

ST. MARY'S BEACON
LEONARDTOWN, MD.

THURSDAY, MORNING, March 2nd, 1871.

To Correspondents.—The contribution "Home" has been received and accepted, and would have been published in our present issue, if our space had permitted.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—Our thanks are due Hon. Frederick Stone, our immediate representative in Congress, for interesting public documents.

CORRECTION.—Gen. Masser and Elzey, two gallant Confederate officers, the one from Virginia, the other from Maryland, are dead. All their "treason," they sleep well, and their memories are precious legacies that patriot Southern hearts will guard and cherish in all the after time.

Mr. Sumner, we are painfully afflicted to hear, has been seriously ailing of late, but at latest accounts was improving somewhat, and what is better, was preparing himself for a desperate tilt against the San Domingo infamy of Grant's administration.

The "High Commission," to settle the Alabama and slavery squabbles, is about to open session at Washington and commence its labors. The odds are, that "our side" will out-talk and out-back down their opponents.

The San Domingo business is progressing in the most gratifying manner to all parties having axes to grind by its amercement. Our plenipotentiaries, specifying the Dominicans every day, and from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof; and in the matter of lying, Don Wade at least accounts was far ahead of all competitors.

The preliminaries of peace have been signed by Prussia and France. The conditions that have been imposed by Prussia are at this time unknown, but they doubtless involve both a heavy money as well as territorial concession on the part of France. The Prussian troops occupied Paris yesterday and are to continue in possession of the city until a definite treaty has been arranged and signed by the two countries.

We note nothing in the proceedings of Congress during the past week worthy of special reference. The members have scarcely yet recovered from the effects of the Carnival which we see, by-the-by, the newspapers vote to have been a humbug. The session of the present Congress expires on Saturday next and the prayer of all honest men is, may we never look upon its like again!

ARREST OF A PARTY CHARGED WITH ROBBERY.—A young man named John Bryant was arrested and lodged in our county jail on Friday night last, upon the charge of being one of the parties who lately robbed the store of Wm. H. Donahaw, of Westmoreland County, Va. Official information was received here on Tuesday last of the indictment of Bryant for the offense above stated, and of the conviction of his accomplices in the Westmoreland County Court. Upon this evidence, and the thorough identification of Bryant, he was delivered to the Westmoreland County authorities, on yesterday. He admits we learn, that he has been an old offender, and that he has heretofore served a term in the Virginia Penitentiary. A party calling himself Bray, but supposed to be Mason, another of the accomplices in the Donahaw robbery, was arrested with Bryant but succeeded in making his escape.

DEATH OF THOMAS POWER.—This well known and much respected citizen died at the residence of George W. Goldard, Esq., in this county, on the 25th ult., in the 78th year of his age. Mr. Power was a soldier in the war of 1812; and, at its close, received an honorable discharge from the service of his country. He was a man of sterling integrity and decided character and opinions, and was remarkable for his unflinching devotion to his friends throughout the mutations and vicissitudes of a prolonged life. The grave has now closed over his humble, but honored, career and his voice will be heard at our graves no more. We may remember him, however, and profit by the remembrance. A life of near four-score years, without a taint or blemish, gives to mankind an instructive sermon, and such has been left us by Thomas Power.

ARREST AND DISCHARGE.—Three colored men, named George Neal, George Young and Robert Young, were arrested during the past week upon the charge of stealing a sheep from the premises of John H. Mattingly, Esq., in Medley's Neck. They had a hearing before Justice Morgan on Monday last, and the cases were dismissed, the evidence failing to sustain the charge against either of the parties.

THE GOVERNOR.—We notice that this steamer, which has been plying between Baltimore and the Upper Potomac Landings during the Winter, will be withdrawn temporarily from the route to undergo repairs, after Friday, the 3rd of March, in fact. Due notice will be given of any other when she will resume her trips.

COLORED SCHOOLS.—A black friend of ours, interested in education, has asked us—

1st.—Are the black people of the country entitled by the school laws of this State to any portion of the public school tax for the education of their children?

2nd.—If so entitled, to what proportion of the fund are they entitled?

3rd.—From what date are they entitled to charge the school fund for the proportion that may be found due them?

4th.—How should they go to work to get the proportion due them?

These are substantially the questions proposed.

We reply, that the first question has been answered by the Attorney General of the State. Hon. James D. Jones, in a letter to John W. Daugherty, of Baltimore city, under date of the 4th of February ult., the answer being, that the black people are entitled to a portion of the public school tax for the education of their children.

But if so entitled, to what proportion of the fund are they entitled? The black people, in our judgment, are entitled under the laws, both of '68 and '70, to the revenue for school purposes that may have been drawn by taxation from their property, whether this revenue was derived from a State School or a County School tax. This, it is also, substantially Mr. Jones' opinion.

From what date are the black people entitled to charge the school fund for the proportion that may be found due them? We answer, from the date that the first school law went into effect, after the adoption of the new Constitution. Mr. Jones, in his letter to Daugherty quotes the School Act of 1870, and calls it the Act of 1869. There was no School Act passed in '69, our recollection being that there was no session of the Legislature that year.

Mr. Jones, we presume, meant the School Act, now in force, which was adopted and went into effect April 4th, 1870. But the claim of the black people to their proportion of the school tax should not be made to commence from this date. This would only give them one year's revenue, whereas, in our judgment, they are entitled to three or nearly three, if it shall be found that they have not collected any part of the fund due them. Section 1 of Chapter 9 of the School Act of 1868 is identical, in word and matter, with Section 1 of Chapter 18 of the School Act of 1870. By both, it is provided, that "the total amount of taxes paid for school purposes by the colored people of any county, together with any donations that may be made for the purpose, shall be divided for maintaining the schools of colored children." The Act of 1868 was approved March 30th, 1868, and went into operation the 1st of April of the same year, and it is, consequently, from the 1st of April, 1868, that the black people are entitled to charge the school fund for their proportion of the school tax, State and County, which may have accrued since that time.

How should the black people go to work to get the proportion due them? They should appear, either by committee of their own color or by some intelligent white agent, before the School Commissioners of the county, stating their intention of organizing and opening a school for black children, for instance, in the village of Leonardtown in Leonardtown district, and naming the three persons they may desire to act as trustees of said school. The appointment asked for being made, the local board will then proceed to elect a Teacher, but before this is done, it should be remembered, that no person can teach in any of the public schools of this State "unless such person shall hold a certificate of qualification." In other words, the applicant for teacher will have to be examined by the County Examiner, Dr. Bunting, and obtain from him a certificate as to competency, etc. This done and the election consummated, an organization will have been formed, and the balance will be plain sailing.

CAPITALISTS.—The attention of capitalists is called to the valuable real estate, advertised for sale in our columns, which is to be sold at Leonardtown on Tuesday, the 21st of March, instant. From the tightness of the money market, it is likely that all this property will be sold at a nominal figure. Parties intending to purchase would do well to give the property a personal inspection before the day of sale. See advertisements elsewhere.

COMMUNICATED.—Leonardtown, Feb. 28th, 1871.

Mr. Editor.—I witnessed this morning the examination of the pupils of Public School No. 2 in the 3rd election district of St. Mary's county, under the direction of Mrs. Harriet Matthews of our town, the result of which was extremely gratifying.

The examination was conducted in the most rigid and impartial manner and it gives me pleasure to bear testimony that the pupils acquitted themselves most creditably—answering at least seventy-five per cent of the various questions propounded without the slightest hesitancy, thereby giving a marked evidence of thorough training and proficiency.

The patrons of Mrs. Matthews' school may well congratulate themselves upon being able to secure the services of one so thoroughly efficient and whose untiring zeal in the cause of education merits for her school a place not unequal to that of any other in the State.

EXAMINER.

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)
Washington, Feb. 21st, 1871.

Washington can boast of two things which will amply throw other cities into the shade. A Congress and intensely cold weather and heartily do we wish we were well rid of both. The former has done nothing but to cheat the Government while the latter has furnished an abundant crop of ice and red noses.

Speaking of winter brings to mind our fellow-statemans, Criswell, The Post-Master General does not seem to have been in Washington since he abandoned session, and took the railroad route to his heart. The machine does not seem to run smoothly, the logs don't fit something is out of order. That he should have played his cards so ill that the trifling fund of half a million should be detected does not speak well for his power of manipulation. That with Congress at his back, the President on his right hand, the strong box of the Treasury open before him and in the room alone, to make such a blunder in pocketing this insignificant sum, proves that he is unfit for a place in Grant's Cabinet. It is said that Grant and the whole party are down on him and are giving him the cold shoulder and refuse to listen to any explanation. What Ben Butler may do for him remains to be seen.

We learn that the case in his hands and if Ben puts his mind on it he can do wonders. Had Criswell only consulted Butler before the blunder instead of after, Ben would have cooled that one eye of his, given a little flirt of his hand, and Criswell might have laughed at all the commotion and Congress on earth.

We must confess the Post-Master General has our sympathies. It is bad enough for a man to have his feet knocked from under him when the affair is of importance, but for a pitiful wretch like this to be caught in the very act and not allowed another grab is enough, as Grant says, to make one lose all confidence in human nature. How is it? The moment a man joins the party now in power he seems to be taken with a sort of nervous clutching of the hands which is sure to come on the moment he gets in sight of a greenback, and there seems to be no cure for the disease which has raged now for ten years. Every man of the party, from Grant down to the lowest of the low, is infected with this. There is now nothing left for Criswell but to make him a judge. When a man's section of country gets too hot to hold him he is forthwith sent to Washington and made a judge and that is the last of him. Speaking of judges this city can certainly boast of the most sweet scented set that ever the ermine adorned. It will not be long before legal decisions will rest on the question which judge can hang his fives the best and rare sport it will be when one dissenting judge shall invite his brother or come off the bench and peel. What a jolly good time the young lawyers will have playing bottle-bender and time-keepers to their honors. We will bet our pile on the Chief Justice if his wind holds.

Have you ever seen a copy of Woodhull & Claflin Weekly, the free-love paper? If not, get a copy and look at it but keep it out of sight of the editors' good wife, as it might not be agreeable to her. It contains matter which might turn your young and tender mind in the wrong direction. Don't imagine that Woodhull & Claflin are a pair of sharp-faced, skinty, disappointed old maids. We have never seen the Claflin, but the Woodhull is just as pretty as a rose and as graceful as a lily. We do not know when we have seen anything so pretty and her eye can take the conceit out of any ordinary mortal in the shortest possible time. She threatened before she came here to make things hum and we have not the slightest doubt they are humming. How many husbands she has had we do not pretend to say as she goes for a change whenever she feels like it. She is the lady who says that chastity is a monkish superstition. To look at her pretty face we should say she had but little superstition about her. She is the strongest of the strong-minded though she does not wear pants or chew tobacco—we cannot answer for the cigars and eek-tails. The Claflin is also pretty, but only plays second fiddle to Woodhull. Brick Pomeroy says she was a fortune-teller in Texas where she uttered the future to the Texans for the vulgar sum of one dollar per Texan. We suppose the strong-minded business pays better and she will stick to it.

One of the local papers got up the usual maudlin sensation paragraph about the hanging of the negro devil at Marlborough. Strange there was no such sympathy manifested when Mrs. Surratt, an innocent white woman, was arraigned before a commission of law brutes and hung without time to utter a prayer and without a shadow of evidence to convict her. The cry then was that the gallows was too good for her. But now when a negro wench causes an innocent baby to die the most agonizing death, confesses the crime and almost boasts of it, an indignation fit must be gotten up about justice taking its course. We should like the world to know that the judges and state attorneys of our State are humane and intelligent gentlemen of the highest sense of justice and honor; perjury is a thing unknown among them. When cases are to be tried before them they do not go from place to place asking the political opinions of parties. A fifty dollar bill or a ten thousand poked under their nose would not induce them to bring in verdicts of acquittal or make indictments that can be set aside and let the most brutal murderers go free. No; in Maryland cases are tried on the law and evidence and criminals are punished regardless of politics or sympathy for the victims of crime, for their friends and for the community at large and if judges out of Maryland would copy their example honest citizens would thank them and there would be more security for life and property in some places than in our own. But more in future.

The French are pretty well chewed up by this time and in future of this war that the Dutch don't have the Yankee

will. We hope Bismarck and King William will knock everything like a republican republic French heads before they get into the magnificent establishment that the floating line is a republic with more than a stomach full of money and more than a moon and stars in its planet. If the French will come over and take a glance at this grocery of ours they will get sick at the sight. A Republic may be defined in a few words. A few white thieves with a pretty good springing of negroes with the army at their backs get together, attack the votes they want on the soldiers bayonets and cram them down the throats of the majority and call it a Republic. Congress has converted our city into a Territory or something of the kind. It is probably intended for the benefit of the members of the out-going Congress. Two thirds of them are estimated being made Governor although the polls for the same were held recently. We suppose every man in the city has had to live in Washington for the last few days. The French are in a very bad way. Not finding any one man enough to go to Congress they gave him his choice of that or being lynched and so Congress came. What times that board of public works will have! All they have to do when they want a pocket-full will be to go to the people and sell them to say my it is a good plan, save trouble and works quietly. The old town-folky of taxes, etc., was too slow, it was not up to the present Yankee.

The city bankrupt now beyond hope of redemption but the board of public works will scratch that all out and begin fresh with grassed heels and sticky fingers.

The grand swindle begins to-day, in the shape of a Carnival. How it will and the papers will tell you. As we do not expect to see any of it we can give no opinion. There is a dead rush upon a man as soon as he sets his foot into the city to relieve him of his loose change. People are invited from abroad to see the lock pavement of the Avenue and have the last cent gouged out of them for the sight. Imagine ten dollars paid for looking out of a window at the pavement. The agent of one fellow retorted out one stand for twenty dollars, the owner got into a rage and made him fly from the bargain and asked twice the sum. If any man leaves the city after these sharks have done with him with a cent in his pocket, we advise the people of his settlement to make him dust with all speed, for no man can prosper who lives in the same place.

YORK.

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)
Rappahannock County, Va., Feb. 21st, 1871.

A careless clerk—idly, lightly song, "Perhaps not worth the singing or repeating. But would you check a woman's pen or tongue. Ah teach her first to keep heart from beating."

I know, Mr. Editor, you will wonder who this can be from and I am now puzzling my brain as to how to commence, and introduce myself as "your truly." But I suppose I shall manage to say something—as our sex has an established reputation for loquacity as well as curiosity—and if I do not handle the pen very gracefully—

"Don't view me with a critic's eye, But pass my imperfections by."

Through the kindness of a friend I sometimes get the Beacon—and I thought perhaps you would like to hear from our mountain region, "en revanche"—though to tell the truth, one must be as fertile in imagination as a novel writer, or a foreign correspondent, to write anything interesting from this secluded spot. Yes, it is very retired, and Cowper might here have found the "lodge in the wilderness," or the "bondless contiguity of shade," for which he sighed, for while the outside world is a scene of strife and bickering, we know it all from letters and newspapers, and enjoy in undisturbed security our sequestered and sylvan retreat. Madame Rummor would have to get a search warrant to find us, and Rip Van Winkle might here sleep undisturbed, until another revolution should rouse him from his slumbers. Mrs. Grundy came—but staid only a short time—and left in disgust, no one seeming to be awed or intimidated by her presence—I believe she was glad to get away safely—pronouncing us to be the most don't care, independent set of people she has ever seen. No doubt she will report us as "Headquarters," and we may hear, ere long, of troops being sent to extinguish the last spark of rebellion.

"Here Nature is sequestered and crowned As a queen in her worshipping land, While her rock-pillowed palaces round All matchless in majesty stand."

Yes the scenery is grand, and the eye never tires, but continually feasts on the divinity of landscape, mountains, valleys and rivers which lie stretched out in one vast panorama, and were I gifted with descriptive powers, I might draw inspiration from the scene and write you a long letter, but I know you are inwardly thanking your stars that I am thus deficient, since it saves you such an infliction. But it is to think, that while we are enjoying this quiet and repose, so many of our fellow creatures, in a far off land, lie wounded and bleeding, victims of Ambition's strife, or contest for Power. But Lent is at hand, and while we bow in humble penitence for our own sins, may we not forget to pray, that He who holdeth the waves in the hollow of His hand—and smothereth the marrow's fall—will pour oil on the troubled waters—and purify to the angry waves—Peace, be still.

"In faith and hope the true abill, The advent of the joyous star, For oh across the future's tide, I have the best troops—warriors, I have the best—"

ORPHANS.

SENATOR THURMAN ON THE BILL TO ESTABLISH AN EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.—We give below, from the Congressional Globe, an extract from the powerful and exhaustive argument of Judge Thurman on the Puritan proposition to establish a national Bureau of Education:—

I have never yet heard any one point out one line or one word in the Constitution of the United States that authorizes Congress to take the subject of education in the States under its control or into its charge. If there is such a provision in the Constitution it never has been pointed out as far as I know. I find no such power, nor do I believe that any such power ought to exist. I do not believe it consistent with the welfare of the country; I do not believe it to be consistent with the liberties of the country that the subject of education should be taken charge of by the Congress of the United States. It properly belongs to the States and to the people of the States; and it would be, in my judgment, the worst possible policy, the most dangerous policy, for Congress to assume jurisdiction over that subject. The only power granted to Congress in the Constitution upon the subject of education is this:

The Congress shall have power to promote the progress of science and useful arts:—

How? By securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries; by promoting the progress of science and useful arts; by securing the rights of authors and inventors to their respective writings and discoveries; by promoting the progress of science and useful arts; by securing the rights of authors and inventors to their respective writings and discoveries.

There is all the power you have over the subject. It is not a power in general terms to promote the progress of science and useful arts; but it is a power to promote it in one particular way and one particular way alone. So that there is not only the absence of any express power to take the subject of education under your control, but there is that negative prohibition, as lawyers call it, arising from the fact that you are specially authorized to do one thing, which implies that you are not authorized to do any other. * * * I know very well that the law establishing this Bureau of Education is a mere entering-wedge. We have propositions to take departments upon almost every subject, a department on this subject and that subject, and the other subject, multiplying departments and multiplying officials without limit. Some of those might be very well, perhaps, but when you come to a department of education, which assumes that Congress is to take the education of the people in its charge, very I desire to enter my protest at the very outset, that you have no power to do any such thing; and therefore I want to say that, so far as my feeble efforts can avail for the purpose, I shall oppose extending the provisions of this law now and hereafter on a single lot. That the law may stand simply to enable us to collect statistics; but, so far as undertaking the education of the American people is concerned, I deny the power of Congress over the subject, and shall oppose it whenever it is proposed. It is not my purpose to say anything in detail about the report of the commissioners, which has been drawn into this discussion, but that there is not one valuable thing in it that is not already in print. A report which simply copies by the reports of superintendents of the common schools or the commissioners of common schools in the States, that simply picks them out and puts them here in the form of a report, and makes a book in that way, with scissors and paste, is not a very creditable protection for the chief educational officer of the United States of America. I do not think this book is one that a learned and intelligent American in Europe would hand to any European as a specimen of the education, the learning, and the literature of America.

THE NEW ENFORCEMENT LAW.—Pending the passage of the New Enforcement Law by Congress, Judge Woodward, of Pa., in the Lower House arraigned the bill with a force and thoroughness of argument which left nothing to be desired. The following is his summing up:—

The effect of it will be to take the control of the elections out of the hands of State officers, setting aside the law, and deliver it over to irresponsible Federal supervisors, who are armed with the power of the posse comitatus; of the army and navy; of arrests without warrant; of challenging voters, inspecting ballots, and supervising returns; and they will be very awkward agents of the ruling power, if, with all these appliances, they cannot produce any result that may be required. True it is that all this machinery is limited to elections for Federal officers; but the States elect their officers at the same time and place at which Congressmen are elected, the practical working of the machinery will give to Federal officers the same control over elections for State officers that they will have in the choice of Presidential electors and Congressmen. And if in the States, to escape this intolerable tyranny, should fix State elections on other days, and after the fashion of law, times, should choose their officers unaided by Federal bayonets, what would it avail in the presence of the high and unconstitutional powers which Congress has already arrogated to itself? What State right has not been already denied and shamelessly trampled upon? What eviscerates the spirit of fanaticism for State rights, State protests, or State legislation? With the Supreme Court packed and gagged, with four hundred millions of tribute money annually rung from the people, with an army to collect revenues and control elections, with a navy to absorb twenty millions of money annually for doing nothing but to make itself a laughing stock of the world; with corporations enriched with the public domain; with legislative powers stretched to do every object which ambition or avarice can covet, what does a ruthless party, so clothed and entrenched, care for the checks and balances of the Constitution and the reserved rights of the States? What will they care in the future? Literally nothing new, and nothing then. If, therefore, State elections were stretched to do every object which ambition or avarice can covet, what does a ruthless party, so clothed and entrenched, care for the checks and balances of the Constitution and the reserved rights of the States? What will they care in the future? Literally nothing new, and nothing then. 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