Saint Ma[illegible]s Beacon.

VOL. XII — LEONARDTOWN, MD., THURSDA[illegible] — [illegible]OVEMBER 5, 1874 — NO. [illegible]

ST. MARY'S BEACON

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY

J. F. KING & JAMES S. DOWNS.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—$2.00 per annum, to be paid within six months. 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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Oct. 22, 1874.

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ALL persons are hereby forewarned from crossing, or tresspassing upon any part of my farm known as "Harrow Hills," situated near the village of Chaptico, after this date— with or without dog or gun. Against all offenders, the law will be rigidly enforced.

GEO R. GARNER.

Oct. 29, 1874—1m.*

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FRANCIS NEALE & SONS,

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Sell Tobacco, Grain and all country produce.

Buy fertilizer and all supplies for farmers.

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Jan 11, 1872—tf.

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GEO. B. DENT
Great Mills, P.O., Md

march 28th, 1872—tf.

B. HARRIS CAMALIER,

Attorney and Counsellor at Law,

LEONARDTOWN, MD

march 26, 1874—tf

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OF THE

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LEONARD SCOTT PUBLISHING CO.,

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continue the reprint of the four leading Reviews, viz.:

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A discount of twenty per cent. will be allowed to clubs of four or more persons. Thus: four copies of Blackwood or of one Review will be sent to one address for $12.80; four copies of the four Reviews and Blackwood for $48, and so on.

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New subscribers (applying early) for the year 1875 may have, without charge, the numbers for the last quarter of 1874 of such periodicals as they may subscribe for.

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THE LEONARD SCOTT PUBLISHING CO.,
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Oct 29, 1874.

NEW GOODS.

THE subscriber has just returned from Baltimore with a new and complete assortment of

DRY GOODS,
READY-MADE CLOTHING,
BOOTS,
SHOES,
HATS,
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,

etc., etc., and GROCERIES of all kinds at the old stand, formerly occupied by Mrs. Hammett. Particular attention is called to my stock of

Ready-Made Clothing

which I can sell lower than any other merchant in the county, the quality and make of the goods being considered. A large and carefully selected assortment of

CASSIMERES,

also, on hand. Persons wishing clothing

MADE TO ORDER

can be accommodated and I can supply them with all necessary trimmings. I have determined to sell all classes of goods as LOW AS THEY CAN BE BOUGHT of any merchant in the county.

☞ A larger stock of BOOTS and SHOES and READY MADE CLOTHING than was ever kept before now on hand, which will be disposed of lower and cheaper than they can be purchased elsewhere. Particular attention it called to these two articles.

GIVE ME A CALL,

I will show you the Goods, give you the price, and let you judge for yourself how cheap I sell.

J. SIMMS FENWICK,
Leonardtown, Md.

May 28, 1874—tf.

ST. CLAIR HOTEL,

W. H. CLABAUGH, *Proprietor,*

MONUMENT SQUARE,

BALTIMORE.

UPTON W DORSEY, Clerk.

Oct 8, 1874—1y.

FOR SALE.

CHEAP FOR CASH.

A fine brood mare, eight yrs. old. Will draw in any harness; perfectly gentle; a fine family animal. Also buggy and harness—and also horse cart and harness and plough, gear, etc. Apply to JAS S DOWNS, Leonardtown.

Sept 24, 1874.

Attention Ladies!

A GREAT SAVING OF TIME, LABOR AND MONEY.

THE undersigned having purchased the county right to sell *Jackson's Universal Washing Compound*, is influenced in doing so by a desire to introduce in St. Mary's county an article which, for its value as a great saving of time and labor in the arduous duty of family washing, cannot be equalled. For its wonderful bleaching and cleaning properties the following certificates will attest.

Certificates.

We have used Jackson's Washing Compound and found it a perfect success. It not only removes dirt, but renders the clothes beautifully white. With it a child can do a woman's work. We cheerfully recommend it to the public.

Mrs. J. W. CHESLEY,
Mrs. J. T. HALLECOMB,
Miss DONNIE ALVEY
and others.

Any one desiring to purchase a family right, can do so by enclosing $1.00, and it will be forwarded by return mail, together with a formula for making and directions for using it.—It can be made by any one at a cost of 75 cts. for a year's supply. Address

J. O. NEAL,
Mechanicsville P O.
St Mary's county, Md.

march 26, 1874.

NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to me for Taxes for the years 1872 and 1873 are hereby notified that unless the same are settled within 30 days from the date of this notice, I will proceed according to law to collect them. My old business as Collector must be closed, and positively no longer time will be given.

GEO. A. SIMMS,
Late Collector.

May 14, 1874—tf.

Land Wanted.

I AM authorized by responsible parties to buy

1,000 *ACRES OF WOODLAND*

(Pine or Oak) in St. Mary's county, within two miles of navigable water, for which a liberal price will be given. Cash. Address.

JO. F. MORGAN, Atty.,
Leonardtown, Md.

Oct 24, 1872—tf.

Dental Notice.

I respectfully offer my services to those who may desire them. All operations performed upon the teeth known to the profession of Dentistry.—Persons desiring my services at their homes will meet with prompt attention by dropping me a note at Leonardtown. Teeth inserted in any manner desired, and at reasonable prices. Office and residence in Leonardtown, St. Mary's county, Md. Very Respectfully,

PAGE EDMUNDS.

Dec 14, 1871—tf.

Agents Wanted in St. Mary's

County to sell the History of the Grange Movement, published by the National Publishing Company, Phila. Pa. This work also contains a complete expose of Railroad monopolies and other extortions upon farmers. Apply to the Publishers or to

W F PERRY,
Leonardtown, Md.

Oct 29, 1874—2w.

Notice to Trespassers.

ALL persons are hereby forewarned against trespassing by dog, gun or otherwise, upon "Bushwood" or any part thereof, located in the 4th election district of St. Mary's county, from and after the date of this notice. I have positive orders from the owner to prosecute any person so offending, and this order has been given without distinction of persons.

B. H. SWANN,
Agent for C. M. Dougherty.

Oct 8, 1874—3w.

Fire Insurance! Fire Insurance!

PERSONS desirous of having their property insured in the cheap and excellent home company, known as *The State of Maryland Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore*, Maryland, B. G. Harris, President, can be gratified by calling upon or communicating with the undersigned, at Inigoes' Post Office, St. Mary's county, Md.

EDWARD S ABELL,
Local Agent.

Oct 1, 1874—tf.

MW H MOORE. J F MUDD. JOSEPH STEWART
Late with Dyer, Hill & Co.

J. O. NEAL with

WM. H. MOORE & CO.

COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

No. 10 Camden Street,

BALTIMORE.

July 9, 1874—6m.

FOR STATE'S ATTORNEY.

Messrs Editors—Please announce Dr STEPHEN L D NEALE, Attorney and Counsellor-at-Law, as a candidate for the position of State's Attorney. We believe him to be admirably fitted to discharge with fidelity, boldness and ability the responsible duties of the office.

march 5, 1874. Many Friends.

FOR SHERIFF.

Messrs Editors—Please announce RAPHAEL DOWNS as a suitable candidate for the next Sheriffalty, and say that he will be warmly supported by the voters of Leonardtown and Factory Districts.

Dec 11, 1873. Many Friends.

PROTECTION [illegible]

During a [illegible] village of T[illegible] three persons [illegible] who had taken [illegible] were instantly [illegible] house had no [illegible] during the [illegible] which had [illegible] was serious[illegible] readers [illegible] these [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible]

[illegible] while some of them would fain believe that lightning rods serve to destroy rather than to preserve life and property. We are asked to print something on the subject; and we cheerfully comply, premising, however, that there is little that is new to be said, and that the subjoined information has for the most part been heretofore reiterated in our columns.

Feather beds are not a protection from lightning, and the popular belief that they are, doubtless results from a misapprehension of the laws that govern the passage of electricity. The human body is a better conductor of electricity than feather beds or other objects ordinarily contained in the apartments of dwellings, and therefore, *a priori*, when the lightning enters an apartment, the human body is likely to form one in a chain of inductions, determining the path of an electrical discharge, unless better conductors are in its vicinity to divert this action.

The only place of absolute security in a thunderstorm is an iron building; or next in safety is a building properly protected by lightning rods.

Houses constructed entirely of iron manifestly stand in no need of lightning rods at all, because the electric fluid, on striking so good a conductor, would rapidly diffuse itself in all directions and flow into the ground, provided, of course, that the construction of the building is such as to allow its free escape.

Are lightning rods of any real value? Unquestionably they are. Examples are numberless where the lightning has been seen to fall upon the rods of buildings and descend harmlessly to the earth; while the fact is undisputed that the principal damages suffered from lightning are in connection with buildings that are not provided with conductors. Notwithstanding these facts, some people are apt to be indifferent whether their houses and stores are provided with lightning rods or not, and are always ready to give an example where some building so provided was struck in spite of its protection. Such cases are quoted by the old-fashion "practical men" with much satisfaction, because they hail in them what they are pleased to call the victory of their sound common sense and the discomfiture of the scientific man. This class is, however, rapidly diminishing in numbers under the influence of the extensive diffusion of scientific education among the people.

It may be well to assure unbelievers that the efficacy of the lightning rod is no longer an open question, and that any failures are attributable *to bungling or ignorant construction*. It would be an easy matter to multiply statistics in proof of the assertion; but none would carry with them more force than the following statement obtained from the records of the British navy, by Sir Snow Harris, F. R. S.:

"Between 1810 and 1825, before rods were introduced, no less than thirty-five sail of the line and thirty-five frigates and smaller vessels were completely disabled; and in 200 cases recorded, 300 seaman were either killed or injured.—When the lightning rod was introduced, every mast was furnished with a capacious conductor permanently fixed and connected with bands of copper passing through the sides of the ship under the deck beams, and with large bolts leading through the keel and keelson, and including, by other connections, all the principal metallic masses employed in the construction of the hull." (Harris). Since the adoption of this arrangement, "it appears that damage by lightning has positively vanished from the records of the navy."

In England, the various telegraph companies suffered serious damages by every thunderstorm, by the destruction by lightning of their poles. The poles are now provided with small lightning rods, and all damage has ceased.

In this country, the Western Union Telegraph Company has suffered in the same manner, especially, says a recent number of the *Journal of the Telegraph*, "upon the plains and prairies, where every lightning storm formerly shattered and destroyed more or less of our poles, but which are now fully protected by a conductor (No. 8 wire) placed on every such pole. Wherever the telegraph poles are provided with such lightning rods, all damage is prevented. Where the poles are not provided with rods, damage ensues."

According to the best authorities, a copper rod of one inch in diameter, or [illegible] other form, will resist the effect of any discharge of lightning hitherto experienced. The copper rod is therefore the safest and best material that can be used, but it is expensive. Iron rods of one inch in diameter are very commonly used, and, if pointed with solid copper and properly put up are efficacious in the great majority of cases.—The particular form of the rod makes no difference. It may be round or square, tubular or hollow, composed of one solid piece or made of wires twisted together. It is the quantity of metal contained in the cross section of the rod that is of value, not the form.

The reason for terminating lightning rods in a point is as follows:—When a thunder cloud highly charged with positive electricity comes up, it repels the positive electricity of all bodies on the surface of the earth coming within its influence, and causes negative electricity to accumulate in them. This is called induction, and it always takes place before a discharge. Now it has been discovered that when electricity is accumulated in a body in this manner, it can most readily escape by sharp points because in them it meets with the least resistance. A lighted candle held near the prime conductor of an electrical machine furnished with a point will be nearly blown out by the current of air produced by the escape of the electricity. Lightning rods are therefore provided with sharp points to allow the accumulated negative fluid to pass off readily into the air and neutralize the positive flaid of the thunder cloud.

The object being to make so good a passage for the lightning to the ground as to remove all danger of its leaping to some conductor in the house, the greatest care must be taken not to have any break in the conductivity. As it is inconvenient to manufacture or transport the rods in one piece, the different parts must be in intimate connection when they are put up; it is best to have them soldered and the joints protected from the air and moisture.

Th point of the rod should be extended a little above the chimney or highest part of the building, and should be fastened in contact with the building by staples or cleats. Glass insulators should not be employed. It makes no difference in conductivity whether the rod is painted or not painted.

No building can be said to be properly rodded or protected against lightning, unless the lower part of the rod or terminal under the ground is made quite extensive. The extremity of the rod should connect with masses of good conducting materials, such as old iron, or iron ore, or coke, or charcoal, laid in trenches, or the rod itself should be elongated, sunk deep in the ground, and carried a considerable distance from the building, and put in connection with water or moist earth if possible. The golden rule for safety is:—"Provide the largest possible area of conducting surface for the terminal of the rod."

A lightning rod which is not properly connected with the earth is quite dangerous. The very common method of merely sticking the lower end of the rod down into the dry earth near the surface of the ground is bad, and endangers the building, because dry earth is such a poor conductor, and the amount of rod surface in contact with the earth is so small. Under such conditions, a portion of the electric current will be likely to find an easier path to the earth, through the building than through the rod; and a part of the electricity will therefore leave the rod, strike into the building, and down in various directions into the earth, making havoc as it goes. As a measure of prudence, house owners should *look to the terminals* of their lightning rods, and place there a considerable amount of the conducting materials above named.

By adopting this simple expedient, many buildings, otherwise unsafe, will be rendered comparatively secure from damage by lightning.

As an electrical conductor, well burnt charcoal ranks next to the metals. Metallic ores come next to charcoal. Water and moist earth, which are so frequently recommended as terminals for lightning rods, are among the poorest of conductors.

One of the best protected buildings that we have heard of is that of Mr. John Knox Smith, an intelligent English merchant residing at Singapore.—His country house is built on a prominence, upon a bed of iron ore, with which the house lightning rods are made to communicate. The lower ends of the rods thus have a very extensive conducting surface, and the protection afforded is considered perfect. Thunderstorm and lightning strokes are very frequent, but the house has never been injured.

It was supposed to have been established by Charles and Gay Lussac that a lightning rod protected an area whose radius was double the hight of the rod extending above the building, but this rule is not longer reliable by reason of the extensive use of metals in the shape of pipes, ect., in the construction of the buildings of our day.

When electricity finds several paths to the ground, it will prefer the best, it is true; but some portion will also pass along the poorer conductors. If, therefore, any metallic substances lie within the area supposed to be protected, they are in danger of being struck. This is especially true where the lightning has a chance to jump to the gas and water pipes of a building. It is a good plan to connect these pipes with the lightning rod; if the rod is struck, the electricity will then have an excellent path into the ground and will be rapidly diffused over the vast underground network of pipes. The danger to the inmates of the house of being struck from the pipes is less than that of receiving a shock from the powerful induced currents, liable to be developed in them, if unconnected, during a thunderstorm.

The more rods on a building the better, especially if all are connected with each other near their upper ends.

Multiple lightning conductors are useful because each one helps the other, and if the discharge is too great for one, they will be able to carry it between them, but what is more inportant is this:—The less the total resistance of the conductor to earth, the more certain is it that no other, undesirable line will offer an approximately good path to the earth, and so get a part of the flash. Thus, suppose a single rod whose resistance is 1, and that a series of bolts, hinges, gutters, stove pipes, etc., offer another line (passing perhaps through the walls of the house or the body of its occupant) whose resistance is 2. Now, under these conditions, a flash would be likely to divide itself, and while $\frac{2}{3}$ would go safely down the rod, $\frac{1}{3}$ passing along the other line might burn the house or kill the man. But if two rods were connected, the resistance in this line would be but half, hence 4-5 would take this road and but 1-5 tend to go by the other. Again, the less the resistance of any line, the higher the opposite charge developed in it by induction, and hence the greater its attractive influence, leading the discharge to prefer it as a path. This bears upon the importance of connecting all accidental lines of conductors, such as gas and water pipes, with the lightning rods. Insulated, these are oppositions lines, soliciting the lightning to come into house and traverse them; connected, they help the rod as we have seen to get and keep the lightning outside.

Finally, in the way of general advice, we would say:—Connect all your lightning rods together, and also to your iron tank, and water, gas, or other pipes, not by separate connections, but so that there is some connection between all, which connection should be *as high up as possible*. If you have a metal roof, connect all rods with it. If the roof is not of metal, then connect your rods together by means of a good sized conductor *running along the ridge of the roof*. Bear in mind that, to carry off the heaviest lightning flash known, a copper rod one inch in diameter is not considered too large; and though of course such flashes are of very rare occurrence, they may come. Hence the great value of uniting your different rods high up.—*Scientific America.*

Sweet are the uses of adversity; but it's a poor time to moralize while you are sitting down after having stepped on a watermelon skin.

AFTER THE SCHOOL BOOK SPECULATORS.—The Granges have taken the school book bull by the horns, and propose to hold him as in a vice, until his speculative owner returns to reason.—There has been too much changing of school books in the common schools, and too much speculating and swindling. The oily-tongued book agent is not the only one to blame for it, either. The gulled and gullible school director's skirts are not just as clean as they should be. Had he always remained firm in his first convictions of duty, the old books would have answered much longer than they did. But the [illegible] of this and that book agent [illegible] disinterested agent had its weight, [illegible] you know when a man gives you anything, you don't like to say no to a request, when only a few paltry, old-style school books are involved. The libraries of some people increased much more rapidly when they were school directors, than, before or since that period; and it is only accounted for either by an inspiration to post themselves when they became school directors, or the too frequent visits of the very bland and affable school book agent at the directors' houses. Seriously, the school book question is one that has long called for a remedy, and most loudly by those whose worldly stores are limited; and it is comfortable to note that reform in this direction is what Patrons of Husbandry intend to have.

As the California *Granger* says, your genuine book agent is a genial fellow. He is 'child-like and bland.' Approaches with a smile, and posts you in regard to the weather, smiles, introduces himself, smiles, inquires after your business prospects, smiles, draws out a book and sidles up to you, smiles, and smiles and smiles. He then states his business more at length. "This book was written, not exactly by a Granger, but by one who is in hearty sympathy with the movement—in fact, the only reason he isn't a Granger is, that he's a lawyer. But the great necessity of the farmers is *education*, and anything that helps to educate them is so much of a contribution to the cause. And then, the publishers are friendly to the farmers, and out of pure desire to help this thing along, they have gotten out this book at a dead loss to themselves. The fact is, sir, farmers have been bled by publishers heretofore, and reform is needed in this direction as well as others. There's no sense in gouging folks to death. Our motto is, 'Live and let live!' and that's according to the principles of the Grangers. Now, sir, if you want this book, I will let you have it at publishers' price, less my commission, for I don't care about making anything out of it, and, besides, I want to get it started in this neighborhood." Isn't the voice familiar? Haven't you heard it often? And are you not glad that the Bradford county Council has set an example in the way of school book reform?

PREDATORY CHICKENS.—One Max Adeler describes a novel method he adopted for ridding his garden of a neighbor's chickens. He says: "We had a good deal of trouble last summer with Pitman's chickens; as fast as we planted anything in our little garden, those chickens of Pitman's would creep through the fence, scratch up the seed, fill up, and go home. When the radish bed had been ravished in this manner for the fifth time, we complained to Pitman. He was not disposed to interfere. 'Adeler,' he said, 'I tell you it does 'em good; and it does them beds good to be raked over by the chickens. If I had radishes, give me chickens to scratch around them and eat up the worms. Radishes that haven't been scratched ain't worth a cent.' Then we climbed over the fence with the determination to take the law in our own hands. We procured a half a peck of corn and two dozen small fish hooks.—Fastening the hooks each to a grain of corn, we tied wire to each hook. Then we scattered the whole of the corn on the radish bed, and fixed the ends of the wires to the biggest sky rocket we could get. The rocket stood in a frame about ten yards away from the hooks. That very morning Pitman's chickens came over, and instantly began to devour the corn. We were ready; and as soon as it was evident that the hooks were all swallowed, we applied the match to the rocket. It is regarded as probable that no barn yard fowls that have existed since the days of Noah ever proceeded towards the azure vault of heaven with such rapidity as those did.—A fizz, a few ejaculatory cackles, a puff of smoke, and Pitman's roosters and chickens were swishing around the celestian constellation without their feathers, and in some doubts respecting the stability of earthly things. Pitman never knew what become of his fowls; but when we read in the paper next day that twenty-four underdone chickens, with fish hooks in their craws, had been rained down by a hurricane in New Jersey, we felt certain that that sky rocket had done its duty."