

DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

The Hon. Wm. M. Merrick, the nominee of the Democratic Conservative party for Congress in this Congressional District, addressed the people of this County, at Leonardtown, on Thursday, the 15th of October next, and at Charlotte Hall, on Saturday, the 20th of October next. A full attendance of the voters of the county is respectfully and urgently solicited.

In consequence of the time and labor necessary for the preparation and publication of the registration lists in hand-bill form, we have been compelled to curtail our reading portions for the present term, as also to neglect our usual editorial contributions. We expect to be able to complete these publications by Thursday next and will be able then to return to our usual work.

THE STATE ELECTIONS OF 1870.—All State elections of 1870, thus far held, have been, in the highest degree, favorable for the Democracy. Connecticut opened the ball in April with the choice of a Democratic Governor, instead of a Republican chosen the year previous. Then came the judicial election for Appeal Judges in New York, which resulted in the success of the Democracy by the unprecedented majority of 99,000 votes. Oregon followed in June, and elected a Democratic Governor, Congressmen and Legislature, insuring the choice of a Democratic United States Senator in the place of William, Republican. In August the Conservatives or Democrats—which is the same thing in North Carolina—swept that State, choosing two-thirds of the Legislature and the Congressional delegations. Hitherto the State has been Radical by a majority of many thousands. In Kentucky, despite the addition of 50,000 negro votes to the polling list, the Democracy still maintained their 50,000 majority in the State. In Tennessee, at the election of Judges, the vote showed fully 70,000 majority for the Democracy in a State that gave General Grant for President the heavy majority of 29,000 votes. Even in dark and nighted Vermont we have made a handsome Democratic gain, while in Maine it amounts to many thousand votes.

These results in every part of the country are not owing to any local causes.—They do not spring from any accident. They simply indicate that a general dissatisfaction exists throughout the country at the management of our political affairs, and that there is a widespread desire for a change. This feeling will be stronger evinced in the elections which are to come in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania. We have never known, in a political campaign of many years, the last elections of a season going different from the earlier ones. The signs are auspicious and full of hope. In Missouri the Radicals have split into two warring and irreconcilable parts, and such ground has been taken as will be certain, before 1872, to give that powerful State to the Democracy.

News.—Just as we are going to press, the painful intelligence has reached us of the drowning of Charles Canfield, Esq., a citizen of our Village, and for the past several years a Justice of the Peace. He was drowned in Britton's Bay, and his body was found this morning. The particulars of the accident are unknown to us at present, but it is supposed that the deceased, who was subject to attacks of epilepsy, but his life whilst engaged in bathing. Mr. Canfield had received the natural abilities and had received the advantage of a liberal education. His long residence here, and his kind and genial disposition, had so attached our people to him, that every one, from the aged to the infant, will miss and mourn him. He was about forty years of age.

Democratic Club.—Pursuant to former notice a meeting was held at the Court House, in Leonardtown, on Tuesday evening last, for the purpose of organizing a Democratic Club and with a view to perfecting a system of canvass of the county for the Fall campaign. On motion, James F. Matthews, Esq., was called to the chair and Dr. James Waring was appointed Secretary. On motion of Col. Jas. T. Matthews the meeting adjourned to Saturday next, at 3 o'clock P. M., at which time the attendance of all who may be desirous of joining the Club is urgently requested.

Case.—The September Term of our Circuit Court is still in session—Judges David and Magruder being in attendance. Several interesting cases have been tried since our last issue, but our professional leisure have been so pressing that we have been unable to report them. We will endeavor to give a full report in our next. Judge Stone left on Saturday last. The Grand Jury was discharged on Tuesday last, and it is thought that Court will adjourn to—

SENATOR THURMAN ON PUBLIC LANDS.—In a very able and eloquent speech made in the Senate on the 22nd of September, Senator Thurman fully expounded the late Democratic policy of Congress in dealing with the public lands to be sold.

The necessity of these lands, and their great interest to the people, induce us to reproduce Mr. Thurman's remarks upon this point at length. We commend them to the perusal of our readers. Then look at the astounding subsidies to railroad companies—mere private corporations. To say nothing of the fifty-eight million acres granted to States for the purpose of internal improvement; a small portion of which have gone into the hands of railroad companies—there had been granted by Congress before its last session directly to four railroad companies—the Union Pacific and branches, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific, and Atlantic and Pacific—124,000,000 acres—more than had been granted in the United States, and more than the Atlantic States as a whole. The Union Pacific alone has received 60,000,000 acres, a quantity of over 600,000,000 acres—more than the two first named roads—every dollar of which, though in some form, will, it is hardly to be doubted, have to be paid by the United States.

To the Northern Pacific Railroad Company the land subsidy, originally granted, was 47,000,000 acres, to which Congress, at its last session, added nearly 6,000,000 more. So that in this one private corporation has been given of the best lands belonging to the people, a territory equal to that of Pennsylvania and Ohio combined. In other words, Congress has given to this corporation the means to build, perhaps to build and equip, about 2,000 miles of railroad, to be the private property of a few private individuals. Suppose that the Government had built the road itself, with the means thus provided for its construction, and then bestowed it as a gracious boon upon a company of private persons, favorites of Congress and of the party in power, what would the country say? And yet there is the difference between that case and the case as it stands? What is the difference between giving away a road already built and giving the means to build it? There is but one difference and that is prejudicial to the existing case. By giving to a private corporation this vast body of land, Congress has made it the greatest land monopolist the world ever saw.

By its grant of over 130,000,000 acres to railroad corporations, it has deprived millions of landless people of the chance to get homes, except upon the payment of exorbitant prices—lands that should have been reserved for actual settlers and given to them under a system of homestead laws. Not only this, the wealth, power and dominion thus conferred upon these great and favored corporations will make them the overwhelming and ruling power in at least a dozen States. In reality, they are not the State legislatures, will choose Senators in Congress; they, and not the unbiased voice of the people, will elect Representatives. They, and not free States, will speak in the choice of Presidents.

Think of a road stretching from Lake Superior to the Pacific ocean, embracing with its branches more than 2,000 miles of line, the property of a single corporation, and that corporation owning every alternate section of land, or its proceeds, in a belt of 80 miles wide for nearly the whole length of its line—40 sections, or 25,000 acres to the mile—58,000,000 acres in all, or the proceeds of their sale at such prices as the corporation may see fit to exact—with towns and cities owned by the corporation or a favored ring of its stockholders, those owning nearly all its stock and ruling its affairs, residing in New York, New Jersey and Philadelphia, and you will have some idea of what the Northern Pacific Railroad is to be, and what chance for political promotion any man within the limits of its influence would have, should he dare to seek to restrict its monopoly, restrain its exactions or otherwise oppose its will.

Much as being now said about the relative rights of capital and labor; much complaint is being uttered at what is said to be the exactions of capital and the depression of labor. The working men are everywhere forming unions, holding congresses, and issuing books, pamphlets, and newspapers, to advocate their claims, and protest against the unequal distribution of wealth, which they assert is resulting from existing laws, and especially from their tendency to aggregate capital. But what aggregation of capital and privilege was ever seen equal to that created by Congress, by the charters it has granted and the donations it has made to the four railroad companies I have named? What other case has ever become the owners of a territory equal to seven States of this Union, greater than the area of Germany; and in addition to this wealth, being clothed with a corporate existence and immense corporate privileges of perpetual duration? I am certainly not so absurd as to be an enemy of railroads. No man acknowledges more fully than I do the immense advantage they are to a country. No man honors more than I do, the man who wisely projects, and honestly builds a railroad line. I could mention names—names of the dead, some of the living—to whom Ohio owes a debt of gratitude for the construction, and liberal, wise and successful management of her railroads. But there is a vast difference between roads built under State authority, with capital furnished by the stockholders, supervised by the State, controlled and managed by her citizens, and the roads in existence, and to be constructed by Congress, built with donations of public domain, opening more than half the continent, and owned and controlled by a few rich men in the great cities of the East.

Before I leave this topic, I must call your attention to an alarming step, taken at the last session of Congress, in the matter of these land grants. Before that session had passed, the lands were to be sold to the highest bidder, and the proceeds were to be used for the benefit of the State. But now, by a bill passed by Congress, the lands are to be sold to the highest bidder, and the proceeds are to be used for the benefit of the State. This is a step which will, it is thought, result in the loss of many millions of acres of the best land in the country.

And accordingly the price of the railroad securities was raised from \$25 to \$25. This was done for the purpose of enabling the Government to raise money to pay the interest on the bonds. The Government has now raised \$25,000,000, and has used it to pay the interest on the bonds. This is a step which will, it is thought, result in the loss of many millions of acres of the best land in the country.

Gen. Grant's Stand on his Head.—You are, long before any railroad had crossed the Alleghenies a line of eight stages crossed several times Cumberland West. The first stage crossed the road, with a few passengers, and was driven by a young man, who was a member of the party. He was a member of the party, and was a member of the party. He was a member of the party, and was a member of the party.

Gen. Grant seems to think that the Government of the United States is a Government which will drive itself. His personal appearance is so simple and complete that it does not require a person of any great talent to fill the position of President, and that therefore Gen. Grant will never be elected. He is a man of real ability, and is a man of real ability. He is a man of real ability, and is a man of real ability.

Our Candidate for Congress.—We call to our attention, to-day, the name of the Hon. William M. Merrick, our standard-bearer in the political campaign which is to come this Fall. Although our own county was fairly entitled to the selection, and presented a name every way worthy, it has pleased the Convention, after giving our first choice a very flattering vote—to give the nomination to an adjoining county; and we are happy to say that in our humble judgment the nomination of Mr. Merrick is a most judicious and successful one.

Judge Merrick is a native of Charles county, and is the son of the late Hon. Wm. D. Merrick, formerly a member of the Maryland Legislature, and subsequently of the U. S. Senate, and originator of some of the most important measures which have ever been passed by the Maryland Legislature. He is a man of high standing in the community, and is a man of high standing in the community.

How to keep yourself dry.—Don't forget to keep yourself dry. Don't forget to keep yourself dry.

Constitutional Convention.—These and other circumstances will, it is thought, result in the loss of many millions of acres of the best land in the country. The Convention will, it is thought, result in the loss of many millions of acres of the best land in the country.

Discharging, certainly, anything in the least degree disparaging to any of the distinguished gentlemen whose names were brought before the Convention, we think it our duty to state that the Convention will, it is thought, result in the loss of many millions of acres of the best land in the country.

CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATION.—The nomination of Judge Merrick by the Democrats and Conservatives of this (5th) Congressional District gives universal satisfaction; and must ensure united and vigorous effort in behalf of the nominee of the party whose principles are those cherished by the framers of our Constitution—as it was before it was marred by the ruthless enemies of our cherished Rights of the State.

REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY.—We publish, in another column of to-day's issue, the report of the Grand Jury of the present Term of our Court in reference to the condition of the Public Roads and the County Jail. As the report touches a subject in which our people are greatly interested, we invite our patrons to give it an attentive perusal.

BALTIMORE MARKETS.—GRAIN.—Offerings of Wheat were considerably larger than for many previous days, and the market was less active and closed rather heavy. There are no shipments at present in the market, and the few lots of Western offerings were neglected; total receipts to-day 23,500 bushels; included in the sales were 1,000 bushels white at \$1.55; 1,000 bushels red at \$1.55; 1,000 bushels choice Maryland red at \$1.55; 1,000 bushels inferior to fair at \$1.10; 1,000 bushels inferior to fair at \$1.10; 1,000 bushels inferior to fair at \$1.10.

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY.—We, the Grand Jurors, do represent to your Honors, that, in order to carry out the provisions of your Honors' order, we have carefully inquired into the condition of the Public Roads of the county; and, so far as the limited time at our disposal would allow, have given the same a careful consideration, with the following result: We find, from a statement furnished by the Clerk of the Court, that, in the year 1869, the amount of the Public Roads of the county was \$1,125,000, and that, in the year 1870, the amount of the Public Roads of the county was \$1,125,000.

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