

# Saints & Beacon

Vol. VIII

LEONARDTOWN, MD., THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 2 1871

NO. 19

## ST. MARY'S BEACON

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JAMES S. DOWNS.

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All communications for publication must be accompanied with the real name of the author, or so attention will be paid to them. The real name of the author will not be published unless desired, but we cannot consent to insert communications unless we know the writer.

## Professional Cards.

**W. H. Underwood, Attorney at Law and Solicitor in Chancery,** has this 3rd day of July, 1866, formed a Partnership in the practice of their profession, under the name and style of **Camba & Downes.** They will practice in the County of Saint Mary's and the adjoining Counties, and in the Court of Appeals. General attendances will be given to the collection of claims against individuals, the State, or the Government.

References given, when required. Address: **Camba & Downes, Leonardtown, P. O., St. Mary's County, Maryland.**

**ROBERT C. COMBS**  
**JAS. S. DOWNS.**  
July 5, 1866—17.

## Law Co-Partnership

The undersigned, **Attorneys at Law and Solicitors in Chancery,** have this 1st day of December, 1867, associated themselves to practice their profession under the name and style of **BLAKISTONE & MORGAN.** They will practice in St. Mary's and the adjoining Counties and in the Court of Appeals. Special and prompt attention will be paid to the collection of claims. One or both can always be found at their office in Leonardtown. Address: **Blakistone & Morgan, Leonardtown, P. O., St. Mary's County, Md.**

**JAMES P. BLAKISTONE,**  
**JOSEPH P. MORGAN.**  
Dec. 2, 1867—17.

## J. PARRAN CRANE,

**ATTORNEY AT LAW,**  
LEONARDTOWN,  
Jan. 26, 1871—17. MD.

## JAS. H. WILSON,

**ATTORNEY AT LAW,**  
LEONARDTOWN,  
Feb. 10, 1870—17.

## J. F. MATTHEWS,

**ATTORNEY AT LAW,**  
LEONARDTOWN.  
Will practice in the Courts of St. Mary's, Charles and Prince Georges.  
Sept. 12th, 1867—6m.

## DANIEL C. HAMMETT,

**ATTORNEY AT LAW,**  
Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, Maryland  
Oct. 3, 1867—17.

## Quick Sales! Small Profits!

**MISS IRENE PURCK,** having removed her store to the building formerly occupied by Messrs. Wise & Ford, respectfully informs her friends and the public, that she is provided with a full and carefully selected stock of

## New Millinery, Fancy and Dress Goods, Cloaks, Toys, etc.,

which she is prepared to sell at a very small advance for cash. Her entire stock, having been purchased under favorable circumstances and at prices approaching gold rates, she believes that the ladies of St. Mary's will find to their interest to give her a call before purchasing elsewhere. Deeply grateful to her friends and the public for the encouragement she has received in her business heretofore, her chief study and delight in the future will be to obtain and deserve its continuance.

Nov. 24, 1870—17.

## JAS. H. S. GIBBONS,

**COMMISSION MERCHANT**  
for the sale of  
TOBACCO, GRAIN, &c.,

No. 80 Light Street Wharf, Baltimore.  
Gives personal attention to the inspection of Tobacco. Will make prompt returns, and fill orders with dispatch.  
March 19, 1868—17.

## HORNE & GREENWELL,

**Builders and Contractors.**  
The undersigned have entered into Co-partnership as Builders and Contractors, and are prepared to execute all demands in their line of business that may be made upon them with promptness, at reasonable rates and in workmanlike manner.

**GEORGE HORNE,**  
**THOS. C. GREENWELL,**  
Leonardtown, Md.  
March 31 1870—17.

## THE CHALLENGE.

The following story was told to me by an officer stationed in the East, as we paced the deck of the *Hydaspes*, one fine night, while on the passage from Calcutta to London. I present it to my readers in the words of the narrator, a tall, well-built man, whose olive-like complexion indicated long residence in tropical climates.

"When I first received my commission as ensign in the British army, I was gazetted to the 4th Regiment, then in India; and as the P. and O. Company did not exist in those days, I took passage via the Cape of Good Hope.

"In due course of time I arrived at Madras, and joined my regiment, in which I remained only three years, however; for, at the expiration of that period, I purchased my lieutenantcy, and exchanged into the 1st Regiment, then stationed up country.

"Until a man gets thoroughly used to it, there is nothing so monotonous as an officer's life in an isolated locality in India. There is routine in everything; in duty, in lounging, eating, smoking, sleeping, reading, and billiards or card-playing, and this is only varied by, by lucky chance, he happens to be in a district where pig-sticking, elephant or tiger hunting is attainable. At times, too—especially if ladies are with the regiment—amateur hops are in favor, and occasionally a 'hop' is improvised; but the climate is so enervating that neither officers nor men of any regiment, that has been considerable length of time in the country, felt very often disposed to exert themselves to provide amusement for their comrades.

"The 1st had been six years in India, and in consequence, all the members of that corps were afflicted with lassitude that had almost become chronic. There was a great dearth of female society—that sine qua non of pleasurable existence—and the lundings had been pronounced by those old staggers, who considered themselves genuine shikaris, to be infernally bad; therefore, when it was announced that a new collector had been appointed to succeed the liverless old curmudgeon, who, for seventeen years, had held office in that district, and a note bene was added, asserting that he was the fortunate possessor of an extremely beautiful wife, every one was on the qui vive to receive him.

"Much to our disappointment, however, he arrived alone, having left his spouse to enjoy the society of her friends in Calcutta for a few weeks after which she was to follow him with their only child.

"Mr. Norman Fraser was a man about thirty-five years of age, tall, muscular, and pre-eminently handsome; moreover, he was highly educated, and possessed such powers of pleasing that he won his way to all our hearts, and soon became a universal favorite.

"He infused new life into our little coterie, and many were the lamentations whenever his genial conversation did not beam across our mess table. Our soldiers' two hard-featured daughters—regular 'garrison girls,' who had flirted successively with every sub whom they had met during the last ten years—were enchanted by him, and openly lamented that he was already a Benedict; for, though he was only a civilian, they would have been glad enough to have had a ghost of a chance to ensnare him in the silken meshes of matrimony.

"It was a custom in those days for officers to remain over the mess-table long after the clock had been pronounced, and unless a man possessed a very strong head he was pretty certain to retire to rest in a lamentably befogged condition. One night when we had all been indulging pretty freely, the conversation turned to billiards—an interesting topic, for most of us were good players.

"Have you seen Fraser play? He beat Webb easily to-day, and I'll back him against any man in the regiment," said Captain Raper, who considered himself an authority on matters connected with games of skill.

"I always give Webb points, and I won't shrink measuring woe with the collector, though he certainly plays a very good game, I replied.

"Fraser, old fellow, Lieutenant Holroyd thinks that he is your equal at billiards. Will you let me back you for a game? Raper cried across the table?

"The collector, who was 'half-seasoned,' promptly expressed his willingness to at once engage with me, so I registered a bet of a hundred rupees with Captain Raper, and we adjourned to the billiard-room. I had practiced a great deal in my leisure hours, and knew myself to be a steady player, while, from what I had seen of Fraser's play, I judged that he became nervous and irritable, if luck went against him ever so little; therefore, I did not hesitate to accept a few other bets offered by admirers of my opponent's brilliant style.

"We had got about half way through the game, and our scores were nearly equal, when I made three most palpable cues in one break, and this so annoyed my semi-inebriated antagonist that he played wildly, missing most easy shots, and all the while denouncing my style of execution in no very measured terms. When sober, he was the most courteous and urbane of men; but when excited by wine, he was inclined to be insolent and overbearing.

"I was more than thirty points ahead, when a shot presented itself to me that was very difficult of accomplishment. It was a straight carom, but, in order to make it, the object ball had to be very finely grazed indeed. My ball scarcely moved the object ball, though it undoubtedly touched it, and went on the red, mak-

king the carom. A dispute instantly arose when I claimed the shot.

"You never hit the first ball, sir!" cried Fraser loudly.

"I know I did not, but my ball did," I replied, calmly.

"It is false! There was no carom."

"Yes! You are both a liar and a cheat!"

"Human nature could not stand that. I slapped my trader's face."

"Come, Holroyd, let's get some soda water, and then you and Fraser are sure to challenge you to-morrow," he said.

"I took his advice and the beverage he recommended, and was up bright and early the following morning. About ten o'clock, Captain Raper came to my quarters. He took a seat and a 'peg' before he explained his mission. As I had expected, he was the bearer of a cartel from Mr. Fraser.

"This is a devilish unpleasant business altogether, Holroyd; but I suppose you perceive there is no alternative. Will you name your friend, for I don't suppose you intend to apologize," said the captain, who bore the reputation of being a fire-eater.

"I told him I should leave everything in the hands of Lieutenant Howson, and he went to that gentleman in order to arrange the preliminaries.

"About midday my friend came to me, and told me that he had agreed with the second of Mr. Fraser as to the place, time of meeting, and weapons to be used in the forthcoming duel. He also hinted that if I had any letters to write, in case of accident, they would be as well to do them at once; said he would call to accompany me to the rendezvous at dawn the next morning; and when I thanked him, and promised to prepare myself for slaughter, he left to hunt up the doctor, leaving me to reflect upon my position.

"Duelling was much in vogue at that period, but I had never before been a principal in an affaire d'honneur, and I confess, my feelings upon this occasion were not pleasant ones.

"The first place, I liked Mr. Fraser very much, and I knew full well that he would never have provoked me to strike him had he not been under the influence of liquor. But the blow had been given, and nothing could avert a hostile meeting, unless I accorded him an ample and abject apology—to do which would have required far more courage than to fight, for I should have been stigmatized as a coward and completely ostracized by my brother-officers.

"It was a rainy season and tolerably cool, so when I had finished putting my house in order, as Howson had advised, I set out for a long walk, thinking that exercise would steady my nerves, which were somewhat unstrung by the effects of the potatoes of the previous night.

"As I strolled leisurely upon my way, I pondered upon my past life. I thought of how, barely four years before, I had set out from home full of hope and ambition, the hope of winning name and fame in the profession I had chosen earnestly in my heart; and now, before I had ever despatched my maiden sword, I was being fairly launched upon my career. Had placed myself in such a position that it was more than probable my hopes, my zeal, ambition, and my life, would be cut down like a flower! I cursed the enemy man puts in his mouth to stave away his brains! I thought of the happy home in 'Fatherland' that would be made desolate by my death; I thought of the dear loved ones who would mourn me there, and my heart was filled with bitter anguish—misery that was not decreased when I reflected that, even if I was spared and my adversary fell, it would be by my hand that would plunge his widow deep into a sea of grief, and leave fatherless his innocent child.

"I was aroused from this bitter train of thought by the hollow thud of rapidly advancing hoofs, and on looking up, I saw a lady, whose face was totally unfamiliar to me, vainly endeavoring to restrain a mettlesome horse she was riding. The first glance told me that she was a skillful equestrian, the second that she was unacquainted with the locality, for she seemed evidently bent upon taking the fire out of her steed by urging him forward, and it took me a moment to see that she was heading for destruction, for right in that direction lay, half concealed by bushes, a deep nullah, or water course, down which a torrent, swollen by the recent rains, rolled in rushing cataracts over the rock-strewn bed.

"Turn, madam; turn for your life, there is danger ahead!" I cried, as I rushed toward the point for which she was heading.

"The lady turned her face, and I saw it was fair as an angel's; her symmetrical figure showed to full advantage, and she used her utmost efforts to curb her horse, and her hair, which had escaped from the ribbons that had bound it, floated, a wave of gold, far in her wake. I was near enough to see the bloom of excitement fade from her cheeks when she heard my warning—near enough to see that the barb was now beyond her control, and that a catastrophe was inevitable.

"A swift runner, I started forward at full speed, and gained the brink of the nullah just in time to see the horse and its rider disappear from view in the boiling flood that surged at my feet. For a few seconds I stood paralyzed; then I saw the animal struggle to the surface, and knew that its rider had freed herself. There was little chance of saving her, I knew; it would be almost madness to attempt it;

but it flashed across my mind that I would be better to end life in a noble death than to see a fellow creature, whose death at the hand of my friend, I had just witnessed, plunged into the sea. The circulating eddies bore me down, and I was a stone's throw from the nullah, but I struck out bravely, and my face—grimed it just as the ENCLAVE training—

head, with the sloping foot of the nullah upon my shoulder, while the rushing, foaming torrent, bore me along over rocks that bruised and tore our flesh, through deep swirling pools that strove to suck us under, and down steep cascades, where the water broke with a hissing roar, though they merrily glistened and flashed in the crimson glow of the setting sun.

Bruised and battered by the collision with the cruel rocks, the life-breath well nigh stifled in my throat, and my strength rapidly giving way, yet I clung tightly to the pretty stranger then anxious in my arms, fully resolved that grim Death himself should not part us. Ever another waterfall the fast-flowing flood carried us, and when we issued from the flying foam at its foot, to feebly float was all that I could do. My brain was all in a whirl, all power to resist was fast leaving me, when the current bore us under the bark at a place where bushes reared almost to the water's edge. I grasped a root, but the swift stream bore me from my hold and I awoke hope.

"An instant afterward, however, I found myself caught in the bushes of a tree that had fallen partly across the nullah, and to it I clung with the mad desperation that love of life alone can instill in the heart of man. I still held the lady clasped close to me, though I feared she never more would breathe again. I was not one to relinquish the prize had on strenuously battled for, so, using what little power I still possessed, I pushed her up, and laid her on a well-forked branch. I struggled on the tree myself.

"At this point the nullah's bank was low, and only tall trees dotted the plain beyond its brink. As I straightened myself I saw, to my exceeding joy, three horsemen coming swiftly across the plain. I hallooed loudly, attracted their attention and they rode swiftly down when they recognized the perilous predicament I was in. My hand was dry, and I was unable to retain my hold, until I felt a pair of strong arms reach me, and bear me ashore. Then I sank into a deep swoon.

"When my senses returned, I discovered that I was lying upon a couch in my own quarters, and by my side was standing Lieutenant Howson. Two other gentlemen were seated near the verandah, with their backs toward me.

"Who was she, Ned? Is she dead?" I asked when I remembered what had occurred.

"Ere my friend could reply, the two gentlemen I had noticed rose from their seats and came quickly toward where I was lying. One grasped my hand, I glanced upward, and saw the collector bending over me.

"It was my wife, my brave fellow, and in a few days I hope she will be sufficiently recovered to thank you personally for having so gallantly rescued her from a terrible death. She only arrived yesterday with my maid, and was riding over to the Colonel's with Captain Raper, and it was this accident occurred. As for that matter between you and me, Holroyd, you may call me a coward, or whatever you choose, but I tell you plainly I will never raise my hand against you—you, who have proved yourself such a hero—you, to whom I owe an everlasting debt of gratitude; for you nobly risked your own life in saving that of my precious Bertha, and may God bless you for the gallant action you performed!" he said, and his fine, frank face glowed, and his eyes glistened with tears, as he gazed upon me.

"I tried to reply, but I was terribly prostrated, and a choking sensation in my throat stayed my utterance. I sunk back upon my pillow, and closing my eyes, mentally thanked Heaven for having aided me to preserve unto my late enemy a life valued far more than his own.

"Some weeks passed before I regained convalescence; but Mrs. Fraser, who had not sustained such severe contusions as myself nursed me so tenderly that I at length recovered my pristine vigor. Many years have gone by since then and Mrs. Fraser's looks are grayish now; but her daughter's hair the golden hue her mother's wore when first we met, and her face has the same sweet expression. The dearest friend I have on earth is the man whose wife I saved—the man who challenged me to a duel that was never fought!"

"How a CAMEL GOES THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE.—The passage from the New Testament. 'It is easier for a camel,' etc., has perplexed many good men, who have read literally. In oriental cities there are in the large gates small and very low apertures called metaphorically 'needle's eyes,' just as we talk of windows on ship board as 'bull's eyes.' These entrances are too narrow for a camel to pass through in the ordinary manner even if unloaded. When a loaded camel has to pass through one of these entrances it kneels down, its load is removed, and then it shuffles through on its knees. 'Yesterday,' writes Lady Duff Gordon from Cairo, 'I saw a camel go through the eye of a needle. He was the low crested and bare his head, to creep through; and thus the rich man must humble himself.'

## THINGS WORTH KNOWING.

In 1622, the Governor of Massachusetts, Sir Henry Vane, an aristocratic Puritan, as captain of a ship, and as ambassador to Napoleon, was hanged for high treason.

In 1633, the Province of South Carolina was created, with a free conscience clause in its charter.

In 1694, New Jersey, or New Jersey, was established by Lord Buxby and his followers.

In 1697, the Dutch and New Jersey, then belonging to the English, were taken by the Dutch; one year after they were restored by treaty.

In 1692, the settlement of Pennsylvania was commenced by William Penn.

The Ferrisins give a name to every day of the month, the same as we do of the week.

April is so called from April, the spring.

Ten beats of a healthy pulse are equal to nine seconds of time.

The first writer who used algebraic signs, was a Nuremberger, named Stifflia, in 1644.

The least friction is found in polished iron and brass.

A man five feet six inches high, on level ground or on the sea shore, can see about three miles distant.

Black rats are tamed in Germany, and have bells hung about their necks. They drive away other rats.

The Angora cat has one eye blue and the other yellow.

The pip in poultry is a disease that produces a thin film under the tongue.

Perfectly white cats are deaf.

A horse always while standing.

The bones of birds are hollow, and filled with air instead of marrow.

Fish and birds can see through the nicitating membrane that they draw over their eyes to screen them from the sun.

A house lays sixty eggs or nits in six days, and hatches them in six days more.

The flea, grass-hopper and locust, jump two hundred times their length, in the ratio of a quarter of a mile to a man.

In the migration of birds, the males arrive several days in advance of the females.

Hair has been successfully transplanted from one part of the body to another.

The atoms composing the 'human form divine,' are supposed to undergo an entire change every forty days.

The pulse of children goes just double as quick as in a person of sixty—the one, one hundred and twenty to the minute, the other sixty.

Cassada roots are made into bread in Brazil, and the starch is our Tapioca.

Wheat and barley grow more in the day time than night.

## By the Eastern Star.

The Poorhouse at Leonardtown, Md. On the evening of the 10th of July, 1870, I was struck by lightning, and the following circumstances: I am a farmer, and had gone to the pasture, three-fourths of a mile from the house, on horseback, to drive home the cows. A heavy shower and just fallen, accompanied by much lightning and loud thunder, and a little rain was still falling—the wind was blowing 'sprinkling.' While riding through the field I discovered a small cluster of corks-burrs, a noxious weed that infests many farms in this section of the country. The corks-burrs were in one hand, and I dismounted and held the horse in one hand, and proceeded to pull up the burrs with the other.

While stooping to pull the last one, my hand grasped close to the root, the horse standing with his head partly over my stooping body, a flash of lightning struck near the horse, entering his head in and behind his left ear, tearing two holes in the skin behind the ear, and though he was wet with the rain, the hair was singed from his head, neck, shoulders, and one front leg to the ground; he, of course, was instantly killed. A small portion of the electric fluid struck me on the right temple, singeing the lashes of the right eye and burning or scalding the face, rendering me unconscious for a little time. The following were the sensations and phenomena, as I observed and remembered them: First, I felt myself enveloped in a sheet of perfectly white light, accompanied by a sense of suffocation by heat.

The light could be seen as well through the back of the head as with the eyes, and appeared to extend several feet on all sides of me; then I experienced a sense of danger, and tried to escape injury from my horse. Then followed a troubled dream, in which I was hauling a load of hay in company with another person, and, in spite of all the efforts I could make to avoid it, the load of hay was about to fall on me. When in the dream I made a last desperate effort to spring from under the hay, I found myself standing on my feet. The first thing I observed was that the cattle, in fright, were running from me, and next, that I stood in front of the prostrate horse.

Instantly I comprehended the situation and listened to hear the thunder that should accompany the lightning, but no thunder could be heard. I felt no pain and no sensation, except a mental exaltation, which lasted but a few moments.

As first I thought the lightning had struck near me, and had slightly stunned the horse and myself. Then I observed the water on every hair, and the moisture in the eyes, nostrils and mouth of the horse to be boiling, having the appearance and making a noise like fine drops of water on a hot iron, which continued for several seconds.

This was a phenomenon I never have heard of, probably because a person near enough to see it is most always rendered unconscious too long to make the observation. Judging from the distance the cattle had run, I was probably unconscious less than six seconds.

Finding that the horse did not breathe, I proceeded to pull off the saddle and bridle, and then I felt a severe pain in my head, which continued for several hours, followed by soreness, which seemed to be in the substance of the brain, with an inclination to inflammation, but at the end of a week no effects of the lightning were felt.

Our Glorious Public School System.—"A little knowledge" is indeed a "dangerous thing," at least it very often tends to make its possessor ridiculous. The following conversation among some Ohio river boatmen, is a sample.

No. 1.—"That was an awful cold winter, now, I tell you. The river was frozen tight at Cincinnati, and the thermometer went down twenty degrees below Cairo."

No. 2.—"Below which?"

No. 1.—"Below Cairo, you timberhead. Don't you know what that means?"

No. 2.—"It don't mean anything, you fool! there's no such thing."

No. 1.—"I say there. You see, when it freezes at Cairo, it must be pretty cold, so they say so many degrees below Cairo."

No. 2.—"Ho! ho! You pretend to know! Why, you stupid, you've got the wrong word entirely."

No. 1.—"What is it, then?"

No. 2.—"Why, so many degrees below Nero, of course. I don't know what it means; but I know that's what they always say when it's dreadful cold."

The Adrain (Mich.) Times says that a recent case of assault was tried in that city, on which six jurors voted by ballot. Juror No. 1 voted "No vote of action." No. 2 voted "Salt and battery." Second DeGree; No. 3 deemed the prisoner "a guilty of ass; No. 4 decided there was 'no action of ass; No. 5 voted it 'assault and battery; while No. 6 decided the prisoner "Guilty of an ass only."

A man named Butler having been commissioned as major-general of the Florida militia, the Legislature of that State, both houses concurring, unanimously passed an act changing his baptismal name to Benjamin F., and making an appropriation of 25 cents to provide him with a set of powder spoons.

An Iowa woman advertises for a husband—"Money no object, must be healthy and willing to work."

Sing Singers think their prison an innance.