

St. Mary's Beacon

THURSDAY MORNING, Dec. 21st, 1882.

THE OYSTER POLICE SLOOP BILL.

Judge Miller, of the Anne Arundel Circuit Court, has rendered his decision in the mandamus case of Senator Wells, vs. Gov. Hamilton, in relation to the oyster police sloop, granting the mandamus as prayed for by the appellants, compelling the delivery of the bill in question to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, and recognizing the same as law. The bill was introduced by Senator Wells at the last session of the Legislature, and provides for an additional oyster police sloop for the waters of Anne Arundel county. The controversy grew out of the failure of the Governor to deliver it with the other bills passed at the session which had become laws to the clerk's office.

INSPECTOR SOMERVILLE RESIGNS.

The investigation of the charges against Mr. Alexander Somerville, inspector of State tobacco warehouses No. 2, has been terminated by the withdrawal of the charges against him, which were for alleged misconduct and incompetency, and the resignation of that official. Mr. Bannan, counsel for Dr. Smoot, one of the parties to the charges, stated, when he abandoned the prosecution, that he believed Mr. Somerville, in his management of the warehouse, had acted in good faith and honestly, and that whatever existed in the ill-management of the warehouse was the fault of a system which had grown up in the house rather than the fault of the inspector himself. He therefore desired to withdraw the charges against Mr. Somerville.

Judge Magruder, Mr. Somerville's counsel, said Mr. Somerville had found his position as tobacco inspector exceedingly annoying, and was desirous of retiring to private life. Judge Magruder handed to the Gov. the resignation of Mr. Somerville, to take effect January 1, 1883, which the Governor said he would accept, and gave notice that he would fill the vacancy by the 1st of January.

Gov. Hamilton said that from the investigation he could see that many abuses and much mismanagement existed in the conduct of the tobacco warehouses; that customs had arisen which had virtually superseded law. Referring to the system of marking hogsheads with fictitious names, the Gov. said that the law applied as rigidly to "straw" tobacco as to any other tobacco, and that they were marking and selling it under fictitious names was wholly wrong and detrimental to the tobacco interests. He thought it would be better not to sell the "straw" tobacco at all as tobacco, but if it was sold, the proceeds of such sales should be strictly accounted for to the State. The Governor pronounced the political assessments alleged to have been carried on at the warehouse as atrocious, and said assessments for those purposes were a disgrace to national and State governments. He said the purpose for which these assessments are made is to corrupt elections in one form or another, and he would condemn them severely. He added: "I want it distinctly understood that if any tobacco inspector, or any other official under my authority, shall withhold any part of the wages of employes under them, I shall regard it as a cause for instant removal. The warehouses should be conducted on business principles, and it shall be my endeavor as far as possible to see that they are so conducted. I am gratified at this termination of the investigation. I trust that it may have the effect of purging the warehouses generally of existing abuses."

The Senate on Friday last adopted an amendment to the Bankrupt bill, on motion of Senator Morgan, designed to break up gambling in stocks, bonds or other securities, grain, cotton, tobacco, sugar, fowl, provisions and provisions. The amendment makes dealing in "features" in any of the prohibited articles a crime for involuntary bankruptcy. Now the States should supplement the act of Congress by making such gambling a criminal offense, and then the serious business would end, and the Wall Street sharks, and the cotton, tobacco, grain and provision gamblers in all the cities would be routed from their strongholds.

President Arthur's message contains 11,001 words, and was transmitted by the Western Union Telegraph Company from Washington to Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York simultaneously on ten wires. The time occupied in its transmission was fifty-five minutes.

Representative-elect Ochiltree, of Texas, has reached Washington. He says that his district is "five times as large as Ben Butler's little State" and adds: "I rode over the district during the canvass on a razor-back mule."

CHRISTMAS.

The anniversary of the day that marks the rise of the Christian Epoch comes on apace. Yes, Christmas will soon be here, and the announcement of the white-winged Messenger, delivered unto the Shepherds, night unto Bethlehem, comes floating through the vista of nineteen centuries; and we fancy we hear the glad refrain, echoing and reaching along the plains of Bethlehem, and over against the hills of Jerusalem: "Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people; for this day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord in the city of David. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will."

Glorious day that heralds the birth of a regenerated world! How thankful should we be that we are spared to witness another Christmas? It will not always be thus. It may be the last for us. If we will pause here and there, point to absent friends who joined with us in the festivities of a year ago. Where are they now? Gone to swell the Silent Throng! Their voiceless lips eloquently appeal to us to pause and reflect. They are gone, and we know them only in memory. So it will be with us. It cannot be long. Fears come and go and in a short time the people that know us so well will know us no more forever. Solemn thought; yet such is life.

Let us temper our aspirations. Let us come to us to pledge anew our lives to Him who died that we might live. Blessed Martyr! Most faithful Friend who offered up his life an expiation for us! How many so-called friends, thank you kind reader, would do the same!

Does it not behoove us then to pass this day aright? At least, let us not spend it in a spirit of levity, and it may be debauchery. Christmas! What varied emotions does it not awaken in the human breast! How different its pastimes, its hopes and fears, its realizations! The youth, the maiden, the thoughtless, the young man, the young woman, the young wife, they will be young but once; only we will hope their amusements will be innocent. The old, the weary wanderer on life's journey lives rather in the past than the present. His return recalls to his memory the Christmas of his younger days. He counts its oft recurring visits, and feels his journey's end draws nigh. The mother, father, those with the little ones at their knee, heralds its coming under holier, if not happier, auspices. They are intent upon the glad surprises for the dear ones in their keeping. And you, gentle mother, who can call each one around your heartstomach on Christmas eve, and find no "vacant chair," rejoice and be glad. God has dealt lightly with you. Yours will be a happy Christmas, indeed. But have a mind to those not so truly blest. Breathe a prayer for the widowed wife, the anxious father, the weeping mother, who mourn the loss of their untimely dead. How many mothers in this wide land to-day, like Rachel of old, are weeping for their little ones, and refuse to be comforted, because they are not! Oh! breathe a prayer for their aching hearts! They too were once happy and glad because their family circle was entire. Now its return will open anew the well-springs of their grief. They will look in vain for the dear little face, so sunny and bright, on last Christmas morn! No rippling laugh, no patter of little feet, will salute their ears on this blessed day. All will be quiet, still, so still! No little stockings will range along the mantle now, for these dear ones have been torn from their mother's breast. But we will trust their little hearts will be made gladder by the change; and that fairy hands will fill their little stockings in the Spirit Land, and Angels will plume, raise and nuzzle, gathered from ambrosial seas, and that He who said, "suffer little children to come unto me," will grace their festive board! Oh! that will be a real Christmas, indeed. They would not exchange it for their Christmas here. Sweet innocents! God has taken you to himself, pure and fresh as when you came from His hands, and though your parents' hearts bleed that you are gone, and that they cannot see your dear faces again, and press you to their bosoms more, they feel that your spirit is with them, and that you are "watching and waiting" for them! Blessed babes! you have missed it, cold, a cruel world. Its poisoned, malignant shafts cannot strike you now. You are safe, and you are only waiting to welcome your loved ones, who cherished you so fondly here, to make your happiness complete. What a golden link! Father, Mother, you who have a dear one on "the other shore," let your life be such that this link be not broken. It is a beacon light to guide you on your journey through life!

Let us be reconciled to our neighbor. Let us be reconciled to the hand of one who has grossly wronged us, who withholds the bread that is justly ours, whose slanderous tongue has been busy defaming us. It is hard, I say, to "forgive and forget," but we must forgive, even as we ask to be forgiven. What better time than now?

The old, the feeble, those upon whom life heavily hangs, we will not pass by. Let us cheer their tedious hours by a friendly visit, a cherry smile, a kind word. Time has withered their frames, but their hearts are frank and long for the sunshine of better days. You will not regret it. The suffering poor must be remembered. Their hearts have been a life struggle. They have had upon its bitterness, but its sweets have been untasted. We will give them a helping

hand; it will not be lost. "Cast your bread upon the waters and you will find it after many days." Be kind to the little ones at home, to those priceless jewels whom God has entrusted to your keeping. You will not know how dear they are to you until, it may be, they are taken. It is a sacred trust; do not betray it. And the little orphan, the friendless waif, tarried on the billows of life's uncertain sea, we will not pass by. Its tiny form may have never felt the pressure of a father's arm, its lips never tasted a mother's kiss, or its beating heart a mother's love, and its sickening in vain, watching for its remembered loved one, who will never return. Oh! we will not pass it by. It is or was "somebody's darling," you know. We will treasure it for this day at least, and endeavor in some measure at least to take the place of her whose pale lips are still in death. In the "far away home of the east," she may be watching with agonizing care over her orphan treasure, and noting with an indelible hand those who may stop to "bladder its lonely heart."

His strength in analysis was of the highest order and he only equaled by his consistent purity. No man I have ever known had a more comprehensive grasp of an intellectual proposition or saw more clearly the value of its constituent parts. He dallied not with a subject just long enough to show his mastery of it, and then, as many do, carelessly dismissed it into the limbo of indifferent things. Nor was he an illustration of Goethe's saying, "Thought widens but never deepens."

His greatest misfortune was, I think, that he could be only induced to use his pen when it was impossible longer to delay. It is my firm conviction, that had many of his conceptions been taken down by his contemporaries, they would have enriched our literature and made him known throughout the world of letters and science. Those who knew him intimately will, I think, maintain me in this opinion, for when speaking seriously, he uttered nothing base or foolish. His location was not well chosen; he had not enough to stimulate him to its daily requirements. Not enough rivalry and opposition to develop him before the world. His own convictions were clearly understood and tenaciously held, but the utmost tolerance characterized his judgment of the opinions of others. He was far removed from bigotry and had a noted scorn of shame and pride. He was sure to make your humor more pleasant than any other place, and he will not tarry so long at the club room, the corner grocery, and the tavern. Men are sociable beings, and although rough and uncouth in exterior, after the perplexities of the day are over, they naturally long for the recuperating effects of conviviality and friendships. If they are denied that at home, they will seek it elsewhere. Remember how anxious you were to gain his love; how solicitous to appear comely and agreeable in his eyes, when he came to evening you! It is just as necessary to practice those little arts at which your sex are so deft, to retain that love as it was to win it! Bear this in mind; it will save you a world of trouble and apparent neglect. No man who loves a wife, wants to see her slatternly, slovenly attired. The love of a husband will not long survive such habits. And let me ask you, wives, who mourn its early decay, and who complain that husbands are so changed towards you, if you are not just a little re-avis in this respect? Are you the better if not in nautical phrase, "reverse the helm." You will not do it so soon. Clear clear of those quivers of matrimony in which, sooner or later, if perverted in, your happiness will surely be wrecked. Keep a steady hand, and with a little tact, you will be surprised to see how soon you will strike the pure, deep, pellucid waters of conjugal love. Somewhat at length, kind reader, I have jotted down these reflections, and I trust they may be of some little benefit at this particular time. If they will have the effect of drawing us a little nearer to the giver of every good, and causing us to take a reckoning of our course, they will be amply repaid. What life is at best? This "gift fever" will soon be over. Than let us while here, deal kindly with each other; learn to look over each other's faults; do not expect too much; rather endeavor to please others than ourselves; it is the shortest road to a contented mind; and pursue the even tenor of our way. The world may judge us harshly, unjustly. Let them do it. If we have the satisfaction of knowing we are right, all will be well in the end. Our troubles will soon close; our wrongs will not endure; but leave them to Him who searches every heart, whose edicts are just and from whom there is no appeal.

A Brief Reminiscence of Dr. John T. Turner.

Dr. John T. Turner, who died on the 19th inst., was born in St. Mary's county, Aug. 18th, 1816. He began his life of devotion to literature at "Forest Hall," and completed his education at "Washington College," Hartford, Connecticut. While there, his certificates bear evidence of his high position in the esteem of his teachers and in the hearts of his fellow students. He was a highly respected and prominent member of the I. K. A. Society.

His tastes for literature and science induced him to embrace the profession of medicine as his calling. He was his degree (M. D.) at the "University of Maryland." His graduating thesis was highly commended for its originality and thorough comprehension of intricate pathology. In 1840 he was appointed to the "Alms-house," where, by reason of his accurate observation, success and scientific management of disease, he was soon offered the coveted and responsible position of resident physician.

Later, he began the practice of medicine in St. Mary's county, where he ended his life, June 13th, 1882, in the 66th year of his age. He was indeed possessed of rare mental and moral characteristics. No man could have entered life with a better title to his name as a gentleman, and he "wore without a stain the grand old name." He was both a reasoning and a reasonable man. "A mind with strength," he once told to a friend. On doubts the crowd of the world; keen through words, he traced suggestion to her innermost soul.

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How the present tariff works. The following striking presentation of the pauperizing and iniquitous effects of the present tariff is made by Mr. Turner, of Kentucky, a member of the present Congress: "Under the operation of the present tariff, the farmer rises in the morning, puts on his common flannel shirt taxed 94 per cent., his coat taxed 57 per cent., shoes taxed 35 per cent., hat taxed 95 per cent., takes the water from a bucket taxed 95 per cent., and washes his face in a tin bowl taxed 35 per cent., dries them on a cheap cotton towel taxed 45 per cent. He sits down to his humble meal and eats from a plate taxed 50 per cent., with a knife and fork taxed 35 per cent., drinks his coffee with sugar taxed 65 per cent., seasons his food with salt taxed 69 per cent., pepper taxed 61 per cent. He looks around on his wife and children, all taxed in the same way, takes a chew of tobacco taxed 199 per cent., or lights his cigar taxed 118 per cent., and, air, even the sunlight from heaven, that pours into his humble dwelling, must come through the window-pane taxed 59 per cent., and yet he thinks he lives in the freest government under the heavens. Then he starts to work, puts the bridle taxed 55 per cent. on his horse, and takes the horse that has been shod, the nail used in shoeing taxed 50 per cent., driven by a hammer taxed 29 per cent., and hitched him to a plow taxed 45 per cent., with chains taxed 58 per cent.; and after the day's labor is closed and his family all gathered around, he reads a chapter from his Bible, taxed 25 per cent., and kneels to God on an humble carpet taxed 51 per cent., and then he rests his wearied limbs on a sheet taxed 45 per cent., and covers himself up with a blanket which has paid 104 per cent. Nor do these grasping manufacturers stop here, but even the broom which his good wife sweeps the floor with is taxed 35 per cent., and the cooking-stoves used in preparing her husband's frugal meal are taxed 42 per cent., and the soda used to lighten his bread taxed 59 per cent. She sits down to her sewing with her needles taxed 25 per cent., and a spool of thread taxed 74 per cent., to make a calico dress taxed 53 per cent.; or if she wishes to knit warm socks to protect her husband and children from the bitter cold, she uses yarn taxed 120 per cent., and thus daily and hourly must the hard earnings of the laborer go to satisfy the manufacturer and add to his ill-gotten wealth."

STATE PROHIBITION.—The Maryland State Temperance Alliance met in Baltimore on Tuesday last and adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention the time has come to strike for the highest attainable goal in this direction; that is to say, for an amendment to the constitution of the State of Maryland, by which the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the State shall be forever prohibited; and, that to this end the Executive Committee of the State Temperance Alliance be requested to take the necessary steps for the organization of a campaign, which shall have for its object the securing of appropriate legislation to submit to the voters of the State for their adoption or rejection such an amendment to the constitution of the State."

MARRIED.—On the 19th inst., by Rev. Father Kerr, JOHN BOWLE to MARY HILL. On the same day, by the same JAMES W. TIPPETT to MARY A. HANCOCK. On the same day, by Rev. Father Jenkins, W. F. PERRY to ELOISIA M. OLIVER. On the 16th inst., by Rev. Mr. Wotten, BENJ. F. COTTINGHAM to ANNA A. GODDARD.

DIED.—In Baltimore city, on the 19th inst., Mrs. SALIE M. DENT, in the 53rd year of her age. On the 18th inst., of Diphtheria, EUGENE FRANKLIN, son of James F. and Jennie B. Allen, aged 2 years, 2 months, 20 days. Another link broken in the terrible scourge which has swayed the "elder" since he bound so many dear little ones to earth! Only one short week ago, we were called upon to see the loss of little George, and now the youngest, little Eugene, he goes to join him with the angels. We pray not, dear parents, for although it is a hard to yield up our darling, at it is a sweet and comforting thought to know that they are now, with the angels, praying for you.

IN MEMORIAM.—In memory of WILLIAM COLE, McKee and Mary E. JAMES, who died within 16 days: How difficult to realize the religious heart of one, recalled by the teaching of a resolution to the suffering dispensation of providence, when as in the case we now record, the nearest and dearest ties are severed by the suddenness of death in snatching from us these little loved ones, in whom the tenderest affections had concentrated, we are ready to question the justice of the act that would deprive us of their presence. But therein we are taught that the "Mighty" is "too wise to be taken to himself," and that those whom "he loveth he taketh to himself." Thus, we should rather prize and treasure our angel children, but rather rejoice that they have been taken to their true home, from the alluring and temptations of a wicked world, to the realm of just spirits, to be with all their dear ones in the embrace of a Redeemer, and use with cherishing and affection in his saving-angel. Let this announcement, although crushed a day or two ago, make your work such as to be a happy reunion with your loved ones, beyond the confines of time.

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