

Local Dotings.

Church Entertainment. The ladies of St. Mary's Chapel will have an entertainment, May 30th, at the residence of Col. S. J. Wallis. Supper served at 5 p. m. Dancing and refreshments at a later hour. Proceeds to be applied to the improvement of the church-yard.

Celebration. Decoration Day, May 30th, will be observed by the people in the lower section of St. Mary's and all who are interested in the movement are requested to be present at the COFFEDERATE CEMETERY, near Ft. Lookout, at 3 p. m. Donations of flowers will be acceptable.

Capt. George Thomas has been requested to deliver the oration. We hope there will be a large attendance.

LOCAL WINE AND OTHERWISE. The Leonardtown Rifles will meet for drill and Court Martial, Saturday, May 26. Wm. F. Stone, postmaster at Cornfield, St. Mary's county, Md., has resigned, and recommends Capt. R. E. Tall as his successor.

Next week we hope to clear our files of hold-over communications. The publication of the laws prevented us from inserting these favors on time.

The Leonardtown Colored Baseball Club was Monday last, defeated by the British Neck Colored Club by a score of 30 to 24. The game was played in the N. K.

We are indebted to Miss Melissa Leach, of St. Clement's Bay, for the present of a lot of fine strawberries which were much enjoyed. The fruit was received on the 19th instant, and was perfectly ripe.

The old members of the Leonardtown Baseball Club and any others desiring to become members are requested to meet in Leonardtown on Monday next, the 28th instant, for the purpose of reorganizing the Club and electing officers for the coming season.

Twenty-Year Record. Mr. Joseph S. Matthews, formerly of the BRACONS, but for sometime long engaged in mercantile pursuits, in West Virginia, is canvassing St. Mary's for the "Farmers' Twenty-Year Record."

This book is a complete record of all transactions, compiled to meet the wants of every practical farmer, with accounts arranged and compiled as to last the average farmer twenty years, thus forming a nearly complete history of every Farmer's business transactions.

The Record contains nearly 200 pages neatly ruled and printed, the size of the book is about 8 1/2 x 11 inches, bound in a good leather back and cloth sides, neatly lettered in gold. It contains Expense Accounts for Dry Goods, Groceries, Farm Implements, Fertilizers, Repairs, Sundries, Labor, Taxes, Grain Account for all kinds of grain, Fruit and Vegetable Account for Apples, Potatoes and all kinds of fruit and vegetables, Produce Account for butter, eggs, wool, etc., Stock Account showing number of head or pounds of "live stock of all kinds."

Mr. Matthews has secured the services of Mr. John P. Duke as an agent. The book to be appreciated must be seen. Give Mr. Duke a call.

Mr. Inigo's Items. Since the recent hail storm the weather has been exceedingly cool and windy. The mercury frequently descends to 54° during the night and fires are comfortable and blankets are an indispensable piece of clothing.

A number of colored men, women and children, have gone to the Eastern Shore to pick strawberries. Our farmers it seems have a very trying time to procure the necessary labor. These who would work for a reasonable salary per month are coaxed off and pass the principal part of their time pursuing shadows.

The cut worm is doing considerable damage to cabbage and tomato plants. Corn will have to be replanted in consequence of the ravages of said insect.

Men and boys have gone into the crab business, and it is believed that the present price per dozen (200's) will be considerably increased by the middle of the current week.

Spring chickens are being shipped to Baltimore and Washington. Eggs are so low that owners prefer to use them for domestic purposes rather than ship and receive a nominal figure.

W. C. Welch, Esq., of Leonardtown, can be safely held of the best cornland wheat in his section. He and his son George both use South Carolina rock and are loud in its praise.

Several severe fights occurred near Old St. Inigo's recently among the negroes. One man was badly bitten about the face and otherwise hurt. Candidly speaking these intrusions of law and order should severely be punished. Suffer such characters to go unwhipped of justice and it needs no prophet to foretell the ultimate consequences. Men influenced with passion, &c. are said to be excusable for their hasty words and actions. We are not prepared to accept this assertion, and we opine we respectfully ask the custodians of the public peace, etc. to spare neither friend nor foe in awarding such punishment as "they consider just and proper." "Order is Heaven's first law."

There was a Mass at St. Michael's last Sunday. If our memory be not at fault, there are about one hundred (100) adults and children preparing to be confirmed in June proximo.

Miss sickness. Miss Hattie D. West, daughter of our esteemed neighbor, Capt. W. T. West is ill with the bilious fever, and William Wilson, a true and tried old "Red" has the pneumonia. Mr. Wilson and your correspondent passed through the stockade, penniless and almost in a nude condition, June 6th, 1863.

The Old First is ahead again, Mrs. A. S. Beville has commenced to ship her fine strawberries to Washington and Baltimore. Does not this prove beyond contradiction that our soil is fruitful. All that is need is energy coupled with an enterprising spirit, and most assuredly we can cope with our Eastern Shore neighbors. Why not?

Ralyat.

Commissioners' Court.

At a recent meeting of this body, the following resolutions and orders were passed: Ordered, that this Board has refused and does hereby refuse and will hereafter refuse to pay, allow, or pass any account for any work on the public road of St. Mary's county, authorized and directed by Jos. B. Davis, individually or as County Commissioner.

Ordered, That no County Commissioner be allowed to act as Road Supervisor. Ordered, That the purpose of this order is to protect innocent employees.

Ordered, That a copy of these orders be published in the county papers. The following preamble and resolutions presented by Mr. James T. King, of the Board, were read and passed:

WHEREAS, upon a Petition gotten up by the Clerk to the Levy Court, and directed to the recent Legislature of the State of Maryland, asking the passage of a Bill to reimburse St. Mary's county for expenses in the trial of John Benjamin Biscoe, for the murder of Capt. R. R. Dixon on Potomac river, the Hon. Washington Wilkinson, of the House of Delegates, by his indefatigable efforts, anxiety and care, for his constituents and the tax-payers generally of the county, did secure the passage of a bill reimbursing the county to the amount of two thousand dollars, as part of the above named expenses, and whereas, His Excellency, Governor Elisha E. Jackson, did refuse to sign said bill, and our clerk, Enoch B. Abell, immediately volunteered to visit the Governor in the interest of the tax-payers to obtain a reconsideration of the veto, and whereas, this much desired end was successfully accomplished, and the Governor's signature to the bill secured, and whereas, our said clerk was greatly assisted in his efforts by their Honors, Judges J. Parson Crane and John B. Brooke, the members of the St. Mary's Bar, Col. S. J. Wallis and other prominent citizens of the county, and by the Hon. George Colton, of Baltimore city, to whose untiring efforts and influence the final consent of the Governor to sign the bill, was materially due.

Resolved, That the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's county, in meeting assembled, hereby commend the zeal and energy of the above named gentlemen for securing this great benefit to the tax-payers of the county.

Resolved, That the gratitude of the tax-payers generally and the thanks of this Court are due and hereby tendered to their Honors, Judges J. Parson Crane and John B. Brooke, Hon. Washington Wilkinson, Enoch B. Abell, Esq., Hon. Geo. Colton, Col. S. J. Wallis and all others who directly or indirectly assisted in securing the great and material relief to our taxpayers.

Resolved, That these Resolutions be entered upon the minutes of Proceedings of this Court, and a copy furnished each of the County papers for publication.

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Registered Voters.

The following is a list of newly registered voters and those stricken from the Registry list at the recent May Sitting.

1st. DISTRICT. New Names. Birch, Wmner W. Fields, Dr. A. P. Bennett, James W. McKay, Richard P. Dead and Removed.

2nd. DISTRICT. Adams, Biscoe. C. Cunningham, Benj. Armstrong, Albert Combs, Lewis P. Burns, Abraham Millburn, John H. Combs, William C. Swann, Mathias Thomas, Samuel. ROBERT J. BEAN, Registrar.

3rd. DISTRICT. New Names. Coyer, Edward C. Haydon, Charles M. Dyeon, James K. King, Richard E. Dead and Removed.

4th. DISTRICT. New Names. Reeves, John C. Dean, Thomas J. Hills, Joseph Love, Charles H. Mattingly, George H. Tolson, Moses. Dead and Removed.

5th. DISTRICT. New Names. Barsh, Daniel E. Barsh, Thos T. Cuts, Daniel. Dead and Removed.

6th. DISTRICT. New Names. Stone, William A. Young, James R. Abell, Francis L. Watts, John Burroughs, J. W. H. Greenwell, Chas. M. Bond, John W. Lyles, Daniel Stone, Wm. H. Tucker, James Thomas, Bazil Clark, Washington JOHN E. RALEY, Registrar.

7th. DISTRICT. New Names. Caster, Joseph McMillen, Randolph Clark, Philip Steward, John Short, James. Dead and Removed.

8th. DISTRICT. New Names. Butler, John Oliver, Marshall B. Young, John H. JAS. T. BLAIR, Registrar.

9th. DISTRICT. New Names. Thomas, George F. Hilton, William M. Smith, Julius Pigg, John Young, John JOHN A. B. SHERMANTINE, Registrar.

COMMUNICATED.

LEONARDTOWN, May 21st, 1888. It is with great reluctance, impelled by a sense of duty in defence of truth and justice, to have my name appear in public print in connection with the poor unfortunate creature, hanged here, April 27th ultimo, for the murder of Captain Dixon, of Baltimore City, nearly two years ago, but, I cannot allow the report to go forth uncontradicted that Biscoe killed Captain Dixon in self-defence, thereby making Dixon a would be murderer if Biscoe had not killed him to have saved his own life, or that the people of Charles and St. Mary's counties would have wished or insisted that any man should be hung if there was any reasonable doubt of his guilt.

I solemnly declare that I believe that Biscoe's confession, dated February 29th, last, and all statements made to reporters a few days before his execution, and published in various newspapers, were at the solicitation of his counsel, Mr. Ben Camiller and that Biscoe wrote at Camiller's dictation. Biscoe used his own language and spelling to make it appear genuine. I have good reasons for so believing. I will now relate what Biscoe told me of the crime. I visited the jail two weeks before the execution. I had not seen or spoken to him before that time. I had three reasons for going: 1st, I felt it my Christian duty to go and try to induce him to prepare for the awful death he was so soon to die; 2nd, to satisfy my mind of his mental condition; 3rd, because he wished to see me. I found him sane and with sense enough to know right from wrong in the main if not in the abstract. He told me he knew it was against the law of God and man to kill, and he knew it at the time of the murder but did not stop to consider the awful sin and its consequences! He said, "You know, Mrs. Hammett, when a man's mad, he don't stop to think."

He requested me to read and pray by him and left it to my choice what to read. I suggested the Bible. He expressed great delight at having the Bible read to him, and said no one had read the Bible to him since his imprisonment. He remarked 'what little he knew of religion he heard when a boy in the Methodist Church from the Bible. He knew the Lord's Prayer.' After reading and explaining several days in succession, the Prodigal Son's Return, Sermon on the Mount, Crucifixion of the Saviour, Repentance of the Thief, on the Cross, selections from the Psalms, &c., &c., I pictured to him the joys of Heaven, the torments of the unrepentant. During moments of sorrow there seemed to be a revival of Christian feeling in his heart when reason was struggling with his conscience, blunted by indifference and sin. I gleaned the following from him, little by little, of the homicide: "Biscoe killed Captain Dixon because of malice and spite engendered by harsh treatment (or what he considered harsh) on the part of Captain Dixon. Biscoe could not or would not throw the boat to suit the Captain which irritated Dixon and he used rough language and threatened to punish Biscoe if he did not do better. Biscoe knew Captain Dixon did not intend to kill him nor did Dixon attempt to do so." Biscoe told me the hotel of murder came into his mind several times Saturday, and during the night of that day while brooding over his hardships and wrongs he fully made up his mind to kill the Captain. On Sunday morning, he and Dixon had some difficulty about pumping out the boat. After sailing about the Potomac for three hours or more he watched for an opportunity and as the Captain came out of the cabin struck him on the head with a stick of wood with the intention of killing him. Biscoe fired a rope around the Captain's neck and dragged the body from the cabin and threw it overboard. He declared that he did not cut the man's throat. I think his motive in throwing the body overboard was to conceal his crime. The rope cut the skin and bruised the flesh of the throat, the water being very salt and the washing of the waves as the body floated caused the throat to look as if it had been cut. He said to me several times with much earnestness and emotion, "I could not tell you how I felt after I had done it. If I had my way to go over again no one could pay me to kill a man. I wished I had jumped overboard!" He also said, "if there had been another hand on board to aid in working the sails, &c., it would not have happened as the Captain would not have scolded him so much." I certainly think malice or money—certainly not self-defence. If I had read or talked to the prisoner the last three days of his life I could have dissuaded him from making any statement that he killed Dixon in self-defence, because I was trying to get him to understand that a falsehood was contrary to God's law as well as murder. The reason I did not see the prisoner the few days before the execution was that Mr. Charles Jenkins, a Catholic Priest, objected to his listening to the read or pray. The prisoner told me that Mr. Jenkins said to him that if he allowed me to read or pray by him, he would not go to the scaffold with him, and that I was reading a Protestant Bible to him which was false doctrine and he could not be saved if he listened to anything except what the Catholic Church taught! When I found out that the Priest objected and worried the prisoner about my reading and talking to him, out of consideration for the poor helpless prisoner, I told him I would not come to see him again. I declare positively that Biscoe always begged me to come and see him and read and talk to him. He did not tell me or intimate once that he did not wish to see me. I don't think Biscoe was very truthful. How could he be considering the time he had been under Ben Camiller's influence? I think Camiller must have made a confession and confessed to Biscoe, judging from what I heard and saw at the jail. Biscoe had a very accommodating disposition. He could tell a falsehood when he saw the person with whom he was talking, desired him to do so. I deny most positively the report, circulated in Leonardtown, that I tried to make a Protestant of Biscoe, or that I interfered with his religious instructions. Any one who says so (I except no one) tells a falsehood as black as the heart of the man who induced the prisoner to die with a lie on his lips. I declare positively that I did not say one word or intimate to the prisoner anything sectarian. I did not intimate to the prisoner, in any manner whatever, anything anyone professing Christianity could object to. He sent the Sheriff for me two hours before he was executed to come and see him. I could not refuse the man's request. While kneeling by him convulsed with grief, after I had prayed with him I asked him, in the presence of the Sheriff, if I had ever tried to make a Protestant of him, or if he had ever told me that he did not wish to see me. He declared it untrue in both cases. It is a shame that some people in Leonardtown should misrepresent and slander a lady who read the Bible to the condemned at his own request, with the purest charity.

Mr. Ben Camiller did not want the lady to talk to the prisoner because he knew the lady would find out the truth of the murder and be brave enough to tell it. I am responsible for all I say and do. I will advise Mr. Camiller to be careful how he seeks to misrepresent me. A man puffed up with his own conceit is sure to collapse sooner or later. A man must stand on his record be it good or bad. IRBEE F. HAMMETT.

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