

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

The Maryland State Association of School Commissioners held its annual session in the city of Baltimore, on the 5th inst. Dr. C. C. Cox was chosen President.

Among other proceedings the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, by the action of the late Constitutional Convention the existing school system of Maryland will expire with the close of the next session of the Legislature; and whereas the members of this association, without pretending to dictate to that Legislature, deem it due to the people of Maryland, to the members of the Senate and House of Delegates, and to themselves, to submit the results of their experience in the practical administration of the system; therefore,

Resolved, That in the judgment of this association, based upon actual observation in the discharge of official duty, and, as we believe, fully sustained by the statistical reports now in the office of the State Board, the existing system of free public schools in Maryland, as administered during the past two years, has greatly elevated the character and condition of the schools in many, if not all, of the counties of the State, in the increased number and improved quality of school buildings, the efficiency of teachers, the attendance of pupils, the discipline of the schools and the manifest advancement made by very many of the pupils in their studies.

Resolved, That whatever may be created to take the place of the present system should be by legislative enactment continued in force until the end of the current school year, to avoid the confusion and loss that must necessarily follow the sudden arrest of its functions by the adjournment of the Legislature before official action can be had under any other system that may be provided for.

Resolved, That without assuming to claim that the system is perfect in all its parts, but freely admitting that our own experience has shown that changes in some of its details are desirable, the judgment of the association is that its leading features ought to be preserved, and that the following general provisions are essential to any efficient uniform system which may be created, to wit:

1. A State Board of Education, to be composed of the Governor, the Secretary of the State, the Superintendent of Public Schools, and four other persons to be appointed by the Governor.

2. A State superintendent, and county superintendents, by whatever name called, essential to an effective supervision of the work, and to the collection and concentration of important educational statistics for public information.

3. A uniform State tax, to be applied to the support of the system, and to distribute it among the several counties and the city of Baltimore, so as to secure, with proper local taxation, to the children of all sections, ample educational privileges.

4. The State Normal School and teachers' institutes to be under the direction of the professors of the Normal School, as the best mode of elevating the standard of the profession, and the most efficient means of supplying the schools with competent and thoroughly qualified teachers, citizens of our own State.

5. A uniform system of text-books for the several counties, exclusive of the city of Baltimore, as necessary to the efficient working of a uniform system of teaching, and as promotive of economy, official and parental.

6. A board of school commissioners for each county.

7. A county superintendent, who shall act as a member of the board ex officio, to be appointed by the State board of education.

The resolutions led to a lengthy and animated debate, participated in by a number of members. During the debate, Dr. McJilton remarked that the only way to popularize the school system was to put good and competent teachers into every school in the State, and to pay them proper salaries.

In closing the debate, and just previous to the question on the resolutions being taken, Dr. Van Bokkelen asked permission to make a few remarks.

The Doctor commenced by saying that while the statements made to the association record educational progress and a growing popularity of the school system, yet we find that system condemned and abolished by the late Constitutional Convention. For this there is some reason which the members ought to endeavor to ascertain. Somehow the system is unpopular. It has not touched the chord of popular feeling, and responded as has been hoped. What is it? Would, gentlemen, (said Mr. V. B.) that I could tell, not for my own sake, but for the good of the children, as it is for them that we labor.

He stated that the present school system is strictly a Maryland and not an imported system. It was tried separately for six years in Baltimore and Cecil counties. In the form that it grew up and proved efficient in those counties the system was extended by the act of 1865 over the State, with the addition of a supervision which has increased the value of school work and the number of pupils. He did not approve of a State board of education as now constituted. It partakes too much of a political complexion. The State board ought to consist of gentlemen selected for their intelligence and entirely separated from political offices. Present State officers have no time for the detail of school work. The administration of schools ought to be brought nearer to the people, and they should be made responsible for their condition. This could only be done by an election of school officers at a special school election and then the people would be responsible. He was willing to trust the people on this subject, so clear and near to their interests. If parents cannot be trusted, who can? The speaker felt confident that the General Assembly would most fully the wants of the people. The only matter about which he had any great anxiety was the mode of distributing the State school tax. He would not change the present mode, believing that the strong ought to help the weak, and that all the children of the State ought, as a State policy, as well as duty, have equal privileges for mental culture. He concluded by saying that the true way to popularize schools is to make them efficient through good teachers. He tendered his thanks to the commissioners, and especially to the presidents, who had shown him so much kindness during his official visits, and whose zeal and courtesy he would always joyously remember.

ST. MARY'S BEACON

LEONARDTOWN, MD.

THURSDAY MORNING December 19, 1867.

PUBLIC ROADS AGAIN.—As the improvement of public roads is exciting a wide-spread attention in our State at this time, and as no county, perhaps, in Maryland is worse off in the matter of good roads than our own, we shall make no apology for advertising to this subject again.

In the first place, we should be pleased to have the subject discussed in our columns by any one who has practical suggestions to offer. It is only by discussions of this kind or by discussions in county meetings that public attention can be aroused and concentrated for action in this matter. In some of the counties, meetings have already been determined on, and almost everywhere the press is active in urging a change in the present disgraceful road system of the State. Certainly, no harm can come of this agitation.—It will be something to discover the cheapest method of making the best roads.—When this shall have been accomplished, the battle will have been half won. If the necessary amount of funds to regenerate our roads cannot be obtained at once, it will be realized in time. Above all, a beginning will have been made.—The first step in many enterprises is the most difficult to make of all, and we cannot doubt when the cheapest method of making the best roads has once been discovered, that the money will be soon at hand to carry the method into effect. We vote for a county meeting to debate the subject, and in the meanwhile, we offer our columns to those who may be disposed to discuss it in print.

POLITICAL STAGNATION.—Since the settlement of the impeachment controversy, the political market has been overtaken with a very palpable stagnation. Beyond the attempt of Senator Drake, of Missouri, to obtain a vote censuring President Johnson for his reconstruction offences, nothing has intervened within the last ten days to occasion even a ripple on the political surface. Congress now is about as quiet as a country church yard, and silence is the order of the day. Is this the calm that precedes the storm? Wilson has declared that not a tittle of radical demands will be abated. It is true, the impeachment bubble has collapsed, the censure affair has come to grief and the business of guaranteeing republican forms of government to recalcitrant States like Maryland is paying a very small dividend at present. It does not follow, however, from all this that radicalism has lost heart entirely or abandoned any thing material of its sinister aims. We predict that the present stagnation will not long survive the Christmas holidays and that January will not have escaped before the country will have been startled by some movement as revolutionary as that of the deposition and impeachment business of the present Fall.

THE BARTHOLOW COLUMN.—The attention of our readers is specially directed to the Bartholow column in our present issue. All the wants of the farming and many of the necessities of household interest, it will be seen, can be supplied at the Bartholow establishments—for there are two—one at 25 King Street, Alexandria, and the other at 558, 7th Street, below Pennsylvania Avenue, D. C. Mr. Bartholow has long been established in business and has had and has now quite an extensive trade with Southern Maryland, especially with St. Mary's. From what we know and what we have heard of him, we feel fully authorized to say, that a fairer or more reliable business man cannot be found in the country. Of the completeness of his establishments, the reader can form some idea by running his eye down the Bartholow column. In addition to this, Mr. Bartholow has recently established an extensive manufacturing Depot, where he has now in operation two bone mills, and has nearly completed a third, for bone dust and land plaster. He is prepared to make bone flour and bone dust of all grades, and he authorizes us to challenge the world to produce a purer article.

HELP THE HELPLESS.—We would remind those who are well provided with this world's goods that it is a Christian obligation always, and particularly in a season like the present, to look out for the destitute in their neighborhoods and minister to their necessities. Many there are, we apprehend, in our country who are in pressing want of food and clothing and other necessities of comfort and subsistence. These should be looked to. The trifle necessary for their relief will never be missed and may call down the blessings of Heaven upon the giver.

WINTER IS EARNEST.—Winter made its appearance here in earnest on Thursday morning last and complimented us with a fall of snow of unusual depth for this latitude. At present writing, the indications are that another fall is at hand.—This may all be very good for the wheat, as also for sleighing purposes, and possibly for getting ice, but for ourselves, from Winter and all its snows and its bitter biting breath, Good Lord deliver us!

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

Washington Dec. 16th, 1867.

What can have become of the Honorable Ex-Senator Creswell? I suppose he has retired to the shades of private life on his justly earned laurels. Statesmen of Mr. Creswell's stamp have no right to seek the ease of private life. In times like these, when their country stands in need of their services. The Ex-Senator has been a shining light in his day. The last time we heard of this very distinguished statesman, he was serving his country in the small town of Elkton, in our State, in a quiet way organizing "The Colored Creswell Literature Association" (not one of its members being able to read or write) for the advancement of the higher branches of literature. This is, certainly, doing the thing in a quiet way—for an Ex-Senator.

We have the most lively remembrance of Mr. C. at a little meeting in Elkton at the beginning of the late war, at which he appeared as Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions. We remember the tone of these resolutions well. The ex-Senator did not spare the Yankees, nor did he utter one of his present day howls against the people of the South. So fiery were those resolutions and so much of secession did they speak that we were astonished the next day to see the ex-Senator still in the State of Maryland, for we thought that before another sun would gild the spires of Elkton, he would certainly be far away in the land of Dixie, astride his war-steed, driving the Yankees into the Potomac. The best of the whole series of resolutions offered by Mr. Creswell on that memorable day was the one in relation to the Hon. Winter Davis. After several back-handed compliments, he gave the people to understand that Mr. Davis was a demagogue of the first-water. The resolution was not read, but the gentleman who spoke on the resolutions said, "We will treat Mr. Davis as we do the resolution—turn him down." But the best of all the stories is that when Mr. Davis came to die, Mr. Creswell was appointed by the Senate and House to deliver the eulogy to the faithful over the dead body of the Baltimore Caesar that all the tears might flow in one common stream. A day or two before the grand oration, a prince of good fellows, now in Congress, meeting the Hon. Ex-Senator in the lobby of the Senate, said, "Creswell are you going to deliver the oration on Davis?" On being answered in the affirmative, the other said, "Well, I will send and get those resolutions you offered, particularly the one about Davis, so that you may have them on hand to read during your oration." The Senator's face looked as if he had just swallowed fifteen drinks at one time and he disappeared with a general giggle.

Mr. Creswell's conversion was one of those latter-day political miracles that we have so often seen in men whose principles are generally carried in "the open hand and daily offered on change. There was no gradual going over with the ex-Senator, but he made one fearful plunge from the highest pinnacle of secession to the lowest depth of Radical demagoguism. With him, it was an eye to the strongest side from the first. What visions of Governorship floated through his mind? Perhaps the White House might have been dimly seen in the distance while his feverish dream lasted. But man appoints and lives but to be disappointed.—In almost one short hour all vanished, like the mist of the morning. At one blow his Provost Marshals and his whole host of tyrants, by which he and a jagged handful had ruled the people of Maryland, were swept from his grasp. The day was over when we were expected to fawn and cringe and bless the hand that lashed us. But the people of Maryland have not yet forgotten the loathsome dungeons where her noblest and most patriotic sons were crowded like cattle and made to starve or eat food pitched on their prison floors that a famished dog would have turned from. Does Mr. Creswell think we have forgotten this? Does he think we have forgotten the hand-cuffs and leg-irons? Does he think we have forgotten the thieving and cowardly Provost Marshals, sent in droves all over the State to plunder and murder our citizens at pleasure, almost without a word of rebuke? Does he think we have forgotten that he and his party denied to us for long years, the privileges allowed to slaves? Does he remember the Negro guards placed over our best and bravest sons with full permission to shoot them at pleasure and encouraged by rewards to commit every act of atrocity that the most base and barbarous only can do? If Mr. Creswell thinks we can forget these and the thousand and other wrongs heaped on us by him and his friends, we must be more than angels in human form. Thank God, his sun has set, gone down, we hope forever, in infamy and blood, never to rise again on the people of the State of Maryland!

On Monday last, another act of cruelty (one of many) was added to the list of the persecutions of the down-trodden people of this City—the bill giving the District entirely to the Negroes and the honest white men who head them. It is a mystery how the people can bear the wrongs and insults that are day by day heaped on them by Congress. At the June election, every office in this city,

never forgets the smallest thing in the part he is performing to make it perfect, and let him play what part he will, the man stands before you in his true character as he once lived and moved. Fortunately he is well supported in all his plays, taking with him a sufficient number of good actors to give an interest to each and every character—a thing all good actors are sadly in need of in these days when bad stock companies fill every Theatre.

ARTHER'S HOME MAGAZINE.—The January number of "THE HOME MAGAZINE," opens with the first of a new series of Temperance Stories by the author of "TEN NIGHTS IN A BAR-ROOM," entitled "The Son of My Friend." This story exhibits, in a narrative of deep and painful interest, the evil of drinking at fashionable parties. No one can read it without a profound impression of the social wrong involved in the custom. Miss Townsend, always a favorite with the reading public, begins a new serial in this number, entitled "The Hillside," which opens with a splendid promise of good things to come. Besides these, the number is crowded with good reading for old and young.

"The Home Magazine" claims to be superior to all its contemporaries in the excellence and interest of its reading matter; while in its fashion and household departments, every thing is contained that an American wife and mother could desire in a periodical. Terms—\$2.00 a year, 3 copies for \$5. Published by T. S. Arthur, Philadelphia.

A DISTRESSING FIRE.—We have been pained to learn, that our old friend, Geo. S. King, conductor of this paper from 1852 to 1856, and for several years State Attorney for St. Mary's county, has recently met with a serious loss by fire. His dwelling house, near Quincy, Illinois, was a correspondent of the Catholic Mirror, "was entirely consumed by fire about 7 o'clock on the night of the 29th inst." So rapid was the advance of the flames, "continues the correspondent, "that nothing was saved but some bedding and a few articles of clothing. Mr. King was absent in Quincy, and on his return, a half hour later, found his home a heap of smoking ruins and his terrified family homeless on a winter's night with a snow a foot deep on the ground."

AMERICAN FARMER, BALTIMORE.—The December number contains articles on—Agricultural Policy of the South—Orthodox Manuring—Clover as Manure—Lime—Rotation of Crop Systems—Fall Ploughing—Colorado Potato Bug—Grape Growing—Sheep—Mutton and Wool—Extraction of Insects—Harvest of 1867—Besides Farm, and Garden Work, Veterinary Department, and a variety of other interesting matter.

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SENATOR THOMAS.—It seems now to be generally conceded, that Senator Thomas, of this State, will soon be admitted to his seat. The committee having charge of his case have been able to discover, it appears, nothing to justify his longer exclusion from his place in the United States Senate. We congratulate the honorable gentleman from his escape from the Philistines and the State on the restoration of her full senatorial rights in the government.

TABLEAU, &c.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen, that the ladies of All Faith Parish propose to give a Tableau and Musical Entertainment in the School Room at Charlotte Hall on Monday evening next. As the entertainment is, doubtless, gotten up for a charitable purpose, we hope it may be liberally patronized by our readers.

MEDICAL LATIN.—A Doctor Payne, of Boston, recently issued the following note to some of his professional friends. The language is domestic rather than foreign or classic, and has the advantage over other strange tongues in that he who reads it slowly and carefully, will find that it gradually translates itself:

"Doctors! Duceat nunc mandu niti Panes; tritum ad ait. Expecto meta funen tu & eta beta phi. Super at Tente one: Dux, humor clam pati, sum parates, homine, joss, jam etc. Sideror Hoes, Feste resonan Flos sole."

Life has few Charms for the Dyspeptic, which is not to be wondered at when we take into the account the amount of bodily and mental suffering that this distressing malady generates. The Peruvian Syrup (a protoxide of Iron) has cured thousands who were suffering from this disease.

MARRIED.—On the 17th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Wertembarger, LEWIS S. ST. CLAIR, of this County, to Mrs. MARGARET D. BATEMAN, of Charles County.

On the same day, by the Rev. Father Enders, RICHARD A. HAYDEN to Miss MARY ALICE ABELE.

On the 13th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Wise, JOSEPH C. PLIKERTON to Miss NANCY E. DAVIS.

DIED.—At her residence, in the Factory District, on the 8th instant, Mrs. ANN P. TARTLTON, in the 39th year of her age.

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Bartholow's Column.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY

The largest and best selected stock of AGRICULTURAL Implements and MACHINERY south of NEW YORK.

J. P. BARTHOLOW, Agricultural Warehouses, 7th St., below Penn. Ave. Washington, D. C. 25 King St., Alexandria, Va.

SAUSAGE CUTTERS, SAUSAGE STUFFERS, MINCING KNIVES, MINCING BOWLS, &c., &c., SAUSAGE MACHINES, of all kinds repaired at short notice.

HAY PRESSES, HAY BAILING ROPE, HAY SCALES, HAY and STRAW CUTTERS, HAY FORKS, &c., &c., THE CELEBRATED INGERSOLL HAY PRESSES, all sizes, CORN SHELLERS, all kind, CORN BARKERS, CORN BASKETS, &c., &c., FLOWS, HARROWS, CULTIVATORS, FIELD ROLLERS, FARM MILLS, CORN MILLS, FODDER CUTTERS, HAY and STRAW CUTTERS, &c., &c., OX YOKES, OX CARTS, FARM CARTS, FARM WAGONS, &c., &c.

FAIRBANK'S SCALES and HERRING'S SAFES. REPAIR SHOPS.

In connection with my extensive AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSES, I have established large REPAIR SHOPS, where all kinds of Machinery and Implements can be repaired at short notice, by experienced Machinists.

J. P. BARTHOLOW, Agricultural Warehouses, 558 7th St., below Penn. Ave. Washington, D. C. 25 King St., Alexandria, Va. Dec. 19, 1867—32.

CONFIRMATION NOTICE. Galloway K. Kane, vs. James B. Thomas. In the Circuit Court for St. Mary's county, sitting as a Court of Equity. No 53 N. E.

BY virtue of authority vested in me as Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's county, by the "Code of Public General Laws" of this State, it is hereby ordered, that the Auditor's Report, filed in this case, be ratified and confirmed, unless cause to the contrary be shown on or before the third Monday of January next; provided a copy of this order be published in the St. Mary's Beacon, once a week for three successive weeks prior to the third Monday of January next.

JNO A CAMALIER, CLK. True copy—Test: JNO A CAMALIER, CLK. Dec. 19, 1867—3w.

NOTICE. THE Public are invited to a TABLEAU and MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT to be given on Monday, Dec. 23rd, to commence at 5 o'clock. Admission free. Price of seats, 10 cents. J. P. Bartholow, Agent.

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JNO A CAMALIER, CLK. True copy—Test: JNO A CAMALIER, CLK. Dec. 19, 1867—3w.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. NOTICE is hereby given, that the subscriber, has obtained from the Orphans' Court of St. Mary's county, Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of A. P. Tartlton, late of St. Mary's county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with proper vouchers therefor, to the subscriber, on or before the 28th day of June, 1868, otherwise they may be excluded by law from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 15th day of Dec., 1867.

ROBERT B. HAMMETT, Administrator. MARYLAND BOUNTY TO SOLDIERS & SAILORS! Army and Navy Agency, THOMAS TIMMONS & CO. No. 19 South St., over Gas Co's Office, Baltimore.

SOLDIERS and SAILORS, enlisted or drafted, and mustered into the U. S. Service, after May 26, 1863, and credited to Maryland, are entitled to \$300 State Bounty. ADDITIONAL U. S. BOUNTY. Soldiers of 1861, 2, 3, 4, who have received not more than \$100, are entitled to an additional \$100, are entitled to an additional \$100. Widows and heirs of soldiers, also soldiers who have lost their Discharges, are entitled.

PERSONS WHO FURNISHED SUBSTITUTES. Between April 1 and December 18, 1864, will also be entitled to Bounty from the State of Maryland. Discharges of Soldiers of 1861, 2, 3, 4, Wanted. OWNERS OF ENLISTED SLAVES. And heirs of deceased Soldiers may obtain valuable information free of charge at our office. We make liberal advances, collect promptly, and if desired, will cash claims for State Bounty at sight.

All letters promptly answered. U. S. Bounty, Pensions, Back Pay, Prize Money, &c., for Soldiers and Sailors promptly collected. Cut this advertisement out and bring it with you, or communicate by letter. THOMAS TIMMONS & CO. Dec. 12, 1867—4m.

CONFIRMATION NOTICE. Benjamin Pembroke, vs. Edward S. Abel, Administrator of Robert Thompson's estate. No 53 N. E.

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JNO A CAMALIER, CLK. True copy—Test: JNO A CAMALIER, CLK. Dec. 12, 1867—3w.

FARM FOR SALE. WE will sell at Private Sale a very desirable little farm in the Factory District, eligibly located, having a good DWELLING and fair OUT HOUSES upon it, and containing 137 1-2 ACRES. This land will be sold for \$2000—one half cash and the balance at 12 months credit. COMBS & POWERS, Attorneys for the Owner. Dec. 12, 1867—4f.