

# Saint Andrew's Beacon

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## ST. MARY'S BEACON

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March 8, 1878-19.

## CO-PARTNERSHIP.

HIRAM G. DUDLEY and A. F. FENWICK have this day entered into a co-partnership for the purpose of conducting the General

## Commission Business

of the sale of TOBACCO, GRAIN and COUNTRY PRODUCE. They respectfully solicit the patronage so liberally extended to the old firm. The style of the firm will be DUDLEY, FENWICK & Co., 57 Light St., Baltimore, Md. Oct. 5, 1878-19

## How we Talk.

My attention was first called to the subject of our dialects on entering college at Princeton. The college gathered its students from various parts of the land; great varieties of speech were soon made evident. The recitation after dinner was called by some the *evening* recitation, by others the *evening* recitation. The hour at which it was held was, according to some, half-past three (as in *far*); according to others, (as in *fat*). It was heard, as some said, by a *choster*; as others said, by a *sooter*, while according to others still, the person was neither the one nor the other of these, but rather something between them, namely, a *foeder*. The little word *here*, in answering to the calling of the roll. One would say *here* (if full), another *heah*, another *keen*, and another *gher*. It soon became evident that such differences marked the different sections of the country from which the students came.

The dialects of our country arise in great part, no doubt, from our diversity of local and national origin. The dialects of the mother-country are, to some extent, preserved and perpetuated here. We have, too, many Scotticisms and Scotch-Irishisms. Then, besides the mother-country, the father-land is represented among us, as also, to some extent, France, Holland and other nations.

A knowledge of our dialects gives important hints in regard to the early colonization of our country, and in regard to the various movements of the different elements of our population from the first until now. The second respect in which a knowledge of our dialects is important is to be found in the connection subsisting between language and manner of life.

Let us see, then, first, how our history is illustrated by our dialects. Any one going into the neighborhood of New York City will speedily be made aware that the descendants of the Dutch are about him. He will discover it from the names of the people, from the names of localities in the country and streets in the city, and from the use of Dutch words which he has not heard elsewhere. Among the people to whom he is introduced will find an extraordinary number of "Vans"—Van Dyke, Van Bokkelen, Van Buren, Van Bensenville. The localities of Hoboken and Staten Island, and Cortlandt street, New York, and Schermerhorn street, in Brooklyn, will constantly be heard. He will find himself making an excursion on the Harlem Railroad and crossing Spuyten Duyvel Creek. If it is winter he will be eating "crullers," or Dutch doughnuts; if it is summer, he will be resting after dinner in the cool "stoop" or porch of the Dutch farm-house. And, when Sunday comes, it will surely be the "domine" whom he will hear preach. Now, in the prevalence of such names and words may the existence of the descendants of the Dutch be detected and their movements be traced wherever they have gone in our land. By glancing at a map of our country we see the footprints of the French in the geographical names which are heard every day. Whence are the names of Vincennes and Terre Haute in Indiana, and Pon Du Lac and Prairie Du Chien in the Northwest but from the early French settlers? The single word "prairie," is universal use to describe the immense natural meadows of the West, is a sufficient testimony that the French were the first Europeans to explore the regions to which they belong. Why is it that Illinois is spelled with a final "s," yet pronounced without it? Would not this indicate that the French were the first to make the acquaintance of the Illinois Indians and to write their name? We may infer with certainty the early establishment and permanent abode of a French population in "Missouri" from the geographical names. See the number of saints—St. Louis, St. Charles, St. Genevieve and St. Joseph. See such other names as Des Moines on the north and Cape Girardeau on the South. In St. Louis they measure land not by "acres" but by "arpens." This admixture of French is undoubtedly much larger in the people of the South than in those of the North. And, accordingly, we find the Southern dialects assimilating to the peculiarities of the French language. This is seen particularly in the disposition to throw the accent of words forward at the South, and the opposite disposition at the North. Thus, at the South the vulgar almost invariably say *president* and *testament* and *excitement* and gentlemen. So in words of two syllables, the accent is frequently placed on the last syllable, when at the North it would be placed on the first. The tendency North in such cases to draw the accent back when it probably is thrown forward, appears in whole classes of words. Thus in words of three syllables, persons are disposed to say *illustrate* for *illustre*, and *opponent* for *opponant*, and inquiry for *inquiry*. So in words of two syllables, there is a disposition to say *recess* for *recess*.

A more important variety of our speech is that which is of Scotch-Irish origin. The dialect of Pennsylvania is mainly Scotch-Irish. This is the more remarkable when we remember that the first settlers of Pennsylvania were largely of the class of English Quakers; and that subsequently the Germans have come in in almost overwhelming force. From Eastern Pennsylvania the Scotch-Irish spread abroad, going up the Cumberland Valley into Virginia, and crossing the Alleghenies both in

Pennsylvania and Virginia. Their dialect is broadly defined, both as against the people of New York on the north and the people of Old Virginia on the south and east. No one at all acquainted with the Scotch-Irish dialect would be at a loss to identify the main peculiarities of speech exhibited in all the region indicated. The Pennsylvania says "strenth" and "lenth" for strength and length. He says "candle" and "handle" and "bunnie" for candle, and handle, and bundle. He says "I want out" and "I want down," for "I want to get out" and "I want to get down." He says he will wait "on you" when he means that he will wait "for" you. If a person has had a slight sickness, and has speedily gotten over it, the Pennsylvania will say of him that "he took sick," but it was only "a brash," and he soon got "quite better." The Pennsylvania often uses "nor" for "than" after a comparative adjective. One thing is "more nor another," or "better nor another." So "till" is often substituted for "to" in the Pennsylvania dialect. A horse comes till the stable, or a boy till the school-house. The word "into" is much used for "in" in Pennsylvania. A horse will be said to have a white spot into his forehead, or a field to have a fine spring of water into it. The Pennsylvanians use the word "whenever" to signify "as soon as." Thus it will be said, "whenever the carriage came, the lady got in." In Pennsylvania they "fill collection," and "take up church," and ride to town "in a machine," with a "horse-beast" drawing the machine. Moreover, if the horse is a lively animal, what some call "skittish," he will be called in Pennsylvania a "wild beast." Now, all these peculiarities are evidently of Scotch-Irish origin, and by means of them, and others like them, we can trace in our country the movements and the influence of this element of population.

There is a feature of our dialect which, historically considered, seems a complete puzzle. New England and the population to the west of her, and then Virginia, agree in an extensive use of the Italian sound of the vowel *a*, and also in the suppressed sound of the letter *r*, while between these regions, to wit, in all the region of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Northern Maryland—the narrower sound *a* prevails, and a fuller consonantal sound of *r*. Thus in New England and Virginia they say (as in *far*) "calm" and "balm," and "laugh" and "grass," and "past" and "command," while in the region between they say (as in *fat*) calm, balm, laugh, grass, past, and command. So in New England and Virginia they say "fo-ah," "mo-ah," "caud," "betteh," while in the region between they say "four, more, cord," and "better."

So the people carry their peculiarities of speech along with them wherever they go. And we may trace the streams of migration as they flow through the land by the dialects of the different portions of the newer countries. It is interesting to find that the great laws which have governed the migrations of nations since the beginning of history have controlled the more limited movements of the different portions of our own population. Since the beginning, migrations have been chiefly on parallels of latitude. Movements to the north or to the south, movements on meridian lines, have been incidental to these. They have been little more than eddying on the margin of the great tidal current.

But not only have the migrations of nations been chiefly on parallels of latitude, they have been, since the period of recorded history, mainly migrations westward instead of eastward. Not only in modern times is it true that—"Westward the course of empire takes its way!" The very first notice of any movement of the earth's population is in the following language, in the early chapters of the book of Genesis:—"And it came to pass as they journeyed from the east that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there." The whole movement of the race since the dawn of its historic existence has been a movement towards the setting sun.

Well, so has it been in our country. The movements of the people have been chiefly westward upon parallels of latitude. The best illustration of this law is probably that afforded by Ohio. In traveling across the State of Ohio from north to south, we find we pass through three distinct layers of population. The layer on the north is essentially New England; that across the middle of the State is equally Pennsylvania; and that upon the south is a mixture mainly of New Jersey and Virginia and Kentucky people. The dialectic differences make known these zones of population beyond mistake.

It remains to speak briefly of our dialects as illustrative of manners and customs of life. All that will be said on this branch of the subject will be in the way of giving as specimens a few such illustrations. In New England they make use of the points of the compass in designating the direction of movements and the relation of localities to an extent not known in other parts of the land. They do not so much use the terms forward and backward, to the right hand and to the left, as the terms north and south and east and west. If a traveler inquires his way, he will be told to take the road leading east until it forks, then take the north fork, etc. The habit extends to the most limited movements

—not merely those about one's own premises or home, but even those about the same room in the house. The piano will even be said sometimes to stand on the north side of the parlor; while the proper place for the principal article of the centre table.

Now, it is not difficult to connect this habit with a peculiarity in the life of New England people. As compared with the rest of the nation they are maritime in their character. Perhaps New England has twice as many other people about the sea as the rest of the country besides. And sailor-language must, in New England more than elsewhere, prevail on shore. And with the sailor the compass is, of course, the constant guide in matters of local direction. And so, all along the coast, it is much more the habit of the people than in the interior to watch the changes of the wind and weather. On almost every court house and church and barn and out-house of every sort, in New England and New Jersey, is seen a weather-vane of some kind, with perhaps the point of the compass indicated. Almost any man alongshore will at any time tell you the various directions the wind has been blowing for several days past, and in his narrative he will use the phraseology of the sea. "Day before yesterday," he will tell you, "the wind was blowing *not-east*, while yesterday it had *blow'd to sea-west*." The Yankee, as everybody knows, is of a curious and inquisitive disposition. And this disposition evinces itself not only in the extraordinary manner of questions which he asks, but in some of his frequent and peculiar expressions. Tell him what you may, however interesting, however wonderful, and you go but stimulate him to seek for further knowledge. He still exclaims:—"Du tell!" "I want to know!" Yet the genuine Yankee is modest, and while anxious for information, is fearful lest meanwhile he should weary or annoy the one he questions. And his modesty is seen in the very form of his inquiries. He does not come plump against you, and thrust his questions at you like so many pointed weapons, compelling you to put yourself in battle array, and enter upon conversational combat. Rather he gently puts forth a statement, to which you may respond or not, as you please. Indeed, he even makes his statement in a negative form, so as to touch you more lightly. If he chances on you in traveling, and desires to know where you live, "Wal, I s'pose you don't come from West Brookfield!" or from what other place he may think you do come from. The following inquiry after a lost hat is probably an extreme case:—"Nobody ain't seen nothin' of no old hat nowhere?"

In New England the words pretty and ugly, instead of being limited to physical attributes, as in common elsewhere, are mainly employed to describe moral and intellectual character. Young ladies, however plain or uncomely of feature, if they are pleasant in their manners, and entertaining in their conversation, will be called in New England "very pretty girls." A New England gentleman, living in the South, told me that he was once completely nonplussed when about to call upon some ladies, by the remark of his companion, who was a Southerner, that the ladies, although unquestionably "ugly," were yet of amiable disposition. An ugly person in New England is an "unamiable" person, and a person of simply unagreeable features is a "homely" person.

Connecticut is called "the land of steady habits," but it may be that New Jersey has equal claims to this honorable designation. In these days, when boys so suddenly become men, when parental authority is so much set at naught, perhaps the older communities of New Jersey exhibit as fair specimens of general good order and of family subordination as are to be found anywhere in the land. And to this we have testimony in a peculiarity of dialect among the old-time people in portions of that State. They show a deference to persons of station or worth, or to strangers, by speaking to them in the third person. Instead of saying, "How do you do?" in inquiring after your health, they will say, "How does 'he' do?" or perhaps will use your name, and say to you, "How does Mr. Brown do?" And such persons are particular to demand of their children that they shall say "he" and "she" in addressing their father and mother, and would be as ready to chastise them for daring to say "you" as for any other token of disrespect. It is, however, an ominous fact that this usage is fast disappearing. The usage is only a remnant of those courtly times which have themselves well-nigh disappeared.

Perhaps a sufficient number of illustrations has been given of the connection of our sectional habits with our modes of speech, yet it would hardly answer to dismiss the subject without some reference to our Westernisms of life and speech. Such words as "cleansings," and "diggins," and "openings," point out sufficiently the new character of the Western country.

There is that, however, in Western language which is yet more significant of peculiarity in Western life. Western people are much in the habit of using words in odd and unexpected ways, and of instituting grotesque comparisons, and of indulging in picturesque expressions. They indulge in a sort of wild freedom of speech which seems truly to harmonize with the freedom of

life belonging to a new country. For example, they prefer to call whisky "corn-juice," because therein is the conception of the "make" of the article. And when they go further and call it "chain-lightning," they very vividly set forth the style of its working. They say of a man whose pretensions have been exposed, or who has egregiously failed in carrying out his plans, that he has "flatted out." Then a man of staunch character is not only "there," but further and especially, he is so safe that "he will do to us to." A Western man in traveling, when he happens to see a church, and desires to know who is its pastor, will ask the question, "Who runs the concern?" It is common everywhere to hear the word "body" used for "much" or "greatly." Thus, a man caught in a shower will say that he wants an umbrella very "body." But see the emphasis which the Western man obtains by a little twisting of the expression. He says, "I want an umbrella 'the worst kind.'"

Yet, if at the same time we study the dialects of other countries, we shall find that the people of this whole land are one in language, in a higher and more perfect sense than is true of any other nation—one also in race, history, literature, geography—and that nowhere under the sun are seen so many unities among a people, of such high and controlling sort, as exist in reference to the American people.—*Appleton's Journal.*

### CURE FOR DYSPEPSIA.

Milk and lime-water are now frequently prescribed by physicians in cases of dyspepsia and weakness of the stomach, and in some cases are said to prove beneficial. Many persons who think good bread and milk a great luxury frequently hesitate to eat it, for the reason that milk will not digest readily; sourness of the stomach will often follow. But experience proves that lime-water and milk are not only food and medicine at an early period of life, but also at later, when, as in the case of infants, the functions of digestion and assimilation have been seriously impaired. A stomach taxed by glutinous, irritated by improper food, inflamed by alcohol, enfeebled by disease, or otherwise unfitted for its duties—as is shown by the various symptoms attendant upon indigestion, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, dysentery, and fever—will resume its work, and do it energetically, on an exclusive diet of bread and milk and lime-water. A goblet of cow's milk may have four tablespoonfuls of lime-water added to it with good effect. The way to make lime-water is simply to procure a few pounds of unslaked lime, put the lime in a stone jar, add water until the lime is slaked and of about the consistency of thin cream; the lime settles, leaving the pure and clear water at the top. Great care should be taken not to get the lime-water too strong. Keep to the direction as to the consistency, and when the water rises pour it off without obtaining any of the lime. The lime-water is also very good to apply to burns and scalds. In slaking the lime, particular care should be taken that none of the particles fly into the eye.—*Tuborn News.*

It is a graceful moment, that of being well nestled in bed, and feeling that you shall drop gently to sleep.—The good is to come, not past; the remembrance has just been enough to render the remaining in one posture delightful; the labor of the day is done. A gentle failure of the perceptions creeps over you; the spirit of consciousness disengages itself once more, and with slow and hushing degrees, like a mother detaching her hand from that of a sleeping child, the mind seems to have a calm closing over it. Like the eye, it is closed—the mysterious spirit has gone to take its airy round.

Many of us have to lament, not so much a want of opportunities in life, as our unreadiness for them when they come.—"It might have been," is the language of our hearts oftener than words of complaint and murmuring. God sends us flax, but our spindle and distaff are out of repair or mislaid, so that we are not ready to use them.

On the first of January we should drop a single vice and pick up a virtue in its stead, the doctrine of total depravity would soon be laid quietly in its grave.

It is well to have faith in everything, but you want to carefully examine the inside of a chestnut before you trust altogether to appearances.

It is difficult to say who do you the most mischief—enemies with the worst intentions, or friends with the best.

Many a man saves his life by not fearing to lose it, and many a man loses his life by being over anxious to save it.

## Doubling Cape Horn.

About midnight, when the starboard watch, to which I belonged, was below, the boatswain's whistle was heard, followed by the shrill cry "All hands take in sail! Jump, men and save ship!"

Springing from our hammocks, we found the frigate leaning over so steeply that it was with difficulty we could climb the ladders leading to the upper deck. Here the scene was awful.—The main deck guns had several days previously been run in and hoisted, and the port-holes closed; but the fore-castles plunged through the sea, which undulated over them in milk-white billows of foam. With every lurch to leeward the yard-arm ends seemed to dip in the sea, while forward the spray dashed over the bows in cataracts and drenched the men who were on the foreyard.

But this time the deck was alive with the whole strength of the ship's company, 500 men; officers and all, mostly clinging to the weather bulwarks. The occasional phosphorescence of the yeasty sea cast a glare upon their uplifted faces, as a night-fire in a populous city lights up the panic-stricken crowd.

In a sudden gale, or when a large quantity of sail is suddenly to be furled, it is customary for the First Lieutenant to take the trumpet from whoever then happens to be officer of the deck. But Mad Jack, the Second Lieutenant, had the trumpet that watch, nor did the First Lieutenant now seek to wrest it from his hands. Every eye was upon him, as it we had chosen him from among us all to decide this battle with the elements by single combat with the Spirit of the Cape—for Mad Jack was the saving genius of the ship, and so proved himself that night. I owe this right hand that is this moment flying over my sheet, and all my present being, to Mad Jack.

The ship's bows were now butting, battering, ramming and thundering over and upon the head-seas, and with a terrible wallowing sound our whole hull was rolling in the trough of the foam.—The gale came athwart the deck, and every sail seemed bursting with its wide breadth. All the quarter-masters, and several of the fore-castle men, were swarming around the double wheel on the quarter-deck, some jumping up and down with their hands upon the spokes; for the whole helm and galvanized keel were fiercely feverish with the life imparted to them by the tempest.

It blew a hurricane. The spray flew over the ship in floods. The gigantic masts seemed about to snap under the world-wide strain of three entire top-sails.

"Clew down! clew down!" shouted Mad Jack, husky with excitement, and in a frenzy beating his trumpet against one of the shrouds; but owing to the slant of the ship, the thing could not be done. It was obvious that before many minutes something must go—either sails, rigging or sticks; perhaps the hull itself, and all hands.

Presently a voice from the top exclaimed that there was a rent in the main top-sail, and instantly we heard a report like two or three muskets discharged together; the vast sail was rent up and down. This saved the mainmast, for the yard was now clewed down with comparative ease, and the topmen laid out to stow the shattered canvas. Soon the two remaining top-sails were also clewed down and close-reefed.

Above all the roar of the tempest and the shouts of the crew was heard the dismal tolling of the ship's bell (almost as large as that of a village church), which the violent rolling of the ship was occasioning. Imagination can not conceive the terror of such a sound in the night tempest at sea.

so high as to afford much protection to those on deck) the gale was terrible.—The sheer force of the wind flattered us to the rigging as we ascended, and every hand seemed congealed to the icy shroud by which we held.

"Up, up, my brave hearties!" shouted Mad Jack; and up we got, some way or other, all of us, and groped our way out on the yard-arms.

"Hold on, every mother's son!" cried an old quarter-gunner at my side; he was bawling at the top of his compass but, in the gale, he seemed to be whispering, and I only heard him from being right up overhead.

All this time the sail itself was flying about, sometimes catching over our head, and threatening to tear us from the yard in spite of all our hugging. For about three quarters of an hour we thus hung, suspended over the rampant billows, which curled their very crests under the feet of some four or five of us clinging to the lee yard-arm, as if to float us from our place. Presently the word passed along the yard from windward that we were ordered to come down and leave the sail to blow, since it could not be furled. A midshipman, it seemed had been sent up by an officer of the deck to give the order, as no trumpet could be heard where we were. Those on the weather yard-arm managed to crawl upon the spar and scramble down the rigging; but with us, on the extreme leeward side, this feat was out of the question; it was, literally, like climbing a precipice to get to the windward, in entire to reach the shrouds; besides, the order yard was now incased in ice, and our hands and feet was so numb that we dared not trust our lives to them. We were, by assisting each other, we contrived to throw ourselves prostrate along the yard, and embrace it with our arms and legs. In this position, ston-sail boom greatly assisted in securing our hold.

Strange as it may appear, I do not suppose that, at this moment, the slightest sensation of fear was felt by one man on that yard. We clung to it with might and main; but this was instinct. The truth is: that in circumstances like these, the sense of fear is annihilated in the unutterable sights that fill all the eye, and the sounds that fill the ear.—You become identified with the tempest; your insignificance is lost in the riot of the stormy universe around. Below us our noble frigate seemed thrice its real length—a vast black wedge, opposing its widest end to the combined fury of the sea and wind.

At length the first fury of the gale began to abate, and we at once fell to pounding our hands, as a preliminary operation to going to work, for a gang of men had now ascended to help secure what was left of the sail. We somehow packed it away at last, and came down.

About noon the next day the gale so moderated that we shook two reefs out of the top-sails, set new courses and stood due east, with the wind astern.

THE BUZZING OF INSECTS.—The old naturalists believed that the buzzing of insects was caused solely by the vibrations of the wing, but this opinion was abandoned when Reaumur showed that a blowy continues to buzz after its wings are cut off. According to M. Jousset de Belleme, who has been investigating the subject, insects which buzz emit two sounds, a grave one when they fly, and a sharp one when they alight. The grave sound always accompanies the great vibrations of the wings. It commences as soon as the wings begin to move, and if the wings be cut off it disappears entirely. The sharp sound is never, on the contrary, produced during flight; it is only observed apart from the great vibrations of the wings when the insect alights, or when it is held so as to hinder its movement, and in that case the wing is seen to be animated by a rapid trembling.—It is also produced when the wings are taken entirely away. This sharp sound is due to the vibration of the thorax.—The form of the thorax changes with each movement of the wing, under the influence of the contraction of the thoracic muscles. The muscular masses intended for flight being powerful, this vibratory movement of the thorax is very intense, as may be proved by holding a bumble-bee between the fingers. And as the vibrations are repeated two or three hundred times per second, they give rise to a musical sound, which is the sharp note. In fact, the air which surrounds the thorax is set in vibration by that directly, and without the wing taken part in it.

One of the saddest and most vexatious trials that comes to a girl when she marries is that she has to discharge her mother and depend upon a hired girl.

What's the use of your trying to lie about it so clumsily? said the Magistrate, benevolently, "haven't you a lawyer?"

Don't always turn back because there's danger ahead; there may be danger in the rear.