

To Correspondents.—We have on hand at present more original contributions than we can conveniently make room for.—This will explain to contributors the cause of the non-appearance of their favors at this particular time. Our correspondence from the great centres of political interest has always to be provided for, and its bulk forces us at times to ignore, temporarily, the claims of other writings to notice.—Attention to these will be resumed as soon as we have sufficient space and time at command to consider them and arrange for their publication.

LEGISLATIVE, STATE AND NATIONAL.—As Congress draws nearer and nearer its hour of adjournment, it seems to us to grow more and more insipid. Personal and party arrangements have given place to local and personal legislation, and this is now being absorbed by the usual organs that precede the closing hours of American legislative sessions, State and National.

Our law-makers at Annapolis are laboring hard to "finish up" in time for adjournment. Evening and night sessions are now being held, and the "work goes bravely on." It strikes us, if our friends had gone as hard to work in the beginning as they appear to have gone now, the night sessions at least might have been dispensed with and, probably, the character of our legislation much improved, but the custom of putting off to the last days of a session the work that might be completed at an earlier period, is becoming chronic at Annapolis and is not likely to be disturbed by anything that we can write.

Among other legislative proceedings of local interest, we see that Mr. Downs presented on Monday the report of the St. Mary's Female Seminary, located in our County, which was referred to the Committee on Finance. Among other bills in which our county is interested and which have passed to a 2nd reading, we notice a bill to protect fish and terrapins in certain waters in our county. We have received a copy of this bill and shall publish it in our next. We have received the bill, also, which authorizes the County Commissioners of St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties to subscribe to the capital stock of the Washington City and Point Lookout R. Road Company, and this, also, we shall publish in our next, and regret that we were unable to get it in type in time for our present issue.

THE POINT LOOKOUT R. ROAD.—A friend, for whose opinions we have the highest respect, in a private letter to the writer, expresses disappointment that the *Beacon*, as yet, has given no expression, pro or con, on the subject of the new R. Road project, recently introduced in the Senate of Maryland by Senator Compton, of Charles, and politely complains of the prolonged silence of the "oracle." Until within a few days past, we had never seen Mr. Compton's bill, and, even at present writing, we have been able to give it only a cursory perusal. Our friend will admit, that it would have been reckless and censurable in us to have leaped in this matter before we had looked, and we really had, up to the time named, nothing to look at but the naked proposal of certain gentlemen, who were unknown to us, to build the road. The bill of Mr. Compton, however, is now before us, but as it was only received yesterday, and as it embraces provisions of the very highest gravity, and is besides in a seemingly inchoate condition, the original bill being much changed by manuscript alterations and additions, which may or may not receive the sanction of the Legislature, we have thought it better to hold our peace for a while longer. In the meantime, we make our columns free alike to friends and enemies of the new project, and request them to play the "oracle," at least until we are better posted.

EXPLANATORY.—To avoid misapprehension, now and hereafter, we deem it proper to state, that though making our columns free to all communications of a public character, intelligently written and inspired by a public animus, we, nevertheless, hold ourselves responsible for no other utterances than our own. We deem this explanation necessary at this time, because it might be inferred from a late paragraph of ours in regard to the State appointments of Gov. Whyte and a communication in the present issue of our paper on the same subject, that we were in full rapport with the Baltimore writer and prepared to fight his Excellency for the balance of our natural lives. This is not the case. We are in rapport with nobody to-day anybody. Indeed, we hope and do in part believe, that the administration of Gov. Whyte—now that the first and worst shocks and breakers have been passed—will be found to be of a character to command and deserve nothing but praise and commendation from the whole democracy of the State.

ENIGMA.—In the communication of Alpha, published in the *Beacon* of the 7th inst., for this word: "anagrammatical," in first and second lines, read anagrammatical. The answer to the anagram has been furnished by Omega. It is: "Anagrammatical."

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

Annapolis, March 17th, 1872.

In my last communication I omitted to speak of the pending legislation empowering the County Commissioners of St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties to subscribe to the capital stock of the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company. Delay in this matter was requested by some leading gentlemen of Prince George's County, with a view of consulting the wishes and collecting the opinions of the county, but in reality with the intention of organizing county opposition to it, and so kill the bill, and with it all chance of building a road so much needed and desired by all three counties. The attempt ignominiously failed, as you will learn from the enclosed extract, taken from the *Washington Sunday Herald* (17th March).

That the long projected railroad between this city and Point Lookout will be constructed, and as a consequence, is now settled beyond a doubt. Its advantages cannot be overestimated, as besides opening up the fertile counties of Maryland, it will be a means of supplying our market daily, and even hourly, with game, fish, and oysters at all seasons of the year, and thus obviate all difficulties and inconveniences arising from the stoppage of river navigation in winter.

Some old fogies in Prince George county, such as we have in this city opposed the improvement, and sought to get up a meeting in Marlboro' last Thursday in opposition to the proposition to pledge the county credit in the sum of \$200,000 to the project, and to that end sent printed notices, of the fact to only such as they knew to be of the opposition. Some of the friends of the measure, hearing of this trick, immediately called a public meeting of the citizens of the county at the same time and place, and the result was a tremendous meeting, which unanimously endorsed the project, pledged to the county credit, and sent a committee to Annapolis to urge the passage of the bill granting the necessary legislation.

There is already a company in possession of a charter for the building of a road from this city to Point Lookout; but this new organization, composed of S. T. Suit, Duncan S. Walker, and others, now propose to go to work and improve the privileges which the other has neglected. Meetings in favor of the proposed railroad and the necessary legislation have been held in several other districts of Prince George's county, and it must be observed that these meetings were all largely attended and were composed of white voters (tax-payers) exclusively, and were the spontaneous result of an attempt on the part of old fogies to strangle the bill in the Senate. At the risk of being tedious, I enclose account of meeting held at T. B., and which may be considered a fair sample of what passed at other meetings in this county, and which evince the joy and earnestness of purpose with which the proposed railroad is hailed by enlightened men of Prince George's.

A large, enthusiastic meeting was held at T. B., Prince George's County, Tuesday, March 12, 1872. Dr. Joseph H. Blandford, being called to the Chair, and J. E. Hunt appointed Secretary, when the following resolutions were offered by A. P. Hill, Esq., and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we feel the importance to our county that the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad should be built, and that it will add to the taxable basis of our county ten-fold more than is asked of us to aid it.

Resolved, That we endorse the bill as reported by the Senators from St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's Counties, and we earnestly urge our Senator and Delegates to press said bill to its passage as soon as possible.

The resolutions were then sent to our Senator at Annapolis. The precise nature of the legislation now sought for, ought to be borne in mind, and as various opinions and ideas are prevalent on this subject, at the risk of being tedious, I will endeavor to present in brief what the bill now before the Senate calls for and how it will effect our people of St. Mary's county. It clothes the County Commissioners of St. Mary's county with the power of subscribing for and holding stock in the Washington City and Point Lookout Railroad Company to an amount not exceeding \$200,000. The County Commissioners may subscribe for any amount under the sum above named, but not exceeding it. Again, the bill does not make it obligatory on the Commissioners to subscribe a single dollar, but merely leaves it to the voters of the county to decide, at the next Presidential election, whether they will accept or veto the bill, whether in fact, they will have a railroad on conditions proposed or not. Should they decide in favor of the bill, Section 54 of Article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Maryland requires, "ere it becomes a law, that the next Legislature (of 1874) shall approve their action by a majority of both Houses."

The provisions of the bill simply provide against fraud and injustice toward the county. The fourth section provides that the bonds of the county shall be received at their par value, and said bonds are only to be delivered as the work progresses as follows:—one-fourth when half the grading of the county is completed—another fourth when the other half is completed—the other third fourth when half the road is the county is fully built and constructed—and the balance, or other fourth, when the whole road is fully built and constructed.

Under these provisions the company will be required to expend in the county at least \$500,000 before they receive \$200,000, and averaging the cost of construction at \$20,000 a mile, they will have to spend one million dollars before receiving the county subscription. On the advantages to accrue to the lower counties from completion of this road, I have already expressed my opinion. In the language of the writer of a "leader" in the *Prince Georges*, of Upper Marlboro', "we believe that its construction will materially add to the wealth and prosperity of the county, and that our people favor the present scheme by an overwhelming majority."

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

Annapolis, March 17th, 1872.

On last Saturday, the 16th inst., a bill empowering the company to construct and run steamers between Point Lookout and Southern ports, Norfolk, Richmond, &c., passed to a second reading. The bill to repeal the usury laws failed in the House, our county members voting against it. There was some debate in the House. Messrs. Spencer and Clarke made cogent and Christy speaking against it. The speech of Dr. Christy was not only a fervent, but really an able argument against usury in its Christian sense, which view of the question most of the other speakers ignored. The great natural benevolence of this gentleman, and his antipathy to all measures that have even a semblance of unjustly pressing on those classes already too much oppressed, ensure his efforts in debate an attentive hearing, and although he may sometimes fail to enlighten, he always commands respect. He is a gentleman of an elevated and cultivated mind, and is universally respected. A companion question (repeal of the present Sunday law) occupies much of the time, and is exhaustive of legislative wisdom and efforts. Opposition to said law is mostly confined to the City of Baltimore and to the German population thereof. There is a great deal said in support of the American Sabbath and the European Sabbath, but little is said, theologially speaking, about the *Christian Sabbath*, by whom any when instituted, and how far we of the 19th century are bound by Jewish or Puritanical notions and traditions, or Old Testament requirements. This Sabbath question, and laws enforcing its observance from a Pharisaical stand-point of view, is not without its difficulties. There is too prevalent a disposition to legislate men into cardinal virtues, and destroy as far as legislation can to do so, all free agency. However, this much can be said in favor of the law as it now stands, that it ensures a degree of quiet to Baltimore city on Sabbath days, which it did not enjoy before its enactment. Your ears are not now assailed, as they were some 10 or 15 years ago, with obscene and blasphemous language, nor do you see crowds of drunken rowdies obstructing the side-walks of the streets leading to churches. I think these advantages ought to reconcile our German friends to their inability to drink lager beer on a Sunday evening in public garrets, &c., especially as they are at full liberty to make beasts of themselves (if they deem it conducive to health or morality) at home on all days of the week. Under all these efforts to desabstain Sunday, there lurks an anti-Christian, indeed, an Atheistical element, which all sane Christians will combat whenever and wherever it shows itself. The legislature has not as yet decided as to repeal, but seem inclined to refer it to the voters of Baltimore city alone. This, I think, wrong, for we of the counties have some interest in the quiet and decency of Baltimore city, which we visit occasionally with our wives and daughters.

The anti-Sunday law portion of Baltimore have sent in a very large, influential and really able number of men to fight out this matter in the Rotunda. The Synagogue is largely represented, as well as other "gods," and if they carry the point of reference to the dear "canaille" and elves of the doggeries and grogeries, they will have fair chance of carrying the day. Some Rev. gentlemen, with whom I have conversed are sadly puzzled, how to reconcile their Scriptural views and arguments on the Sabbath and usury questions.—Remember the Sabbath day to keep holy, &c. with these gentlemen, &c., but the equally stringent command, as we read it in 22 chap. 25 verso of Exodus—"If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not lay upon him usury," is obsolete, forsooth, and is not intended for this most progressive age. This is a strong view, and dogmatical withal, but to my poor apprehension, neither very convincing nor consistent. My young friend, Phil Carroll, from Georgia, has a booklet of Southern laws and ideas has just entered my sanctum, and as I am in haste to listen to him and indulge in talk of lung syne, I am constrained to conclude. Next week there will be important legislation and stirring times in the Rotunda, of which I will write you in due course. Vale. C.

P. S: The Joint Committee, to whom the difficulties between State and B. & O. R. R. were referred for an amicable settlement, have made their report, advising repeal of law requiring the one-fifth passenger money, on condition precedent that the company pay up all money due to January, 1872. It is not quite certain (as I am informed) that the company will accede to this arrangement. They claim, however, delay until next Tuesday to make up their minds. Many are of opinion that they will decline to accept the terms proposed, but will appeal to Congress—*Id est*—the Supreme Court of the United States.

CIRCUIT COURT.—The March term of our Circuit Court commenced on Monday last, His Honor, Judge Ford, presiding alone up to the time of our going to press. It is rumored, that neither Judge Brent nor Judge Magruder will be able to be present during the session. The attendance upon Court has been prompt and much better than had been expected, and business we learn, is prospering with commendable dispatch. No case has as yet engaged the attention of the Court which calls for special mention, but we learn that several interesting ones have been set for trial, and will be disposed of during the term, particular notice of which will be given in our next.

THE CHILD'S FUTURE.—We have on our table No. 3 of this beautiful Sunday School paper, its illustrations are "Grandpa has come," "The Nest of the long-tailed Titmouse," and "The Rose of Sharon." It has excellent articles by Mrs. Sherwood, Mrs. Clayton, Amelia Daley, and others. It is just the thing for Sunday Schools, and every Sunday School should have it. It is sent by C. G. G. Paine, and published monthly, at the low price of 25 cents per year. Ten or more copies to one address, by 12 cents each. Send to the *Beacon*, Bright Side of O. Chicago, Ill.

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)

Baltimore, March 19th, 1872.

Deeply interested by the late St. Mary's fact, I feel compelled to write you a few lines, and make some suggestions regarding the distribution of Executive patronage. I am, Mr. P., your, you have had a slight investiture in His Excellency, but I assure that investiture will soon give place to the other feelings of your heart, and you will for the past injustice and cherish the fond hope of better luck next time. I fear there is no better look in store for the day of the Democracy, in this State, are numbered. In the first place, Mr. Beaman, I would like to know what you people think of Mr. Whyte, who you were so diligent over about the time a certain Convention was held in your county last Summer? It was Whyte! Whyte! Whyte! Nothing could do but a Whyte Delegate to the Constitutional Convention. From Budd's Creek to Point Lookout the cry was, hurrah for Whyte! Whyte! He was the democrat of the olden school—some of your demagogues of the "new departure" politicians, but a regular old-time, square-toed, barn-yard democrat of the Jacksonian stamp. "To the victors belong the spoils," but this doctrine is not his policy; for, if I mistake not, Carroll county voted solid for R. B. Carmichael in the Convention. I believe, may be, there was a half vote for Whyte, but that is the result of this antagonism! Why, he is not content with making his Tobacco Inspector, but I understand he is arming the appointment of another of these latter day proselytes to some position in Charles county warehouse, who, by the way, has grown too fat on the patronage of His Excellency's predecessor for practical purposes. Well, it seems he has inaugurated a spick-span new policy. Every one I have heard utter a sentiment somewhat agnost at this innovation in political customs. The order of things seems to be reversed.

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis. I hear his old friends charging him with trying to make new ones at their expense. I tell them, perhaps he is unkindful of the old maxim, "never desert old friends for new ones." I see, Mr. Beacon, you charge him with having promised to give St. Mary's an Inspector. He didn't do it, did he? I don't think he did, for I've been looking around the Warehouses here and I can't find "one of them things," at least from St. Mary's. He reminds me very forcibly of what the old darkey used to say, "White man is very ansarin." I think it is verified in this Whyte man in the fact, least acceptance of the phrase. This Whyte man must be something of a joker. I suppose you have heard of a game called the little joker.—"Ten, fifteen or twenty you can't tell where the little joker is." Now, I'm not much on the guess, but if you press me right hard I would take one ten cent oath (on Dr. Jayne's Almanac, however, that I can guess where this joker ain't. I suppose you want to hear my dog ten cents. I shall have to let you have it "on tick." I guess—guess he's not in the United States Senate yet.

If he ain't in the United States Senate, I am quite sure to be in the State Senate two years hence, and I'm a white man, too, "clean over." Yet I feel some apprehensions about the sweetest flower that blooms (the pink). I suppose you thought like a great many others, that the democratic party was striking upon a model note for all this and another seal in the democratic cause? In the language of my friend W. B. use to say, "I'm all right, but you know I require graining." The very counties that were radical in eighteen hundred and seventy are the ones to receive the Executive patronage now. If you remember right, St. Mary's was the only lower county of the Fifth Congressional District that gave a democratic majority for the Hon. Mr. Merrick in eighteen hundred and seventy. We fought nobly and manfully to maintain the honor of being the banner county of the district. Every honorable means that would avail was brought to bear. Even the fair daughters, and I may say, without exaggeration, that the children buckled on their armor and went boldly to the front to struggle for a democratic victory. I know this to be a fact, for I overheard Mrs. F., a lady of refinement and culture, eloquently pleading for a colored individual's vote. "Now, my democratic friends, what do you get for all this and another seal in the democratic cause? In the language of my friend W. B. use to say, "I'm all right, but you know I require graining." No, not only have you been deprived of a Tobacco Inspector, but I hear you are denied every right of representation in the warehouses. There may be good reason for this discrimination against St. Mary's, but I do honestly declare, "I can't see it." Do you think it right and just that every other lower county of the State should be served with some lucrative position, and one with two of the most lucrative in the gift of the Governor and St. Mary's, the second or third tobacco growing county in the State, to be denied any of the emoluments arising from the inspection of tobacco? I must ask again, why was St. Mary's ruled out after she was promised an Inspector? Is there any ruling spirit about? Surely, there is no power behind the throne, for Gov. Whyte, in his acceptatorial address before the Nominating Convention, proclaimed with the eloquence of Cicero: "Should I be elected to the position for which you have nominated me, I shall be glad to see that no power behind the throne greater than the throne itself." Well, Mr. Beaman, I must quit you for the present. Here's to His Excellency! May his reign be as pleasant, happy and uninterrupted and glide as smoothly on as the golden orb that now nears the occidental horizon and bids me close.

WHY, my democratic friends, will you be an unprecedented, unheard of and most detrimental policy for an aspiring politician, as is Gov. Whyte, to turn out his appointees, except for malfeasance in office or flagrant violation of the trust reposed in them, during his term of office. Listen not, I beseech you to the hypothesis of a politician, whose motto is self-aggrandizement, even at the sacrifice of his friends. There is also another and greater reason why St. Mary's will never get an Inspector. The present Legislature has not only sustained the act of a previous one, which abrogated all the inspection laws, except Tobacco, and which, in my humble opinion, is another fatal stab to the democratic party, but it has amended, re-enacted and modified the tobacco inspection laws as to render it, I predict, a depletion rather than an embarrassment of the State Treasury. I am sure the rights of the people, and the abolition of tobacco inspections will be mooted in the next Legislature. The sentiment is very much against them now, in consequence of their bad management during the two last preceding years. There's another thing, the legislators, in their all-wise provisions, have so altered the tobacco inspection law as to preclude every probability of the county ever getting an Inspector. The previous law made it obligatory upon the Governor to take four of the Inspectors from the tobacco growing counties, two from each county, and one from the City of Baltimore. As re-enacted, it reads: "The Governor, by and with the consent of the Senate, shall biennially appoint five Tobacco Inspectors, two for each warehouse in the City of Baltimore," &c.

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It is not unusual to get an Inspector, under any circumstances, for many months ago, I was engaged in a despatch and similar matters in the drafting of the first section of this law, but I am satisfied it is not upon the part of the Commission, for it was composed principally of members from the tobacco growing counties. From what I can learn, a certain Mr. Needham is the head and front of this law. I have asked frequently about its several provisions, and the only answer I could get, was that Mr. Needham proposed that—Mr. Needham suggested this—Mr. Needham said thirteen thousand households of Western tobacco passed through the City of Baltimore annually without ever entering the State tobacco warehouses; that one dollar and fifty cents outgo on the hoghead was sufficient to liquidate the expenditures of the warehouses. Now, if this man's hungry and does need home, I am sure the people of the tobacco growing counties would try and squeeze him a few cents, and, if they have't got home, I'm quite sure, they have some beef cattle or scalliwags at least, which they would deliver up sooner than have their own throats cut; for, if you take away the only source of emolument that inures to the tobacco growing counties of the State, you take away their political vitality. I must return to my first love and hasten to a conclusion, for I fear I am trespassing at two great lengths upon your columns and crowding out more valuable matter.

Now, to say aside these apophorisms, this irony and sarcasm, for many months ago, I was engaged in a despatch and similar matters in the drafting of the first section of this law, but I am satisfied it is not upon the part of the Commission, for it was composed principally of members from the tobacco growing counties. From what I can learn, a certain Mr. Needham is the head and front of this law. I have asked frequently about its several provisions, and the only answer I could get, was that Mr. Needham proposed that—Mr. Needham suggested this—Mr. Needham said thirteen thousand households of Western tobacco passed through the City of Baltimore annually without ever entering the State tobacco warehouses; that one dollar and fifty cents outgo on the hoghead was sufficient to liquidate the expenditures of the warehouses. Now, if this man's hungry and does need home, I am sure the people of the tobacco growing counties would try and squeeze him a few cents, and, if they have't got home, I'm quite sure, they have some beef cattle or scalliwags at least, which they would deliver up sooner than have their own throats cut; for, if you take away the only source of emolument that inures to the tobacco growing counties of the State, you take away their political vitality. I must return to my first love and hasten to a conclusion, for I fear I am trespassing at two great lengths upon your columns and crowding out more valuable matter.

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