

From the Baltimore Sun.

Tuesday, February 16, 1892.

The fish commission steamer Fish Hawk will soon begin to locate the oyster beds in Chesapeake waters.

The report of Mr. Thomas C. Weeks, labor statistician, discusses the oyster and coal industries of Maryland in an interesting and comprehensive manner.

It is announced that the Louisiana lottery will remove its headquarters to the City of Mexico.

Committee of both Houses of the Virginia Legislature have agreed to report the Chambers oyster bill, with some amendments.

In the United States Senate yesterday a resolution, offered by Mr. Chandler, was adopted for an investigation into the recent admission at the port of New York of an immigrant vessel infected with typhus fever. A bill for the preservation of the public peace and the protection of property within the District of Columbia was passed. The public printing bill was formally passed by a vote of 46 yeas to 6 nays. The House passed a bill to establish lineal promotion in the army. The House also passed a resolution directing the committee on agriculture to report the effect on agriculture of the McKinley tariff law.

LEGISLATIVE.

The Maryland Legislature reassembled last night.

The assessment bill, it is expected, will be ready for introduction by Tuesday or Friday.

Mr. Spencer C. Jones, treasurer elect, will qualify Thursday.

The House passed the House bill providing for a reorganization of the bureau of labor statistics and Senate bill for three additional coroners for Baltimore.

Delegations are already beginning to reach Annapolis from Charles county in regard to the bill providing for the removal of the county seat from Port Tobacco to La Plata.

The Governor sent in a number of appointments. John S. Sudler, of Somerset, is appointed fish commissioner in place of Mr. Rider, of Wicomico, and R. T. Browning, of Garrett, in place of Mr. Delawder, of the same county. Mr. Browning is succeeded as mine inspector by Francis J. McMahon, of Allegany.

Wednesday, February 17, 1892.

Mr. Rayner, of Maryland, made a strong speech against trusts and combinations, his remarks eliciting applause and congratulations.

The House committee on the judiciary has ordered a favorable report on Mr. Oates's bill making a radical revision of the naturalization laws of the United States.

The ways and means committee, by a strict party vote, ordered the Springer wool bill, the Bryan free binding twine bill and the Turner bill, placing cotton ties, &c., on the free list, to be favorably reported.

A New Orleans dispatch says the lottery officials were placed under arrest yesterday under the indictment found by the Boston grand jury charging violation of the anti-lottery postal law.

United States Judge Morris filed an opinion in which he holds that if the voter requests it a federal supervisor of election may inspect the ballots as to candidates for Representatives in Congress when an illiterate voter needs assistance from the ballot clerks in marking his ballot.

Henry Black, of Red Bluff, Ark., was whipping his wife, when his step-daughter interfered to protect her mother. Black shot the courageous girl in the temple, death resulting almost instantly. Black was arrested. He claimed he killed the girl accidentally. There is talk of lynching Black.

LEGISLATIVE.

Mr. Spencer C. Jones qualified as the treasurer of Maryland.

Among the new bills are several relating to Baltimore and St. Mary's counties.

There are several applicants for the position of commissioner of the land office.

It is taken for granted that the present State Librarian, Dr. E. P. Duval, will be reappointed.

Several bills adjusting the terms of county commissioners under the recent constitutional amendment have been introduced.

Senator Hayes's bill, appropriating the direct tax money to the payment of the State debt, has given rise to some differences of opinion.

A large delegation of the leaf tobacco trade of Baltimore appeared before the Senate committee on inspections and protested against the passage of the Laird bill authorizing the Governor to lease one or two of the State tobacco warehouses for storage purposes.

Thursday, February 18, 1892.

The Bay Line steamer Florida was withdrawn at an auction sale on a bid of \$5,000.

In a quarrel in New York city Edward McSorley cut his brother Peter's throat with a carving knife.

The report which is to accompany the bill adopted by the ways and means committee of the House in favor of free twine has been prepared.

The court at Port Tobacco decided the election case of Stone-street vs. Matthews in favor of Mr. Matthews as State's attorney for Charles county.

The United States yesterday adopted a resolution for the return to the republic of Mexico of twenty-one flags captured during the war with Mexico.

It is rumored some of the Congressmen who opposed Mr. Mills for the speakership are anxious to make him show his hand on the silver question before the senatorial election in Texas.

Gossip on the House side of the Capitol has it that the Pacific Coast members of both parties are exceedingly jealous lest the eastern members shall share any of the credit of restrictive Chinese legislation.

LEGISLATIVE.

Attorney-General Poe has prepared the answer to the Wailes mandamus case.

Treasurer Jones found the State funds in the Safe Deposit Company correct.

The Archer bondsmen have asked the Governor to take action on their petition for relief.

The city tobacco trade has ceased its active efforts against the bill for leasing State tobacco warehouses for general storage purposes.

The finance committee of the Senate and the ways and means committee of the House will make important recommendations with regard to State financial methods.

A delegation from Baltimore asked an appropriation of \$10,000 for the Confederate Home at Pikesville, another \$21,000 for the Blind Asylum, and another \$20,000 for the German-Orphan Asylum.

In the Maryland House of Delegates, House bills relating to the taxation of the additional stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and amending the charter of the Belt Railroad passed their second reading.

THE SHORT STORY OF TO-DAY.

The 'Shortatory,' as Mr. Brander Matthews, whose humor dwells somewhat in conceits, loves to call it, is made the subject of a review to itself in the current Atlantic. The reviewer groups fifteen newly harvested sheaves in this field, and by no means exhausts the yearly crop at that. At least two dozen volumes of short stories have been issued in the last twelvemonth, and the weary reviewer is nowadays too well aware that every fortnight sees him confronted with the waking and walking ghost of his past magazine reading in a new collection of short stories by some familiar hand.

Ten, even five years ago, such volumes fell flat and were published chiefly to fill out an author's work. Hawthorne's 'Tales' were, as he wofully said, 'twice told,' because he could persuade no one to read them even once. Beyond saying that we do the short story better than any other nation—which is true, and has been said before—the Atlantic reviewer casts little light on the cause and origin of this new phenomenon in literature. The short story-teller is, as the Atlantic points out, apt to be free of local color—seven of the fifteen cited being of 'no man's land,' and only the four Southerners speaking a speech which betrays them. The short story-teller has no bent ethical or otherwise, and the entire legion of them simply reverse Caning's knife-grinder 'Story, God bless you, I've none to tell, sir,' and have naught else.

Yet the appetite for the short story is quite as remarkable as its existence. Besides the fortnightly volume which sells, and sometimes, as in the case of Miss Wilkins, wins an international reputation overnight, thanks to an international critic, Mr. Lowell, there is a magazine like Romance, which devotes itself every month to a cluster of short stories, new and old, by land and sea, from many lands, of many tongues. But a few short years ago no New York publisher would have deemed it safe to publish, as the Romance Publishing Company now does, in that city, a magazine given exclusively to this one form of literature, erst so cloying and now so sought.

The store of short stories is, of course, a rich one. All countries have their short stories. They exist even in Chinese and Arabic and are just appearing in the renaissance of Hindoo fiction centering at Lucknow. A magazine which publishes two hundred a year must travel far afield. Its mere presence, however, is proof of a demand whose existence keen literary observers were but recently doubting. —Editorial Article in Philadelphia Press.

WHY SIXTY MINUTES MAKE AN HOUR.—Why is the hour divided into sixty minutes, each minute into sixty seconds, etc.? Simply and solely because in Babylonia there existed, by the side of the decimal system of notation, another system, the sexagesimal which counted by sixties. Why that number should have been chosen is clear enough, but it speaks well for the practical sense of those ancient Babylonian merchants.

There is no number which has so many divisors as sixty. The Babylonians divided the sun's daily journey into twenty-four parasangs or 720 stadia. Each parasang or hour was subdivided into sixty minutes. A parasang is about a German mile and the Babylonian astronomers compared the progress made by the sun during one hour at the time of the equinox to the progress made by a good walker during the same time, both accomplishing one parasang.

The whole course of the sun during the twenty-four equinoctial hours was fixed at twenty-four parasangs, or 720 stadia, or 360 degrees. This system was handed on to the Greeks, and Hipparchus, the Greek philosopher, who lived about 150 B. C., introduced the Babylonian hour in Europe.

Ptolemy, who wrote about 150 A. D., whose name still lives in that of the Ptolemaic system of astronomy, gave still wider currency to the Babylonian way of reckoning time.

It was carried along on the quiet stream of traditional knowledge through the middle ages, and, strange to say, it sailed down safely over the Niagara of the French Revolution. For the French, when revolutionizing weights, measures, coins and dates, and subjecting all to the decimal system of reckoning, were induced by some unexplained motive to respect our clocks and watches and allow our dials to remain sexagesimal, that is, Babylonian, each hour consisting of sixty minutes.

Here you see again the wonderful coherence of the world and how what we call knowledge is the result of an unbroken tradition of a teaching descending from father to son. Not more than about one hundred arms would reach from us to the builders of the palaces of Babylon and enable us to shake hands with the founders of the oldest pyramids.—Science Stiftings.

A Miraculous Escape.

A sad incident of a family coming near being frozen by bothering with cheap, worthless stoves that are being palmed off on the public, when, suddenly, in the nick of time, comes relief by one of those un-matched stoves at the Brown Store, Leonardtown. When you want a stove, not a save in name, but a stove to make you proud all the days to come, call on Johnson.—adv.

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