and bad feeling that should be rendered as little frequent as possible. There is the consideration, too, that in many offices, when a public servant has fairly learned the duties of the office, he is compelled to step out and a raw hand takes his place, thus depriving the State of skillful service.

But these that I have mentioned, and all other desirable constitutional changes, could, I think, be effected with less expense and the desired object be as effectively attained by legislative amendment as by the holding of a special constitutional convention.

E. F. PERKINS, Esq., said:

I am aware of no substantial reasons for changing the present constitution of our State. I have not heard or heard of the subject or necessity for a change being discussed until the recent editorial of the Baltimore *Sun*. The reasons moving the *Sun*, as the representative of Baltimore interests, are obvious. A constitutional change by which Baltimore city can compel an enlargement of its boundaries, and the more than probability of obtaining an enlarged representation in the legislature of the State from a convention to be called at this time. The enlargement of the city can now be secured by the assent of the citizens of the county, or can be reached through an amendment to the constitution. The possibility of a new constitution curtailing the proportion of the rural representation to Baltimore city, ought, it seems to me, secure the opposition to a convention from every voter of the State outside of the city.

The only approximation to a reason for a change that has come from the counties is the not entire satisfaction with the present judiciary system. I think the judiciary system of Maryland the jewel in our constitution. It has secured us a learned, upright and independent body of judges. The law has been administered speedily and impartially, and the decisions have commanded the respect of litigants. The present arrangement of the courts by which the chief judges of the circuits compose the appellate court, adds in my opinion to the efficiency of both. The brightness of our most precious metals is only preserved by occasional friction.

The convention which assembled at Annapolis in 1867 was as intelligent a body of men as would be likely to be gathered now. Two years had elapsed since the close of the war, and the idea that the present constitution was a reaction of the constitution of sixty-four is without foundation. The men of 1867, in my opinion, builded well, and I hope to see our present organic law survive the nineteenth century.

H. W. VICKERS, Esq., said:

I have not given the subject very much attention. The present discussion seems to me premature. At least it is sprung rather sudden and unexpected. I am at a loss to know how the "boom" originated, whether with democratic or republican politicians, or is gotten up by the newspapers for their profit and the entertainment of the people.

The Republicans seem to clamor most however for a convention, but without any good reason. The present constitution is non-partisan. It is in harmony with the constitution of the United States, and there is no present reasonable demand for a change from any quarter. Barring a very few defects the constitution cannot be improved upon, and these defects can be reached by amendments and followed up by proper legislation. No new constitution need be had for very many years to come. I am by no means sure that the present judiciary system can be improved. The demand for a change in it comes principally from Baltimore. The counties I believe greatly prefer the present system. There is a strong feeling in the counties that the Court of Appeals ought not to be entirely divorced from the people. It don't do the judges any harm to do circuit work. The people like to see their chief judge come among them, and he has thus an opportunity of knowing what is going on outside of Annapolis. The present judiciary system after mature deliberation was adopted as preferable to an independent Court of Appeals, and the reasons thus advanced for a change do not convince my judgment.

It is thought desirable by some with an independent Court of Appeals that the duties of the Orphans' Court should be discharged by the Circuit Court judges. While such a change might be desirable in some respects, I apprehend that the people will be slow to give up altogether the management of the Orphans' Court. The people look upon this court as the judgment court, and nearly everybody manages to have some business before it some time or other. They will be reluctant to surrender rights which they have so long enjoyed, and responsible duties which they have so long performed with satisfaction to themselves.

The corporate limits of Baltimore ought in fairness to be extended, and those persons residing within the "belt," who enjoy the advantages of the city, be made to share in its responsibilities. But a new constitution ought hardly to be had even to bring about so desirable a result. Besides the constitution can be amended and Baltimore secure justice.

I hold that every change is not necessarily an improvement. We have prospered under the present constitution and with very little tinkering there will be no need of a convention in '87.

M. DEK. SMITH, Esq., the State's Attorney for Kent county, said:

I have not given the question much thought and I hardly feel able to express an opinion about the advisability of calling a convention for the purpose of making a new constitution. The present constitution was adopted by the people only 16 years ago, but it seems that Maryland is notorious for changing her organic law. Though a young man, I have already lived under four constitutions in this State. With many I find that the present judiciary system is objectionable. I see but little reason for it—certainly not sufficient to warrant the expense of a change. The section prohibiting the Legislature from changing the boundaries of any of the counties without the consent of the inhabitants of the particular territory affected, works a hardship in the case of Baltimore city in her endeavor to take in the "belt." I firmly think that the city ought to have that adjacent territory, but that and the other patent reasons I have read as offered for the cause of the call might be effected by amendments. The only thing really needed, which could hardly be accomplished by amendments, is the doing away with so many elections. Had the present constitution been adopted one year earlier or later, our State and Congressional elections would have then come in the same year, thereby saving a considerable item of expense.

WM. M. SLAY, Esq., said:

So far as my observation goes, without giving the subject any special attention, I see no urgent reason for a convention. At the same time I am glad of the prospect of a general discussion of the subject. After sixteen years of vigorous growth, it is certainly not out of place to direct our attention within and try to find what needs the times have developed. It is the privilege of the people and the time is auspicious for a fair consideration of the matter. My hope is that their conclusions will be reached without too much influence from the ambitious schemes of politicians or the self-interest of those in office.

C. T. WRIGHT, Esq., said:

I have given the matter little or no attention, feeling, as I believe a large majority of the people of the State do, that 1887—the period already fixed for the consideration of Constitutional matters—will be time enough to remedy any grave defects in the present organic law which cannot be healed in the meantime by proper amendments. That lapse of time and the extraordinary advance and development of the human race in this free land of ours, should often require thorough examination and frequent amendment and reconstruction of the laws under which we live, is surely no surprise; and so, since the adoption of the last constitution in 1867, from time to time there have arisen exigencies which the existing laws do not meet, as the bi-annual books of legislative acts clearly show so far as the statute law of the State is concerned, and logically one can readily understand that the organic law in process of time also needs revising and amending. But that there is any dire necessity for the immediate call of a constitutional convention I cannot agree. With our multiplicity of elections, too frequently held now for the intrinsic good of the people, to call in question, before its time, the consideration of constitutional matters, with the heat of a Presidential election already warming us with its approaching glow, would seem to me to be extremely ill-timed and unnecessary, and without tiring you by going into details and giving you my reasons at length, I must say that I am opposed to reframing the constitution at this time.

JAMES A. PEARCE, Esq., writes to the Baltimore *Sun* as follows:

"Your article in the *Sun* of the 224 inst. presents with clearness and force the principal considerations in favor of such a convention, and these I concede to be both numerous and weighty, but my convictions of the evil policy and bad effect of frequent changes in the organic law of the State are such that I am not prepared hastily to yield my assent to the propriety of calling a convention, and I should not hesitate to express an adverse opinion but for the existence of the constitutional requirements to take the sense of the people upon this question in the year 1887. This, however inclines me to hesitate in the utterance of a deliberate opinion without fuller consideration of the details of the present constitution and of the changes in affairs since its adoption. I do not regard the question or experience, in view of the fact that we must act in 1887, as worthy of serious consideration, and in seeking to reach a sound judgment for myself, I am disposed to consider whether the present time offers any special advantages for healthy and enduring work which we may not reasonably expect in 1887.

"You have stated what you deem to be these advantages fairly and strongly, and they may be summed up, I think, as follows:

"First.—That the State, as the result of the late election, after strong demand for and general concession of the need of reform in political methods and measures, still remains firm in the democratic faith.

"Second.—That no element in the party can be expected to be more sensitive to the obligation thus imposed than that upon which special responsibility has been devolved by the election of their representatives under pledges for these reforms.

"Third.—The assurance of a minority republican representation in the convention sufficiently strong and presumably reputable to guard against the mere partisan use of power by the majority.

"Fourth.—That there is no guaranty that there will not be in 1887 excitement and contentions in the party tending to the selection of unwise delegates and to the adoption of an instrument marked by haste or prejudices, and to these may be added:

"Fifth.—The possibility—remote though it may be—of devolving the duty, if delayed till 1887, upon the republican party, which in a democratic State could not but be regarded as a calamity. Many of the matters to which you refer might be revised with advantage to the State, but I do not think that the defects of the present constitution press so hardly upon the people as to necessitate a convention to remodel it, and I am disposed to believe that all vital reforms can be gradually effected by constitutional amendments.

"If I mistake not, Massachusetts has continued from 1780 up to the present time under the same constitution, though during that period nine amendments relating to various matters, and some of great importance, have been adopted. Vermont is still under her original constitution of 1793, with four amendments, and North Carolina lived under her original constitution of 1776 up to 1868, when, in submission to the mandate of the federal government, the Southern States altered their constitutions to conform to the victors. The ground most frequently taken now in favor of a new constitution in Maryland is the need to change the judiciary system; but whatever may be its defects, and it is certainly not free from them, I regard the certainty and permanence of judicial tenures as more important to the State than the correction of any minor defects which may exist in the judicial system, and I believe the desire for a change is greatly exaggerated.

"The best material for the bench can only be secured, and the highest qualities of judges so obtained can only be brought into constant action, by the assurance on the part that without some paramount necessity their tenure shall not be disturbed either by legislation or a convention. At this time the personnel of our courts is in the main excellent; many of its members have been recently re-elected in recognition of able and faithful services rendered; and I should look with deep regret upon the throwing open so soon again of all those places in the State to the hot and uncertain competition of personal and professional ambition, and of political arrangements and affiliations.

"I concur with most of my brother lawyers in the opinion that a smaller and an independent Court of Appeals would be preferable. But if this is to be attained, as is generally suggested, only by reducing the size of the circuits and diminishing the salaries of circuit judges, thus at once lessening the standard of material and narrowing the scope and contact of the bench, I must consider the change of more than doubtful expediency. In spite, therefore, of considerations which seem to favor the calling of a convention at this time, I prefer to bear longer with such defects as exist, unless the doctrine of permanence in judicial tenure, which I believe to be of paramount importance, can be adopted by a provision for the retention of the present judges for the term for which they were elected, and for postponing until that time the operations of any new system which may be adopted."

"GOLDEN DAYS," the brightest, best and in every way most attractive and desirable magazine for young people, comes promptly to our table. If you want to supply your boy with first class literature for the year subscribe for the "Golden Days," published by James Elverson, Philadelphia.

DEATHS IN BALTIMORE THE PAST YEAR.—The deaths in Baltimore during the past year number 9,380, to 8,923 during 1882, an increase of 457. The total deaths from small-pox in 1882 was 551, while in 1883 it was 663. Of those who died last year 3,999 were children under five years of age. The total deaths from scarlet fever were 234, diptheria 501, croup 187, typhoid fever 132, consumption 1,299, pneumonia 563, cholera infantum 473.

SERGEANT MASON, who attempted to shoot Guiteau, entered upon his engagement as a star at the Dime Museum, Philadelphia, Monday.—The place was crowded throughout the day and evening, Mason proving a drawing card. He made a speech, in which he thanked the newspapers of the country for their efforts in his behalf, and said next week he hoped to have "Betty and the baby" present to say the same thing.—Mason claims that himself and family are engaged for a short season at $1,000 a week, and that he intends to use the money he makes in stocking his little farm, when he will settle down to agricultural pursuits.

VALUABLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—Senator Fair, of Nevada, sent a draft for $5,000 as a Christmas gift to the Boys and Girls' Aid Society of San Francisco, Cal. Mr. James C. Flood gave the Catholic Female Orphan Asylum of the same city $1,000, and St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, San Rafael, $1,000, as Christmas gifts.

THE Hagerstown *Globe* says that $300,000 have been invested in mortgages in Washington county in the past eight months, and that amount is but "a drop in the bucket" of the wealth of that county exempt from taxation.

IT is estimated that there were between two and three hundred sleighs in each day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week in Westminster.

THERE were sixteen deaths from measles in Baltimore last week.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA.

Points Agreed Upon by the Bishops While at Rome.

A Rome correspondent of the New York *Herald* sends what he states to be a full translation of a letter from an influential dignitary of the Catholic Church regarding its future in the United States. The letter is as follows:

"The American bishops have been very busy here preparing for the National Council that was to have taken place shortly after New Year's.—The council, however, has been postponed, as the presidential election takes place next year, it was deemed wise to wait and thus avoid the possibility of exciting public opinion at a most susceptible moment. Mgr. Sepiaci, who was to preside at the council and fill the functions of apostolic vicar, will not leave Rome as early as he expected.

"The bishops have certainly labored with the greatest zeal and enthusiasm for the organization of their young and brilliant church, so full of hope, yet surrounded by difficulties. Like all new-born religious structures, the church in America has not yet been adapted to a true juridical existence. The church of America has not yet been firmly established on the solid basis or paramount excellence of ecclesiastical traditions. It is to mould gradually but surely this institute to the exigencies of canon law and of Catholic jurisprudence that the episcopate has consecrated the labors of the last few weeks.

"They have been weeks filled with the most numerous and happily the most fruitful deliberations. The bishops have agreed upon the following points:

"1. The bishops are to organize their seminaries according to the principles established by the Council of Trent.

"2. Parochial schools are to be established, and in doing so the principles of the first period of the Middle Ages are to be borne in mind.

"3. Commissions are to be appointed for the administration of ecclesiastical property.

"4. For the nomination of curates the system obtaining in France is to be adopted, with the exception, of course, of the co-operation of the state, which, unfortunately, in America has no relation with the church. This method of nomination is a point of the utmost importance, for this question bristles with difficulties of a most thorny and multifarious nature.

"5. A system of legislation is to be decided upon for religious marriages.

"Such are the chief resolutions that have been adopted by common accord.

ILLUSTRATED SERMONS.—Rev. Edwin M. Long, of Philadelphia, preached Sunday morning and evening at the Scott Street U. B. Church, Baltimore. Mr. Long is very well known as the author of "illustrated sermons," having 724 sermons, each of which has a number of very large pictures illustrating the sermon. Yesterday morning he preached on Moses' death, on Mount Pisgah, the three illustrations showing Moses parting from the people, his ascent up the mountain, and finally his gaze over the promised land, which he was never to enter. The evening sermon was about the building of the ark. The paintings are very handsome and instructive.—In the afternoon Mr. Long visited the penitentiary and preached to the inmates about Moses, using the same illustrations. Rev. G. W. M. Rigor, the pastor of Scott Street Church, will shortly introduce the system of illustrated sermons into his church.

MR. BARNUM'S WILL.—As already announced, Mr. P. T. Barnum has finally become reconciled to the advances of age and made his will. Characteristically, he invited several physicians to Bridgeport, Conn., to testify to his mental competency to execute a last will and testament, and thus prevent the possibility of a contest after his death. The will and its codicils cover more than 700 pages of closely-written legal cap, and bequeath $10,000,000 to twenty-seven direct heirs. The property is chiefly made up of real estate in New York, Brooklyn, Bridgeport and Colorado, and his interest in the Barnum and London shows, which is valued at $3,500,000. Among the charitable bequests are sums varying in amount to the Chapin Home, Children's Aid Society, the Rev. C. L. Brace, secretary; Old Men's and Women's Home, to "assist males and females over eighty years of age;" Bridgeport Orphan Asylum, Bridgeport Hospital and other Bridgeport societies. He also makes a handsome provision for some societies by bequeathing them a certain percentage of the annual profits of his share in the Barnum and London shows for each year that the show is in existence, and authorizes his executors to renew the partnership at present in effect with James A. Bailey and James L. Hutchinson at its expiration in 1895. He secures to the city of Bridgeport the only water front left, with a dock costing $30,000, and which he forbids his executors to sell or lease for twenty-one years after his death, "my object being," the will states, "to prevent a monopoly of the freight and passenger traffic by any one line of steamers between New York and Bridgeport, and to preserve to Bridgeport and others the advantages of reasonable rates for freight and passage between said cities. The bequests foot up a large sum, leaving no chance for dissatisfaction."

THE OYSTER PROBLEM.—The problem to be solved by the next Legislature, in reference to the oyster interest, is to provide legislation whereby the supply of oysters shall be kept up to the demand for canning, exportation, and home consumption, while at the same time there shall be no diminution in the oyster beds. Can it be done? The oyster beds must not diminish, and the industries of dredging, tonging, boating, shucking, packing, and shipping must not fail. How is this to be accomplished? That is the problem to be solved by the Legislature.—*Westminster Advocate.*

AT YAZOO City, Miss., Saturday night 200 armed men took Robert Swayze, Micajoh Parker and Richard Gibbs from the jail and hanged them. W. L. Foote resisted and was shot dead in his cell. The prisoners were charged with the murder of the Posey brothers and Jasper Nicholson on the 24th ult. The lynching is said to have been due to the fear that a conspiracy had been formed by the negroes to commit murder.

THE MEASELS IN QUEENSTOWN.—The Queenstown *News* says: The immense crop of measels which struck this town, last week and this, made it a dull Christmas to many families.—Many families had all down but one or two. It struck us quite light only 5 down out of 10. All are improving and the prospect is they will vacate town with the old year.

THE Baltimore *Sun* says Gen. Horn has in the State penitentiary a negro from southern Maryland who is the champion pie eater of the world. A year ago last Christmas he ate, in his cell, six dozen pies between the hours of closing on Christmas eve to that of opening his cell on Christmas morning. I am by no means sure that the present judiciary system can be improved. The demand for a change in it comes principally from Baltimore. The counties I believe greatly prefer the present system. There is a strong feeling in the counties that the Court of Appeals ought not to be entirely divorced from the people. It don't do the judges any harm to do circuit work. The people like to see their chief judge come among them, and he has thus an opportunity of knowing what is going on outside of Annapolis. The present judiciary system after mature deliberation was adopted as preferable to an independent Court of Appeals, and the reasons thus advanced for a change do not convince my judgment.

JOHN C. MARSH, a lawyer, and his wife, James Boyland and Reese Blair were poisoned by eating eggs Sunday morning at Beaver Dam, Union county, N. C. Marsh died, but the others are supposed to be out of danger. The eggs are believed to have been poisoned for the purpose of killing rats, and to have been put on the breakfast table by mistake.

THE comet is now visible to the naked eye. It is now moving southeast, and on New Year's Day was near the right forefoot of Pegasus. It will grow brighter until the latter part of January. After that it will recede and not be visible again for 71 years. Those who fail to see it now will be glad to know they will have an opportunity to see it again—if they live long enough.

FRIDAY week the dead body of a man was found lying in the snow near the Pennsylvania Railroad track, not far below Retreat Station, Pa. The tracks of a bear were plainly distinguished, and the man's clothing and person gave evidence of a horrible struggle. The body was identified as that of John Robinson of Cleveland.

REV. MR. STANSBURY, the new pastor of the Bethel African M. E. Church at New Haven, Conn., was forcibly ejected from his pulpit last Sunday by two of the deacons, who have secured a minister more to their liking. Prosecutions for assault will follow. Stansbury was appointed by Bishop Brown without consulting the trustees of the church.

ADAM HARTLINE, a pedler, was stopped on the highway between Catawissa and Mainville, Pa., and robbed of $350 and jewelry. He was shortly after met by two other men, who asked permission to ride in his sleigh. Hartline refused, whereupon one of the men fired twice, inflicting fatal injuries.

AT Pittsburg, Pa., Saturday the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company obtained a verdict for $471,000 against the heirs of Wm. Philips, formerly president of the company, who, it is claimed, used money of the company for the purchase of property in his own name.

CAPT. THOMAS R. FITZGERALD, of Somerset co., got 1,600 bushels of corn from 26 acres of land. Besides the manure made on the place $100 worth of commercial fertilizers was used.

MASONIC INSTALLATION AND BANQUET.—The Masonic Lodge of this town held its installation meeting on Wednesday evening last, at which the following officers—elected for the ensuing term—were installed: Master, J. K. Aldridge; senior warden, G. H. Cannan; junior warden, Wm. H. Blakeney; secretary, John R. Gray; treasurer, M. A. Toulson; senior deacon, J. N. Dodd; junior deacon, John D. Urie; tyler, Geo. C. Adkinson. At the close of the installation ceremonies the lodge was "called off" and adjourned to Armstrong's Hotel, where a sumptuous supper was served to the members of the order and quite a number of invited guests.

Messrs. Armstrong & Sparks, proprietors, have secured for their hotel an enviable reputation for good fare, and on this occasion the menu was prepared with their characteristic skill. After doing full justice to oysters and canvas-back duck, and turkey and chicken, etc., etc., the company adjourned to the parlor where impromptu speeches were the order, and a half dozen or more short addresses were made—some relative to masonry and its good work, but more of an "anecdotal" character. The whole affair was of the most pleasant and enjoyable character, and the company dispersed at a late hour, all hands no doubt favorably impressed with masonic "men and measures."

A BOY SHOOTS HIMSELF ACCIDENTALLY.—Frank Mitchell, aged nine years, son of Geo. Mitchell, colored, who lives on college road just outside the head of Chestertown, was shot and seriously if not dangerously hurt last Thursday morning from carelessly handling a pistol. The pistol was a four-barrelled revolver, and George had slept with it under his head the night before and forgot to take it with him when he arose; Frank slept in the same bed, and shortly after his father got up and went down stairs, about 7 o'clock, the boy awoke and discovered the pistol and began playing with it while yet in bed; three of the barrels were loaded and one was discharged, sending a bullet into the boy's left breast just above the heart. Several other children were in the room and two in an adjoining bed. Dr. C. W. Whaland was sent for and after a careful examination of the wound decided it not expedient to probe for the ball at present. Why George should find it necessary to sleep with a loaded revolver under his head is a mystery.

THE FAIR for the benefit of the Catholic Church, in Chestertown, closed last Saturday night.—About $425 were cleared. The following were the fortunate winners of the numerous articles disposed of: Lady's gold watch, Mrs. Mary Stam; gentleman's gold ring, Miss May Nickerson; baby's afghan, Al. Jester; handsome doll, John Baumgarter; majolica ware, John Sweeny; gold wedding ring, Joseph Peterson; lady's gold onyx ring, L. K. Stam; handsome lamp, Mrs. Annie Dixon; magnificent bride, Jennie Stuart; wedding cake, Frank Casey; lounge, Mrs. Waters, Baltimore; handsome whisp and holder, John Vandegrift; marble-top table, K. O. Osterburg, Kennedyville.

RELIGIOUS.—A "watch meeting" was held in the M. E. Church on Monday night commencing at 10 o'clock and lasting till after midnight. The bell tolled out the dying year and rang in the new with joyous chimes. A protracted meeting has been in progress at the church during the week.

The children's jubilee by the Methodist Protestant Sunday School was held at the Town Hall on New-Year's eve and the little folks—and big folks too—enjoyed themselves as usual on such occasions. About two hundred and fifty packages of confectionery were distributed to the scholars and teachers of the school, and cake in abundance to all present.

ORPHANS' COURT, Monday, Dec. 31.—Present, Judges Walker, Hyland and Stevens.

Joel C. Slaughter filed his official bond as Register of Wills in the sum of $7,000, which was approved.

John J. Roeder, adm'r of Mary Maria Roeder, returned his first and final administration acc't.

Letters testamentary on the personal estate of Edward Slaughter, were granted to Marion deK. Smith, who filed his bond in the sum of $1,000.

Marion deK. Smith, the trustee appointed to sell the real estate of Isaac Caulk, deceased, filed his bond in the penal sum of $1,000.

Chas. M. Sutton, adm'r of Andrew J. Sutton, returned his account of sales of personal estate.

James S. Harris, adm'r of Daniel Crew and acting guardian to Thomas B. Crew, Florin M. Crew, Robert S. Crew, Howell Caldwell Crew and Fountain Crew, returned his guardian acc't, and was appointed guardian to said wards.

GONE TO CHESTERTOWN.—Mr. John Goldsborough, the genial proprietor of the Arlington Hotel at this place for the last year, has removed to Chestertown, and will conduct the Voshell House in that town. The people of Kent will find Mr. Goldsborough a pleasant, genial and excellent landlord. We regret to lose him, but what is our loss in Chestertown's gain. He has our best wishes for success in his new field of labor.—*Centreville Observer.*

A RED RABBIT.—Wm. Boyd, Cecil county, has a curiosity, caught in a box-trap by his daughter Mary and son Luther Boyd. The curiosity is a red rabbit. The hair is different in quality from the wild, and the eyes are also different. The rabbit was shot at and missed two years ago, and many efforts made for its capture, and not until a week ago did they succeed. The rabbit is now in Port Deposit, in charge of Mr. A. L. Barry, whose intention it is to present the curiosity to Mayor Latrobe, of Baltimore, as a contribution to the park curiosities.

ROMANTIC HISTORY OF TWO ORPHAN GIRLS.—The secretary of the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, of Philadelphia, on Monday received word from Disbursing-Agent Laurence, of the pension office, informing him that he had in his possession several thousand dollars belonging to Margaret Culiden a ward of the society, and a daughter of a soldier who fought in the late civil war. The father, John Culiden, was wounded at Antietam, and received a pension. He died ten years ago, and his pension reverted to his two daughters. After his death one of their uncles was appointed guardian for the orphaned children, drew the pension, and squandered it for drink. He cruelly treated the children, and the society investigated the case. It was learned that the uncle had squandered about $1,500 of the girls' money, and he was arrested, fined and his guardianship was revoked. The society took charge of the children. The younger one, Margaret, became an imbecile from the long continued abuse and neglect, and is now an inmate of the almshouse hospital.

The history of the the elder girl, Elizabeth, from the time of her commitment to the present, is a romantic one. The society was averse to placing her in an institution, for she was beautiful and accomplished, and refined and gentle in manner and speech. A home was found for her in a private family, and the society paid for her support. She soon became a favorite in the family, however, and was taken into their service and treated as a daughter. She lived pleasantly with them until she was sixteen years of age, when she left them to accept a more lucrative position. She lived in her new home for a year, when a grandson of her former employer, who had been a playmate, and who had advanced to maturity, sought her out, offered his hand in marriage, and was accepted. They are now living happily together in Philadelphia.

JUST PUBLISHED—MAP OF THE PENINSULA, embracing Delaware and Eastern Shores of Maryland and Va. It shows every Town, Post Office, Stream, Canal, Common Road and Railroad, accurately delineated. No other Map compares with this in clearness or detail.—Size 31x47 inches. Prices, pocket form $2; on cloth $3; dissected form on cloth $3 50; mounted on rollers $3 50; on spring rollers $5. Will be sent to any address on receipt of price. SAM'L J. WATTS, agent, Chestertown, Md.

GENERAL GRANT had a bad fall on the ice, in New York, on christmas eve, and it was thought for some time that he had broken one of his legs, the pain was so intense, but it turned out that the bone is not broken, and he is better. He was about to take a ride, and went to his coachman and gave him some money as a christmas gift, and in turning round to go to his carriage fell. He had to be carried into his house. He will not be able to leave his room for some time.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Tilghman Shafer, late county commissioner from the second district, has been dangerously ill with the measels. We are glad to learn, however, that he is convalescing.

Messrs. L. C. Justis, of Kennedyville, and C. W. Kennard, of the firm of C. W. Kennard & Co., expect to spend the winter in Florida. The trip is to combine pleasure with business.

Rev. John S. Bowers and wife, of Cambridge, spent several days of last week and this visiting relatives in Chestertown.

Rev. E. B. Newnam came over from Baltimore last Thursday on a visit to old friends in Chestertown, and preached in the M. E. Church in the evening.

Mr. W. B. Dulaney, who has been conducting "Beck's Mill" for the past four years, leaves next week for Virginia where he expects in future to reside. The mill will be carried on by Mr. W. T. Holden.

Mr. W. J. Spicer leaves "Whaland's Mill" and takes charge of his own near Galena. Mr. Nelson K. Murren succeeds Mr. Spicer at the Whaland mill.

SALE OF TOWN PROPERTY.—James A. Pearce, Esq., as trustee, sold on Wednesday at the Voshell House, the property located on High street, known as the "Simon Wickes property." Mr. T. W. Wickes bought the building in which his drug store is located, consisting of a store and dwelling, for $7,500. Mr. Thomas S. Wickes bought the part now occupied by Wickes & Bro. as a store for $4,000, making a total of $11,500.

PEACHES IN ST. MARY'S.—Mr. Wm. J. Vannort, of this town, who owns an estate on the St. Mary's river in St. Mary's county, has determined to introduce the cultivation of peaches on a large scale in that county. The soil and climate are believed to be well adapted to the growth of peaches, and experiments