

Saint Mary's Beacon.

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NO. 25

ST. MARY'S BEACON

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Communications of a personal character will be charged, at the same rates as advertisements; obituaries over ten lines in length will be charged at the rate of 50 cents per square.
All communications for publication must be accompanied with the real name of the author, or no 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 The real name of the author will not be published unless desired, but we cannot consent to insert communications unless we know the writer.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.

WILLIAM DENIGER, Attorney at Law and Solicitor in Chancery, has this 1st day of July, 1866, formed a Partnership in the practice of his profession, under the name and style of **Combs & Deniger.** They will practice in the County of Saint Mary's and the adjoining Counties, and in the Court of Appeals. Special attention will be paid to the collection of claims against individuals, the State, or the Government.
References given, when required, Address **Combs & Deniger, Leonardtown, P. O., St. Mary's County, Maryland.**
ROBERT C. COMBS
JAS. S. DOWNS.
July 5, 1866—ly.

Law Co-Partnership

The undersigned, Attorneys at Law and Solicitors in Chancery, have this 1st day of December, 1869, 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 P. O., St. Mary's County, Md.
BLAKISTONE & MORGAN,
JOSEPH F. MORGAN,
Dec. 2, 1869—lf.

J. PARRAN CRANE,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,
LEONARDTOWN,
Jan 26, 1871—lf. MD.

JAS. H. WILSON,

ATTORNEY AT LAW,
LEONARDTOWN,
Feb 10, 1870—lf. MD.

J. F. MATTHEW,

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—lf.

SEEDS.—Fresh Garden, Fruit, Herb, Tree and Shrub, and European Seeds, prepared by mail, with directions for sowing. Also, a large assortment of packages of either class for \$1.00. These classes \$2.50.
25,000 lbs. Evergreen and Tree Seeds; Apple, Pear, Cherry, &c.; Grass Seeds; Beet, Carrot, Turnip, Squash, Turnip, and all vegetable and Flower Seeds, in small or large quantities; also Small Fruits, Stocks, Bulbs, Shrubs, Roses, Verbenas, &c. by mail, prepaid. New Golden Banded Japan Lily, 20c. Priced Descriptive Catalogue sent to any plain address, gratis. Agents wanted. Wholesale List to Agents, Clubs and the Trade. Seeds on commission.
E. M. WATSON, Old Colony Nurseries and Seed Warehouse, Plymouth, Mass. Established in 1842.
Feb 2, 1871—2m

HORNE & GREENWELL,

Builders and Contractors.

The undersigned have entered into Co-partnership as Builders and Contractors, and are prepared to execute all orders 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—lf.

FRANCIS NEALE, J. H. NEALE

NEALE, HARRIS & CO.
Commission Merchants,
Silliest Tobacco, Grain and all country produce.
Buy fertilizers and all supplies for farmers. No commission charged for buying guano when funds are in hand.
May 27, 1869—4t.

Licensed Auctioneer.

R. M. EDWARDS, having qualified as an Auctioneer according to the Laws of the United States, gives notice that he will attend to the sale of all real or personal property that may be offered at public auction in St. Mary's County, Address, R. M. Edwards, Great Hill, P. O., St. Mary's County, Md.
June 25, 1870—6c.

THE OLD HOME.

Under the silvery moonlight,
When the brave March breezes blow,
At the quiet hour of the even song,
Come thoughts of the Long Ago.
The grey and sad face of the present
Is veiled by Memory's hand,
And the pictured scenes of bygone days
Shine forth from the Silent Land.
The beehives under the southern wall—
The cherry tree grove and the bowers—
The mossy path and the lilac trees—
The scent and the hue of the flowers.
White violets grew in that cool green glen—
Browns thrushes sang in the glade—
There the green grass waved in the merry breeze,
And the happy children played.
Oh! the joyous summer, with sultry days,
How beautiful were its eues!
When we sat and sang by the open door,
Staring twinkling through the leaves.
Then the golden autumn, when sheaves of corn
Stood stately in meadows brown;
When the reapers sang at Harvest Home,
And the Harvest Moon looked down.
And again, the happy winter nights,
With the snow on the mountain's crest,
And the gladness filled each breast.
The Christmas tides, when the shining leaves
Were wreathed on the old church walls
And the carols rang from happy hearts
In cottages and in halls.
The friends we loved in those dear old days
Are scattered the wide world o'er—
Some linger on their peaceful lives,
Some died in the battle's roar.
Brave boys are grown to man's estate—
Fair girls are mothers and wives—
With sweet small cherubs all their own,
To gladden their busy lives.
We have all as our happy days,
Treasured safely from other years;
When the life that now bends mournfully
Kneer neither toil nor tears.
Mid the pauses in life's hard battle
It is sweet for awhile to go;
With lingering feet through the sunny paths
Of the days so long ago.

IS THE INTERIOR OF THE EARTH SOLID OR FLUID?

Although the doctrine that the earth is a molten sphere, surrounded by a thin crust of solid matter, was once almost universally taught by geologists, there have of late years been brought forward several arguments to the contrary, which, apparently, are more in favor of its being a solid, or nearly solid mass throughout; and these arguments are fully entitled to our consideration, as they tend to defend a particular theory, but to arrive, as nearly as we can, at the truth. I will, therefore, in the first place, proceed to scrutinize all which has been brought forward in opposition to the older hypothesis, and then to consider whether any other explanation yet advanced is more in accordance with the facts of the case.
First of all, we are to answer the question as to whether it is possible for such a thin crust to remain solid, and not at once to become melted up, and not at once to be crushed under the weight of the molten mass beneath it? This latter would doubtless be the case, if the fluid mass had any means of keeping up its high temperature, independently of the amount of heat it actually possessed when it originally assumed the form of an igneous globe. The question, however, in reality answers itself in the negative, since it is evident that no crust could even commence to form on the surface, unless the sphere itself was at the moment actually giving off more heat, from its outer surface to the surrounding atmosphere, than it could supply from its more central parts, in order to keep the whole in a perfectly fluid condition: so that, when once such a crust, however thin, had formed upon the surface, it is self-evident that it could not again become melted up or re-absorbed into the fluid mass below.
This external process, of solidification due to refrigeration, would be continuing, going on from the outside inward, until a thickness of crust had been attained sufficient to arrest, or neutralize (owing to its bad conductivity of heat) both the cooling action of the surrounding air and the loss of more heat from the molten mass within; and thus a stage would soon be arrived at when both these actions would so counter-balance one another, that the further cooling down of the earth could be all but arrested, a condition ruling at the present time, since the earth's surface, at this moment, so far from receiving any, or more than a minute amount of heat from the interior, appears to depend entirely, as regards its temperature, upon the heat which it receives from the sun's rays.
We have next to consider the argument that, if the earth's exterior were in reality only such a thin covering, or crust, like the shell of an egg, to which it has often been likened, that such a thickness would be altogether insufficient to give to it that stability which we know it possesses, and that, consequently, it could never sustain the enormous weight of its mountain ranges, such as, for example, the Himalayas of Asia, or the Andes of America, which are, as it were, masses of rock piled up high above its mean surface-level.
At first sight, this style of reasoning not only appears plausible, but even seems to threaten to upset the entire hypothesis altogether. It requires but little sober consideration, however, to prove that it is rather, so to speak, sensational in character than actually founded on the facts of the case; for it is only requisite for us to be able to form in our minds some tangible idea of the relative proportion which the size of even the highest mountain bears to that of the entire globe itself, to convince us, if such a crust could once form and support itself, that it could with ease support the weight of the mountains also. The great Himalayan chain of mountains rises to a maximum altitude of 31,860 feet, or six miles above the level of the sea; and if the earth could be seen reduced in scale down to the size of an orange, to all intents and purposes it would bear large fees of a wool that cannot fail to find ready sales at high prices.—The latest State statistical report is for 1869, and that gave our total stock of cashmere goats then at 13,000; but many of these may be of low grades, too low to produce valuable wool. A herd of goats amounting to a large sum are unheeded. However, we do not know of any reason why the breeding of the cashmere goats should be unprofitable in California. They are healthy, multiply rapidly, and bear large fees of a wool that cannot fail to find ready sales at high prices.—The latest State statistical report is for 1869, and that gave our total stock of cashmere goats then at 13,000; but many of these may be of low grades, too low to produce valuable wool. 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