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Maryland State Affairs.

MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 4.—The Senate met at 11 o'clock, and twenty-two Senators answered to their names.

A message was received from the House of Delegates proposing that the two Houses, in their respective chambers, proceed to the election of Governor to-day at one o'clock for the unexpired term of Governor Whyte.

Subsequently, on motion of Senator Davis, a message was sent to the House in response to the foregoing, concurring therein.

The joint resolution of the House authorizing the Governor to sell old condemned arms belonging to the State, was passed; yeas 19, nays none.

The Senate then proceeded to the hall of the House to elect a Governor. [For proceedings and vote in joint assembly see House report.]

On returning to their chamber the Senate resumed legislative business.

Mr. Billingsley presented the biennial report of St. John's College; also the report of the President of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Female Seminary, which was read and referred to committee on Education.

It was announced that an invitation had been sent to the Senate to attend the temperance meeting in the hall of the House to-night, when a delegation would present to the committees their views as to the legislative action desired on the subject.

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

An order was adopted that the Comptroller be requested to furnish a list of State pensioners.

Mr. Keech, from the majority of the Judiciary committee, reported unfavorably upon the memorial of Joseph Davis, which was adopted; yeas 67, nays none.

A message from the Senate was received, concurring in the proposition for the election of Governor, and appointing Senators Steiner and Blake tellers. Messrs. Freaner, Fenton and Annan were appointed on the part of the House.

The Speaker laid before the House the following:

ANNAPOLIS, February 4, 1874.

Hon. J. K. Hines,
Speaker of the House of Delegates:

SIR: For reasons which will be understood and appreciated by my associates in the House of Delegates of Maryland, I hereby tender my resignation as a member of that body, to take effect immediately on the reading of this communication in the House. I am, sir, very respectfully yours, &c. JAMES B. GROOME.

Which was adopted and ordered to be placed on the Journal.

A message was then offered by Mr. Keech and adopted, proposing to the Senate to go into immediate election of Governor in joint assembly, which was acceded to by the Senate, and at 1.30 P. M. that body came into the hall of the House of Delegates, and a *viva voce* vote was taken upon the two nominees named, the result of which was the Hon. James B. Groome received 75 votes and the Hon. John E. Smith received 18 votes. Mr. Groome having the majority of the votes cast, was declared elected to fill the unexpired term of Governor Whyte. The joint assembly then adjourned, and the regular business of the House was resumed by order.

After the transaction of some business of an unimportant character, the House adjourned.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, Feb. 5.—On motion of Senator Stevens it was ordered that the Comptroller report to the Senate the entire amount of revenue, from all sources, paid into the State Treasury by the city of Baltimore.

On motion, Messrs. Brewer, Aydelotte and Mudd were appointed a committee on Temperance, to whom shall be referred all petitions on the subject of temperance and local option.

On motion of Mr. Brewer a message to the House, proposing that the committees of the two houses on the subject of temperance shall act as a joint committee was adopted.

The Senate bill to establish a Board of Public Charities was amended, and ordered engrossed for a third reading. The bill to establish a commission of Fisheries was referred to the Committee on Finance.

On motion of Mr. Stevens, it was ordered that when the Senate adjourns it stands adjourned until Monday.

Mr. Tuck, from the committee on Judicial Proceedings, submitted a lengthy report on the joint resolution relative to a respite to Joseph W. Davis, to the effect that the Legislature had no right to interfere, and asked to be discharged from its further consideration. The report was passed over.

Mr. Earle submitted a message to the House, concurring in the House proposal for a joint committee to consider the amount to be subscribed by the State towards the Centennial anniversary, which was adopted, and Messrs. Earle and Walsh were appointed on the part the Senate.

Mr. Earle submitted a joint resolution empowering the Comptroller of State to employ counsel to assist in the argument of the case of the State against the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company (which is set for hearing in the Court of Appeals on Wednesday next), and authorizing the Comptroller to employ John H. Handy and I. Nevitt Steele, or some other able counsel, to assist the Attorney General in the argument of the case, which were read a first time, the rules suspended, and read a second time.

While the resolutions were under consideration Judge Tuck and other Senators opposed them on the ground that the Comptroller was not the proper officer to employ counsel for the State in any case, that duty, if exercised, pertaining to the Governor.

The rules were suspened to put the resolutions on their third reading, and the roll being called on their passing they were rejected for want of a constitutional majority. The vote rejecting them was reconsidered and their further consideration laid over to Monday. The Senate then, at 2 o'clock, adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Hart offered an order that when the House adjourns to-morrow it stand adjourned until Tuesday next.

Mr. Keech objected, unless there was some valid reason. He was opposed to these continued adjournments, and at the end of the session our business will be transacted *pel. mel.*

Mr. Hart said his object in offering the order was to allow the members a chance to go home, as this would be about the last opportunity they would have during the session.

Mr. Brace moved to substitute Monday for Tuesday.

Mr. Maclin was opposed to adjournments, as he could not see the necessity of them. Members come here with a full knowledge that they must stay from home.

Mr. Watkins said that when the House adjourns the committees also adjourn, and the consequence is that the entire business is estopped.

Mr. Brace said the Asylum at Frederick had asked an appropriation of $125,000, and he thought it to the State's interest for every member to visit the place and see if that amount of money was really needed.

Mr. Nicodemus said that the members could visit Frederick without any expense, as ample gratuitous provision had already been made.

Mr. McColgan was opposed to going to Frederick, coming back here and appropriating the money asked for, and then have it said that the inducements was the eating and drinking that they had been treated to. If the appropriation is worthy, make it upon its merits, and if not, then defeat it.

Mr. Watkins moved to lay the subject on the table, which was adopted by 41 yeas, 28 nays.

Mr. Henkle, from the Printing committee, made the following report, which was adopted:

REPORT.

The Joint Standing Committee on Printing, in obedience to the order of this House, of the 28th January, that they "be instructed to report the cost of printing all matters not definitely stated in the report, and a maximum sum which the whole printing shall not exceed," respectfully report that they have had the subject under further consideration, and in order to a more perfect understanding of the subject have summoned before them Mr. John F. Wiley, a practical book and job printer, of Baltimore city, and also Mr. McGarigle and Mr. Hooper, experts of large experience in the work of printing. These gentlemen have all testified that the proposal to do the work at the rates embodied in the report of your committee is an exceedingly liberal one, and that much of it is below the regular established rates of the trade in Baltimore city and elsewhere.—They state that the cost of the composition of the journal and documents, as now printed, is for plain work per page of 1,450 ems, $1; rule and figure work, $2, and tabular work, $4; that the composition of the laws, with marginal notes, per page of 1,600 ems, costs $1 90, and the cost of paper of the quality used is $12 per ream of fifty pounds. For bills the composition costs $1 75 per page, and the paper upon which they are printed costs 25 cents per pound.

They further state that, for compositor's work, double price is usually allowed for night labor, and loss time in waiting for material paid for at forty cents per hour by day and fifty cents per hour by night, and of necessity a large portion of the Legislative work is required to be done at night. They also testify that it is impossible to name any specific sum as the cost of an indefinite amount of work, and Mr. Wiley, who was himself the Chairman of the House Committee on Printing in 1868, and consequently familiar with the character and amount of work usually required, states positively that no one can do the entire work for $26,000, as proposed in one offer submitted to your committee.—Your committee therefore most respectfully present again their original report, with the above explanation in regard to its specific provisions and the further explanation that the page of the Journal or documents shall consist of 1,450 ems, and the page of the Laws shall consist of 1,600 ems, with marginal notes, as estimated by regular printers' rules. All of which is respectfully submitted.

The report is signed by the members of the Joint Committee.

In reply to the order of the House requesting that that body be furnished the number of boats licensed to dredge oysters in the waters of this State, and the gross amount of revenue derived thereform, Comptroller Woolford furnishes the following statement:

Counties and city of Baltimore.	Number of boats licensed.	Amount of revenue.
Anne Arundel	4	$380 00
Baltimore city	261	21,717 89
Calvert	11	790 95
Caroline	1	73 29
Dorchester	91	6,960 28
Queen Anne's	1	58 05
St. Mary's	4	305 43
Somerset	337	22,272 26
Talbot	11	763 32
Wicomico	11	837 99
Total	732	$54,159 46

The rules were suspended upon motion of Mr. Watkins, to allow the Ways and Means Committee to ask for leave to introduce the following bills: A bill to add an additional sections to article 56 of the General Laws, titled "Sample Trade;" also a bill to repeal the act of 1872, chapter 237, providing for the collection of arrears of taxes due from National Banks, &c., in the State, and a bill to provide for the assessment of the shares of the capital stock of National Banks in the State heretofore omitted to be assessed and to collect the State taxes thereon.

Mr. Keech moved to reconsider the vote by which the order adjourning the House until Monday was laid on the table, which was carried.

Mr. McColgan withdrew his substitute, and Mr. McWilliams moved that the adjournment be from to-day until 11 o'clock Monday. Carried, and the order adopted, and the House adjourned.

SENATE.

MONDAY, Feb. 9.—The Senate was called to order at noon, President Carroll in the chair.

The roll was called, and the following Senators answered: The Presiden, and Messrs. Brewer, Crawford, Davis, Getty, McCulloh, Phelps, Stevens, Steiner, Suit—10. There being no quorum present, and less than a majority in the city, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Several Senators are absent on committees, visiting State institutions, and others from remote counties have been unable to reach Annapolis, owing to the recent snow storm.

HOUSE.

Mr. Lancaster, introduced a bill to to repeal article 9, section 98, of the Local Laws of Charles county, and reenact with amendments.

The following letter from Mr. Compton, the Treasurer elect, was reported by the select committee and read:

ANNAPOLIS, February 4, 1874.

Gentlemen: Your favor of this date, notifying me of my election, by the General Assembly, to the office of State Treasurer, is just received. Permit me, while declaring my purpose to accept the office, to express, through you, my grateful acknowledgments for the honor conferred, and to you individually, my warmest thanks for the kind terms in which you have seen fit to convey this information. Very respectfully, &c., BARNS COMPTON.

To Messrs. Gill and others, Committee.

A letter was also received from Governor Whyte notifying the House of his approval of the House bill extending the charter of the Baltimore and Philadelphia Steamboat Company.

At one o'clock, during the reading of Mr. Stewart's House bill, incorporating the Union Banking Company of Baltimore city, Mr. Joyce moved a call of the House, as it was evident that there was not a quorum of members present.

The roll being called, only thirty-nine answered, and the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms was given a list of the absentees, and sent in quest of them.

At twenty-eight minutes past one o'clock Mr. Clark moved to discontinue the further proceedings under the call, but as the mace was in the possession of the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, and he absent, the House could not transact any business at all, although the motion was put to a vote and lost. In a few moments, however, the mace was returned by the officer having it in charge, and the motion of Mr. Clark was renewed and carried.

The reading of the bill was then concluded, and the bill passed.

Mr. Blake's Senate Bill relating to building and homestead associations and land companies in the State was read a third time.

On motion of Mr. Henkle the bill was laid over and made the order of the day for Friday.

Mrs. Watterson's paper referring to Wilkie Collins' anxiety to see the Indians in their native wilds before leaving this country thus answers the conundrum of the Brooklyn "Eagle," "Why, then, did he not visit the land of the Apache?" He was deterred we understand, solely by that insane antipathy of his to the idea of going home bald-headed.

A gorgeous Georgia girl recently peddled over 300 kisses at ten cents a smack and then gave the money to the poor to buy coal and flannel and things. The young men of that town feel within their individual and collective breasts that charity is divine.

"Matchless maid," is the way a presumptious young man addressed a lady of a very uncertain age.

What kind of a doctor would a duck make? A quack doctor.

Selected Poetry.

SONG OF THE WIND.

BY JOHN W. EDDY.

I sing my hymn to the mountains dim
In their solitudes of snow,
And trill my notes where the white mist floats
In the valleys far below.
I whistle through the thistle
And I moan in the trees,
I dally in the valley
And drone over seas.

From the gray of dawn till the night comes on,
And round to the morning star,
Each hour's a breve in the song I weave
Round all like a bright simar.
I quiver o'er the river
And I sigh through the brake,
I wander here and yonder,
And I fly o'er the lake.

When storms arise in the dark'ning skies
And hurl their thunders abroad,
I join my song in a cadence long,
And deep as the voice of God!
In column dense and solemn,
Over headland and town,
The marching storm o'er-arching,
Sends its dread lightnings down.

I'm in the path of the fire-fiend's wrath,
As with flame-destroying breath,
He sends his blight through the lurid night
With the dreadful doom of death!
The morrow must bring sorrow
And the tomb have its share;
I follow with the hollow
Chant of gloom and despair.

I'm on the wave when the waters rave,
And in tempestuous glee,
I sing my dirge where the whit'ning surge
Makes a woful minstrelsy!
The rattle of the battle
And the moans deep and long;
The sighing of the dying
Are my minor-tones of song.

My evening psalm is a cooling balm
To the fevered brow of care,
And notes of praise from the busy days
Commingle in gladness there.
How fleetly and how sweetly
The hours move along,
Confessing and expressing
The powers of my song.

The days go by with a laugh or sigh
Like the fitful song I sing;
But best by half are the ones that laugh
For the joyful hope they bring.
Ah dearer far and clearer
The melody of mirth,
To lighten up and brighten
The melancholy earth.

I sing for aye through the night and day,
The song as it comes to me;
The ceaseless din of the world we're in,
The voice of immensity!
Forever down the river
Of Time's fast ebbing days,
My wildest notes and mildest,
Send chimes of sweetest praise.

When your life shall reach its sunset hour,
May its harmonies all blend
With those that hallow the "home above,"
And find fruition of hope and love,
When the shadows shall descend
And may your happiness prove
For evermore, the beauty and power,
Of a song as sweet
As a life complete.

Selected Miscellany.

SPANISH LIFE AND CHARACTER IN THE INTERIOR.

The position of the young unmarried women of the lower orders in Spain next claims our attention. Certainly the contrast between the perfect freedom of the daughter of the family in England, and the seclusion and strictness under which her Spanish sisters' days are passed, is a very striking feature in the domestic arrangements of the interior. In the lower walks of life the Spanish maiden is absolutely a prisoner—the prisoner of her madre, or her "tia," or aunt—until a kind Providence gives her a husband. No Spanish maiden, however poor, or however low her rank, can ever walk alone in the street, even for a few paces: if she do so her character is gone. She cannot go out to service unless her madre or tia be in the same service; and hence all the "criadas," or maid-servants, are widows who are allowed to have their children in their master's house under their own eye; or unmarried over forty. The Spanish maiden has her choice of only two walks of life, until married life and a husband's protection becomes her own. Up to the time of her marriage she may either, if her father and mother be alive, go to a tailor's shop each day, returning at night, thus earning a few pence a day, and learning a trade. She is escorted thither and homewards by her mother, whose tottering steps and grey hair often contrast strangely with the upright carriage and stately walk of the daughter by her side. While at work during the day she is under the care of the "maestro," or master tailor, who sits among his bevy of fair maidens at the open door, and superintends their work. All the "tailoring" is done in this way. You first of all buy the amount of cloth you need at a linen-draper's; it is then taken to the tailor's house, and he takes your measure, and reports upon the amount and fitness of the cloth, and sets his maidens to work. A good Spanish servant, if you get a tailor to cut the cloth, will thus, at odd hours, make a capital suit of clothes. If the Spanish maidens, however, have a mother who is a widow, or who has no settled home with her husband, and is for this cause obliged to go out to service to earn her bread, the maiden will probably be with her mother, and, receiving little or no wages, take an idle share in the household duties, and receive each evening—of course in her madre's presence—the visits of her lover. Most of these girls have their lover, who, after his day's work is over, saunters idly, cigarillo in hand, into the kitchen which contains his Isidra, Maria, or Isabela—for these girls have very fine names—and performs his courting. The mother's watchful eye and ear are ever open, and the mother herself ever at hand. As to saying a single word, or, at least, having a walk or a good English "chat" *alone*, the young couple never even dream of such a thing. To so great an extent is this system of motherly surveillance carried, that should you call the mother away for a few minutes, she will not leave the young couple alone, but will order the young man to go out for some trifling article, or call the daughter to her side, that they may not have a private talk.

This seems strange, unnatural, and unneeded. The mother, during this period, treats her daughter quite like a child. If she does wrong—no matter though she be on the very eve of marriage—the mother administers a sound beating with her fists, and sometimes even a sound kicking. "Upon my word," said a pretty Spanish maiden thus situated, to me, "I really begin to think my mother is a bad old woman for beating me so." The Spanish mother has *no idea of trusting* her daughters; nor do they ever attempt the least religious or moral culture.—Their system is to prevent any impropriety simply by external precautions. And I must say that the majority of poor girls, when led to the altar, would present a marked contrast in *purity* to an equal number of our English agricultural laborers' daughters. In Spain the daughter's purity is the mother's highest pride. Mother and daughter, though constantly quarrelling, and even coming to blows, are very fond of each other; and the old woman, when they go out shopping together, will carry the heavy basket, or cesta, under the burning sun, that she may not spoil her daughter's queenly walk: her dull eye, too, will grow moist with a tear, and her worn face will kindle with absolute softness if an English senor express his admiration of her child's magnificent hair, or flashing black eyes.—The poor old mother, too, will save and save: she will deny herself her morsel of "carne," or meat, and her little "copa" of wine, on feast-days (and these poor creatures' luxuries are few indeed at best) that she may buy a ring or ear-rings of gold, to grace her daughter at the "Feria," and shame her rivals.

The moment, however, that the daughter is married all this is at an end. The mother, to use a vulgar, but very expressive phrase, "washes her hands of" her care. From the moment of the completion of the marriage ceremony, the mother declines all responsibility, seldom goes to her daughter's house, and treats her almost as a stranger.

Among the higher classes, although different in kind, the treatment of the young unmarried maiden is almost as strict. She, too, like her humbler sister, can never have the privilege of seeing her lover in private, and very rarely, indeed, if ever, is he admitted into the sala where she is sitting. He may contrive to get a few minutes' chat with her through the barred windows of her sala; but when a Spaniard leads his wife from the altar, he knows no more of her character, attainments, and disposition than does the priest who marries them, and perhaps not so much. Happiness under such circumstances can hardly be expected as a rule, and yet the married life of the Spaniard, if not brilliantly happy, seems at least calmly peaceful. The pleasures of husband and wife lie in different directions, and each leaves the other free to follow out and enjoy them, as he or she best can. They are not much together again, and in sunny Spain there is no fireside gathering—indeed, there are no fire-places, only "braseros" of charcoal—to bring husband and wife together in sustained intercourse. There is a very striking law in Spain, the very existence of which proves better than any words of mine, the strictness with which the Spanish maiden is guarded, and the absolute authority of her parents. Its provisos are these: Should a Spanish lad and lassie become attached to one another, and the parents absolutely forbid the match, and refuse their daughter liberty, and permission to marry, the lover has his remedy at law. He has but to make a statement of the facts on paper, and deposit it, signed and attested, with the alcalde, or mayor of the township in which the lady's parents dwell. The alcalde then makes an order, giving the young man the right of free entry into the house in question within a certain number of days, for the purpose of wooing and carrying off his idol. The parents dare not interfere with the office of the alcalde, and the lady is taken to her lover's arms. From that moment he, and he alone, is bound to provide for her: by his own act and deed she has become his property. Cases have happened where the parents' judgment has been proved, by the bitter experience of their unhappy child, to have been the best: the would-be husband having turned out to be a seducer.—But the law comes upon him with all its force, and he is bound to maintain her in every way, as a wife, under pain of punishment. The whole Spanish law on the question of bastardy is very stringent, and bears severely—and deservedly so—on the man.—*Eclectic Magazine.*

Different Kinds of Eyes.

No branch of science has been more thoroughly mastered than optics.—The principle of vision must be essentially the same in all eyes, but they differ remarkably, according to the habits of the animal. Birds of lofty flight, as the condor, eagles, vultures and carrion-seeking prowlers of the feathered race, have telescopic visions, and thus they are enabled to look down and discover their unsuspecting victims. As they approach noiselessly from above, the axis of vision changes—shortening, so that they can see as distinctly within one foot of the ground as when at an elevation of one mile in the air.

This fact explains the balancing of a fish hawk on its pinions, half a mile above a still pond watching for fish. When one is selected, down the savage hunter plunges, the focal axis varying always to the square view of his intended prey. As they ascend, the axis is elongated by curious muscular arrangement, so as to see far off again.

Snails have their keen eyes at the extremity of flexible horns, which they can protrude or draw in at pleasure. By winding the instrument round the edge of a leaf or stalk, they can see how matters stand on the opposite side.

The hammer-headed shark has its wicked-looking eyes nearly two feet apart. By will effort they can bend the thin edges of the head, on which the organs are located, so as to examine the two sides of an object the size of a full-sized codfish.

Flies have immovable eyes. They stand out from the head like half an apple, exceedingly prominent. Instead of smooth hemispheres, they have an immense number of faces, resembling old-fashioned glass watch seals, each one directing the light directly to the optic retina. That explains why they cannot be approached in any direction without seeing what is coming.

☞ A wicked boy caught a fire-fly one day and stuck it with mucilage on the centre of the largest lens of the telescope in the Washington Observatory. The astronomer perceived a blaze of light, which died out at intervals, and thinking he had discovered a most extraordinary star, he pronounced it "of the third magnitude of Orion." He telegraphed at an expense of $2,500, all over the world, and the astronomers gazed at Orion until they were wild and then telegraphed back to the Professor for further information. In the meantime the discoverer found his star had moved eighteen billions of miles in twenty-four hours and perceived it actually had legs!—But on polishing his lens he found the lightning bug!—then he swore terribly—worse than "our army in Flanders"—in fact they heard him swear away down in Alexandria, seven miles away. Since then he has been looking for that boy; he wishes to consult him about something.

☞ A man's death was recently caused, in Illinois, by a spider. It was one of the iron species—in the hands of his wife.

Are blacksmiths, who make a living by forging, or carpenters, who do a little counter-fitting, any worse than men who sell iron and steal for a living?

The Maryland Commission of Fisheries.

The bill which has been introduced in relation to the appointment of a Commission of Fisheries, and making an appropriation for the stocking of the waters of Maryland with food fishes, is well worthy of the attention of the citizens of this State. The bill is now before the Senate Committee on the Chesapeake Bay and its Tributaries, and will doubtless be favorably reported upon by said committee. After referring to the feasibility of restocking the waters of the State with food fishes by appropriate legislation, and the peculiar adaptability of the waters of Maryland for the propagation of fish, the preamble refers to what has been done by other States which have appointed Commissioners of Fisheries and appropriated large sums of money to be expended in restocking their waters. It also alludes to the fact that the United States Government has appropriated a large sum for this purpose, and appointed a Commissioner General of Fish and Fisheries, who is ready to co-operate with the Commissioners of the several States as they may be appointed, by furnishing the ova, which he is constantly receiving from different parts of the world, as well as valuable information which may be in possession of his Bureau, to facilitate them in making the waters of their States more productive and remunerative to the people. The bill then provides for the appointment by the Governor of two paid Commissioners of Fisheries, who shall hold office for two years and until their successors are appointed. They are to immediately proceed to inspect the waters of the State, obtain all necessary information on the subject, with a view to stocking said waters with proper food fishes, and report as soon as practicable thereon to the Governor. When we consider that the waters of the State cover an area of over two thousand square miles—about one-fifth of the area of the whole State—the section providing for two Commissioners seems a wise one. The duties can then be divided, and the interests of the two sections more closely looked after—one Commissioner having special charge of the Chesapeake Bay and the other of the several rivers and their tributary streams. The Commission is made a paid one, in order that the State may command the time and services of competent Commissioners, whose office, as shown by the experience of other States, will be no sinecure, and whose labors will be especially arduous in Maryland, as the whole system will have to be organized and put into operation by them without delay—nothing having yet been done toward making our vast water resources truly profitable. Another section of the bill provides that as soon as said inspection and report is made, the Commissioners shall proceed to the selection of a proper locality for the propagation of food fishes, and to obtain the necessary ova, erect the hatching establishments required for the purpose, and distribute the young fish in the different waters of the State. Another section of the bill makes an appropriation of the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars per annum, to carry out the provisions of the act.

It is to be hoped that the bill will be passed without delay, so that the State may secure as soon as practicable all the benefits which can be derived from the propagation and protection of food fishes in its waters.—The wonderful results obtained in other States are an indication of the great advantage that will be derived by our citizens should the Legislature make the small appropriation asked for by the bill.—*Baltimore Gazette.*

A Brief History.

About twenty-five years ago, a young mechanic, in Boston, overheard the remark that a fortune awaited the inventor of a Sewing Machine. This aroused and directed his inventive faculties; a spell was upon him, which he could not resist. His brains and hands were busy with needles and threads and other devices, contriving stitches for sewing and mechanism for making them. He finally fixed upon what is known as the "Lock Stitch" as best for forming seams by machinery, and devised the mechanism for it.

This young mechanic is world-famous as Elias Howe, Jr., to whom, in the language of Judge Sprague, of the United States Circuit Court, for all the benefits conferred upon the public by the introduction of the Sewing Machine, the public is indebted. He was not content to stop with his first success. While he licensed others to engraft their improvements upon his invention, he busied himself in developing the Machine. In its present shape the highest premium was awarded to it at the Exposition Universelle, Paris, 1867.

What is the difference between a man's assertion and a drunkard's departure? One is an ipse dixit, the other a tipsy exit.

A steam jackass is the invention of an Illinois genius, who seems to think that more are needed.

A Western butcher, whose premises were robbed, said he "lost flesh."