"CATOCTIN CLARION,"

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Containing a carefully prepared abstract of the News of the Day; a Historical Sketch of Past Events in Frederick county; Foreign and Domestic Intelligence; Topics of the Times; carefully prepared Markets; Items of Interest, political or otherwise; Local Intelligence, and a rare selection of Instructive Reading.

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THE CLARION.

WILLIAM NEED,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

MECHANICSTOWN, March 11, 1871.

The Western Maryland Railroad.

Spring, with its balmy and lengthening days, finds the unfinished portion of the extension of this road lessening as rapidly as the snow is disappearing from the neighboring mountains. By the 1st of April, when the tracklayers will resume work, there will be two miles more graded and ready for the superstructure, and ere the summer solstice arrives the iron horse will whistle the inhabitants of Sabillasville from their Rip Van Wingle sleep into a new and active existence. Monterey Springs will be reached in August; Smithsburg in October, and the declining days of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-one will sink into a peaceful grave blessed and soothed in bestowing its parting benediction upon the Western Maryland Railroad in complete and thorough working order from Baltimore to Hagerstown, including the new and independent line from Owings' Mills to Baltimore, and equipped with increased and better rolling stock.

Alsatians.

We understand that a large number of German-Frenchmen, residing in the Province of Alsace on the River Rhine, near the Blue Moselle and Vosges mountains, dissatisfied with the cession of their country by France to the Emperor of Germany, as one of the conditions of peace, on the part of King William and Count Von Bismarck, are about emigrating from their fatherland to the United States. Alsace, although chiefly settled by people of German descent, belonged to France for over two hundred years, and the citizens of that ancient locality are not disposed to relinquish their nationality. Hence they have concluded, in large numbers, to embark for the United States this spring and summer. Measures are being adopted by the Immigrant Agents of Maryland to induce the people from this region to settle in our fair State. They will probably come over in the Bremen line of steamships to Baltimore; and we learn that Dr. Wm. S. McPherson, Commissioner of Labor and Immigration, is taking prompt measures to induce these people to settle in Frederick county. The Alsatians are an industrious and frugal race. They make good citizens, and as many of them are possessed of ample means, their location in the valleys of Owings' creek and Tom's creek, would add largely to the value of our section of country. Adam Smith, an eminent writer on political economy, says that population adds to the wealth of a nation. The same idea may hold good as to a State or county or locality. This section of the county, properly developed, can support five times its present population, and the acquisition of industrious new-comers is so much capital added to the general wealth and prosperity of the community.

☞ The Boston *Post* anticipates the 1st of April by trying to make its readers believe that Viscount Goderich, who came over with the English members of the High Commission, went gunning "among the Marylanders of Marlboro'," and got mad because some of the people wanted to trade with him for his gun.

Emmittsburg Branch Railroad.

This road, we learn from good authority, is now being surveyed and located from Emmittsburg to Rocky Ridge, to make a junction with the Western Maryland Railroad at Hon. Joshua Biggs' warehouse.

We learn that Mr. Jos. S. Gitt, Civil Engineer, formerly of the Western Maryland Railroad, is at present engaged in making the locations, and will complete it this week. It is said that it will be almost an air line, with light work and easy grades and curves. The length of the road, it is thought, will be seven miles.

The road, as we are informed by our friends in Emmittsburg, will be built, and that ground will be broken as soon as Mr. Gitt can get it ready, which will be about the 20th inst.

We are promised an article from Mr. Gitt as soon as the location is completed in regard to the survey, route and other matters connected with the road. Our readers may, therefore, expect a more extended notice next week of this important enterprise.

INTERNAL FRENCH TROUBLES.—The present situation of France threatens her with a worse peril than any during the war. More dangerous enemies than the Germans are now menacing her welfare. Rochefort, Louis Blanc, and that school of destructive madmen, having resigned their places in the Assembly as a silent protest against the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, may be expected to wield a malign and powerful influence with the Parisian mob. It is feared that if the National Assembly adjourns to Paris, it will be overawed and swept away by insurrection. Ferocious ruffins, who are braver against their own countrymen than against the Prussians, go about the streets wreaking vengeance on helpless men and women who are supposed to have cultivated friendly relations with the Germans during their sojourn in the capital. One journal incites the poor to make war against the rich. The forty thousand troops marched into the city from the provinces would seem to be the only force which can be relied upon for preserving law and order in the capital. It is the misfortune and not the fault of the French people that they have been conquered by the Germans. A relapse into mob rule will not only be their fault, but will deprive them of the sympathies of mankind in their present calamities.

☞ The Gettysburg "Star and Sentinel" evidently don't like the idea of Mechanicstown being known in Europe; but the fact is distinguished citizens, mechanics, and men of means are being attracted here nevertheless. They are coming and the Maryland Railroad will bring them up to our lovely mountain; our historic region and laughing valleys.

☞ A correspondent calls our attention to the New County Question. It is for the people to take action upon this subject at the earliest practicable moment as to them may seem advisable. We await the movement of those most interested in the contemplated New County organization before we say anything in regard to its merits. As President Grant says, we prefer to follow the intuitive instincts and suggestions of the sovereign masses whose rights are at stake, and whose interests are involved in the matter, before we present any views of our own.

Our columns are open for the discussion of the question.

Book Notice.

We are indebted fo Mr. A. H. Henderson, Bookseller and Stationer, near the Market House, Frederick city, for copies of the first and second Reader: for Primary Schools, by Prof. M. A. Newell, A. M., Principal of the Maryland State Normal School, and Prof. Wm. R. Creery, A. M., City Superintendent of Public Schools, Baltimore.

These books are gotten up in good style, and in conversation with an old Teacher of this place, he thinks they are elegantly classified and well arranged for Primary Schools; to impart the elements of the English language to youthful minds; to please the senses and mend the heart. They begin with the alphabet, and by slow and easy gradations the lessons are easily comprehended so as to gratify and charm the scholar. They are well adapted to the wants of youthful genius, and their successful introduction into our Primary Schools supply a want long felt. The lessons are short and attractive and afford a fund of instruction.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Departure of Trains.

Morning Train,	6:20 A. M.
Evening Train,	1:40 P. M.

Arrival of Trains.

Morning Train,	12:30 P. M.
Evening Train,	7:30 P. M.

TOWN AUTHORITIES.

Commissioners:
Frederick White, President.

Van B. Osler,	Geo. W. Foreman,
John R. Rouzer,	Geo. W. Stocksdale.

Reuben Osler, Justice of the Peace; Hiram Arthur, Constable.

THE CHURCHES.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran.—Pastor to be supplied.

Reformed (Apple's)—Rev. N. E. Gilds, Pastor.

United Brethren.—Rev. John K. Nelson, Pastor.

Methodist Episcopal.—Rev. J. Montgomery, Pastor.

Catholic.—Rev. Father John McCloskey, Pastor.

ODD FELLOWS' HALL.

Main Street—Randolph Waesche, Noble Grand.

Mr. Wm. Damuth is the Worthy Chief Templar of the Temperance organization of this town. The Society meets at Odd Fellows' Hall every Tuesday evening.

THE MAILS.

The mail for Baltimore daily (except Sunday) leaves this place every afternoon by the 1:40 train.

The stage for Frederick, with the mail, leaves here every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings.

The stage for Emmittsburg, with the mail, leaves every day immediately after the arrival of the 12:30 train from Baltimore.

The mail for Sabillasville leaves here on horseback every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

☞ We have received a valuable communication from Mr. Wm. Biggs, which we will publish next week.

Last Tuesday night the Cold Spring Order of Good Templars held a spirited meeting at their Hall. Quite a number of young men came forward and joined the Order.

☞ Smith, of the "Temple of Fancy," Frederick city, has a lot of superior fresh "Garden Seeds" for sale. See advertisement.

☞ A large amount of freight during the past week has been hauled from the Depot at this point to St. Joseph's Academy near Emmittsburg.

We expect to "lock horns" with Hagerstown, *via* the Western Railway, by December, if not before.

COMPETITION.

The stage coaches between this place and Emmittsburg are carrying passengers to the latter place for 25 cents.

Messrs. Wm. Sefton, George H. Johnson and James Creager are about opening up a new street and laying out lots on the ground leading to the United Brethren Church—a delightful locality known as Pleasant Hill.

We understand that there is a large fortune of one or two millions of dollars in Europe for the Zimmerman family—which has to be proved up during the present year, or it will revert to the British crown. Many of the heirs are supposed to reside in the United States.

PROPOSED EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION.—In the first branch of Baltimore city council, Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Trippe submitted an ordinance, which was appropriately referred, providing for the exemption of the Western Maryland railroad bonds by the city from taxation.

STATE'S ATTORNEY.

Francis Brengle, Esq., has been appointed Ssate's Attorney for this county, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Hon. John Ritchie. Mr. Brengle is one of the most promising members of the Frederick Bar, and will discharge his new duties faithfully and well.—*Fred'k Republican.*

SALE.

Mr. Wm. Henry Barton, residing on the Railroad near Graceham, sold his horses, cattle and farming implements at public sale on Thursday, the 9th instant. He had an excellent sale in the aggregate, the cattle especially bringing a very high price, while the farming implements sold low.

Col. Hayden, the Engineer of the F. & P. L. R.R. paid our town a visit on last Thursday. He informed us that the rails for this enterprise had been purchased at the "Lochiel Iron Works" near Harrisburg, and that the contractors would commence putting them down in the course of a month. He thought the road from Frederick to Littlestown would be in running order at an early day.

☞ Our Town Authorities would do well to lay out, widen and repair the streets of Mechanicstown at the earliest moment. A number of distinguished citizens, travellers, pleasure seekers, capitalists and others are about visiting the place, and nothing is more attractive to the eye than clean streets. Everything should be neat and trim and in good order by the time of their arrival.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

Next Friday will be St. Patrick's Day in the morning, the Patron Saint of Ireland. We hope the Sons of the Shamrock will observe the day in a becoming manner, and like Father Mathew make it a day on which they will consecrate a vow to follow in the footsteps of the great Apostle of Temperance.

NARROW ESCAPE.

On the 28th ult., as a party of five laborers, on the Western Maryland Railroad, were proceeding down the road, near New Windsor, in a hand car, they suddenly discovered a train approaching and close upon them. They had barely time to throw themselves from the car when the collision came, breaking the hand car into fragments and scattering their tools in all directions. One man was slightly injured by the flying fragments, but no other damage was done.—*Westminster Advocate.*

PURCHASE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

W. L. W. Seabrook, editor of the *Sentinel*, has bought the house and lot adjoining the Sentinel office, thirty feet front, for the sum of $2,000.—*Ib.*

ACCIDENT.

Mr. John Cusick, an Irishman by birth, a bank boss on the Western Maryland Railroad, was injured on the 16th ultimo, and his left leg and thigh bone broken, and his right wrist was also dislocated. Dr. Horatio N. Shultz, of this place, was called in and dressed the wounds and set the leg and wrist. The patient, we are happy to hear, is doing well, and his speedy recovery is now looked for as almost certain.

PAINFUL ACCIDENT.

On Tuesday morning, the 7th instant, about one mile southeast of Mechanicstown, as Mr. William Firor, son of Benjamin, was engaged threshing wheat at Mr. Jeremiah Flohr's farm, the strap suddenly flew off the fly wheel, when the horses started to run. Mr. Firor then picked up a stick of wood near by, and placed it under the wheel to stop it, when the wheel bursted, and a segment flew up and struck him on the chin and jaw bone, which fractured the lower jaw and cheek bone in several places. He bled profusely from the mouth, ears and nose, and lay for some time in an insensible condition. Drs. Geo. M. Zimmerman and Wm. White were immediately sent for, and dressed the wound. He lost several of his teeth, and his eyes were much swollen. The patient is now as well as could be expected under the circumstances. He has the sympathy of our whole community in his sad misfortune.

STRIKE ON THE WESTERN MARYLAND RAILROAD.

We understand that the railroad hands on the summit of the mountain, above Smithsburg, have struck for the ten-hour system. During the winter months, we are told, contractors have been paying $1.75 per day, (some Virginia works having paid but $1.25,) without regard to the weather, and for this reason look upon the strike as unreasonable. Previous to "the strike," the "iron rock," as it is called, had almost suspended operations—as many as sixty drills having been broken in the drilling of an inch. To avoid this, a new route was laid out, which turned the rock and avoided all trouble, and matters had scarcely been set right in this respect when the strike occurred. We have no doubt but that this difficulty will be soon settled, and the unfinished work completed, so that we may have the cars on this road running to Hagerstown this fall.—*Hagerstown Mail.*

A party of "good fellows," some eight or ten in number, from Union Bridge, paid our town a flying visit on last Wednesday. They were agreeably pleased with the excursion over the Western Maryland Railroad, and delighted with the looks of Mechanicstown. They dined at the "Gilbert House," well pleased with the host and attendants, and promise soon to make another visit.

GRAIN, HAY, POSTS, HOOP POLES, &C.

During the past week a very large quantity of flour, grain, locust posts, hoop poles, staves, bacon, calves, and marketing generally, have been received at the depot of the Western Maryland railroad, in this place, and shipped to Baltimore and Carroll county. The business of the road seems to be increasing daily, and additional freight trains are being placed on the line between here and the Monumental city.

SPRING TIME IS COME.

The whistle of the blue bird, the song of the merry lark, and the occasional appearance of Robin Redbreast remind us that the spring time of the year has arrived.—House building and gardening will soon occupy a large share of the attention of our citizens, and those who have choice "garden seeds" to sell had better send their advertisements this way with double "quick haste."

THE GROWING GRAIN.

A gentleman from the neighborhood of Eicholtz's mill, informed us the other day, that the wheat down in that section, along the Valley of Hunting creek, presented a very thriving appearance. Thus far it looks elegant.

☞ The weather was windy and blustering last Monday. Thursday night and Friday morning it rained very hard; and today the sun bids fair to shine forth with bright effulgence.

☞ Mr. Washington W. L. Shaeffer connected with the house of Daniel Miller & Co., Importers and Jobbers of Foreign and Domestic Dry Goods, &c., No 329 Baltimore street, was on a recent visit to his friends in this city. He was looking well, and appeared well pleased with his inland tour.

☞ The Drivers of the Emmittsburg stage coaches are accommodating gentlemen. They are polite and attentive to their passengers, and do many friendly turns for which they deserve the public regard.

PERSONAL.

Mr. Wm. G. Schæffer, connected with the house Chalfant, Cox & Co., importers of hosiery, notions, &c., No. 504 Market street, Philadelphia, paid our town a visit on last Saturday, and remained over Sunday. During his sojourn here he visited the high peak of the mountain known as "Chimney Rock," and had a commanding view of the surrounding country. On the Sabbath he attended preaching at Apple's church, where some fifty or sixty ago his father, the Rev. Dr. D. F. Schæffer, frequently preached in eloquent strains to his old Lutheran friends of Mechanicstown, Creagerstown and Emmittsburg districts, and edified crowded congregations with his delightful expoundings of biblical lore. No man in this county had more warm or devoted friends in this section of the Lord's vineyard than Dr. Schæffer, the eminent Lutheran pastor of Frederick; and those still living who listened to his earnest words of gospel power hold his memory in grateful remembrance for days of "auld lang syne." Mr. Schæffer is a good business man, and has many well-wishers in this community. We are gratified to hear that the house with which he is connected in Philadelphia is doing a flourishing business.

PUBLIC SALES.

The sale of the personal property of Mr. John R. Holland, about one mile North of Creagerstown, on the road to Mechanicstown, will take place on Thursday, the 16th instant, at 10 o'clock, A. M. O. T. Zimmerman, Auctioneer.

The sale of the personal property of Jacob Munshour, residing about 1 1-2 miles South of Emmittsburg, near Maxell's mill, will take place on Tuesday, the 21st day of March at 10 o'clock, A. M. A. Smith, Auctioneer.

Mr. Arnold R. Willhide will sell at public sale at the 'Gilbert House,' in this town, on Saturday, the 27th of March, inst., a lot of choice mountain land and an Orchard of excellent fruit. John E. Martin, Auctioneer.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

This association held its regular monthly meeting on last Monday night in the Lecture Room of the Lutheran Church in this place. We are pleased to learn that the meeting was well attended and considerable interest manifested in the meeting. The question for debate—"Do Sabbath Schools really accomplish in their present organization, the object for which they were instituted?" was participated in by Bros. David S. Firor, James Creager, Dr. Wm. White, Martin Rouzer and the President. The standing committees were appointed and a few words to duty and work were given by the presiding officer of the association. The meeting as a whole was encouraging, and it is hoped that its future meetings will continue to increase in interest.

METHODIST CONFERENCE.

Among the appointments of Ministers for the ensuing year of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by the Conference recently assembled at Baltimore, is Rev. Thomas J. Cross, for Mechanicstown; Rev. J. A. Price, Frederick city; Rev. C. W. Baldwin, Westminster; Union Bridge and Middleburg, Rev. W. M. Ferguson; New Windsor, Rev. J. W. Smith; Hampstead, Revs. Emory Buhrman and Reuben Culp. Rev. L. F. Morgan has been continued as Presiding Elder for this (West Baltimore) District.

A WOOLLEN FACTORY.

There is one of the best openings in this county for the erection of a woollen factory in this town. There was one here many years ago built by Gotleib and Jacob Conradt, and subsequently owned and carried on by William Grayson, John Arthur and Mr. Webster. It was accidentally burnt down a few years since. It should be rebuilt and set in motion again. While in charge of these gentlemen it done a profitable business. The fine merino wool grown by Mr. Clotworthy Birnie, near Taneytown, and others, was manufactured here into a superior quality of cloth.

DOWN ON THE TOBACCO CHEWERS.

The Fifty-first Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland, held at Emmittsburg, on the 4th to the 10th of October, 1870, unanimously adopted the following:

"Whereas, There has been reported undue expenditure on the part of our beneficiaries for the luxury of tobacco, and inasmuch as the sacred character of the trust committed to the Synod, in the disbursement of the Education Funds, calls for the enforcement of a conscientious economy on the part of those receiving aid; therefore,

Resolved, That no young man who uses tobacco, in any form, be retained or received on the Education Funds of the Synod."

A SUGGESTION.

Nearly all of our readers have relatives in some parts of our own and other States, who are anxious to hear all the little incidents that may occur in the neighborhood in which they formerly resided. It would add greatly to the interest of papers if their readers would send the publishers all the news they can, of a local character, in their respective neighborhoods. Every little item of news, though seemingly unimportant to you, will be read with interest by your friends and relatives in a distant part of the country, who may be subscribers to their former town or county paper. If our subscribers would send us all the news they may gather, it would add to their benefit, as well as that of their friends.

GRACEHAM.

One hundred years ago the Moravian forefathers of Graceham came from Litiz, in the county of Lancaster, to make a lodgment in the vast wilderness which then surrounded our beautiful neighboring village, where now the iron horse courses his way from the commercial emporium of our great State to tap the mountain recesses which interlock the valleys of the Monocacy and the Conococheague. The names of the Seises, the Wilhides, the Creagers, the Firors and the Martins arise on every side. Here they built the village church to worship God according to the dictates of their conscience. Here arose the incense to heaven, sublime and beautiful. Here are many things to recall up recollections of the past—recollections of sublime grandeur, of power and greatness. We expect in a few weeks a detailed account of the rise and progress of the Moravian fathers, from the pen of the present pastor of the church, Rev. Jesse S. Blickensderfer, which we will publish for the information of the general reader.

Mr. Crouse is about building a new brick house on the corner square, and Mrs. Biggs and other parties are improving their residences. The large warehouse of Burtiss Bennett is crowded with country produce, and is doing a fine business.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The spirit of improvement is rife in our town. Among those who are going to build as early as the weather will permit, are—Mr. John Lohr, who is going to build a house on lot near the Engine House, purchased of Railroad Company. George W. Foreman is going to build a house by the 1st of April, the other side of Hunting creek toward the Furnace, adjoining the Brewery. Mrs. Catharine Waesche is going to build a house on the pike opposite the Catholic church. Mr. Charles E. Cassell is going to build two houses, near the Methodist church, in Church street. Mr. Henry Damuth is going to build a house on the pike leading to Landers' mill. Mr. John W. Sefton contemplates building a house in the rear of the United Brethren Church. Mr. John Rouzer has in view the building of a house near Snyder's boarding house in Church street. Mr. Joseph Freeze has some idea of putting up a new house, and some dozen other new buildings are talked of. A brisk time for masons, carpenters and plasterers, etc.

ROCKY RIDGE.

The locality known as 'Rocky Ridge,' near where the Western Maryland Railroad passes through the stony gorge has some historic value. Two stores are located there; Dr. James W. Miller and William H. Albaugh are merchants; Hanson Ecker keeps a hotel, and Hon. Joshua Biggs has erected an extensive warehouse. Here is where, in the war of 1812, a company was formed to go to the defence of Baltimore. Here is where, in 1806, John Scott, who used to live at Bruce's mill, on Pipe creek, sent a committee to examine the wheat, and report on the quality of that cereal. The Tunker Church, in which some of the old fathers of the faith lie interred, is located here. Here is where Elder Peter Nead and Lorenzo Dow preached in the old times of Frederick county. Here is where wheat was once imported to the Genesee Valley, of New York, as seed wheat, and bought by Nathaniel Rochester. Here is where old John Valentine once predicted a storm would blow over the Monocacy at a future day, and carry destruction in its train. That storm came, and was graphically described by a writer in the "Baltimore Visiter" of 1833. Rocky Ridge is a famous place, and we are glad to hear it is in a prosperous condition.

WHEAT.—Cash, and the highest price, for good Wheat at Bruce's mill, Pipe creek, by JOHN SCOTT.

August 16, 1806.

A VISIT.—We are informed that President Bokee and the Committee on the right of way of the Western Maryland Railroad will visit our town one day next week. Their mission is to go over the line between here and Hagerstown, with a view to the final settlement of the right of way, which we hope is the last preliminary to commencing work on this road.—*Williamsport Pilot.*

THE CHURCHES.

The Rev. A. J. Hesson, Lutheran Missionary Laborer in the Gospel cause in Kansas in behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran church, preached at Apple's church last Sunday morning, 5th instant, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The audience was large, all anxious to greet the Reverend gentleman, who is a young man a native of Mechanicstown District, on a visit to his family and friends. He took for his text from Paul's Epistle to the Romans, chap. xii. v., 1, "I beseech you, therefere, Brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable services." * * * * * * The reverend gentleman spoke in the highest terms of the Apostolical labors and devoted eloquence of the great servant of the Almighty; and intimated if we are wise and follow in his footsteps our election will be sure. He said Paul had much to contend with in his day, but by perseverance and reliance upon the strong arm of Jehovah he overcame all obstacles, and triumphed over sin and iniquity. He was a faithful missionary in the cause of his Divine master. He was a shining light to which christians could look for guidance; for deliverance from error; and to walk in the ways of righteousness and the paths of peace.

When he closed the Rev. N. E. Gilds made a few impromptu observations in behalf of the Missionary cause; which was liberally responded to by those present.

In the evening of the same day, at 7 o'clock, P. M. in the Lutheran church of this town, the Reverend Mr. Hesson again preached to a crowded auditory, taking for his text a verse from the prophecies of Isaiah—"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek; and his rest shall be glorious."—chap. xi., v. 10. The Reverend gentleman spoke of Isaiah as one of God's chosen prophets, and of the passages of the prophet which foretell the coming of Christ, and the felicities attending it; of the evident favor with which this holy man was endowed; of his prediction that from Jesse's root should a tall cedar of Lebanon arise whose branches would overshadow the earth; that bearing on its stems and boughs a "mystic dove" would spread its wings and carry the fragrance of Bethlehem and Mount Calvary and Palestine to the vast regions of the west, and even the untutored savage in the wilderness would be reclaimed—"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." He feelingly alluded to Isaiah as he walked in solemn meditation close by Siloa's brook in the Holy Land, and where as the "Oracle of God" he was inspired by the sublimest thoughts and most brilliant conceptions ever dreamed of in seraphic vision—"O thou my voice inspire who touch'd Isaiah's hallowed lips with fire." To-day on the plains of Kansas and even the farthest west and the Ionian Islands of the east the "Root of Jesse" stands as an "Ensign of the People" to redeem fallen man from sin and misery. The prophetic teachings of Isaiah and the sacred truths revealed in God's holy book are to the missionary in his labors in heathen lands like "seeds of gold which in Ophir's mountain glow"—where revealed Religion invites all to partake of the Heavenly repast spread out by the great Almighty Power and the foreshadowed Messiah—this "root of Jesse" even the Jews and the Gentiles and the Latter Day Saints are now seeking as God's saving power of grace, by which mankind may yet be redeemed and saved.

Divine services were held by Rev. N. E. Gilds on Sabbath afternoon last at Creagerstown, and at Rocky Ridge in the evening. The subject in the afternoon was the 'Glory of the Cross,' and in the evening the "Brazen Serpent, showing a similarity between it and Christ and the means used for recovery of man." The audiences were very encouraging, especially at the Ridge, where the house was densely crowded.

The Rev. Father John McCloskey celebrated Mass in the Catholic Church of this place last Sabbath, and delivered a very edifying and instructive sermon.

[*Communicated.*]

ROCKY RIDGE, March 9, 1871.

Mr. Editor:—We received the first number of the "*Catoctin Clarion,*" and read its contents with great interest. It affords us pleasure to state that our expectations have been fully realized; indeed, we may say, far exceeded our anticipations. The original matter is just what could be desired. The "locals" are all interesting, and should it visit us with such pertinent home matter it will be very desirable indeed. The advertisements all appear neat, and we are pleased to see business men occupying a considerable space in announcing to the public their appreciation of the "*Clarion*" by publishing their places of business.

We wish the "*Clarion*" success, and hope that it may receive a hearty support, and enjoy a prosperous future. It has an important mission to fulfill, and taking the first number as a precursor of what is to follow, it cannot fail, but accomplish the great object before it. While the good people of of Mechanicstown are now blessed with railroad communications from the east, a daily mail, and a bright and properous future before them, we hope that a generous and liberal support will be given to the "*Clarion.*" Our best wishes for the success of your paper. A FRIEND.

RAILROAD OFFICALS.—President Bokee, of the Western Maryland Railroad, with Messrs. Motter, Welty and Harris, of the Board of Directors of that Company, were in this place on Tuesday last. The object of this congregation of railroad officials was, we understand, in connection with the commencement of operations on the line between this place and Williamsport. We were given to understand that the work on the road between this place and Mechanicstown was progressing favorably notwithstanding the obstacles thrown in the way of its progress by *reported* "strikes" and constitutional croakers. So mote it be.—*Hagerstown Free Press.*

☞ The news of the progress of Mechanicstown is highly cheering as we go to press.