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ST. MARY'S BEACON

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INCONSTANT.

Inconstant! Oh! my God!
Inconstant! when a single thought of thee
Sends all my shivering blood
Back on my heart in thrills of ecstasy!
Inconstant! when I loved
That thou hast loved me—will love to the
last—
Is joy enough to steal
All fear from life—the future and the past!
Inconstant! when to sleep
And dream that thou art near me is to learn
So much of heaven, I weep
Because the earth and morning must return!
Inconstant! Ah, too true!
Turned from the rightful shelter of thy breast,
My tired heart flutters through
The changeful world—a bird without a nest.
Inconstant to the crowd
Through which I pass, as to the skies above
The fickle summer cloud;
But not to thee—oh, not to thee, dear love!
I may be false to all
On earth besides, and every tender tie
Which seems to hold in thrall
This weary life of mine may be a lie;
But true as God's own truth,
My steadfast heart turns backward, evermore,
To that sweet time of youth
Whose golden tide beats such a barren shore.
Inconstant! Not my own
The hand which builds this wall between our
lives;
On its cold shadow grown
To perfect shape, the flower of love survives.
God knows that I would give
All other joys, the sweetest and the best,
For one short hour to live
Close to thy heart, its comfort and its rest!
But life is not all dark;
The sunlight glimmers many a hidden slope;
The dove shall find its ark
Of peaceful refuge and of patient hope.
I yet shall be possessed
Of woman's need—my small world set apart,
Home, love, protection, rest,
And children's voices sing thro' my heart.
By God's help I will be
A faithful mother and a tender wife—
Perhaps even more—that life
Hath chastened the best glory from my life.
But sacred to this love
One small, sweet chamber of my heart shall be;
No foot shall ever cross
The silent portal sealed to life and thee.
And sometimes when my lips
Are to my first-born's clinging close and long,
Draining with love-like sips
All its life's heart—will it be wrong
If, for an instant, wild
With precious pain, I put the truth aside
And dream it is thy child
That I am fondling with such tender pride?
And when another's hand
Sleeps on thy heart, if it should ever seem
To be my own instead,
Oh, darling, hold it closer for the dream.
God will forgive the sin,
Hesit it is; our lives are swept so dry,
So cold, so passion-less,
Thank Him that comes at last—and so good
by!

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S CONTESTED ELECTION CASE.

The following is the report of the Committee on Elections of the House of Delegates, R. Johnson Colton, Esq., of this county, Chairman, in case of the contested election for Clerk of Prince George's county.
REPORT.—The Committee on Elections, to which were referred the returns and testimony taken in the contested election case of Henry Brooke vs. Robert S. Widdicombe respectfully report, that they have afforded the parties full opportunity to be heard by counsel, and after an elaborate discussion of the law and facts involved in the case, and a careful consideration of the testimony, they submit the following conclusions:
The importance of the principles involved, as well as the fact that this is the first case of a "contested election" which has been decided by the House of Delegates, under the twelfth section of Article four of the Constitution of eighteen hundred and sixty-seven, which reads as follows: "In any case of election for Judges, Clerks of the Courts of Law, and Registers of Wills, the opposing candidate shall have an equal number of votes, it shall be the duty of the Governor to order a new election; and in case of any contested election, the Governor shall send the returns to the House of Delegates, which shall judge of the election and the qualifications of the candidates at such election; and if the judgment shall be against the one who has been returned elected, or the one who has been commissioned by the Governor, the House of Delegates shall order a new election within thirty days," in the opinion of your Committee, renders it proper that the grounds of the conclusions at which they have arrived should be stated; especially in this important case, as this may furnish a precedent for cases hereafter arising.
In the mandamus case recently decided by the Court of Appeals, between these parties, involving the question of the right to the office of Clerk, pending the decision before the House of Delegates, Chief Justice Bartol, in delivering the opinion of the Court, says: "To that tribunal, (meaning House of Delegates,) the Constitution has given the exclusive power and juris-

isdiction to go behind the election returns to examine into the qualification of the voters—purge the ballot-box and recount the votes—subjects over which the Courts have no jurisdiction."
If the House of Delegates, which shall judge of the election and qualifications of the candidates at such election, has the power, under the twelfth section of Article four of the Constitution, "to inquire into the qualification of voters—purge the ballot-box of fraud and recount the votes"—upon the part of the contestant it is insisted that, should the Committee find that Henry Brooke was elected on the fourth of November, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, by a majority of the legal and qualified voters of the county, it is the duty of the House of Delegates not only to determine that Widdicombe was not elected, and render "judgment" against him, but to go further, and without ordering a new election, to declare Brooke duly elected and entitled to the office.
By the Constitutions of 1851 and 1864, it was contended that, "in case of any contested election, the Governor shall send the returns to the House of Delegates, which shall judge of the election and qualification of the candidates at such election." Acting under this broad grant of power, the House of Delegates, in the contested election cases of Gambrill vs. Hairwood, Spence vs. Franklin, and in other cases to which it is unnecessary to refer in detail, where the chief ground of contest was on account of disqualification of the candidates returned elected, after finding that the party elected was disqualified, declared the contestant elected and entitled to the office, although in fact he had received a minority of the votes cast at the election, upon a strained presumption of law, that the candidate being disqualified, the voters were presumed to know it, and hence all votes cast for the disqualified candidate were thrown away, and only those votes were counted which were cast in favor of the candidates who were qualified. The effect of this construction of the law was practically to legislate a candidate into office, when in fact he was the choice of only a minority of the legal voters.
To remedy this evil, when the present Constitution was adopted, the following clause was added to the twelfth section in reference to contested elections before the House of Delegates, viz: "And if the judgment shall be against the one who has been returned elected, or the one who has been commissioned by the Governor, the House of Delegates shall order a new election within thirty days." While the power to judge of the election and qualification of the candidates would seem to include the power to declare the contestants elected, if the House of Delegates should so find, as well as the one who has been returned elected, the one who has been commissioned by the Governor, and although it would seem that the decision of the House of Delegates that the contestant is elected would logically entitle him to the office; yet your Committee have come to the conclusion that it is the better and more judicious construction to give to this clause of the Constitution, that in all cases where the judgment shall be against "the one who has been returned elected, or who has been commissioned by the Governor," a new election should be ordered.
It is true, as was insisted on behalf of the contestant, that force and effect would be given to this clause of the Constitution, by applying it only to cases of disqualification of the party elected, and to cases where facts do not show that the contestant has not received an actual majority of the votes cast by the legal and qualified voters, and it seems imposing a double burden and hardship upon the contestant if he has, upon purging the ballot-box, rejecting the disqualified voters, and recounting the votes, in fact received a majority of the votes of the legal and qualified voters to require him to undergo a second contest before the people, in order to secure the office. But the evil sought to be remedied by this clause of the Constitution was to prevent legislating parties, not returned elected, into office, under the influence of partisan or other considerations. If your Committee conceded that in a case in which the House of Delegates came to the conclusion that the contestant was elected, he could be declared elected and placed in office without ordering a new election, various protests and reasons might, in the heat of partisan contests, be found by which the party in the ascendancy could reach this result, and thus avoid a new election.
Thus the evil sought to be remedied of legislating parties into office would not be effectually checked. Your Committee, looking to past precedents, and with a view to place such a construction upon the Constitution as will most surely carry out the objects of the framers of the instrument, have reached the conclusion, that if their judgment is against Robert S. Widdicombe, who has been returned elected, the House of Delegates must order a new election.
The evidence taken in this case is very voluminous, and much of it, as conceded by the counsel of the respective parties, in their arguments before the Committee, has no great bearing upon the judgment to be rendered by the House of Delegates. If the House was not required to order a new election in case the judgment shall be against the candidate returned elected, but was called upon to ascertain the exact state of the vote, and make out new returns upon which to entitle the contestant to the office, it would be necessary to refer in more detail to the testimony than your Committee now deem it requisite.
The returns, as made to the Governor, show that Widdicombe received 2,349 votes, and Brooke received 2,342 votes.

thus electing Widdicombe by a majority of seven votes. The grounds upon which the election of Widdicombe is claimed to be illegal are as follows:
1st. That said election was conducted in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, which shall judge of the election and qualifications of the candidates at such election, has the power, under the twelfth section of Article four of the Constitution, "to inquire into the qualification of voters—purge the ballot-box of fraud and recount the votes"—upon the part of the contestant it is insisted that, should the Committee find that Henry Brooke was elected on the fourth of November, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, by a majority of the legal and qualified voters of the county, it is the duty of the House of Delegates not only to determine that Widdicombe was not elected, and render "judgment" against him, but to go further, and without ordering a new election, to declare Brooke duly elected and entitled to the office.
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that a new election should be ordered, and they recommended the adoption of the following Resolutions:
1. Resolved by the House of Delegates of Maryland, That in an election held on the 4th of November, 1873, for Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's county, in said county, Robert S. Widdicombe was not duly and legally elected Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's county.
2. Resolved, That an election for Clerk of the Circuit Court of Prince George's county be, and the same is ordered to be held on the day of 1874, in pursuance of section 12, of Article 6, of the Constitution.
3. Resolved, That the election for Clerk of the Circuit Court for Prince George's county, held on the 4th of November, 1873, be annulled, and the same be declared void.
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the left shoulder across the breast and back and caught at the waist with a tiny silver belt, while a tiny star glittered on the breast. Tawny-brown and beautiful fawn were among the colors for the ladies. Another and a most becoming favor for fair arms was a band of black velvet for the wrist and one for the upper part of the arm, united by a strap extending along the arm, studded with small glass balls.
Mrs. Eliza Cook and Mr. John...
The guide was the head keeper—or, in other words, the real jailer. Perhaps it would be impossible to find a man better fitted for his work than he.
His heart dwelt upon long-term men. He liked skillful forgers, desperate burglars, those who committed murders and came in for life. They were the ones upon whom he depended for the production of \$20,000 annual profit. He leaned decidedly toward the shower-bath as a mode of punishment, for it never hurt any one that he knew of, and it was more economic.
"Take a man," said he impressively, "and shut him up in the dark cell for breaking a rule, and you rob yourself. If he is obstinate, he will rob you; and if he is uncommonly obstinate, he will keep on robbing you. He doesn't do any work, and he won't break down, and all the time his place at the bench is empty. But now, see how the shower-bath works him. You strip him, put him in the box, and give him a bucketful; he yells out, and agrees to behave himself at once. You dress him and lead him back to his shop, and he goes to work like a major. All the other men know what he's been through, and it scares 'em. Besides that, you save two dollars in time, and that's worth saving."
"And did the shower-bath always subdue the refractory men?"
"Alwis" responded, he, striking a blow with his palm upon his knee, "alwis"—though once, I remember, it did fetch a fellow as I expected." He laughed and shook his head at the reminiscence.
"Well, he was a hard one. He'd been cutting up some monkey-shines, and I took him out to give him a sousing. A bucket usually brings down the worst of 'em, but I'm blamed if this fellow so much as winked! He lifted at me. I gave him another. Nothing came of it. Then another and another. Finally, it came to be half a barrel and he stuck it out, and was as rasy and hearty as a pippin. I got mad and gave him the other half barrel to a lick. I was certain that I had him then, I looked in, and I'd be hanged if he wasn't laffin' worse than ever!"
"D'ye know where that water came from?"
"Come from," said he, "I guess I do; it come out of that d-d beef barrel in the county."
Well, sir, he was as meek as a lamb ever after. And the veteran laughed at the story until the tears ran out of his eyes.
SNOBBY HIGH LIFE BY WASHINGTON.—The Jenkins of the Washington Star kept the readers of that brightly paper posted in reference to what he calls Society in the Metropolis. For the edification of our lady readers, that they may have some idea of how shoddy disports itself at the Republican Court, we make the following extracts from the Jenkins column:
The reception in the evening at Secretary Richardson's was a brilliant entertainment. The toilets were very beautiful, but the crowd was almost too great for a fair display. Mrs. and Miss Richardson were elegantly attired. Miss Richardson has many exquisite costumes, but the one worn last evening was especially remarkable for its elegance. It was a primrose silk, with overdress of illusion, wrought in colors and trimmed with wreaths of flowers. Miss Wise wore pure white, which was perfect in material and finish. But it is impossible to mention all who were worthy of notice. There were many strangers present. Judge and Mrs. McArthur were accompanied by their cousin from Boston, Mr. and Mrs. Newcomb, and Mrs. McArthur's fair young niece, Miss Willcutt. Mrs. Burgess, of Allentown, Penn., attracted much attention by her rich robe of garnet-color velvet and superb diamonds.
Mrs. Stockton gave her son, Mr. Richard Stockton, a most beautiful german last evening. There were thirty-eight couples, and six "favor" couples were danced. The favors were all very handsome, and most of them were of original design. To the gentlemen "orders" were given similar to those bestowed by foreign courts on those they wish to honor. A broad ribbon, red, blue, or yellow, was passed over

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PHILLS OF THE LIPS.—The recent decision of a Brooklyn judge makes kissing a perilous business for unmarried people. It does not effect those who are wedded. They can smooch each other to their hearts' content, provided they can find parties who enjoy that kind of exercise. But not so with the unfortunate who happen to be unmarried. In this particular case there is no proof that the gentleman made any profession of love; he merely looked tenderly at the lady and affectionately squeezed her hand. It was not shown that he made a verbal agreement to marry the lady, but he had kissed her; and the kiss, in conjunction with the aforesaid tender look and affectionate hand-shake, was adjudged legally equivalent to a promise of matrimony, and the unwilling man was mulcted in the sum of \$15,000. The old proverb says that actions speak louder than words. A performance more blinding than a promise. But it is not a little remarkable that the tendency to facilitate matrimony is gaining strength. We have got marriage made easy. It is no longer necessary to make an audible and solemn pledge before a priest or justice of the peace. Banns and ring are dispensed with. It is only necessary for a man and woman to live together as man and wife to be legally considered such, and as such have a place in the best society. The fact carries the pledge and all its solemn implications with it. Now, if the decision of the Brooklyn judge is sound, verbal courtship is abolished or promises dispensed with, and it is only necessary for an unmarried man to look softly on an unmarried woman and gently press her hand and sweetly kiss her willing lips, and the whole thing is settled. This condenses the thing awfully. It puts the whole business—poetry and sentiment and moonbeams and love sick rhymes in all kinds of metre—into a nutshell. Now, we do not specially object to this concentration of wooing into a single short and decided passage. Concentration in the manner of conduct and necessity of modern life. We do everything on a rush. We cannot afford to spend much time on anything. Courtship, like credits, must be short. But it does make kissing a terribly perilous business. And kissing is rather a sweet nice thing. Human beings take it pretty naturally. It is the universal language of kindness and good feeling, of friendship as well as of affection. But what unmarried person will dare to kiss another, if the touch of the lips is to be construed into a legally binding promise? We protest against the decision on behalf of the many excellent men and women who enjoy kissing and being kissed, and don't want to be compelled to confine their expressions of exquisitely fine sentiments to those who are married. A little tender consideration for the young people, whose lips are getting into a kissable condition, should have restrained our judge, who evidently was never a boy himself, or has forgotten all the sweetness and romance of that interesting period.—L.
A Southern editor says of a rival editor that "he is inclined to deny the crime of being red-headed. Well, you may call it anubus, or blonde, or anything else, but our impression is that he would be entitled to the first place in any tooth-right procession."
"You cannot taste in the Ark," said a lecturer; "Nature has intended us to see our food."
"Then," inquired a forward pupil, "how about a blind man at dinner?"
"Nature," said, answered the professor, "has provided him with eye-teeth."
A little girl asked a minister, "D'you think my father will go to heaven?"
"Why, yes, my child. Why do you ask?"
"Well, because if he don't have his own way there, he won't stay long. I was thinking."
Adam had one consolation when he fell. Elisha or twenty acquaintances didn't stand on the opposite corner and laugh at his mishap.