

NEWS AND OTHER NOTICES.—The dog-days, upon which we have now fallen, are not without their usual effect upon everybody in general, including even our country politicians, the most ardent and active of whom are raticating for the present in the coolness and quietness of home. The 15th of August, however, is near at hand, and as important political movements are expected to be initiated on that day, to be followed up by active campaigning until the election, we have concluded, the dog-days notwithstanding, that the present delightful peace and quietness are soon to be quickly, if not rudely disturbed. We had hoped it might have been otherwise—that active campaigning would have been postponed at least until October in deference to the wants and wishes of our farmers—but this, it seems, is not to be, and our planters perform must nurse and gather their growing crops as best they may. "Lay on McDuff!" And, farmers, hurry up your "Granges," at least in time for next year's election, and then, "lay on McDuff," if you dare!

It will be seen by reference to notice elsewhere published that Geo. A. Simms, Esq., has been selected by the President and Directors of the State of Maryland Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore General Resident Agent for the transaction of the business of the Company in this county. The appointment is a judicious one, and with the facilities it affords to citizens of our county for the prompt transaction of all business they may have with this company, it is believed that the insurance investments of this corporation in St. Mary's county property will be very largely increased.

The Chicago Tribune, an influential Republican paper, says of the Farmers' nominations in Illinois: "The farmers of McLean county, Illinois, who have been accustomed to give 2,500 Republican majority, have taken it into their heads to throw party overboard, and nominate a ticket of their own for county officers.—The farmers of the county of DeWitt have done the same thing. To-day the farmers of Bureau county, who have been in the habit of electing the regular tickets by 1,200 to 1,400 majority, hold a Convention to nominate a ticket of their own.—In a few days or weeks the farmers of Champagne, Whiteside, Lexington, Knox and Union will hold their conventions, and put in nomination candidates of their own. This movement is not confined to the counties we have named, nor to Republican counties. It is just as strong in counties where the Democratic party is in the majority. The difference, however, is that in nearly every case the Democratic organization has "kicked the bucket" in advance, and abandoned all purpose of holding party conventions to nominate tickets. In the Republican counties, however, the postmasters and revenue officers, the bread and butter brigade, feel called upon to preserve the party by making nominations."

The County Commissioners of Queen Anne county, instead of holding on to their surplus county fund, as is done in several counties of the State, thus forcing the laborers on their public roads to commute for their labor or to sell their certificates at 75 cents or less in the dollar, are now paying their incidental road debts in money, the laborer receiving the full amount that the county had originally contracted to give him.

The debts of the District of Columbia still continue to be a subject of agitation. The Sunday Chronicle of Washington remarks that the report of debt, placing it at \$10,000,000, is much under the real debt, and estimates it at \$17,000,000, while at least one-third of the improvement is yet to be made. That paper says that the taxable property of the District cannot stand the burden of a debt of \$25,000,000, to which it would be increased by completing the improvements.

On the 1st of July there were 604 prisoners in the Maryland Penitentiary, and two were received during the month.—During July, eleven were discharged on account of expired terms, three died during the month, and one was pardoned by the Governor, leaving 591 prisoners on the 1st inst. Since the 1st of the month no prisoners have been received, four have been discharged, one pardoned, and one has died, leaving 585 now in confinement.

The Grangers are refreshingly plain in their resolutions. There is no machine rigging about the following, passed by a farmers' meeting held at Clifton, Ill: "Resolved, That we believe a thief should be called a thief, without regard to his social or political standing, and we characterize the recent salary grab by our Congress and President as no better than a steal."

A divorce suit of Ann Eliza Young against Brigham Young is in full blast before Judge Emerson, at Salt Lake City. Defendant's counsel has made the point that the papers are not properly served, the serving officer having been appointed in chambers, and not in Court. The Judge sustained the point, and has ruled that the plaintiff must make service again. A new

service will be made at once. It is understood that Ann Eliza is trying to compromise the matter for \$15,000.

The question as to whether persons who inform upon violators of the State oyster law are entitled to half the fine imposed having been presented to the judges of the Circuit Court for Queen Anne's a decision has been rendered by Judges Robinson and Wickes that the informer is entitled to half of the fine. This decision will add an additional stimulant to the enforcement of the law.

We are in receipt of the first issue of a new weekly paper called the South Maryland Republican, printed at Upper Marlboro', Md., and edited by W. Lee White, Esq. The paper is republican in politics but moderate in tone, creditable in editorial deliverance and respectable in appearance. We hope Mr. White may make money out of his venture.

The Ohio Democrats have nominated Hon. William Allen for Governor. The Democrats of Virginia have nominated Gen. James L. Kemper for Governor. Col. Hughes is his Republican competitor.

"Hope On," by Selig, was received too late in the week for publication in our present issue. It will appear in our next.

MARYLAND STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—The Maryland State Teachers' Association will hold its next annual session in Lyceum Hall, Hagerstown, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 27th, 28th and 29th of August, 1873. The Western Maryland Railroad will issue round trip tickets from Baltimore to Hagerstown and return, at the reduced rate of \$3.50 to members of the Association, or those who may become so. In order to avail themselves of this reduction teachers must show their tickets of membership, which may be obtained of the Secretary or any member of the Executive Committee. Similar arrangements will, if possible, be made with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Many eminent educators have been invited to attend, and it is expected that the meeting will be one of the largest and most interesting ever held by the Association. Every possible arrangement will be made to secure the comfort of all who may attend, and if members call at the office of the County School Commissioners on their arrival, a committee will be in attendance to give any information with regard to boarding houses and hotels.

In connection with the above, it may not be out of place to state, that Professor Newell, of the State Normal School, in order to meet the requests of teachers seeking First Grade, and Life Certificates, has notified the Secretaries of the different school boards in the State that he will hold an examination in response to these calls at the State Normal School, Baltimore, on the 25th and 26th of August, instant.

STATE AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—The fifth annual Fair of the Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association will be held at their fair grounds, at Pimlico, October 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st. The fair grounds are now being put in good order, and all necessary repairs will be commenced at once. The Association also intended making a number of much-needed improvements in the exhibition buildings before the fair commences. In consideration of the success which attended the fair of 1872, the premium list for 1873 has been greatly enlarged, and the number of classes in each department increased.—The regular premiums to be awarded this year will amount to over \$8,000, and in addition to these regular premiums there will be a special fund that may be distributed at the discretion of the Awarding Committee to the exhibitor of any new and valuable improvements. The officers of the Association expect the coming exhibition of 1873 to excel any fair that has ever been held in Maryland, particularly in the show of blooded horses and fancy breeds of cattle.

BALLOON'S MAGAZINE FOR SEPTEMBER.—This Magazine, a universal favorite with all classes of society, rich and poor, is issued for September, and a rare number it is brim full of genuine matter such as interests all readers. It has a nice whaleman's story, telling of adventure in the arctic regions (which was crowded out of the August number), and a well-written sketch about newspaper reporters, contributed by one of that useful profession, the celebrated M. Quad of the Detroit Free Press, a most promising young writer, who served through the war as a soldier, has passed many months in the Indian country as a trapper and hunter, and now acts as editor. In addition to all this is a well-prepared paper on Brazil, several beautiful stories, an extra good supply of poetry, and among the latter is a poem by Miss Mosby, of Virginia, a near relation of the celebrated Colonel Mosby of guerrilla fame, and the usual illustrations and comic cuts. All the back numbers from January supplied by the publishers, THOMAS & TALBOT, 36 Bromfield Street, Boston, and for sale at all periodical stores in the country.

FREE TRADE AND FARMERS' RIGHTS.—We are so anxious that the farmers should gain what we think their just cause that we dislike to see them weakened it by misstatements or irrelevant statements. The Ohio platform is wiser in its equal regard for justice to artisans as well as farmers than Farmer Smith, the Secretary of the Illinois Farmers' Association, who says: "We found that, while we labored harder and more hours than the artisan and workman in other pursuits, we were forced to content ourselves with poorer food and clothing, with fewer social privileges, and less opportunities for mental cultivation than they. We could not help seeing that if they were as steady and industrious as we, they were able to live in better houses and had more money to spend in their adornment than we had."

This is beside the point. Farmers cannot all become artisans. The legislation which interests the farmers to have adopted interests also the artisans. Whichever of them is the worse off now, they are both worse off than they were in 1860. If by "adornment" Mr. Smith means clothing, it is demonstrable that the artisan has less money to spend on it now than then. And we proceed to demonstrate it. According to the official returns a shoemaker in Illinois earned in 1860 on an average \$1.98 a day, or \$11.88 a week, or \$47.68 in four weeks. In 1873 the shoemaker earns in Illinois \$2.64 per day, or \$15.84 per week, or \$63.36 for four weeks. Let us now see how many yards of alpaca, how many blankets, and how many boots the above four weeks' labor would have bought in 1860, and how much it buys in 1873.—The following table will show this at a glance:

1860.	1873.
Yards of alpaca, at 25 cents per yard, 136.23	109.50
Pair of 5-pound blankets, at \$3.75 per pair, 12.71	10.90
Pair of waxed-legg'd boots, at \$4.50 per pair, 10.50	9.74
Yards of alpaca, at 55 cents per yard, 115.92	109.50
Pair of 5-pound blankets, at \$6 per pair, 10.50	9.74
Pair of waxed-legg'd boots, at 6.50 per pair, 9.74	9.74

Thus, then, we find that four weeks' labor have lost a purchasing power in 1873, respectively—
In alpaca, yards, 21.63
In blankets, pairs, 2.15
In boots, pairs, .76
All that now remains to be seen is how much purchasing power fifty bushels of wheat have lost since 1860 in the above commodities.

In 1860 the price of No. 2 spring wheat in Chicago averaged \$1.10 per bushel, and fifty bushels of wheat, therefore, brought \$55. In 1873 the average price for No. 2 spring wheat in Chicago is \$1.20, and fifty bushels of wheat fetches \$60. The comparative purchasing power of fifty bushels of wheat in the two years is therefore as follows:

1860.	1873.
Yards alpaca, at 25 cents per yard, 157.60	157.60
Pair of 5-pound blankets, at \$3.75 per pair, 14.66	12.22
Pair of waxed-legg'd boots, at \$4.50 per pair, 12.22	10.90
Yards alpaca, at 55 cents per yard, 109.50	109.50
Pair of 5-pound blankets, at \$6 per pair, 10.90	9.23
Pair of waxed-legg'd boots, at 6.50 per pair, 9.23	9.23

It will thus be seen that the loss in purchasing power of four weeks of artisan labor and fifty bushels of wheat in 1873 compared with 1860 was about 10 and 18 per cent, respectively. Hence the artisan is only 8 per cent. better off than the farmer, as he loses 8 per cent. less, but he is by 10 per cent. worse off than he was in 1860, while the farmer is 18 per cent. worse off than in 1860. Protective legislation needs investigation both by farmers and artisans.—World.

(Correspondence of the Beacon.)
Tall Pine, Md., Aug. 11, 1873.
Politics is warming up considerably hereabouts to the great delight of a few of the candidates of our district, and vice versa. Charles Butler, the colored candidate for County Commissioner, gave a grand fish dinner on the 9th inst. near the Ridge P. O. Scores of individuals, white and colored were present, and the victuals disappeared, was astonishing in the extreme. After the dinner in question was dispensed with, the crowd repaired to the store of E. Edwards, and listened with marked attention to speeches delivered in reciprocal succession by Dr. J. H. Miles, Capt. A. A. Lawrence (of your town) Jos. B. Davis, Esq., and Maj. Turner, colored, of camp meeting fame. Dr. Miles is a fine speaker, and entertained his hearers for an hour, giving them to understand that he was a bona fide republican, and that he intended to work faithfully and honorably for his party, irrespective of persons who had endeavored to injure his name. "Throw plenty of mud and some will stick," you know, etc. Capt. Lawrence and Mr. Davis spoke well, happily illustrating the benefits, etc., of a republican form of government. Maj. Turner was the last to speak, and as he ascended the stand, vociferous cheers were given. In the course of said gentleman's remarks, he said that he hoped that the day was not far distant when the Commissioners Court would be graced (?) with the presence of a colored gentleman (?) and that he further hoped it would be in the person of the worthy candidate of Low-mo-down, Col. Charles Butler! When Turner got through his harangue, and placed his feet upon terra firma, a colored individual, slightly intoxicated, caught hold of his (Turner's) coat tail and very loudly uttered, "Bully for Turner, I know'd he could make a speech, for he is de debil on a sarnon—sure!" The meeting closed about 4 o'clock, p. m., and a fine general handshaking, &c., and address possibly dispersed.

THE WAWASSET DISASTER.—It is now apprehended that the loss of human life by the burning of the Steamer Wawaset on the waters of the Potomac on Friday last will prove much heavier than was at first anticipated, several apparently reliable accounts placing the number of lost lives as high as seventy. All accounts agree that the officers of the boat used every possible effort to save the passengers, but it is nevertheless demonstrated, that the steamer was deficient in appliances to save human life in case of accident. There were a number of life-preservers on board but they were found to be unavailable when wanted. The life-boats could not be brought into action. There were about twenty children on board, exclusive of 117 registered passengers.

We append the statement of the Captain of the boat, John R. Woods, with a sketch of the Wawaset, her officers, origin of the tragedy, &c.
"The fire broke out at twenty minutes past twelve o'clock between Thoms Gut and Chatterton. I was in the pilot-house at the time. A fireman came in and told me that the boat was on fire below, when I immediately came out and found the flames had reached quite to the life-boats, along the walking-beam. I then saw that it was impossible to get to the life-boats, which were on the after quarters on each side, so low, that although they were full of passengers. I threw water on the wheel ropes so as to keep the steering all right, and passed buckets of water from below to the hurricane deck for the purpose, as I became satisfied that there was no hope of saving the vessel and that the only chance to save the passengers was to keep her going. The boat reached the beach at about twelve or thirteen minutes after the alarm was given. In less than five minutes after the alarm was given the fire was in the rear of the pilot-house. The engine refused to work about half a minute before she struck the shore and the boat ran a length and grounded in less than five feet of water at the low. I remained in the hurricane deck until the flames had burnt the window curtains in my room and the saloon windows below were shooting forth fiery darts. I then came down to the forecastle deck and did what I could to save the passengers. A great many were afraid to jump overboard until I assured them that they could safely do so, as the water from the bow was not over their heads. Upon this assurance one or two made a leap, and many others seeing that the water was shallow followed their example and were saved! It was with difficulty that I checked them from jumping over in large numbers, and what I could to save the passengers. A great many were afraid to jump overboard until I assured them that they could safely do so, as the water from the bow was not over their heads. 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