CATARRH

Catarrh has become such a common disease that a person entirely free from this disgusting complaint is seldom met with. It is customary to speak of Catarrh as nothing more serious than a bad cold, a simple inflammation of the nose and throat. It is, in fact, a complicated and very dangerous disease; if not at first, it very soon becomes so.

The blood is quickly contaminated by the foul secretions, and the poison through the general circulation is carried to all parts of the system.

Salves, washes and sprays are unsatisfactory and disappointing, because they do not reach the seat of the trouble. S. S. S. does. It cleanses the blood of the poison and eliminates from the system all catarrhal secretions, and thus cures thoroughly and permanently the worst cases.

Mr. P. H. McAllister, of Harrodsburg, Ky., writes: "Having been a terrible sufferer from Catarrh, and being now sound and well, the question often put to me is, 'What cured you?' In answer I feel it my duty to state that Swift's Specific is the medicine. I am such a true believer in the efficacy of Swift's Specific that I can honestly and conscientiously recommend it to any one suffering from Catarrh. Have recommended it to many, and am happy to say that those whom I have induced to use it can bear me out in the statement that it will cure any case of Catarrh if taken according to directions."

SSS is the only purely vegetable blood purifier known, and the greatest of all blood medicines and tonics.

If you have Catarrh don't wait until it becomes deep-seated and chronic, but begin at once the use of S. S. S., and send for our book on blood and skin diseases and write our physicians about your case.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.

Winter Schedule.

Weems Steamboat Co.

BALTIMORE, FREDERICKSBURG AND RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER ROUTE.

NORFOLK AND RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER ROUTE.

Beginning Sunday, December 29th, Steamers will run as follows:

Leave Pier 2, Light Street Wharf, Baltimore, daily except Saturday and Sunday at 4:30 p. m., and on Sunday at 2:30 p. m., for the Rappahannock as far as Tappahannock, extending the trip from Baltimore on Friday to Fredericksburg, calling at all landings on the River. On Tuesday and Saturday only, Steamers will leave Bay Port for Baltimore, and will call there from Baltimore only on Tuesday and Saturday. From Baltimore, Steamers will call at Millenbeck and Merry Point on Monday, Friday and Saturday. To Baltimore will call Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday. At Weems and Irvington, Steamers from Baltimore will call Saturday and Tuesday only. For Baltimore, Steamers will leave Tappahannock at 8 a. m., Tuesday and Saturday, and 9 a. m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, calling at all wharves except as above mentioned. Will leave Tappahannock for Norfolk at 12 m. Tuesday. Will leave Norfolk at 4 p. m. Wednesday for Fredericksburg and all landings on the River, leaving Tappahannock at 8 a. m. Thursday. Leave Fredericksburg for Baltimore at 2:30 p. m., Monday and Friday, going as far on those days as Leedstown. Will leave Leedstown Tuesday and Saturday for Baltimore at 4:30 a. m.

HENRY WILLIAMS, Manager, Baltimore, Md.
W. D. SCOTT, Agent, at Fredericksburg, Va.
KEY COMPTON, Agent, at Norfolk, Va.

POTOMAC RIVER ROUTE.

Beginning Tuesday, December 25, Steamer Potomac will leave Pier 9 Light Street, Baltimore, Tuesday and Saturday at 5 p. m., for the Potomac river, calling at Miller's, Brome's Bacon's, Grason's, Lewisetta, Bundick's, Cowart's, Walnut Point, Coan, Kinsale, Mundy's Point, Lodge, Adams', Piney Point, Abell's, Leonardtown, Coburn's, Howard's and Stone's. On Tuesday only for Lancaster, Bushwood, Riverside, Liverpool Point, Glymont, Alexandria and Washington.

Returning will leave 7th Street Wharf, Washington, at 4 p. m., Thursday, calling at all the above mentioned wharves, leaving Leonardtown at 6 a. m. Monday and Friday, Kinsale at 12 m., Miller's at 4 p. m., Grason's at 5 p. m. and Bacon's at 6 p. m., arriving in Baltimore early Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

Freight received daily at Pier 9, Light Street.

No Freight received for out-going steamers after 4 p. m. on sailing days.

HENRY WILLIAMS, Agent,
STARKENSON & BRO., Agents, at Washington, D. C
WILLIAM M. BEARDON, Agent, at Alexandria, Va.

FINE QUALITY MINCE MEAT.

Our price is reasonable, as it is Atmore's finest. If you need good articles for Christmas, you can get them from

MAGRATH & CHESLEY.

Just received a large lot of

LUMBER.

Doors, Sash,

Blinds, Cypress Shingles

N. C. Flooring and Ceiling,

which I sell cheaper than any one else in the city.
Call and get my prices before buying.

O D. FOSTER

National Boulevard

E. K. WHEELER,

Successor of Williams & Wheeler), conducts the UNDERTAKING BUSINESS at the old stand, corner Main and Charlotte streets. All orders from home and abroad promptly and satisfactorily attended to either at night or day.

Hearse and Carriages always ready to attend funerals. Thanking the public for patronage so generously bestowed, he asks a continuance of the same.

JOHN F. SCOTT

Hardware and Hardware Specialties,

MAIN STREET,

One door below Chas. Wallace & Bro.

—FULL LINE OF—

General Hardware

Barb Wire, Guns, Pistols, Razors, Knives etc., will be sold at reduced prices to suit the times. Money can be saved by purchasing at SCOTT'S Hardware Store.

The Free Lance

TUESDAY..... JANUARY 1, 1900.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

A Step Toward the Metric System—To Change Presidential Term—Chairman of Inaugural Committee.

[Special Correspondence.]

The action of the house committee on coinage, weights and measures in considering Mr. Shafroth's bill to adopt the metric system as the standard of weights and measures in the United States is the first step taken by this government to join other nations in adopting this system as the worldwide standard. For some time there has been an international movement looking to the adoption of the metric system by all the nations, but so far the United States, Russia and Great Britain have not taken any step in regard to the matter. Nearly a year ago Mr. Shafroth introduced a bill, which was referred to the committee on coinage, weights and measures, providing that the metric system should go into effect after Jan. 1, 1901. This date has been changed to Jan. 1, 1903, as that is the time now fixed by an international agreement for the inauguration of the system.

The committee has decided to report favorably the bill, which provides that after Jan. 1, 1903, all the departments of the government of the United States in transaction of all business requiring the use of weights and measurements except in completing the survey of public lands shall employ and use only those of the metric system, which shall be the legal standard of weight and measurement of the United States. At present the use of the metric system is optional.

To Change Presidential Term.

The judiciary committee of the house has a very curious and interesting bill before it. It is a proposition to amend the constitution introduced by Representative Sibley of Pennsylvania. It proposes that the president of the United States shall be elected for a term of six years instead of four and that he shall be ineligible for re-election for a second term. The vice president, however, is to be elected and hold office for seven years, thus bringing the election for that officer in a different year from that in which the president is elected.

Mr. Sibley has also undertaken to answer the question, "What shall be done with our ex-presidents?" He provides by his constitutional amendment that a president whose term of office has expired shall be a senator of the United States at large, ex officio, during good behavior. In that capacity he shall not exercise the voting power and shall receive for his services such compensation as the congress shall by suitable legislation determine. The proposition does not provoke serious comment in the judiciary committee.

Chairman of Inaugural Committee.

Senator Hanna, chairman of the Republican national committee, offered to John Joy Edson of this city the chairmanship of the inaugural committee. Mr. Edson accepted the place and will take charge of the inauguration ceremonies.

John Joy Edson has lived in Washington ever since the war of the rebellion, and in that period he has grown from a clerk in the treasury department to be president of one of the largest financial institutions in the District. Mr. Edson enlisted in a New York regiment in the war and served faithfully until discharged by reason of expiration of service. He then came to this city and was appointed to a clerkship in the treasury department, where he remained for several years, in which time he studied law and was graduated from the Columbian university law school.

For Immigration Reforms.

The annual report of the commissioner general of immigration recommends that all alien immigrants on arrival be required to state if it is their purpose ultimately to become citizens of the United States and that answers in the affirmative should be entered of record and be treated as a "declaration of intention." It is the opinion of the commissioner general that this would give some authenticity to the declaration and relieve it of the haphazard character which makes naturalization such a farce when politics play any part in it. He recommends also the exclusion of prostitutes generally, the present law simply providing for the exclusion of those who come here under an immoral contract.

His Hard Four Hours.

"What do you do, Mr. Justice, sitting on that formal bench four long hours every day?" asked a young woman of Justice Brewer recently. "Well," replied the justice, "the first hour is spent trying to understand what some pleading lawyer is getting at in his speech. The effort is entirely useless, of course, as the argument is before us in the printed brief. The second hour is employed wondering how many times that lawyer intends to repeat himself. The third hour is devoted to as comfortable a doze as it is possible to enjoy sitting upright in a chair. And the fourth hour— Ah, my dear young friend, that is the most important hour of all, for we consume it in the strenuous and mighty effort to wake up with the assistance of the pages."

Senator Hanna Was Broke.

Senator Mark Hanna, maker of presidents, trusted by trusts and man of millions, was invited to get off a street car here because he could not pay his fare. He boarded a car going from the capitol to his residence, but could not find a cent in his clothes when the conductor asked for his fare.

In the forward corner of the car sat Senator Platt of Connecticut. Hanna hailed him for aid. Platt searched his pockets and finally found three pennies and a crumpled car ticket. The conductor took the latter and rang up the fare. Hanna mopped the perspiration from his brow and remarked that it was the first time he had been broke since coming to Washington.

CARL SCHOFIELD.

Editor's Awful Plight.

F. M. Higgins, Editor Seneca, (Ills.,) News, was afflicted for years with Piles that no doctor or remedy helped until he tried Bucklen's Arnica Salve. He writes two boxes wholly cured him. It's the surest Pile cure on earth and the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25 cents. Sold by M. M. Lewis, druggist.

Tappahannock's Hotel.

Those contemplating visiting Tappahannock will find at the

VIRGINIA HOTEL

the best accommodations.

A postal will engage accommodations in advance.

GEO. R. SCOTT, Proprietor.

WHEN YOU WISH TO BE SURE OF QUALITY AND LOW PRICES CALL ON

DOGGETT & SCOTT

OR USE 'PHONE 36.

JUST RECEIVED

Richardson & Robbin's Plum Pudding at 45c., Raisins, Currants, Citron, Figs, Dates, Prunes, Candies, Cakes and Crackers.

Canned Goods of all Kinds

PICKLES, CHOW CHOW,

CATSUP, PRESERVES, &c.

We have a nice line of Carolina Rice at 5c. per pound.

Pure Pennsylvania Buckwheat Flour, Dark or Light at 3½c.

Victory Soap, large bar, quality guaranteed at 2½c.

Our Teas and Coffees are extra fine and will please the most fastidious

Apex Baking Powder, guaranteed as good as Royal, at half price. A handsome present free with each can.

Full Cream Cheese, Macaroni, Oat Flakes, Pettijohn Food and lots of other good things too numerous to mention.

Doggett & Scott.

205 Commerce St 1002 Main St.

The John G. Hurkamp Co.,

Fredericksburg, Va.,

Manufacturers of EXTRACT and GROUND SUMAC and QUERCITRON BARK.

Dealers in Leather, &c. Highest cash price paid for Hides

GEO. FREEMAN, JR. JAMES R. EVANS

FREEMAN & EVANS.

GENERAL GROCERS,

WEST END,

Fredericksburg, Va.

Highest cash price paid for country produce.

HOTEL DANNEHL.

EUROPEAN PLAN.

Fredericksburg, Va.

FANCY GROCERIES,

CAN GOODS, PROVISION.

Beware of being offered too much for your money. Some things are too cheap in quality to be anything but dear in price. MAGRATH & CHESLEY.

5,000 BUSHELS

of wheat wanted, for which I will pay the highest CASH market price delivered in Fredericksburg or along lines of P., F. & P. R. R., or R., F. & P. R. Road.

R. L. BISCOE.

NEW FALL CLOTHING.

MEN'S, BOYS' AND CHILDREN'S SUITS. TRUNKS ALL STYLES AND PRICES.

Men and Boys' Suits all styles and prices. Children's School Suits and Extra Knee Pants. Hats, Shirts, Overalls and Trunks at Lowest Prices. Also agent for Sweet, Orr & Co.'s Pants and Coats and Overalls.

JAMES T. LAYTON

Insurance.

A. B. Botts & Co.

FIRE, LIFE and ACCIDENT INSURANCE AGENTS,

Office: 812 Commerce Street.

Represents sixteen first-class companies. Rates low as the lowest, and losses promptly adjusted and paid.

I REPRESENT ONLY THE

Best, Strong, Old Fire Insurance Co.'s

of this country and Europe. Assets over fifty million dollars. Low rates and just settlements.

S. WILLIS HOWARD,

INSURANCE AND COLLECTION AGENT.

W. H. BRULLE

Confectioner and Baker,

No. 919 B Street, Fredericksburg, Va.

Give me a call when you want

CONFECTIONS, ICE CREAM AND PASTRY

Orders always receive prompt attention.

W. H. BRULLE,

W. S. EMBREY.

(Successor to Embrey & Berryman.)

Dealer in RAILROAD CROSS TIES, CEDAR POSTS, SPOKES AND HOOPS

Keeps constantly on hand a large supply of Baled Hay and Mill Feed. Office near Railroad Depot Fredericksburg, Va.

GEORGE GRAVATT,

Manufacturer and Dealer in

CARRIAGES, BUREYS, BUGGIES AND CARTS.

CONCORD AND SPRING WAGONS,

Platform Spring Wagons.

Business and Pleasure Wagons of every description. Special attention given to repairing and repainting

DON'T FORGET THAT

When you want an easy Shave,
As good as a Barber ever gave,
Just call on me at my Saloon,
At morn and eve or busy noon.
I comb and dress the hair with grace,
To suit the countenance of your face
My room is neat, my towels clean,
Razors sharp and razors keen;
And all that art and skill can do
If you will call I'll do for you.
Razors put in order at short notice.

W. H. BAYLOR

THE HOUSEHOLD.

Fashions in Household Linens—Adjustable Plate Lifter—Oysters in Dishes of Ice.

There are fashions in household linens as well as in gowns, yet the most elegant women are apt to make their selections from staple products which are always in favor. For example, the ball and snowdrop patterns in table linen are deemed standard by all housewives. Plain linens are also much in vogue. Many of the handsomest plain cloths have a cipher or monogram embroidered in two corners of the cloth. There are as well a number of new designs, the chrysanthemum being a favorite pattern. Napkins come with each cloth, both with hemstitched and plain hems. Napkins should be marked with the embroidered initials about three inches from the corner. Tablecloths inserted with lace are no longer fashionable. White centerpieces have almost entirely replaced colored designs. Lace designs are, however, seen in the centerpieces and doilies used on the bare tables for luncheons. There is a tendency to introduce very elaborate bed linen. Both sheets and pillowslips are hemstitched and inserted with bands an inch wide, or even wider, of lace. Both pillowcases and sheets are embroidered with the initial or even the crest of the owner. Even lace trimmed sheets are used. Nothing is daintier or more attractive than a pure white bed. Inexpensive bedspreads can be made very attractive by trimming the sides with inexpensive heavy cotton lace, the spread serving as well when fashioned in this manner as a valance.

Adjustable Plate Lifter.

The need of a simple and easily operated device for lifting hot plates and tins from the oven or top of the stove is apparent to all, as many accidental burns and perhaps the spilling of the contents of the receptacle would be prevented by its use. Among a number of devices recently designed for this purpose that of John F. Neal seems to be the most convenient and simple as well as the cheapest to manufac-

ture. It consists of a wooden handle, which is provided with four screw eyes for supporting a pair of swinging bales, as illustrated in the picture. The oblong lifters at the ends of the bales are bent slightly to aid in securely holding the article to be lifted, and a hook is provided at the handle end by which the lifter is suspended when put in use. To lift a hot plate or baking tin the bales are opened and dropped over the edges, when the action of raising the handle will adjust them on the rim, where they will maintain a secure hold as long as the plate is in suspension.

Oysters in Ice Dishes.

Not only oysters, but fruits, are sometimes served in receptacles made from ice. It is possible to get molds in which water may be frozen in saucer form for the oyster or clam course, and some caterers have achieved fruit baskets and even excellent imitations of epergnes and comports. These effects are to be noted as novelties rather than commended. Still in the best taste is the oyster or clam in its shell, piled on a mound of nicely shaved ice, packed in its turn on a pretty plate. Fruit, too, arranged in a silver or crystal dish is properly and effectively presented, and the needed chilling can be accomplished beforehand in the refrigerator. Occasionally, as a course at a supper party, the effect of serving oysters from a single solid block of ice set on a platter and surrounded with greenery is attractive; but, when all is said, bizarre effects and too much straining after novel and striking service are never in good taste.—New York Post.

The Furnishing of a House.

You must have certain things as a basis—things that you cannot do without. They must be purchased at once and set in place, but they are the necessities which are found in every house and which are absolutely indispensable. That is the bread and butter part, and you may eat it as quickly as you please, but the part that can be done by degrees is the ornamenting of the rooms—the addition of a picture, a bit of bronze or marble, a few coveted books or an article of furniture which does not come directly under the head of "merely useful." There is an excitement in the very necessity of making a choice when there is only a stipulated sum of money to invest and there are so many ways in which you want to spend it.—Sallie Joy White in Woman's Home Companion.

Hall Pictures.

It is becoming more and more common to line the staircase wall with pictures. On consideration the idea is a good one from other points of view than the artistic. The climb, particularly of a long, unbroken staircase, is to many persons an affair of minutes, and it is not at all unpleasant to be cheered its length by some attractive pictures. In some houses there are series of photographs along the stair, those of celebrities being more often selected than the pictures of friends of the family.

Contractors.

GEORGE W. WROTEN.

BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR.

Will furnish Plans and Specifications; will contract for erecting all classes of Buildings; furnish hands by the day and superintend the work in town or country.

Charges reasonable

A. MASON GARNER.

Contractor and Builder,

Princess Anne st., Opposite Tyler's Foundry

Guarantees all work in his line to be done promptly and in a first-class manner at rock bottom prices.

FINE TEAS,

WINES AND LIQUORS

Pure Rye Whiskey, Pure, Old Rum, Pure Holland Gin, Pure Sherry Wine, Pure French Brandy, Pure Apple Brandy, Pure Peach Brandy, Pure Blackberry Brandy. A complete stock of Liquors for medical use at the old Reliable Grocery Store of

CHAS. WALLACE & BRO.

Cor. Main Commerce Sts.
FREDERICKSBURG, : : VA

TO THE PUBLIC.

GEO. NOSSITT,
Undertaker
and
Embalmer,

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.,

COFFINS from $8.00 up. Hearse and carriages furnished. Free stable accommodations. Open day and night. CABINET and UPHOLSTERING work done. All work at LOWEST prices, at WORK GUARANTEED

FLOWERS.

Cut Flowers and Floral Designs for all Occasions at Reasonable Prices.

Leave orders with E. C. Ninde, Fredericksburg, or send to

J. PALMER GORDON, Florist, Ashland, Va.

GROCERIES,

LIQUORS, &c

FAMILY GROCERIES OF ALL KINDS.

My stock of Liquors is large, consisting of Foreign and Domestic BRANDIES, Pure Applewood and Farmers' Friend Pure Rye Whiskey, $2 a gallon, MAGNIFICENT APPLE BRANDY, WARRANTED PURE.

EUGENE BODE,

COMMERCE AND LIBERTY STS.

Opera House Cafe.

—I have opened an—

Up-to-Date Cafe

in the Old Post Office, next to the Opera House, on Main street, for Ladies and Gentlemen. The cooking will be of the highest order, and the bill of fare will embrace the best that can be taken from the waters of the Rappahannock and the surrounding country. Oysters cooked in all styles and at the box on half shell. They will be especially fine, as they will come from the best beds on the lower Rappahannock. Meals served at all hours from 7 a. m. to 12 p. m.

HENRY WILLIAMS,

Late Steward of the Weems Line of Steamers sep22 3m

Liquor Dealers.

P. McCracken, Bro. & Co.,

—WHOLESALE AND RETAIL—

GROCERS AND LIQUOR DEALERS.

Offer Ten Thousand Gallons PURE RYE and BOURBON WHISKIES, from the following well known distilleries: Graft & Co. of Ohio; Boone County Distilling Co., of Kentucky Monticello Distillery, of Maryland, and W. F. Gray, of Pennsylvania.

Agents for Bergner & Engle's Lager Beer—They also offer Staple and Fancy Groceries, Agricultural Implements, Seeds, Guano, and Cement.

WE WANT TO

C, see

U, you

B, be

A, a

CUSTOMER OF OURS.

If you have never dealt with us that is your loss, for we point with pride to our business which has grown to such dimensions that we can justly claim to be the LEADERS in the liquor and tobacco business.

We are always making special efforts to please our customers, and to those that have never dealt with us, all we ask is a trial, and you can be convinced that you will deal with us again.

If you want something fine try Canada Rye, at $3.00 a gallon, as good as any $4.00 Whiskey sold elsewhere.

Reynold's Kentucky Rye, King of Kentucky Rye, Farmers' Delight, Kentucky Club Rye and White Rye, all at $2.00 per gal.

Whiskies at $1.00, $1.75, $1.50 and $1.50 a gal.

Brandies, Gins, Rums, Kimmel Wines and Alcohol.

A No. 1 Cooking or Drinking Wine at $1.00 a gallon.

Try our Kidney Gin for Kidney and Urinary troubles.

Liquors, Tobaccos and Cigars of all kinds.

FURS WANTED.

Strasburger & Son

One price Liquor and Tobacco.

215-215 1-2 10th St., Fredericksburg, Va.

THE EXCHANGE,

LEADING HOTEL,

JOHN ULTZ, Proprietor,
FREDERICKSBRUG, VA

FOR RENT!

A very desirable six-room house, good barn etc., with several acres of land. This property is on PLANK ROAD, one mile from centre of Fredericksburg, and has been occupied for past ten years by R. W. Favill, Esq. Terms reasonable. Possession given January 1st., 1901.

M. B. ROWE.
Fredericksburg, Va

FARM FOR SALE.

I will sell the little farm known as "WILLARD'S," on the Spotsylvania Court-house road, six miles from Fredericksburg. It contains 100 acres, lying along the Massaponax Run, and a comparatively new two-story dwelling and barn. Price low. Possession given January 1st. 1901.

M. B. ROWE,
Fredericksburg, Va.

JUDGMENT OF THE DEAD

By Koloman Mikszrath.

Late in the evening an old Jew, clad in rags, knocked at Nathan Weiss' door.

"I am sick and weary," groaned the broken old man. "They told me you were a Jew. Good, kind gentleman, have you no place where I can stay and rest awhile?" He could scarcely speak. His limbs shook, his face was livid, and his eyes rolled horribly.

"Go into the stable, my good man," said Nathan, "and rest there as long as you please. The horses will warm you." So the old man went to the stable, and there he sank into a sleep so profound that they could not wake him in the morning. There were no tears at his death; but, on the other hand, there was no rejoicing, such as often occurs when tears flow most freely. By dying so abruptly he caused some inconvenience, both to Nathan Weiss, in whose stable he had drawn his last breath, and to the Jewish congregation whose pious duty it was to give him proper burial. Before he could be buried many preliminary formalities had to be observed, for a dead Jew is a person of importance. No matter how poor, wretched and despised he may have been while living, he must be washed from head to foot, combed and brushed and clad in new garments, so that he may make a respectable appearance at his own funeral. Now, out of the ceremony of washing grew the singular story I have to tell.

Nobody knew the dead man's name nor whence he came nor whither he was going. But when the washing began one of his fingers was found to be bandaged as if it had been wounded. The bandage was removed, and under it was found a tightly folded strip of paper which bore these words in Hebrew: "I am dead. In my pocket are 500 guilders." It was very evident that he was dead, but the 500 guilders were not so apparent. Every pocket was searched, but never a note or a coin came to light. The elders held a meeting over the body, and vehement suspicions of Nathan Weiss were freely expressed. They went to him and asked:

"Where are the 500 guilders?"

But Nathan swore by heaven and earth that he had laid neither hands nor eyes on the money. The elders proceeded with their pious duties and laid out the corpse decently and covered it with a black pall. Then they put their heads together again and debated what should be done. It would be a fine thing if they could find the money, for it would pay for the funeral and leave a neat little sum for the congregation besides.

Should they take the matter into court? To what purpose? If Nathan chose to lie out of it, they could do nothing.

"What have we to do with courts?" said Simon Schwarz. "Let us decide the matter ourselves with wisdom and cunning, like King Solomon."

They all agreed not to go to court, for they knew that all the terrors of the law would not wring the secret from the breast of any of their number who might chance to share it and that Nathan, if he were really guilty, would not be fool enough to confess. They therefore begged old Simon Schwarz, the wisest among them, to act as judge, with plenary power to use any means of getting at the truth that he might deem expedient. Simon thought over it all day, and in the evening he went to Nathan and said:

"Hear, Nathan. You must go, with two witnesses, to the death chamber, take the dead man's hand in yours and say, 'On my honor and conscience I solemnly swear that I have not stolen your 500 guilders.'"

All the elders assented to this arrangement, although the earmarks of its superlative wisdom were not clearly apparent. Nathan himself was especially pleased with the verdict, for he thought it gave him an opportunity to clear himself of all suspicion. At the appointed hour—midnight—Nathan and the witnesses entered the death chamber. The black pall covered the face and form of the old man, all but one yellow, wrinkled hand, which hung down at the side of the bier. Two flickering candles threw an uncanny light over the scene. Nathan approached the bier and grasped the pendent hand. How cold it was! He shuddered and shivered, but retained the hand in his while his trembling voice uttered the words:

"Good old man, on my honor and conscience I solemnly swear that I have not stolen your 500 guilders."

The next instant Nathan uttered a frightful shriek. The dead man's hand had contracted and held his fast in a grip of steel!

"Pardon! Pity!" he murmured. "Have mercy, Jehovah! I did steal the money, but I will restore it. Not a guilder shall be lacking. It is hidden under the bake trough."

"Aha, you scoundrel!" cried the dead man (impersonated by Simon Schwarz), casting off the pall and springing to his feet.

"So I got the truth out of you, did I? Aha! You thought me like the other judge, whom one can fool with lies."

And the elders bowed their heads to his superior wisdom and cried with one voice that his like had not been seen since Solomon's day.—Translated From the Hungarian For New York Commercial Advertiser.

Reasonable Presumption.

Mrs. Bixby—Are you sure it was my husband who ordered these groceries?

Grocer's Boy (cheerfully) — No, ma'am, I ain't sure, but I s'pose you got the stiffkit to show for it. Quit yer kiddin.—Minneapolis Sun.

That Throbbing Headache.

Would quickly leave you, if you used Dr. King's New Life Pills. Thousands of sufferers have proved their matchless merit for Sick and Nervous Headaches. They make pure blood and strong nerves and build up your health. Easy to take. Try them. Only 25 cents. Money back if not cured. Sold by M. M. Lewis, Druggist.

GEO. J. FLETCHER,

ARCHITECT AND BUILDER,

FREDERICKSBURG, VA

Plans, Specifications, Elevations, Details Work of all kinds in the building line.

Thorough personal supervision of the work town or country

RAPPAHANNOCK, FREDERICKSBURG & PIEDMONT TELEPHONE CO.

M. G. WILLIS, President; A. P. ROWE, Jr. Vice-President; H. F. CRISMOND, Secretary; E. D. COLE, Treasurer.

The Cheapest Telephone Service in Virginia. Prompt and efficient service GUARANTEED. Subscribers wanted.

H. F. CRISMOND, Secretary

Some "Soon to be Mothers"

GRIN AND BEAR IT

and others have months of peace and comfort passing through the weary time before confinement.

The latter obtain this ease by using externally the unique liniment, "Mother's Friend"

Its beneficent influence makes child bearing a pleasure, as it relieves all nervousness, headache, pains and nausea.

"A customer, whose wife used 'Mother's Friend,' says that if she had to go through the ordeal again, not for one hundred times its cost would she be without it. GEO. LAYTON, Druggist, Dayton, O."

Sent by express, all charges paid, on receipt of price, $1 per bottle. Book for expectant mothers mailed free.

"Will this ever end?"

THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Mother's Friend is sold by all Druggists.

HAVE YOU SEEN THEM?

MAGIC AIR-TIGHT.

Absolutely the BEST, and most durable WOOD HEATER made. Cast Iron Bottom, Top, Flue, Feed Cover and Foot Rails. Outside Body Planished Steel lined all way to TOP with heavy SHEET STEEL. The most substantial and up-to-date WOOD AIR-TIGHT HEATER on the market. A perfect BEAUTY—entire top artistically ornamented with raised carving. Has large feed opening, with cast iron cover, hinged from top, and when opened to feed stands perpendicularly and entirely out of the way. Draft always under perfect control. Put together with bolts, no rods to burn out. Collars made for inverted pipe, preventing appearance of creosote deposits.

Pipe collar on top or end as desired. Every STOVE wrapped and crated.

Four Sizes. Splendidly Proportioned. Twelve Styles.

We are special agents for the factory, and show the complete line. Close prices on pipe and elbows to Merchants.

E. C. NINDE,

Double Furniture and Carpet Stores,
Fredericksburg, Va.

BOOTS, SHOES, HATS AND CAPS.

We have our fall stock just in from the factory. All new goods. We have

The Best Women's Heavy $1.25 Shoes.
The Best Men's $2 Boots, and
The Best Men's $1 Hats ever brought to our town.

We have an up-to-date line of Ladies', Men's and Children's Fine Shoes; also Men's Calf Skin Boots. Call and examine our stock.

WALLACE & COMPANY,

Wholesale and Retail, Fredericksburg, Va.

ESTABLISHED 1867.

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MYER & BRULLE, Proprietors, Fredericksburg, Va.

We have the latest and most complete Patent Roller System in our Mills, use none but the very choicest Virginia Wheat and our Flours are the finest that can be made, excepting none. We make the following brands

MYER & BRULLE'S BEST PATENT SUPERLATIVE,
GERMANIA XX EXTRA,
GERMANIA XXXXX EXTRA, GERMANIA EXTRA,
WHITE PLAIN EXTRA

We make Choice Family Meal. Mill Feeds of all kinds. We pay the Highest Cash Prices for Wheat and Corn at Mill or Store. Give us a call before you buy or sell.

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Staple and Fancy Groceries,

Fine Liquors, Tobacco and Cigars.

Agency Pabst Milwaukee Larger Beer and best tonic. We also have in stock Ales Porter, Stout, etc. 600 B Street.

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Having just returned from our semi-annual visit to New York and Baltimore, we are better prepared this season than ever before to furnish our patrons and the public generally with a line of Millinery, that from a point of style and attractiveness, is simply unexcelled, and our pattern Hats and Shapes are really goods of merit and beauty.

We shall mark our entire stock down to Lowest Possible Prices and thereby make your trading with us not only satisfactory in point of style and quality but profitable as well. Call and see our Magnificent Line before purchasing elsewhere and let us show you our display and quote prices whether you buy or not.

MRS. D. E. SMITH & CO.

The Largest Stock in Town

Of Hardware, Wagon Materials, Nails, Guns, Pistols and Ammunition.

When in the city stop at our store and let us quote you prices on the above, together with many other articles, too numerous to mention.

GREEN & RUSSELL, COMMERCE STREET.
Fredericksburg, Va.

With Pleasure I Tender My Thanks

to and assure my friends, patrons and the buying public of my high appreciation of the cordial support they have given me. I have the largest and most complete line of GROCERIES carried by any house in Fredericksburg. They are bought at Rock Bottom Prices and will be sold at very small profits.

I also sell the best brands of Lime, Cement, Calcined Plaster, Hazard & Dupont Powder, Stoneware, Nails, Hay, Feed, Tobacco, Cigars, Cigarettes, &c. I am also agent for the Elbra Brand Mixed Paint. It is a higher grade and better quality of

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than has ever been put on the market of its class, and more ECONOMICAL TO CONSUMERS.

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OUR STOCK OF SHOES AND HAT

was never so complete as now. We are doing more business than ever before. This proves that our experience of ten years in the shoe business and our efforts to sell goods that wear are being appreciated. We have the latest styles and Rock Bottom prices.

J. F. BROWN.

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