

Saint Mary's Beacon

VOL. X

LEONARDTOWN, MD., THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 2, 1873

NO. 49

ST. MARY'S BEACON

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J. F. KING & JAMES S. DOWNS.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—\$2.00 per annum in advance. No subscription will be received for a shorter period than six months and no paper to be discontinued until all arrearages are paid except at the option of the publisher.

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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 The real name of the author will not be published unless desired, but we cannot consent to insert communications unless we know the writer.

Registration Notice.

THE undersigned, officer of Registration for the 1st Election District, of Saint Mary's county, in compliance with an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the January session of 1870, which makes it the duty of Officers of Registration to sit with open doors at some place convenient to the voters of their respective districts for two successive days, commencing on the 4th Monday of October in each year, hereby gives notice that he will attend at

ST. INIGOE'S STORE,

on Monday, the 27th and Tuesday, the 28th of October, 1873, for the purpose of discharging his duty as an Officer of Registration, according to the provisions of said Act of the General Assembly of Maryland.

It is made my duty by the 10th and 11th sections of the Registration Act of 1870, after correcting any errors that may be found to exist in my book of registration and in the lists of voters and non-voters published by me as directed by the 9th section of said Act, to register on the days designated the name of every person who shall apply to me to be registered, or who shall possess the requisite constitutional qualifications before the election next ensuing, and who is not disqualified under the 2nd and 3rd sections of the 1st Article of the Constitution, and also the name of every person whom a Judge of a Court to which an appeal has been taken from the decision of any officer of registration has decided to be entitled to be registered as a qualified voter.

According to additional requirements of the Registration law, my office will be open on the days designated above from 9 o'clock, a. m., to 6 o'clock, p. m.

N. B.—All foreign born citizens not registered will be required to have their naturalization papers with them; and all persons having removed from one district to another, must have their names changed to the district in which they reside.

JOSEPH S. FORD,
Register,
3rd Election District.
Oct 2, 1873—td.

Registration Notice.

THE undersigned, officer of Registration for the 2nd Election District, of Saint Mary's county, in compliance with an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the January session of 1870, which makes it the duty of Officers of Registration to sit with open doors at some place convenient to the voters of their respective districts for two successive days, commencing on the 4th Monday of October in each year, hereby gives notice that he will attend at

G. M. C. JONES,
Register,
1st Election District.
Oct 2, 1873—td.

Registration Notice.

THE undersigned, officer of Registration for the 3rd Election District, of Saint Mary's county, in compliance with an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the January session of 1870, which makes it the duty of Officers of Registration to sit with open doors at some place convenient to the voters of their respective districts for two successive days, commencing on the 4th Monday of October in each year, hereby gives notice that he will attend at

GREAT MILLS,

on Monday, the 27th and Tuesday, the 28th of October, 1873, for the purpose of discharging his duty as an Officer of Registration, according to the provisions of said Act of the General Assembly of Maryland.

It is made my duty by the 10th and 11th sections of the Registration Act of 1870, after correcting any errors that may be found to exist in my book of registration and in the lists of voters and non-voters published by me as directed by the 9th section of said Act, to register on the days designated the name of every person who shall apply to me to be registered, or who shall possess the requisite constitutional qualifications before the election next ensuing, and who is not disqualified under the 2nd and 3rd sections of the 1st Article of the Constitution, and also the name of every person whom a Judge of a Court to which an appeal has been taken from the decision of any officer of registration has decided to be entitled to be registered as a qualified voter.

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R. T. BARBER,
Register,
4th Election District.
Oct 2, 1873—td.

Registration Notice.

THE undersigned, officer of Registration for the 5th Election District, of Saint Mary's county, in compliance with an Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at the January session of 1870, which makes it the duty of Officers of Registration to sit with open doors at some place convenient to the voters of their respective districts for two successive days, commencing on the 4th Monday of October in each year, hereby gives notice that he will attend at

MECHANICSVILLE,

on Monday, the 27th and Tuesday, the 28th of October, 1873, for the purpose of discharging his duty as an Officer of Registration, according to the provisions of said Act of the General Assembly of Maryland.

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BENEDICT MAGILL,
Register,
2d Election District.
Oct 2, 1873—td.

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LEONARDTOWN,

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FREDERICK A. MORAN,
Register,
5th Election District.
Oct 2, 1873—td.

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OAKVILLE,

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CHAPTICO,

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BENEDICT MAGILL,
Register,
2d Election District.
Oct 2, 1873—td.

A LOOK UNDER THE BED.

It is the habit of many persons to take a look under the bed before retiring for the night. Mrs. Evergreen, my beloved wife, indulges, if indulgence can be called, in this peculiar practice. I have often remarked to Mrs. Evergreen, when I have seen her prying under the bed, that it was a silly habit, and that the sooner she gave it up the better. To this gentle admonition my better half invariably rejoins:

"La, Evergreen, what does it do? It's a kind of satisfaction to know that nobody is under there, and then I don't think of such a horrible thing after I'm in bed."

"I think, my dear, you should just as well pursue your investigation further, and look in the bureau drawers and the clothes-basket."

"Evergreen," she will rejoin, "don't mention the idea, or I shall certainly do so. Come to think of it, a man could easily get into the clothes-basket."

"Certainly he could, my dear, quite as easily as Falstaff. You should certainly include the clothes-basket, and by-and-by there's the chimney—why not look up that as well?"

"Now, Evergreen, you're laughing at me. But I can't leave off the habit, and I never will. It's a comfort for me to know that there's nothing wrong about it, and I don't see why you should deprive me of it."

So under the bed goes the candle, and no signs of humanity being discovered, Mrs. Evergreen is able to repose in peace.

If it were not for increasing this mental idiosyncrasy on the part of Mrs. Evergreen, by giving her some good reason to apprehend danger, I should relate to her what I am about to lay before the reader. In this narration, therefore, I ask the public most particularly to bear in mind that Mrs. Evergreen is slightly superstitious, and that what I have to say must, under no circumstances, be imparted to that lady. If for two-and-twenty years (that is the period of our wedded life, and happy years have they been)—if, I say, I have for this long period refrained from imparting the matter to the beloved sharer of my joys and partaker of my sorrows, surely the public will keep the secret.

I was not looking long when I was in my twenties. I think I may go further, and confidently say that Gus Evergreen was a decided favorite among the girls of Oakville, and I really believe I could have had any of them for the asking. As I before remarked, Mrs. Evergreen is not present, and I indulge my thoughts somewhat more freely than would otherwise be the case.

Fred Evans, who had been my chum at school, came to pay me a visit at Oakville one day or two, as he said when he came; but he made a week or two stay, and after I'd taken him about a bit among the young ladies. When that time had expired, Fred said he really must go, as he didn't know what his father and mother would think of his long absence; but he ended in relieving their anxiety by a letter, and sending for his trunks. I knew how the matter was, perfectly well, and that Belle Bronson had bewitched him out of his senses. Fred tried to put it on to the "country air and the quiet which was benefiting his health, etc.," but it was no use trying to deceive me and I told him so. Then he owned up frankly, and I promised to help him all I could, if he required any help in the prosecution of his suit.

She had a larger share of beaux than the other girls, but all their attention came to nothing. I feared it might be so with Evans, and warned him accordingly; but Fred said that "without her, life was naught to him." Things went on in this way without any definite result, until Fred received a sudden summons home on account of his mother's illness. When he came back to renew his visit, he insisted upon staying at the Oakville Hotel, rather than wear out his welcome at our house, and finding remonstrances unavailing, there he went. The landlord gave Fred, at my suggestion, his best bedroom, No. 20—I am particular in mentioning the number. "He shall have No. 20," said the landlord. "Any friend of yours, Master Augustus, shall have the best room I have to give as long as I'm landlord."

Belle Bronson, because of the sudden arrival at her house of some country cousins, was obliged to give up her room—the mother's cottage being a small one—and to occupy for a single night a room at the hotel. We would have offered her guests accommodation at our house, but we were in a similar predicament. An agricultural fair had brought many strangers into the place, and our own guests were so numerous that I had given up my room to two of them, and had intended asking Fred Evans to let me pass the night with him.

For this purpose I went to the hotel at a late hour, and proceeded at once to Fred's room, but to my surprise found no one there. I did not even notice that his trunk was gone, or suspect the fact, which afterwards became apparent, that to oblige some lady guests for the night only—as the landlord expressed it, Fred consented to give up "No. 20" and occupy a small room in the rear of the building. The gas being turned on, I took a book to wait his return, and hearing at last what appeared to be steps approaching the room and suspecting it to be Fred, in a momentary impulse to play a joke upon him I slipped under the bed, a large and high one intending to imitate what as soon as he entered the room. The door opened, and I was on the point of indulging in my ventriloquial faculty by giving a long-

drawn moan, when, from my hiding-place, I beheld Belle Bronson take quiet possession of the apartment!

My astonishment was so great, and the sense of mortification so intense, that I did not, as I should have done, make myself immediately known to her. Thus the opportunity for discovery and explanation was lost. I dared not move a hair, but hoped sincerely that some excuse might take her out of the room for a moment, and so facilitate my escape. She however, looked the door, removed the key, and I knew by the sound, prepared to retire. Finally, she knelt down beside the bed, and clasping her hands and bowing her head (so fearfully near to mine that I could hear the soft words in my very ear), she offered up her evening prayer in a manner full of feeling and with such sweet accents of womanly tenderness and devotion, that I felt as if she were an angel bending over the vilest of mortals. That prayer went to my heart; but one portion of it went through it, and held it captive. Never shall I forget my feeling of surprise and my deep emotions when I heard her utter these words: "Bless my dear mother, sisters and friends; bless all around me, O God! bless him I love, Augustus Evergreen, and shower down Thy mercies over him."

If I breathed short before, after this my breath seemed to desert me entirely, and I verily thought that the beating of my heart would betray me. Belle, pure as an angel to me then, and white as a snowflake, proceeded to turn off the gas and get into bed. What thoughts rushed through my brain! Above me lay a young and unsophisticated girl, wholly unconscious that the one she loved lay so closely to her, and who had for the first time been made aware of her interest in him by hearing words which she supposed went only to Heaven!

Belle had lain perfectly motionless for several minutes, and was I flattered myself, losing herself in sleep, when suddenly she exclaimed—"There, I haven't looked under the bed!" A horror ran through me—all is lost! What shall I do? Belle rose, and I heard her feeling for the matches, and try to light one after the other, as they failed to ignite; then an "O, dear, there are no more!" whispered my soul to me. Belle groped back to the bed, but did not immediately get into bed, she stooped and lifted the curtains which hung around the bottom, cautiously passing her arm around as far as it could reach. I almost felt her fingers graze my face, as I held myself fearfully and silently back against the wall, too far, just too far for her to reach. Apparently satisfied that no danger was near her, she lay down in the bed again, and I counted her respirations till she was lost in slumber.

As for myself, sleep was utterly out of the question. I never was so wide awake in my life. How I lay upon that hard carpet and thought the night out—thought of her, and her love for me—thought of myself, and my love for her.

With the morning light fresh fears came upon me, lest my unconscious room-mate might yet perceive the bed for robbers before she left the room; but my fears were groundless. She rose and dressed expeditiously, for she was to join her cousins at an early breakfast, and she had over-slept herself. When at last she took the key, unlocked the door, and departed, I lost no time in slipping out of my shameful place of concealment and escaping from the hotel. On the stairs I met Fred coming out of his room, who exclaimed:

"Why, what's the matter with you, old fellow? You look like the last days of an ill-spent life. And your coat, too—why it's all feathers and dust. Where have you been?"

"Why, I slept—slept out last night, that's all. Our house is full, and so I had to find quarters elsewhere. I am just going home to dress."

"I should say so, decidedly. I see it all, old fellow; you've been on a lark, and had to put up in the watch-house. Come now, own up, and tell us all about it."

"No lark at all, Fred; nothing of the kind, I assure you."

"Well, if not a lark, what kind of a bird was it? From the looks of the feathers, I should say it was a goose."

"You're the goose, Fred. Seriously, I've a word to say to you of a most important nature. Be a man, Fred, and make up your mind to hear something extremely disagreeable. It must be told to you sooner or later, and I may as well tell it now!"

"Good heavens, Gus! how earnestly you look at me. You don't mean to say that—that anything has happened to Belle Bronson?"

So I had to tell him (in strict confidence, of course, as I tell you, reader,) all about the bed-room affair at the Oakville Hotel, and the love that grew out of it.

My astonishment was so great, and the sense of mortification so intense, that I did not, as I should have done, make myself immediately known to her. Thus the opportunity for discovery and explanation was lost. I dared not move a hair, but hoped sincerely that some excuse might take her out of the room for a moment, and so facilitate my escape. She however, looked the door, removed the key, and I knew by the sound, prepared to retire. Finally, she knelt down beside the bed, and clasping her hands and bowing her head (so fearfully near to mine that I could hear the soft words in my very ear), she offered up her evening prayer in a manner full of feeling and with such sweet accents of womanly tenderness and devotion, that I felt as if she were an angel bending over the vilest of mortals. That prayer went to my heart; but one portion of it went through it, and held it captive. Never shall I forget my feeling of surprise and my deep emotions when I heard her utter these words: "Bless my dear mother, sisters and friends; bless all around me, O God! bless him I love, Augustus Evergreen, and shower down Thy mercies over him."

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Belle had lain perfectly motionless for several minutes, and was I flattered myself, losing herself in sleep, when suddenly she exclaimed—"There, I haven't looked under the bed!" A horror ran through me—all is lost! What shall I do? Belle rose, and I heard her feeling for the matches, and try to light one after the other, as they failed to ignite; then an "O, dear, there are no more!" whispered my soul to me. Belle groped back to the bed, but did not immediately get into bed, she stooped and lifted the curtains which hung around the bottom, cautiously passing her arm around as far as it could reach. I almost felt her fingers graze my face, as I held myself fearfully and silently back against the wall, too far, just too far for her to reach. Apparently satisfied that no danger was near her, she lay down in the bed again, and I counted her respirations till she was lost in slumber.

As for myself, sleep was utterly out of the question. I never was so wide awake in my life. How I lay upon that hard carpet and thought the night out—thought of her, and her love for me—thought of myself, and my love for her.

With the morning light fresh fears came upon me, lest my unconscious room-mate might yet perceive the bed for robbers before she left the room; but my fears were groundless. She rose and dressed expeditiously, for she was to join her cousins at an early breakfast, and she had over-slept herself. When at last she took the key, unlocked the door, and departed, I lost no time in slipping out of my shameful place of conceal