

THURSDAY MORNING, February 25th, 1874.

NEWS AND OTHER ITEMS.—As seeing is believing, or is said to be, and as many recent reports had reached us of the rapid progress of the Southern Maryland road through our county towards its terminus at Point Lookout, particularly in the Patuxent section parallel with our own district, we determined on Saturday last to visit the line and interview the projected improvements for ourselves, or so much of them as at least might be seen in a short evening's ride. On observation found, having previously resolved ourselves into a Committee of Two (Mr. Herbert Moore in the Chair) we started on our tour and intercepted the elephant at a point of the Three-Notched road where the store of Mr. King is located. As railroad talk is to us as dead a language as horse or fox talk, we shall not venture upon any technical terms of description, but shall content ourselves with speaking of the work which fell under our observation after the Comly Spelling Book fashion. In front of the store is a deep ravine, which is connected with a hill of very respectable height, the latter being flanked by an ice-pond, some distance westward. For the bed of the road on this part of the line, the hill has been levelled, the ravine filled up, the dirt causeway over the pond nearly completed, carts passing to and from one end of the line to the other. The average grade at this point is little under twenty feet, the general topography of the country, fronting and westward for some distance from King's store, presenting an ugly aspect for cheap road making. The worst difficulties, however, of grading heretofore have already been surmounted, though, we learn, there is, near by and higher up the line, still another respectable hill which has to be cut through and other renowned looking ravines to be filled up. The policy of the road contractors seems to have been in this section, to attack the most formidable obstacles in their way first and to leave the easy and cheap work for the last. Be this as it may, it is easy to see that they are not joking with the work they have in hand. Five or six contractors, with formidable forces, are now at work on different points of the line from Mr. Simm's in Charlotte Hall district (where the continuous grade from Brandywine downwards at present terminates) to St. John's church in the lower part of Patuxent district. It is guess work, of course, for an outsider to say when the grade work, yet unfinished, between Simm's and St. John's will be completed, but with the present force engaged on the work—and large additions to this force, we learn, are daily expected—we believe we are making a reasonable guess when we guess that it will be completed in the course of the next week.

The proceedings of Congress within the past week have been more than usually devoid of interest, the Louisiana business hanging fire, local bills monopolizing chief attention and a great deal of rapid debate thereon. Congress is about to air the recent management of District of Columbia affairs and startling developments are anticipated from an examination of the conduct and expenditures of the Board of Public Works of that city. The attention of readers is called to the notice in another column of Mr. John H. Stone, Bryantown, Charles county, Maryland, who is general agent for the sale in this county of the celebrated "New" Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines, which obtained such a splendid triumph at the World's Exposition at Vienna last year, winning the Knight's Cross of the Imperial order of Francis Joseph, in a contest with eighty-one competitors. We regret to learn that our old friend, Edward S. Abell, of St. Inigo's district, lost his dwelling by fire on Wednesday night of last week. Some little of his furniture was saved but in a very damaged condition. Origin of the fire unknown.—The best news we have in connection with the manufacture, is that both house and furniture were partially insured, but in what company we have been unable to learn. We have received a copy of the "Fifth Annual Report of the Maryland Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb," situated at Frederick, Md., which represents it to be in a flourishing condition. Since the date of the last yearly report ninety-nine pupils have been in attendance, which exceeds that of last year. Sixty-two of these are males and thirty-seven females. So far the English Parliamentary elections indicate gains for the Conservatives, but not sufficient at present to warrant the belief that they will obtain such a working majority as would enable Mr. Disraeli to take upon himself the administration of the Government.

COLLECTOR'S BONDS.—A bill has passed the House of Delegates repealing and re-enacting section 35 of article 12 of the Public Local Laws. The only alteration made is that the bond as only attached becomes a lien on the property of the securities as well as the property of the collector himself. This amendment will make it more difficult for the collectors to procure bonds but will make the county absolutely safe if the Commissioners are careful to ascertain that the bond at the time of its approval is worth the amount the collector will receive and disburse during his term of office.

roll of St. Mary's county. Mr. Bond has presented a petition from Miss Adams, asking to be admitted to the roll of St. Mary's county. Mr. Secretary of State Holliday, though thought to be better at latest accounts, is not yet regarded as out of danger by his attending physician. The bill authorizing the appointment of an assistant Secretary of State has been signed by the Governor. Hon. Robt. Fowler is reported to be seriously ill at Barnum's Hotel in Baltimore.

Gov. Whyte, having been elected to the United States' Senate, has sent a letter to the presiding officers of the Legislature resigning the office of Governor, the resignation to take effect on the 4th of March, proximo. The letter, though penned in his reference, is somewhat offensive for a grey-beard. Hon. James B. Groom, a delegate in the Lower House from Cecil, will succeed Gov. Whyte as executive, and we at present know of no better wish to make in his behalf than that he may administer the affairs of Maryland with the ability of his predecessor. He is reported to be only thirty-five years of age and to be unmarried, which latter is a somewhat singular circumstance when it is remembered that the motto of the State over which he is to preside is *crevit et multiplicavit*.

The caucus convened at Annapolis on Monday last for the selection of the new Police Board for Baltimore City resulted in the nomination of W. H. B. Fussell, of the present Board; John Melroy and Col. Harry Gilmore. Messrs. Melroy and Gilmore take the place of Messrs. Carr and Morse, of the present Board. As this is the last of the great office prizes which is to be fought for during the present session of the legislature, it is to be presumed that our law-makers will avail themselves of their happy release from the importunities of office-hunters to push forward to completion the important work they have cut out for action in their different houses.

It will be a source of sincere gratification to his relatives and many friends in this, his native county, to learn, that Mr. Walter Blakistone (son of Col. James T. Blakistone of this place) who, it will be remembered, was unjustly removed some two years ago from the position of Teller in the Bank of Commerce, Baltimore, to expiate a fault or oversight of a superior officer in that institution, has obtained a corresponding place and at a higher salary in the Farmers and Merchants' Bank. We congratulate our young friend, as well upon surviving the malice and the meanness which originally wronged him, as upon his restoration to a position for which he is believed to have a peculiar aptitude.

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But let us dismiss the serious thought, and think of the masquerade, which came off on Tuesday evening, the 27th ult., at Moore's Hotel, only in connection with the mirth and amusement it occasioned. This long expected event of the season had been thought of and wished for with considerable anxiety and some little misgivings as to its success. We confess that we had doubts in this regard, thinking that in large towns where many would be in attendance, a disguise could not be so easily penetrated, and imagining that in our limited community, where all are known to each other, either by form or movement, this delusion could not be successfully practiced. We were mistaken. Many were the bets made, and those who bet against being duped invariably lost. We thought that, in less than fifteen minutes, every character in the room would have been known by us. On the contrary, after seeking in vain to discover some one that we supposed we knew, we became so much puzzled that it was with considerable difficulty we could be even conscious of our own identity. We were amused at seeing a young lady—"Widow Bedott"—shaking hands with her own father, who seemed to wish an introduction, so well did his face say, 'you have the advantage of me.' We were accused several times, but not knowing whether or not our remarks would have been appreciated, refrained from making any. There were some to whom we wished to say something, tenderly, but we were afraid to trust our own opinion, and he caught in telling secrets to one heart intended for another. Ladies would be telegraphs in such a case as this.

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TO THE LADIES. I respectfully invite your attention to the great advantages possessed by the celebrated Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines, over all other Sewing Machines. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant, JOHN H. STONE, General Agent, Bryantown, Charles Co., Feb. 25, 1874.

\$1,500,000 Fourth Grand Gift Concert FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF KY. DRAWING DEFERRED TILL 31st of March Next, to complete the sale of tickets and make a FULL DRAWING 12,000 CASH GIFTS will be distributed by lot among the ticket-holders.

LIST OF GIFTS. One Grand Cash Gift, \$250,000; One Grand Cash Gift, \$100,000; One Grand Cash Gift, \$50,000; One Grand Cash Gift, \$25,000; One Grand Cash Gift, \$17,500; 10 Cash Gifts, \$10,000 each, 700,000; 30 Cash Gifts, 5,000 each, 1,500,000; 50 Cash Gifts, 1,000 each, 50,000; 30 Cash Gifts, 500 each, 15,000; 100 Cash Gifts, 400 each, 40,000; 150 Cash Gifts, 300 each, 45,000; 250 Cash Gifts, 200 each, 50,000; 325 Cash Gifts, 100 each, 32,500; 11,000 Cash Gifts, 50 each, 550,000. Total, 12,000 Gifts, all Cash, amounting to \$1,500,000.

FOR STATES' ATTORNEY. I announce myself as a candidate for the office of State's Attorney for St. Mary's, and respectfully ask the support of the voters of the county. JAS. H. WILSON.

FOR SHERIFF. Mr. Editor—Please announce ZACHARIAH MATTINGLEY a candidate for Sheriff. He is known to be competent and deserving, and as such will be abundantly supported by the voters of St. Mary's county. L. MATTINGLEY and Factory districts. J. PARRAN CHANE.