The Easton Star.

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

NEW SERIES. EASTON, MD., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1881. VOL. XVI.—NO 22

THE EASTON STAR

T. L. ROBSON Editor.

TERMS:

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

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

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.

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

Advertisements sent to the office not marked with the number of times to be inserted, will be marked TF and continued till ordered out, and charged according to regular rates.

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

New Advertisements

HARDWARE

Agricultural Implements,

SEEDS,

GUNS,

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CARRIAGE ROBES

HORSE COVERS,

BUFFALO ROBES

HARNESS,

STOVES

Tinware,

HUBS, SPOKES, RIMS,

Axles, Iron, &c., &c.

The undersigned offers for present season an unusually attractive stock of all the above and solicits the public patronage. Having bought at lowest figures he is able to offer special inducements. He will not be undersold by any one and will guarantee prices all the time. Among his specialties he will name Breech and Muzzle Loading

GUNS

which he buys direct from large importers. Stoves of all sizes and qualities, including the famous

"Golden Sun"

Fire-Place Stove sold by him a number of seasons. Plows, three-farrow and the

"Advance Chilled,"

which is the most superior and most satisfactory plow for flushing ever sold in the county; and a full line of all goods usually kept by him.

I urgently solicit the public patronage and will make it the interest of all to see me.

Thos. C. Nicols.

THE NEW GROCERY.

The undersigned respectfully informs the friends, citizens, and the public, that he has lately bought out Messrs. Thompson & Kersey's Grocery Store, but shall continue to do business under Thompson & Kersey's old motto:

"WE CAN'T BE UNDERSOLD."

Handsome Christmas Presents.

FRENCH CHINA TEA AND

Chamber Sets.

GLASS SETS,

A Handsome Variety.

Cut Glass Tumblers,

Large Stock.

Elegant line o

COFFEES,

From 12½ to 40 cents per pound.

SUGARS,

White and Brown.

TEAS, all grades and qualities.

I solicit a call.

JOHN S. GRIFFITH.

dec7,80

NEW ENTERPRISE.

GREEN GROCERY STORE

on Dover street.

The citizens of Easton and vicinity are notified that I have opened a green grocery on Dover street, next door to Mr. Myers', where will be kept all kinds of fresh and salt meats, poultry, vegetables, cranberries, prunes, oranges, apples, &c., &c. Families supplied to order at all times, day or night. The best of fresh beef sold at moderate prices. A share of the town and country trade solicited. The highest market price paid for butter, eggs, poultry, and other country produce.

E. A. BUKEE.

jan1,81

Lumber Business.

BUY YOUR

LUMBER,

SHINGLES, LATHS,

Sash, Doors, Bricks, &c.

AT LOW PRICES FROM

SAML. BURNS & CO.,

104 Light Street Wharf,

BALTIMORE.

OAKLAND

STEAM SAW & PLANING MILL.

PINE, HEMLOCK, CYPRESS

AND OAK

LUMBER

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

LOCUST AND CEDAR POSTS.

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

Timber,

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

Our constantly increasing business is an evidence of fair prices.

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

W. W. TUNIS & BRO.,

OAKLAND MILLS. *EASTON, MD.*

January 14, 1879-1yr

LUMBER!

—AND—

Building Materials,

Shingles, Laths,

Lime, Hair, &c.

DOORS, SASH, BLINDS.

and Mill Work generally.

PRICES LOWER THAN EVER.

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

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

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

Deliveries made on navigable water free of freight.

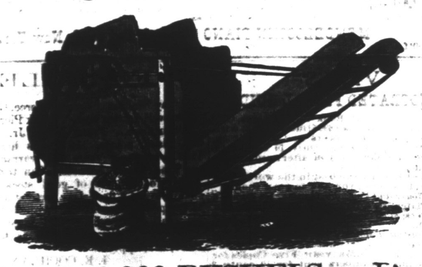
Comparison of Quality and Prices Solicited.

ROBERT B. DIXON,

Dover Street, EASTON.

The Young America Sheller & Separator.

Both Hand and Power.



The Best is the Cheapest.

Capacity 2,000 BUSHELS per Day.

N. TUTHILL, Easton, Md.

Select Poetry.

Beautiful Things.

BY JOAQUIN MILLER.

Beautiful faces are those that wear—
It matters little if dark or fair—
Whole-souled honesty painted there.

Beautiful eyes are those that show,
Like crystal panes where hearth fires glow,
Beautiful thoughts that burn below.

Beautiful lips are those whose words
Leap from the heart like songs of birds,
Yet whose utterance prudence girds.

Beautiful hands are those that do
Work that is earnest and brave and true,
Moment by moment the long day through.

Beautiful feet are those that go
On kindly ministries to and fro—
Down lowliest ways, if God will it so.

Beautiful shoulders are those that bear
Ceaseless burdens of homely care
With patient grace and daily prayer.

Beautiful lives are those that bless—
Silent rivers of happiness,
Whose hidden fountains but few may guess.

Beautiful twilight at set of sun,
Beautiful goal, with race well run,
Beautiful rest, with work well done.

Beautiful graves, where grasses creep,
Where brown leaves fall, where drifts lie deep,
Over worn-out hands—Oh! beautiful sleep.

The Mistress of the House.

The guests are come, all silently they have waited,
Entering the noiseless hush with silent bows;
They linger for her coming, sore belated—
Where is the little mistress of the house?

She is not went to leave her friends so lonely
That come too seldom, as she gayly vows;
Yet they are here, and wait her pleasure only;
Where is the little mistress of the house?

She cannot be far off—perhaps but sleeping;
Doubtless at their low call she would arouse;
Why do they summon her alone with weeping?
Where is the little mistress of the house?

The portraits stare behind their veiling covers;
The dust is in the melancholy room;
Upon the air a ghastly silence hovers;
Within the threshold loneliness and gloom.

Cold, dark and desolate the place without her,
Wanting her gentle smile, as each allows;
She bears a sunbeam light and warmth about her;
Where is the little mistress of the house?

The curtains fall, undraped by her slight fingers;
Behind the wainstot gnaws a secret mouse;
Her treasures need a care, but still she lingers—
Where is the little mistress of the house?

Alas! there was a rumor and a whisper
Threading the busy town these many days;
The youngest baby here, a tiny lisper,
Can falter forth the reason why she stays.

Why care and love the tenderest and sincerest
Have failed to shield and guard her fair young head;
Why she has fled from all she loved the dearest;
For there has been a rumor she is dead.

Throw wide the door! Within the gloomy portal,
Where her small feet fell light as falling snow,
They bear her in, the mortal made immortal;
She comes again, but heavily and slow!

O empty shell! O beautiful frail prison!
Cold, white and vacant, tenantless and dumb
From such poor clay as this has Christ arisen;
For such as this He shall in glory come!

But in the calm indifference to our sorrow,
In the sharp anguish of her parting breath.
In the dark gulf that hides her form to-morrow,
Thou hast thy victory, Grave, thy sting, O Death!

Yet shall she walk so fair, that we who know her
Would pale before the glory of her brows,
Nor in the radiant beauty dare to woo her
To be again the mistress of the house.

LESLIE WALTER.

Miscellaneous.

THE CHARITIES OF TALBOT:

Being Contributions to the Social Annals of that County

THE FREEMASONS.

CONTINUED.

BURNS LODGE, NO. 87.

With the demise of Coats Lodge, No. 76, freemasonry in Talbot fell into a condition of suspended animation. It was not dead, for it is claimed that masonry is like Milton's sprite, "vital in every part ....cannot but by annihilating die."—It was simply in a state of arrested function, ready to rise again into life and activity with the coming of favoring circumstances. Although the parent stem, which had been planted and nourished at the centre of social influence, no longer leaved flowers and fruited, indeed seemed to be withering to the very root, vitality betrayed itself at a place when it was least expected to have existence. A strong and vigorous shoot sprang up from one of its extreme radicles, in a remote part of the county, as will appear by the following recital. As a portion of the address of the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, at its November communication of the year 1845, we find these words: "On the 15th of June last I granted a dispensation to sundry master masons residing in and near the town of Trappe, in Talbot county to open and hold a lodge of master masons in that place, by the name of Burns Lodge, No. 87. I have been informed that it has since been organized and that it has made a return of its doings, and asks for a perpetual charter. In pursuance of authority, given me at the last session, I loaned to this lodge a set of jewels formerly belonging to Coats Lodge" Under this authorization of the Grand Master the lodge designated was opened July 11th of the same year, with the following gentlemen as its principal officers:

Henry P. Geohegan, Worshipful Master
Thomas Burchenal, Senior Warden.
S. T. Kemp, Junior Warden.
Sam'l G. Kemp, Secretary.
Sam'l P. Dickenson, Treasurer.

The petition noticed above, of the lodge thus organized was referred to a committee of the Grand Lodge which reported—"The committee to whom was referred the proceedings of Burns Lodge, working under the authority of the most worshipful Grand Master, by dispensation, have had the same under consideration, and in accordance with the prayer of the lodge, through its officers and members, recommend a charter be granted in the usual form, and that their By-Laws be submitted to the usual committee." This report was adopted, and a Charter ordered to be issued, which was accordingly done to Henry P. Geohegan, Thomas Burchenal and Samuel T. Kemp, the charter members of Burns Lodge, No. 87. In this November communication of the Grand Lodge, Burns Lodge had its first representation in Henry P. Geohegan, Edwin J. Stevens and Samuel P. Dickenson. "After the adjournment of the Grand Lodge, the most worshipful Grand Master, in pursuance of previous notice, ordered a Past Master's Lodge to be opened for the purpose of installing the Worshipful Master elect of Burns Lodge.—Brother J. K. Stapleton was called to the chair, and Brother Henry P. Geohegan was duly installed and invested with the insignia of his office as Worshipful Master of Burns Lodge No. 87." The interesting fact noted above that the jewels of old Coats Lodge No. 76 had passed into the possession of Burns Lodge, makes this last the heir, as it was the successor in time, of the former. Indeed many of the original members of the new lodge at Trappe belonged to the old lodge at Easton, and they really formed the nucleus around which was formed the organization. Many other members were quickly added, so that the lodge waxed strong in numbers as it was, from the first, warm in zeal. Among the earliest members to be initiated were Messrs Samuel Dickenson, Samuel Y. Kemp, Edwin J. Stevens, George H. Dawson, John F. Chaplain, John S. Clark, John w. Martin, Tristram T. Martin and Thomas C. Worrell. Many of these had a birth right in masonry, being the sons of those who had been years before raised to the highest degrees in older lodges. Subsequently many other gentlemen of the neighborhood united with this lodge, so that every evidence was presented of present prosperity and every promise of a long continuance of life. It may be added that the character of the membership was that of the most respectable citizens of the vicinity.

The meetings were held monthly—every Monday preceding the full moon—in hired rooms in the village, but for the greater part of the time they were held in the hall of the "Sons of Temperance," another benevolent association of the county which at that time was enjoying much popularity and doing good service in the cause of virtue and humanity.—These monthly meetings were attended with commendable regularity by the members many of whom lived at considerable distances from Trappe. It is impossible for a layman who must be unacquainted with the secrets and mysteries of the order, to say what particular attractions there may be in the work of a masonic lodge to draw together month after month, often at the expense of much personal inconvenience and discomfort, many sober and serious men who cannot be supposed to be pleased with the repetition of rites that however beautiful and suggestive must at last become trivial: but it is easy to comprehend why neighbors and friends of a country community, who have few opportunities to meet and enjoy the social converse of each other, should assemble from time to time and exchange those grips, and signs, and pass words of neighborly kindness which do not belong to the members of this order alone, but to all men inspired with the feelings of a common humanity and brotherhood. The work of a lodge, however futile in itself acquires an utility of the best order when it results in promoting the social impulses or instincts of our nature, which, in countrymen especially, are in danger of being extinguished or perverted for want of opportunity for indulgence, and which, in all men every where in this age, is in danger of destruction from the antagonisms that are engendered in the competitive struggles for life. If men can be brought together occasionally, even though it be for a few hours in each month under circumstances which require the observance of the forms, if they do not secure the experience of kindly feelings one towards the other; if in assembling thus they can be made to reverse their harsh judgments of their fellows or even to suspect their correctness; if they can be constrained to forego and forget, even for the moment, the jealousies, the rivalries and the contentions of ordinary life by the presentation or employment of the symbols, merely, of justice, equality and fraternity, who shall say that Masonry is useless or only puerile.

The routine of the lodge was, in 1846, diversified by inviting one of the brethren, Mr. Edwin J. Stevens, to deliver a masonic address before the lodge and the public. This invitation was accepted, and complied with on the 24th of June of that year. A copy of this address was requested for publication, and it was accordingly printed.* Mr. Stevens was the son of Governor Samuel Stevens, and was born at Compton, the seat of his father in Trappe district, January 19th, 1819. He completed his academic education at Newark College, Delaware, Dr. Richard Mason being President, from which he received the usual degrees of bachelor and master of arts. After leaving college he adopted the life of the farmer, married a lady of Dorchester county, and settled at Beechwood, adjoining his father's estate, where by indulging those tastes which his education had fostered rather than implanted, he furnished a late example of a class of citizens, much more numerous in former times than now, in our county,—the cultivated country gentlemen, who were accustomed to diversify the laborious pursuits of agriculture with the calm delights of letters, or as they were fond of saying, while quoting one of their earliest Latin lessons, with a personal application to themselves,

*The full title of this address is as follows: "Masonic Address delivered before Burns Lodge, No. 87, at the Trappe, Talbot county, Maryland, June 24th, 1846, by Edwin J. Stevens, A. M. Baltimore: Printed by Jos. Robinson, 1846." This address is dedicated to Dr. Tristram Thomas, in these words: "Dear Sir: As we naturally prize our own productions, and are anxious to present them favorably to the public, permit me to use the name of one whose standing and many virtues, and more particularly, whose active interest in the benign cause of Masonry, are peculiarly calculated to commend such an 'effort' to the large circle, among whom he is so highly venerated."

Sylvestrum tenui Musam meditaris avena;

Mr. Stevens continued to cultivate literature with his fields, as his excellent collection of books, with extensive, well-thumbed margins, testify. He died at his home June 6th, 1854, leaving children one of whom, Mr. Edwin J. Stevens, is now a resident of Easton. His address before Burns Lodge was compiled as he says, and may be readily believed, with much labor, owing to the scanty sources of information within his reach; it gives a brief survey of Masonry, mythical, traditional, historical, operative and speculative. It defends the order from certain aspersions that had been cast upon it, freeing it from being confounded with those politico religious societies of a revolutionary character, with which it has nothing in common but the element of secrecy, commending it as inculcating the fundamental principles of religion and morality, and as fostering the broadest and most devoted patriotism. The address is well written, though betraying a little rethorical exuberance, and historical credulity,—a fault of style, and a habit of thought which are not always corrected even by collegiate training, unless it be of the very best.

Again in 1848 the lodge invited another brother, Mr. John Francis Chaplain to deliver a public address upon some subject connected with masonry. This gentleman, belonging to a family long settled in the lower district of this county, was the son of James Chaplain, a much respected citizen of Trappe. He was born in the year 1824, educated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and graduated as bachelor of arts in 1843, dividing the highest honors of his class. In 1846 he received his masters degree and delivered the masters oration. After leaving college he was private tutor in the family of a gentleman of Queen Anne county, but in 1846 received the appointment to a public school in Talbot, which he taught until 1851, in the meanwhile preparing himself for the christian ministry. In the last named year he was licensed a preacher and exercised his vocation in this county. In the year following, he was admitted to the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was a highly esteemed member, filling some of the most responsible positions and performing a full share of laborious work until his death Aug. 28th, 1880. He had received the degree of doctor of divinity from his college, an honor which he is thought to have merited. He was a frequent contributor to the periodicals and journals of his church, particularly the Methodist Quarterly Review, and the Christian Advocate, but is believed to have published nothing beside, except the address here noticed. He was a man of unaffected piety and considerable culture. He was twice married and has left children. His remains are interred in the cemetery at Easton. The subject selected by Mr. Chaplain for his masonic address was the "Causes of the Perpetuity of Masonry."* The subject is not treated philosophically but rather discursively. He declared the causes to be of two classes, (I.) the negative and (II.) the positive. Of the first class he mentioned two: (1) Masonry does not countenance directly or indirectly any immorality and (2) does not interfere with politics in any particular where party spirit is concerned, nor with religion in the sense of sectarianism. Of the second class of causes he gave these: (1) The excellency of the objects Masonry proposes to accomplish; (2) the adaptation of its structure to the accomplishment of its objects; (3) its efficacy as a piece of machinery for the attainment of the happiest results in all stages of social improvement; and (4) the purity of the morality it inculcates, and the urgency of the incentives it offers to the practice of virtue. The discourse is written in a plain unimitated style, and has an admirable brevity; but in its structure it has the pedantry of formality, and in this, as also in its substance, it betrays the proclivity to and perhaps training in homilities; though it must be said the religious sentiment is not made, as usually is done in such discourses, too conspicuously prominent.

During the year 1849 and 1850, Burns Lodge seems to have declined in prosperity, for what reason it is not apparent. After May of the last named year all work ceased, but in 1854 application was made to the Grand Lodge for permission to resume masonic labor and for the remission of all arrearages and dues owing to the Grand Lodge, which it declared itself unable to pay. The permission and the remission were accordingly granted, and the lodge again assembled. Upon the resumption of work in May 1854 the following are named in the record as the officers of the lodge: Samuel T. Kemp, Worshipful Master; Samuel P. Dickinson, Senior Warden; S. Dickinson, Junior Warden; Charles R. Mullikin, Secretary and Thomas Worrell, Treasurer; but at the regular election in June Mr. J. S. Chaplain was substituted for Mr. S. Dickinson, Junior Warden. The work of the lodge after this intermission of labor, continued uninterruptedly until the year 1857, when the Grand Inspector for Talbot county reported to the Grand Lodge at the November communication of that year that "A portion of Talbot county is in an isolated condition with reference to the two lodges [Burns Lodge, No. 87 and Coats Lodge, No. 102, established in 1855] and Masonry in that section has little opportunity to become known and appreciated. To remedy which the undersigned would respectfully suggest that Burns Lodge, No. 87, have permission of this Grand Lodge to hold such meetings in the town of Saint Michaels as the Masons may judge expedient." In accordance with this recommendation permission was granted to hold meetings in Saint Michaels provided the approbation of Coats Lodge, No. 102, be first obtained. The approbation of this lodge having been granted, Dec. 6th, it was resolved by Burns Lodge that its meetings should be held alternately at Trappe and at Saint Michaels. The first meeting at the last named of these places was held January 29th 1858, these gentlemen being the chief officers of the lodge:

J. S. Chaplain, Worshipful Master.
Robert H. Kemp, Senior Warden pro. tem. and Treasurer.
Jonathan P. Harrison, Junior Warden.
Dr. W. N. Pendall, Secretary pro. tem.

*The full title is "Causes of the Perpetuity of Masonry; a discourse pronounced before Burns Lodge, No. 87, at Easton, Talbot county, Md., Tuesday evening, May 26th A. L. 5848 by John F. Chaplain. Baltimore: printed by John D. Toy, 1848.

Henry F. Byrne, Tyler pro. tem.

This arrangement of alternate meetings in the two towns continued for some years with very greater observance. Indeed from July 1860 to April 1862, no records exist of any meetings at either place; but from this date onward they were held in Saint Michaels only, those at Trappe being entirely suspended.

The work of its lodge went forward in the usual course, sometimes with much enthusiasm, and then with a relaxation of zeal. Those who saw in Masonry nothing but a system of imposing ceremonies fell away into indifference when the novelty wore off; but enough remained devoted to its principles as well as to its forms to keep alive the fires upon its altar. It is not for one who has never been admitted to the penetralia of the order even to know, much less, to describe the proceeding of this lodge. All that is known is that for ten years or more its monthly communications were maintained, its organization was preserved and its numbers were increased. In the year 1869 this lodge felt itself strong enough to attempt the erection of a hall in which to hold its meetings. It had been assembling in hired rooms, mostly in the Hall of the Order of Odd Fellows, for which was paid a stipulated rent. The members naturally experienced a longing for a home of their own. The old instinct or propensity to build was awakened, and sought its proper gratification. Masons by their origin are what is indicated, by their name—builders. Their insignia of office, their jewels, their apparatus, are but the implements or the products of the workmanship of the stone cutter, the bricklayer or the house carpenter. Their rites within their lodges, as far as is permitted to be known, are derived from the technics of the edificial art. The work of these lodges, in part at least, consists of the founding and rearing a temple which is typical of the most celebrated of the ancient structures of its kind as well as symbolical of that better temple, the perfected human character. And finally the heroes of the mythical period of Masonry, as well as not a few of its most distinguished masters and grand masters of historic times, were either great architects or the patrons of architects. There is little doubt that societies of men are subject to the same laws of heredity as the individuals constituting those societies, as according to these laws the son inherits a proclivity to the pursuits of his father, so this society derives a propensity to build from a building ancestry. Burns Lodge, or the members thereof, shared in this impulse, and yielding to its control, blindly, as will be shown in the sequel, and without the guidance of prudence, they undertook the erection of a Masonic Hall in Saint Michaels. Meetings were called of those favorable to the enterprise, whether of the craft or not, for it was proposed to make the building one of public utility as well as of Masonic convenience, subscriptions were solicited, and finally the organization of a company effected. This company was incorporated under the general law of the State, April 4th, 1870 under the name of the "Masonic Hall Company of Saint Michaels", for the purpose of erecting a building in that town for the uses of the order of Masons and other purposes. It was understood that a hall for public assemblages was to be constructed within the building, as well as a room for Burns Lodge. The following gentlemen were the corporate members of the company, of whom the seven first named became the original Board of Managers, elected by the company: John C. Harper Will H. Bruff, H. Clay Dodson, Edward Harrison, John T. Ford, James Benson, George E. Haddaway, Haven Turner, S. Bruff Edgar, Oliver P. Sparks. On the 4th of June Mr. John C. Harper was elected President of the Company; Mr. George E. Haddaway, Secretary, and Mr. H. Clay Dodson, Treasurer. Before this date however, a lot of ground upon Talbot street had been leased and the erection of the building had been commenced. Finding that the subscriptions to the stock of the company was not sufficient to accomplish the purpose, the expedient of holding a festival in Saint Michaels was adopted to raise means to complete the work. The ladies of the town and vicinity were invited to take charge of this undertaking, and they responded by a display of their usual zeal in works of charity or benevolence. The festival was held June 1st 1870, and resulted in adding three hundred and nine dollars to the Masonic Hall fund. This festival was held in the incomplete building. In the following year, on the 23d and 24th of May. Another festival was held for the benefit of Burns Lodge in St. Michaels. The amount of the returns seems to have been entirely satisfactory to the managers. But neither the subscriptions to the stock of the Hall company nor the returns from the fairs and festivals were sufficient to complete the building, so that it became necessary to resort to a loan, which was promptly taken by one of the members of the fraternity. From the means thus obtained the building was finished, and the Lodge took possession of its room. It was determined to have the hall formally dedicated on the second of September, 1870, and preparations were made to have the ceremonies conducted with all due pomp and festivity. The following account of the proceedings of the day has been taken from one of the Easton journals: "The new hall of Burns Lodge, No 87, A. F. and A. M., was duly consecrated on Friday last (Sept. 2nd.) by the Grand Lodge of Maryland which was represented on this occasion by the following gentlemen:

L. A. C. Gerry, M. W. G. Master.
Laurence Sangston, R. W. S. G. Warden.
C. E. Kemp, R. W. G. Marshal.
James W. Bowers, R. W. G. Secretary.
John Walker, R. W. D. G. Master.
Rev. George W. Phoebus, R. W. G. Chaplain.

The Grand Lodge with Union and Arcana Lodges of Baltimore arrived on the excursion boat from Baltimore about 1 o'clock, and were received at the wharf by Burns Lodge, of St. Michaels, and Coats Lodge of Easton. Burns Lodge was marshaled by Past Master John C. Harper, and Coats Lodge by Past Master E. L. P. Hardcastle. The procession formed under Grand Marshal Kemp and proceeded to Odd Fellows Hall, where the Grand Lodge was opened, after which they marched to the new Masonic Hall, when the ceremonies of consecration took place. After the conclusion of these formalities, the assemblage was dismissed to partake of an elegant and bountiful dinner which had been spread in the large town hall, in the same building with the lodge which had just been consecrated. After dinner General Albert Pike, addressed a large throng of citizens and strangers from a stage erected in front of the building. General Pike is a man of fine personal presence. His long flowing locks give him a very venerable appearance. His address was excellent and was attentively listened to by his audience. Grand Master Gerry made a few well chosen remarks, thanking the people of Saint Michaels and vicinity for their hospitality and their courteous treatment of the fraternity. The exordium [sic] in the lodge was delivered by brother Albert G. Mackey. "His addition to the masonic visitors, there was a number of the people of Kent Island present, on the occasion, who had come over as a party of excursionists. Every body seemed pleased with the day's proceedings."

It soon became apparent that the Masons of Burns Lodge had assumed a burthen which they were ill able to carry, and which they found they could not materially diminish by a resort to the expedients of shifting the obligation to a corporated company, or of appeals to the good feelings and benevolence of people in no way connected with the lodge or the masonic order. After a few years of disheartening effort it was resolved to accept the inevitable, and to permit the premises to be sold to satisfy the mortgage resting upon it. Accordingly by a resolution of the Board of Managers of the Hall Association, passed on the 28th October, 1872, the property was directed to be sold, and it was sold to Mr. John C. Harper, and conveyed to him by a deed of the same date as the resolution. Thus the Masonic Hall passed into the possession, without contest or objection, of one of the members of the fraternity.

There is nothing more depressing to the moral forces, whether in individuals or in societies, than hopeless indebtedness. Burns Lodge felt the influence of this, and manifested it by the decline of masonic zeal after the mortifying calamity noticed above. From and after July, 1872, the meetings of the lodge became infrequent, and the election of officers neglected. It was represented in the Grand Lodge of the State for the last time at the November communication of 1871, when, however, it reported a membership numbering thirty-six. In January, 1874, the lodge was again called and new officers elected, but this was merely preliminary to its final close. Mr. John C. Adams was chosen Worshipful Master, Mr. Will. M. Fels, Senior Warden, and Mr. James Stils, Junior Warden. Several meetings were held for the transaction of business, but in October a resolution was passed to surrender the charter, which was accordingly done, and Burns Lodge, No. 87, became extinct.

Under a dispensation granted in November, 1880, a new lodge has been organized in the town of Saint Michaels. The best traits of human character and its saddest infirmities are suggested and even symbolized by the name of Burns. Some of these were illustrated by the history of the lodge that bore this name—a generous sympathy for the wants and woes of men, and a woful improvidence for itself—high aims, but weak will. It is thought that the new lodge in adopting the name of Granite have given a promise if it has not secured a pledge of lasting permanency and usefulness. The following gentlemen are the principal officers, namely: Mr. George E. Haddaway, Warshipful Master; Henry Clay Dodson, Senior Warden; and George Edmonds, Junior Warden. This lodge has its history to make before it can be written.

The persons named in the following list were the Worshipful Masters of Burns Lodge from the date of its organization to that of the surrender of its charter, in the years attached to the several names:

Henry P. Geohegan, 1845, 1846.
S. P. Dickinson, 1847, 1848.
John F. Chaplain, 1848, 1849, 1850.
Work suspended till 1854.
Samuel T. Kemp, 1854.
Charles R. Mullikin, 1855.
James S. Chaplain, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860.
Work suspended till 1862.
R. H. Kemp, 1862.
John C. Harper, 1862, 1863.
George Harrington, 1863, 1864.
John C. Harper, 1864, 1865.
Wilbur Fisk Townsend, 1865, 1866.
Ormond Hammond, 1867.
James D. Mansfield, 1868.
George E. Haddaway, 1869.
H. J. Dodson, 1870, 1871.
George H. Graham, 1871.
S. B. Edgar, 1872.
Work suspended till 1874.
J. C. Adams, 1874.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

(From the N. Y. Sun.)

IMAGINATIONS GIVEN AN AIRING.

Some Marvellous Cold Weather Yarns told Around a Pike county Barroom Stove.

MILFORD, PA., Jan. 22.—"There's quite a little snap in the atmosphere today, but when I call to mind a piece of weather we had in 1839 this seems like a good day for a picnic," said Sheriff Warren Ridgway, coming into the Crissman House barroom, where a number of the boys were gathered around the stove, discussing the weather. "It was one of the recent cold days, and the thermometer on the front porch registered twenty below.

"I never knew until the first spring how low the mercury did get that year," continued the Sheriff. "We had a thermometer big enough to keep account of the weather for the whole State. It was fifteen feet long, and had a bulb at the bottom as big as a turnip. We didn't bother with degrees on that thermometer. We always said it was so many inches below or so many inches above zero. The thermometer hung on an apple tree in the garden at our place on the Lackawaxen. In the spring of '39 I was spading up the garden. Under this apple tree I struck a vein of quicksilver. I thought I'd uncovered a mine of the stuff, and says to myself, 'This ends the lumber business.' I calls the old gentleman out and told him I'd struck a quicksilver mine, and that when the company was formed to work it, I would take nothing less than Treasurer of it. He didn't say anything, but he looked at the quicksilver I had in my hand, then at me, and then at the thermometer that hung on the tree. I looked at that, too. The bulb was bursted. Then I understood the situation. The mercury had settled a foot and a half below zero on the thermometer. That wasn't as low as the weather called for, so it pushed the bottom out of the bulb, went down three feet to the ground, and dropped six inches under the surface before it reached the level of the surrounding earth. Don't go up along the Lackawaxen and talk about the thermometer being twenty degrees below zero! There are people up there yet who remember our big thermometer and the winter the mercury went five feet below here, and they'll laugh at you."

"I've always said that those little thermometers to have no sense sin't no good.

[CONCLUDED ON FOURTH PAGE.]