

Saint Martin's Beacon

VOL. XIII LEONARDTOWN, MD., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 27, 1876 NO. 10

ST. MARY'S BEACON

IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY J. F. KING & T. P. YATER.

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 publishers.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—75 cents per square for the first insertion, and 50 cents for every subsequent insertion. Eight lines or less constitute a square. If the number of insertions be not marked on the advertisement, it will be published until forbidden, and charged accordingly. A liberal deduction made to those who advertise by the year.

Communications of a personal character will be charged, at the same rates as advertisements; obituaries over ten lines in length will be charged at the rate of 50 cents per square.

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 The real name of the author will not be published unless desired, but we cannot consent to insert communications unless we know the writer.

COLONIAL PAPER CURRENCY.

Connecticut emitted its first colonial bills in June, 1709. This colony did not suffer so disastrously from the evils of irredeemable paper money for the reason that the amount issued prior to the Revolution did not exceed \$375,000. The colony wisely kept up a wholesome taxation, so that provision was made for calling in the earlier issues in one and two years. They were made a legal tender, except in cases of special contract, and were received in payment of public dues at 5 per cent premium. The British Lords of Trade in 1740 protested against the legal tender feature of these credit bills, reminding the colonists that it was contrary to an act of Parliament in the sixth year of the reign of Queen Anne. The tender clauses were judiciously repealed. The Connecticut currency, however, sympathized with the depreciation of the bills of the neighboring colonies, and sank after the expedition against Louisburg to one-fifth its nominal value. Dr. Benjamin Trumbull and other local historians have characterized this depreciating currency as a public fraud, because of a constant tax on the sober and industrious, for which they received no benefits; as a source of oppression; of public and private injustice; and especially injurious to the morals of a people.

New York began issuing colonial paper money June 8, 1709, and increased the volume to \$914,407. The pretext for these issues was necessity—a debtor's necessity, to meet the heavy costs of war and to supply the need of a circulating medium. The bills were for a short period received at the treasury at an advance of 2 1/2 per cent. from their date of issue, and were canceled when paid in. They were to be accepted in payments of debts as gold and silver. Heavy taxes, including a tax on slaves, were levied from year to year, to provide a fund for the redemption of these bills. In 1737 New York went into the loan-bank business and printed bills to be loaned for twelve years at 5 per cent. per annum. Quarrels of intense bitterness between Governor Clinton and the Assembly over supply bills and the creation and dissolution of paper money resulted, as usual, in the triumph of the latter. The depreciation in this colony never much exceeded one-half, owing to the general repayment of the loans and the judicious cancellation of returned bills.

Rhode Island first engaged in the paper money manufacturing business in August, 1710. War debts and the scarcity of silver coin were the excuses for entering upon a system whose distracting influence brought disaster for a whole century upon the political, social, and commercial interests of the people. In 1715 a bank of bills, in the language of the times, was printed and loaned to all borrowers willing to give 5 per cent. interest and mortgage security for the return of the principal in ten years.—This was simply an invitation to every spendthrift and to all the inhabitants to get in debt by mortgaging their property, when the true policy was to get out of debt and stay out. To encourage borrowing the interest on loans was made payable in hemp and flax.

Whenever funds were needed by the Treasury to meet current expenses the printing presses were started, and the required sum struck off. How easy! How simple! No tax collector, no notes. In 1742 the depreciation had reached eleven pounds for one of good money!

In 1755 the emissions were well over \$240,000 in one year, and this in a colony whose population was estimated for the same year at 30,000. Memorials from the merchants of Newport, setting forth the ruinous tendencies of paper bills, were unheeded. The orders of the British Council forbidding such emissions were disregarded. More money was demanded by the multitude of debtors who wanted to get rid of the obligations of debts without paying them. Excuses were never lacking for increasing the currency. There were French and Indian war debts to be paid, forts, jails, and court houses to be built, and, of course, always a scarcity of coin after an inferior currency had driven it out of circulation. Political parties were divided on the paper money question, but, as a majority of the legislators, as well as voters, were debtors, the inflationists carried the day.

When Massachusetts got rid of her rotten paper money, and had returned to a coin currency, the West India Trade of New England passed at once to Boston. Before this it had been carried on

exclusively through Newport. What more striking historical illustration of the effects of irredeemable paper upon the commerce of a colony or country!—In 1764 the earlier issues of old tender bills were received in payment of taxes at the rate of 25 for one of lawful money. About the same time the courts decided that one Spanish milled dollar was equivalent to seven pounds of old tender bills of credit. In other words, the old Rhode Island currency was worth less than five cents of the dollar, and soon ceased to be useful except as cigar lighters. The total aggregate issue to the date of independence was \$1,194,570.

The colony of New Jersey passed through a paper money experience quite similar to that of New York. There was this difference, however, that in New Jersey executions for debt were stayed until the Assembly could vote a new issue of paper money, which the creditor was compelled to accept in payment of his dues. The bills were made a tender under harsh penalties, and for altering or counterfeiting them the punishment was death. Though printed for the most part by Dr. Franklin, they were so coarsely and clumsily executed that the counterfeiters, of which there was an immense flood, could not be distinguished from the original bills. The total amount emitted by the colony was \$900,000. The amount was kept down because of the persistent opposition of the colonial Governors and the British Government to all loan banks and paper legal tenders, on the substantial ground that they were alike ruinous to the interests of British merchants and destructive to the colonial trade.

In 1713 the colony of North Carolina, being in debt on account of the Indian wars of the year before, concluded to make its evidences of debt a circulating medium. The colony's bills of credit, as well as those of South Carolina, then in circulation, were made a legal tender for the discharge of all debts payable in rated commodities. There was no provision made by special tax or sinking fund for the redemption of these promises. No fund for the payment nor time for payment was provided or specified in the note for immediately subsequent issues. The old emissions were redeemed with new emissions and promises to pay. The latter were to be received by all whom the colony owed at par, but not from those who owned the colony. If a member of the Lower House made a motion derogatory to the credit of the new bills, he forfeited his right to sit in the assembly.

Counterfeiting was punished with whipping, pillory, the cutting off of ears, branding with hot irons, and was declared felony, without benefit of clergy. The inevitable loan bank system was adopted, which, of course, robbed the currency of the essential function or office of all good money to measure values accurately. Notwithstanding the immense issues of paper, there was such a scarcity of money that warehouses were built in each county in which to store pitch, tar, turpentine, rice and other articles received for taxes in kind. In 1747 the paper in circulation, called old proclamation currency, passed at the rate of 7 for 1, and was exchanged by the authorities on these terms for the new issues. A poll-tax and a tax on wines and spirituous liquors was imposed to provide a fund for sinking the accumulating paper. Nevertheless it depreciated to one-tenth, and subsequently to one-fourteenth its face value. The colonial period, during which North Carolina issued \$400,000 of bills of credit, was a period of perpetual fluctuation in prices and exchange, through which commerce was corrupted in its sources and confusion in expressions of value made universal.

Pennsylvania began the emission of colonial currency in 1723, in the face of determined opposition on the part of the most intelligent classes. The experiments with paper money in other colonies had resulted disastrously. But borrowers abounded, and they were given the privilege of going in debt on agreeing to pay back one-eighth of the sum borrowed, with interest, each year. These loaned bills of credit were made a lawful tender, under severe penalties and forfeitures, and were to be received as coin in all payments.

Although counterfeiting this paper was punished with loss of ears and being sold into slavery, counterfeit bills exceeding the amount of notes in circulation, were printed in Ireland and imported into the colony. The larger colonial issues were made in contravention of the instructions of the Lords of Trade, through the influence, chiefly, of Franklin, who enjoyed for thirty years the profits of printing these paper promises. During the five years succeeding Braddock's defeat the emissions reached almost half a million pounds. These excessive issues were ineffectually resisted by the royal Governors.—Those of 1775 bore the appropriate device of the Walnut street jail, which they were printed to erect. This jail, when the British held possession of Philadelphia, became a kind of Libby prison, in which captured Americans were tortured. Robert Morris died here while incarcerated for debt after the loss of credit and fortune. The aggregate amount of Pennsylvania colonial bills was \$1,300,000, a depreciation of more than one-half was prevented by continued taxes and excise duties for their redemption and by judicious cancellation.

Maryland added \$350,000 to the paper currency of the colonies. The value

of the currency fluctuated from four to fifty per cent. discount. To remedy the embarrassment to trade, arising from the fluctuations in the value of the credit bills, the Legislature, in 1732, made tobacco a legal tender at one penny a pound, and Indian corn at twenty pence per bushel. Taxes on bachelors, negroes and Irish servants did not seem to produce a fund sufficient to reclaim the paper bills, or revenue enough to disburse with their emission and use.

Placing the paper money emissions of the small colonies of Delaware, New Hampshire and Georgia at \$500,000 in all, we come lastly to Virginia, whose issues between May, 1765, and July, 1776, exceeded one million pounds.—There was no lack of coin for currency in the early history of this colony. The people set to work to raise tobacco and other products which would bring cash in the world's markets. Specie can always be had when there is something valuable to be exchanged for it. England loved tobacco more than gold.

Like human slavery in ancient days, paper money in recent times seems to be one of the ruinous incidents of war. To meet the expenses of the ill-fated Braddock expedition, and to pay for the scalps of the Indians, was the use to which the first credit bills were put in Virginia. They bore five per cent. interest, were lawful tender, and, although counterfeiting them was punished with death, they were counterfeited to a fearful extent. They were an imperfect instrument of exchange, because issued at different dates, and bearing interest from date, the nominal point of no two issues was of the same real value. Mutilated or defaced bills were not redeemed, that is, exchanged for other bills. The emissions having reached \$250,000 in a single year, of course, they became worthless as a measure of value, and made, as Jefferson says, "a lottery of all private property."

To recapitulate in brief, the American colonies, prior to the day from which we date our independent existence, issued thirteen million pounds of bills of credit. Adding to this twenty million dollars, the amount of continental bills put out prior to July 4, 1776, we find that the paper money emitted and substantially repudiated before our separation from Great Britain reached the frightful sum of seventy million of dollars.

Viewed in the clearer light of the principles of the economic sciences, as understood at this day, it does not appear that a necessity existed for the manufacture and use of a paper currency in the colonies. Had the policy of England and her colonial authorities been guided by the accepted maxims of political economy, the supply of a circulating medium would have come through natural laws operating in trade and commerce. The precious metals flow like the waves of the ocean to fill up the currency level to the uniform height of the great circulating sea.—Had all the colonists exhibited the exceptional wisdom of Roger Williams, William Penn, and the first Lord Baltimore in dealing with the Indians, and had they been employed in producing wealth, instead of destroying it in interminable wars, a sufficient quantity of exportable products would have been produced to exchange for all the silver and gold actually needed for a medium of circulation.

The earth, the forests, the streams, and inland seas afforded articles of commerce, which civilized nations wanted and were willing to pay for in gold. And had England left commerce with the colonies absolutely free, had she allowed them to sell in the world's highest markets, and buy in the cheapest, had she placed no restrictions upon their liberty to trade beyond their own inclination and interest, there would have been no lack of specie, because no lack of products for which the world was willing to exchange specie. Values would then have been measured with coin, not with debts or due bills.

CURIOUS FACTS.—Fishes swallow their food whole. They have no detail machinery furnished for them.

Frogs, toads, and serpents never take any food but that which they are satisfied is alive.

If a bee, wasp, or hornet stings, it is nearly always at the expense of his life.

Serpents are so tenacious of their life that they will live for 6 months without food.

Turtles dig holes in the sand by the sea-shore, and bury their eggs.

Lobsters are very pugnacious, and fight severe battles. If they lose a claw another grows out.

Naturalists say that a single swallow will devour six thousand flies in a day.

The tarantula of Texas is nothing but an enormous spider.

A single codfish produces more than a million eggs in the season.

A whale suckles its young, and therefore is not a fish.

Toads become torpid in winter and hide themselves, taking no food for 5 or 6 months.

Serpents of all species shed their skins annually like sea crabs and lobsters.

In the darkest nights fishes pursue their usual movements, the same as by daylight.

But few men can handle a hot lamp chimney and say there is no place like home, at the same time.

DOG STORIES.

M. Dumont has a dog, Pomper, by name, and his master is devoted to smoking. Sometimes M. Dumont goes out of tobacco, and Pomper follows where the tobaccoist is, and Pomper gives him, when he is straightened out to the tobacco shop, bags of tobacco, and returns with it to his master. Some time ago Pomper had some tobacco put on him for tobacco, but the man who had just round the corner, the two dogs had a game of tag, and the money was lost. When Pomper came home without any tobacco, he got a sound thrashing. Next day Pomper went out again with money for tobacco. Round the corner, sure enough, was the same man, trying to lure poor Pomper from the path of duty. Pomper did his best to resist temptation, but alas! he was weak, and he fell from grace a second time, and the money was lost. Now, being a French dog, of course some ideas of suicide flashed through his brain, but being a moral dog, and a reflective dog, withal, he looked carefully at the situation. An hour after Pomper marched into M. Dumont's presence with full ten sous' worth of tobacco. Of course his master was satisfied. Next day the dog and his master took a walk in the Luxembourg gardens. They approached a group of boys engaged in playing pichonne. "I say, you air," cried one of the gamins, "that is a nice dog you have! Oh, I recognize him. I shall tell the police all about it. If you are not a thief your dog is. Yesterday when we were playing here that dog made a jump for the pennies, gobbled them up, and was off again like lightning." "It is with regret," added the authority for this dog story, "that I am forced to state in the most positive terms that Pomper was a thief.—Of course it must not be quite in order to insist that dogs are endowed to-day with a superior order of intelligence.—I have nothing further to advance for do I wish to extenuate Pomper's crime."

Some time ago, in Cannon street, city of London, I was witness to an extraordinary scene. Going along the street was an empty coal wagon with a tall, stout waggoner, long whip in hand, walking by its side. A heavy, powerful bull-dog happening to pass, he made a cut at it with his whip, and struck it smartly. The dog turned round instantly and rushed at the man, as every one thought, but he never offered to lay hold of him, and kept jumping at the whip, which the man held high out of reach. The man then began to beat it with the whip, till the animal snatched it from his hand and worried at it furiously. Having regulated hold of the whip, he swung the dog round and round, bumping it heavily against the pavement, till the crowd cried "shame!" The dog was then choked off, and the whip returned to its owner. The dog, however, as soon as loose immediately returned to the charge, when the driver, evidently not desirous of continuing the contest, threw the offending weapon into the wagon. The dog now tried two or three ineffectual jumps to follow it, but, finding himself baffled, trotted off crest-fallen, amid the jeers of the crowd.—"Done at last, old fellow." The most wonderful thing was that the animal could only see the proximate cause, and not the real offender.

If being in possession of the "signs" known only to the Brotherhood of Good Templars, and observing the essential qualification of total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors constitute a "brother," Mr. J. Leake's Newfoundland, (assuming of course that he does not indulge in other than the usual canine beverages), according to the Newcastle Daily Journal, would seem to have a right to the full benefits of membership of that brotherhood. This dog, it is stated by the above journal, having for some time past attended with his master at the "Pride of the Tyne" Lodge of Good Templars, at Halthwaite, he appears to have found out their mysterious rap for entering their Lodge Room during their meetings. On the last lodge night he seems to have lingered by the way, and his master entered the lodge without him and closed the door. A short time after the innkeeper and part of the members heard the well-known knocks at the inner door when the guard arose and opened it, and the black brute walked majestically in, greatly to the surprise of the regulars, causing no small amusement to the whole company.

A Radnorshire lady, who was married in March, and came to reside in Yorkshire, England, recently paid a visit to her father, who, before she was married, had kept two or three sheep-dogs, of which she was very fond.—Since then he has retired from business and disposed of all but one dog. This one met the lady with demonstrations of great delight upon her arrival at her father's house, and that night the dog went a distance of seven miles to a farmhouse where one of the other dogs had been sent, (the latter was blind, but kept as being an old favorite.) In the morning when the lady went to the door she not only saw the dog which had given her such a glad reception the day previously, but also the old blind one, which had evidently been brought by the other dog to welcome her. When the second night came the old blind one was taken back to its home by the same dog, which afterwards returned, having traveled a distance of twenty-

A SCANDALOUS PRACTICE.

"Suppose," said an Iowa attorney to a witness whom he was cross-examining, "Suppose, sir, I should tell you that I could bring a dozen of your own neighbors who would swear they would not believe you under oath! What would you say to that?" And the witness replied very pleasantly, "I should say you lied."

There turned on a brow-beating and insolent attorney, for unfortunately the latter always has the advantage, and too often is disposed to press it unfairly. There are instances of this almost every day in our courts. A modest, quiet business man unused to standing before a great audience, is placed in the witness-box. He unluckily knows some important facts about a case on trial before an intelligent jury. He states these facts truthfully and without malice. They are, though not with admirable composure on his part, fatal to the other side. The only remedy, therefore, is to destroy his evidence. Consequently an important little fellow, with bristling hair and pompous tone, prepares to extinguish him. Leaning back in his chair and glaring at the modest man, the attorney opens:—"Now, sir, what is your name?" Of course he knows it, but the attorney asks it again, as if it were of the greatest importance, and the witness might deny his name on second thought. So he says, "Now, sir, what is your name?" "Thomas Brown," responds the modest man.

"What?" screams the lawyer.—"Speak up, can't you? You are not ashamed of your name, are you?" "No, sir," replies Brown.

"Very well! Then speak up, so the jury can hear you. Now, sir, what is your interest in this case?" with a significant look at the jury.

"I have no interest in it," replies the witness.

The attorney looks horrified at the total depravity of the witness. He glances at the jury again; as much as to say: "Gentlemen, did you ever behold such turpitude?" and then goes on speaking deliberately, and emphasizing every word with a beck of his fore-finger. "Do you swear, sir, before this jury, and in presence of this court, and on your solemn oath, that you have no interest in this case?"

"Yes, sir," says Brown, blushing.

"Yes, you have, or yes, you have not?"

"Haven't you confessed within the past week to three different parties that you have an interest?"

"No, sir," replies Brown, trembling, and trying to think if he has ever uttered a word that could be tortured into such an admission.

"You swear before this jury," says the attorney, "that you never talked about this matter?"

"I did not say I had not talked," replied the witness.

"Ah, ha! Then you have talked!" exclaims the attorney. "I thought I could refresh your recollection."

"I only said," continues the witness, desiring to explain, but he is stopped abruptly.

"Never mind what you say, sir.—When I want to know what you said I will inquire of you. I understand you now to admit that you have talked about the matter. Is that right?"

"I simply talked"—

"Will you please answer my question?" thunders the attorney. "Have you talked, or have you not? Yes or no?"

"Yes, but"—

"That will do; you need not go on, sir. That is ample. At last you admit that you, a witness, an important witness, in this case, have been around the town discussing the matter! Do you think that is the proper thing, sir, for a witness to do?"

The witness, abashed and humiliated, remains silent.

"Will you answer, sir," continues the lawyer, threateningly. "Do you come before this jury, expecting to be believed, while admitting that you have made this case the subject of hope and fear, and discussed it on the street?"

The witness tries to explain, but is told to "stand down," and leaves the box, feeling that in some way he has been made to appear like a rascally perjurer, when he is as absolutely free from bias or prejudice as the most disinterested spectator in the room. Any one who is at all familiar with our courts will see that the above is a very faint picture of the "badgering" which witnesses are subjected. Indeed, a man giving his testimony might think he has escaped very easily if he met with nothing worse than this, and yet the imputations contained in the above would be resented with a blow in any other place than the courts. Such attacks are cowardly and disgraceful, and still they are permitted and winked at by our judges. We call upon the latter to begin the correction of this scandalous imposition. It is as much their duty to protect witnesses from gratuitous insult as it is to protect innocent men from unmerited punishment. The law is an honorable profession, a profession which should be exalted, not degraded. But is degraded sadly by such exhibitions. We have good reason to know that the best of its members despise such vulgar tricks and the men who resort to them, but there are hundreds of others who imagine that

A POPULAR WHEELBARROW.

A good many years ago, when Judge Pitman moved into our village, he brought with him a very superior new wheelbarrow which he had bought up North somewhere. Now it so happened that there was only one other wheelbarrow in town, and that was old-fashioned and very rickety; so the judge's immediately became in great demand. Everybody wanted the loan of it for a few days, and the judge lent it with such generosity that it was out most of the time, and a good many people had to wait for it. At last there came to be quite a rivalry as to who should have it next, and they used to tackle the judge at every opportunity to put in their claims. One day Pomeroy's wife died, and the Judge attended the funeral. Pomeroy was nearly wild with grief, and as he stood at the grave he cried as if his heart would break to see the loved remains lowered into their last resting-place. Presently he took his handkerchief from his eyes for a moment in order to blow his nose, and as he did so he happened to see Pitman looking at him. A thought seemed to strike Pomeroy. He dashed away a couple of tears and stepping across the excavation as they began to shovel in the dirt, he seized the judge by the hand. The judge gave it a sympathetic squeeze, and his eyes, and joined the procession of mourners.

"I'm sorry, Pomeroy—I am indeed. She was a noble woman, and a good wife. But you must remember that our loss is her gain, and try to bear up, under it."

"Ah! she was indeed a woman in ten thousand, as they say," replied Pomeroy, "and now to think that she is gone, gone from us forever! But these afflictions must not make us forget the duty we owe the living. Judge, I want to borrow your wheelbarrow. If you can accommodate me on Tuesday I think may be the worst of my suffering will be over."

"You shall have it," said the judge.

"Thank you, oh, thank you! Our friends are a great comfort to us in the hour of our bereavement," and then Pomeroy gave his mother-in-law his arm, put his handkerchief to his eyes, and joined the procession of mourners.

On the next Sunday, Rev. Dr. Bunker preached a most thrilling sermon in the Baptist church, and just as he reached "secondly," he paused, looked around the church for a minute, and then he called Deacon Moody up to the pulpit. He whispered something in Moody's ear, and Moody seemed to be astonished. The congregation were wild with curiosity to know what was the matter. Then the doctor, with a very red face, and looking annoyed walked down the aisle to Pitman's pew and whispered something to him. The judge nodded and whispered to Mrs. Pitman, who was dying to know what it was. Mrs. Pitman leaned over and passed the information to Mrs. McGrady in the pew in front, and when the McGradys all had it they sent it on to the people next to them, and before the doctor reached "thirdly" the whole congregation knew that he wanted to borrow the judge's wheelbarrow for Monday morning early.

On the following day the judge started to go up the river to the city on the steamboat, but the vessel had hardly left the wharf when the boiler burst, and the judge and half a dozen other passengers were blown into the air. The judge came down first and struck out for the shore. All of a sudden another elevated passenger shot down on top of him with such force as to send the judge to the bottom of the river. He came up sputtering and blowing and found the stranger treading water. The stranger apologized, and said the judge might not recognize him in his scorching condition as Israel Tobin, but while they were together he would like to put in a word for that wheelbarrow when the parson was done with it.

At last the judge grew tired of lending, refused all applications. Then the people began to steal it, and the judge and six of the most respectable citizens in jail, one after the other, for larceny. Finally he chained it to the pump, and then they sawed off the pump and stole the wheelbarrow with the log attached to it. Then he took to keeping it on top of his house, and this answered for a while, until Cooley went up one evening in a hot-air balloon and borrowed it. Then he bucked it into the river, and two men were drowned swimming after it, and the people of the town were so excited that the police had to be called out to keep them from mobbing the judge's house. The following week some enterprising speculator brought down a boat-load of wheelbarrows of the new kind, and then the excitement abated, and things went along more smoothly. The judge, however, has used a pushcart ever since.—Max Adler in N. Y. Weekly.

the highest evidence of a judicial mind is an ability to descend to billingsgate and personal vituperation, and especially to do this when the victim is defenceless and cannot respond. There is one power above lawyers and courts which can reform this practice if it cannot be reformed by voluntary action.—The power is the people; and it may yet become necessary to demand a pledge from all candidates for public office to their elevation to the bench.—Inter-Ocean.