

The Big Stone Gap Post.

H. J. AYERS. — Editor.
J. E. HAYES. Business Manager.

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The POST has the largest circulation of any paper in Southwest Virginia, and it is steadily increasing. An inspection of its subscription list is invited by those contemplating advertising.

Activity At Big Stone Gap.

A resumption of activity is expected to take place in the Big Stone Gap (Va.) region in the near future, as a number of industrial improvements are about arranged for. The Big Stone Gap Colliery Company, which started work on fifty coke ovens last fall, is said to have secured additional capital and will resume work to complete the ovens at once. Two Springfield (Mass.) men, Messrs. C. W. Mansfield and H. S. Miller, contemplate erecting coke ovens on Roaring Fork, and Messrs. Franklin Bache, of Pennsylvania, and a Mr. Trigg, of Abingdon, Va., are endeavoring to lease the J. J. Kelly lands, near Big Stone Gap, for the purpose of building a coal mining and coking plant.—Bristol News.

The Book World.

What a delightful entertainment does a good book afford. When wearied with over work or mentally tired, making even conversation a bore, how restful and soothing to one's spirits is a light, humorous, original book. Unlike the olden time, when one, or at most, two solid books were produced in a season—books ranking as highly proper and of the orthodox type required for admission into respectable households; and when "books for the young" held very small space in a publisher's announcements, and even then only such as were very childish in sentiment and style—such as "Geody Two Shoes," "Old Mother Hubbard," "Jack and the Beanstalk," and such like, we now have, month by month, announcements of numerous first-class works in all departments of literature, science and art, suitable to all tastes, and to all circumstances; and in no branch of the book-world is the extension and improvement more seen than in "books for the young." The present rising generation enjoys immense advantages for the easy acquisition of knowledge denied to those of a past youth, and it cannot, with truth, be any longer said that for them there is no royal road to knowledge.

A noticeable feature of the current literature of the present day is the fact that the ladies are among its chief contributors—not merely in the production of entertaining novels, but as authors of scientific works, of some of the best books descriptive of natural history, and of first class works in other branches, showing, on the part of the writers, deep research, accurate scholarship, technical training, and profound acquaintance with human nature. To the ladies are due the best thanks of young and old for very much of the healthy, exalted, artistic, solid and instructive mental food provided so liberally for their detection and benefit.

As distinct from the newspaper world the press, as generally considered, the book world is, at the present day, essentially an important factor in social life. The newspaper, especially to men of business, is felt to be a necessity in these times, giving as it does a mine of information in small compass on all to pieces appertaining to the hurry-scurry of the existing daily rush of life. But to the book, more than to anything else, do individuals in all circumstances, turn for solace, instruction, entertainment and real, lasting, enjoyment. How few recollect, or care to recollect, from one day to another, what the newspaper has placed before them. At most, choice pieces, or such as possess humor or striking originality, are clipped out and pasted away for future reference, "when wanted." But not so are books dealt with. Those we have read in our youth are remembered. Favorite authors are quoted, referred to, re-perused, and enjoyed, with fresh gusto, time after time, affording, on all occasions, delight or apt directness to our minds. It has been the experience of thousands that a good book is the best companion.

Amongst the leading books published during the last few weeks may be mentioned "Marcella," by Mrs. Humphrey Ward, the talented authoress of "Robert Elton," "The History of David Grieve," &c. "Marcella" is said, by eminent critics to treat, with knowledge, sympathy, and

a great degree of power, of the active, though still vaguely defined and much misunderstood, force called socialism, showing the causes that have led to its growth, and neither over-estimating nor understating its influence. It is said that while "Marcella" herself is a perfectly proper young lady, she is not at all a model for young girls to build upon; and that she is too selfish and too much inclined to "go as you please" in the race of life. Some idea may be formed of the present demand for the book from the fact that eleven presses, constantly at work, are unable to produce it with the required rapidity.

Mrs. Celia Thaxter, well known to every lover of poetry—old or young—has endeared herself to the hearts of the young, especially, by her "Poems for Children," which has passed through many editions. Mrs. Thaxter is also well known as an accomplished essayist on practical gardening, especially in the domain of flowers. It is said that she is at work among her flowers every summer morning from four o'clock until six, and she is said to be as fond of music as of flowers.

Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, called the "Laureate of the Birds," is a leading writer on bird life, and in "Bird Ways," "In nesting time," and "Little brothers of the air," she has given to our youth delightful books full of kindly sentiment, and of instruction in a most pleasing form on a very interesting topic.

"Total Eclipses of the Sun," by Mabel Loomis Todd, and "The Story of our Planet," by Dr. Bonney, are charmingly attractive to all interested in astronomical science.

"Bill Nye's History of the United States," liberally illustrated, avoids all dry and undesirable husks of history, and forcibly and humorously tells in its author's own and well-known style, the story of our Nation's birth and growth. The book, as a rare combination of information and entertainment, is certain to have a very extensive sale.

To such of our readers as desire knowledge of University Life in England, we commend Professor Goldwin Smith's "Oxford and the Colleges," recently published, and which may be read at one sitting.

London and Paris' literary circles are a stir over the prospective publication of the memoirs of Napoleon's private Secretary, Baron de Meneval, who assumed that office in 1802, when Napoleon became dissatisfied with De Bourrienne.

Marion Crawford's "Katherine Lauderdale," very popular, and having an extensive sale, is to be followed by the author's new work, entitled "The Ralstones."

In the May Forum is an article by Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, entitled "Is faith in a Future Life Declining?" based largely on evidence received by letters about the author's work, "Gates Ajar," published upwards of 20 years ago.

We may return to this important and interesting subject in a future issue.

LETTER TO EDITOR.

SCOTT COUNTY, VA., MAY 4, 1894.
Editor Post:

I notice in your paper of April 19th that you set out the platform of the organization known as the A. P. A., without comment thereon. This platform is misleading and calculated to make false impressions upon those who have not read the acts and doings of its members. It is in part a revival of know-nothingism of former days, which was a secret. Oath bound organizations reflect disgrace on a nation. This last-named party of proscription and intolerance was completely crushed out of existence by the brilliant campaign of the late Hon. Henry A. Wise, when he ran for Governor of this State in 1855. The know-nothings were the opponents of foreigners, and sought to effect a change in the naturalization laws, requiring every foreigner to remain in the United States 21 years before he could become a naturalized citizen, and like the A. P. A.'s were hostile to Catholics.

The A. P. A. organization is not opposed to foreigners, but, on the contrary, is largely composed of Canadian Orangemen, Slavs, Poles, Norwegians and Swedes. The respectable native Americans, who belong to it are few in number. This organization is reviewed in detail by the Rev. Washington Gladden, an eminent clergyman of the Episcopal Church. His article is published in the March number, 1894, of the Century Magazine and should be read by all Americans. He is bold, clear and fearless, and shows forth the hidden malice of this organization concealed under a specious exterior. The platform of principles of the order is paraded to divert the attention from their real purpose. He states that "this is the exotic doctrine. The exotic differs widely from it. It is a secret political anti-bond organization, whose principles are intended to create civil war and to deprive Catholics of their social and political rights. The oath which each member takes binds him, 1st, never to favor or aid the nomination, election, or appointment

of a Roman Catholic to any political office. 2nd, not to employ a Roman Catholic in any capacity if the services of a Protestant can be obtained." Mr. Gladden shows "the danger to society by sacred conclaves of men bound together by such an oath * * * meeting together in concealed places and carefully hiding all their operations from the public eye; any man is at liberty to conjecture. It is evident that these assemblies will be hot-beds of malicious rumor. The most preposterous lies can be started in these conclaves and there is no one to challenge them."

These men have already deluged the land with falsehoods, calumnies and foreigners against Catholic citizens. They have printed numberless documents, one of which is styled "Instructions to Catholics," and to which the names of eight Archbishops, and signed with the counter signature and confirmation of Cardinal Gibbons. This document sets forth, among other vapid nonsense, that "the Catholics must secure the control of all the cities, railways, manufactories, mines, steam and sailing vessels—above all the press; in fact, every enterprise requiring labor, and remove or crowd out the American heretic, &c." "So absurd are these charges," says Mr. Gladden, that sensible men, it would seem, should only laugh at it; yet the forgery has been taken seriously by tens of thousands of American voters. We might have thought it an easy task to convince this multitude that these prelates were knaves, but who could have imagined that credence would be given to a document which represents them as preposterous fools."

Another document of a still more astonishing nature has also been freely employed. This is a pseudo encyclical of Pope Leo XIII addressed to the Jesuits, patriarchs, primates, archbishops and other ordinaries, and given at St. Peter's, Rome, on Dec. 25th, 1891, the fifteenth year of our Pontificate. In this the Pope is made to declare that "this continent discovered by Columbus, belongs to him that he has long forborne to take forcible possession of it. He, therefore is made to full minute as follows: "We proclaim the people of the United States to have forfeited all right to rule said republic, and also all dominion, dignity and privileges appertaining to it. We likewise declare that all subjects of every rank and condition in the United States, and every individual who has taken an oath of loyalty to the United States in anyway, whatever, may be absolved from said oath, as also from all duty, fidelity or obedience, on or about September 5th, 1893. When the Roman Catholic Congress shall convene at Chicago, Ills., as we shall exonerate them from all engagements, and on or about the first of August, 1894, in the year of our Lord, 1893. It will be the duty of the faithful to exterminate all heretics found within the jurisdiction of the United States." The Christian Advocate, of New York, a Protestant journal, says: "We do not know of a more transparent fraud. We are astonished that any human being acquainted with the Roman Catholic Church could have believed either in the Pope or his advisers such dull idiots as his document would prove them to be."

"It is the work," says the Advocate of some "whose mendacity has intoxicated their minds to such a degree that, though they wanted to lie, they could not do it shrewdly." Mr. Gladden says: "The aforesaid 'Instructions to Catholics' and the 'Prendo-Encyclical' are the principal documents which have been employed in working up the anti-Papal jury. It is difficult for intelligent men to believe that literature of this description can be intended to be taken seriously. It reads like the fabrication of a very clumsy humorist. But one who is as familiar as I have been constrained to be, through the constant attention of members of this order, with the newspapers, leaflets, circulars and manifestos, by which it carries on its propaganda, knows that they are all of a piece. The most extravagant humorist could not invent anything more absurd than that which they publish weekly as current history. And whatever may have been the origin of these documents it cannot be denied that they have been used as campaign literature all over the land, in all manner of publications, and that their genuineness has been been editorially asserted and defended in the organs of the order. With these documents have been combined a variety of alleged oaths of Papal leaders and garbled extracts of Roman Catholic writings. In every community oral tales of the same tenor are diligently passed from lip to lip. A consignment of arms has come to Father so and so. They are drilling every night in the basement of their churches. You are met on the streets by excited persons, who ask you what you think about these Catholics drilling in all their churches and getting ready for war. If you demand definite information as to the precise church where this drilling is going on, as to the name of the priest who has received these arms, the reply is apt to be evasive. In some cases, however, names and places have been given and investigations have followed, resulting in no discoveries. These identical stories have been told, I suppose, in hundreds of communities, and they have not, so far as I have been able to hear, been verified in a single instance. Several churches have been freely opened to their search, but not one single firearm has been discovered in any Roman Catholic Church in the United States. Not a particle of evidence of such warlike preparation have been procured. The stories are, however, still circulating as freely as ever. When the ground has been well prepared by the dissemination of such dreadful docu-

ments and such harrowing tales, the work of organization will proceed. The meeting places of these orders are intended to be secret; all their operations are carried on in the most stealthy manner. It will be readily seen, however, that a class of persons, who could accept as genuine, the documents which I have described would not be likely to preserve such secrets and the existence and the main purpose of these orders speedily transpire. That the prevalence of this insanity will be brief is certain, but it may spread widely enough to do incalculable mischief. May I not venture to call upon all intelligent Protestants, and especially upon Protestant Clergymen, to consider well their responsibilities in relation to this epidemic? Can we afford, as Protestants, to approve by our silence, such methods of warfare against Roman Catholics as this society is employing? For the honor of Protestantism is it not high time to separate ourselves from this class of "Patriots"? In any large town, if the leading Protestant clergymen will speak out clearly, the plague will be stayed or abated."

The Outlook, a Protestant journal, in speaking of the A. P. A., states that "it is high time that public attention was called to this anti-Catholic movement, which is founded on falsehood, promoted by forgery, and imposes perjury upon its members as a civic duty."

THE PRESS.

RICHMOND DISPATCH: It pains us to read in the New Orleans Times-Democrat the statement that "never before has the sugar industry been in so critical and dangerous a condition as now"; and that paper adds that it will take all the efforts of the friends of sugar to prevent the destruction of an industry upon which half the population of the State depends for a living.

It is a straight in which the Louisiana people find themselves when they are asked to agree in the interest of the Democratic party to the destruction of an industry which provides the means of living to half their own number. If it depends upon the votes of the Louisiana congressmen whether this shall be done or not, we take it that it will never be done. However, let us await a time with patience, as the sugar men hope to be liberally treated by Congress.

The President Against the Income Tax.

The Washington Post of yesterday reports that the President declared to two gentlemen on Wednesday last that he was opposed to the income tax. This report is based upon the authority of a senator, who vouches for its accuracy.

We are not surprised to learn that the President is opposed to the income tax. It has never been clear to us that such a tax would be levied by the present Congress. Nevertheless, Mr. Cleveland may follow the example of Mr. Mills, who says that he does not like all the features of the Voorhees bill, but intends to vote for it.

Certainly there are strong reasons why the tariff question should as soon as possible be disposed of, not only for the present Congress, but for the whole term of President Cleveland. The clamor for the removal of this rock of offence is increasing rather than diminishing. The Post says:

"Probably the best thing that could happen to the country would be the prompt passage of the bill on the details of which debate of indefinite length has now opened. It can never be made a perfect measure, or in all respects satisfactory even to the party which has it in charge."

But the Republicans in Congress will not let that be done. It is for the Democrats to remedy the wrong of the situation.—Richmond Dispatch.

And What Will Happen Then?

If an international agreement for bimetalism should be arrived at, it would, of course, provide one ratio, leave France with her ratio of fifteen and one-half to one, and America with her ratio of sixteen to one. A uniform ratio would need to be adopted for all. Very well. When this is agreed on, what shall be the next step? Shall coinage of silver be left where it is, or shall each country be allowed to coin a certain sum each year, or shall the mints of all countries be thrown open to the free coinage of all the silver that is brought to them? We know, of course, that neither of the first two propositions will suit the silver men, and an international agreement resting upon either of them would accomplish actually nothing. The fight would go on for free coinage after that agreement was made just as actively as before. The silver men must have absolutely free coinage or nothing. Consequently, we apprehend, that the international agreement, if it is ever made, will be for entirely free coinage at a ratio for the whole world of, say, sixteen to one.

What must happen when this takes place? We can now mine as much silver in this country as necessary to make a silver dollar on the basis of sixteen to one, for about fifty cents in gold. This proceeds from two causes; first, the richness of our mines, and second, the great improvements that have been made in raising and smelting ores. If, then, we can continue to get a dollar by spending fifty cents there is no probability that the industry of mining silver will fall into decay. On the contrary, it will certainly become more active than it has ever been. But, under the stimulus of such enormous profits, new mines will be hunted all over the face of the earth, and processes will be improved still further, until the very latest possible refinement is made. How can we

fail to take from the earth the last ounce of silver it contains under such a condition of things we are at a loss to perceive.

Now the first flat of a government has enormous power, and the joint flats of all governments is stronger than any other physical power on earth, and yet there are things beyond even the power of that, one of which is the tastes and tempers of men and their minds. When silver shall become as abundant a state of things must make it, men will prefer gold in spite of all the governmental decrees that earth can frame. And, when that becomes the case, it will be simply another form of saying that gold has gone to a premium and that the world has become debased. We would like to be shown the defects of this view of the case.—Richmond Times.

A Congressman's Pay and Duties.

The absence of members of either house of Congress from their seats is too often spoken of as if all the absentees were engaged on business of their own, and neglecting that of their constituents; and we constantly read what are intended to be sharp reproofs of our representatives, based upon the assumption that when they are not in their seats they are neglecting their public duties. The usual remedy proposed is a deduction from every congressman's pay for all the time that he neglects to devote to his country's service.

We have not been remiss in urging upon Congress to hurry up tariff legislation. Indeed, we believe that the Dispatch was one of the first papers in the land to dwell upon the importance of an early settlement of that question. But it must not be forgotten that our Virginia representatives spend a great deal of time in waiting personally upon their constituents who visit Washington City for one purpose and another. Indeed, we suspect that they firmly hold to the opinion that they would earn all the pay they get if they did nothing but second the efforts of people from their several districts to secure employment in the government service. Day after day our telegraphic columns testify that Mr. Jones, of the First District, or Mr. Tyler, of the Second, or Mr. Wise, of the Third, or some other Virginia Congressman, has been pressing upon the head of some department the claims of certain of his constituents to places under the National Government. In like manner, these same congressmen have to attend to the requests of delegations of their constituents sent to Washington to see that peanuts, Irish potatoes, oil, sunnec, tobacco, iron ore, coal, and what not are put upon the free list.

Again, a congressman's duties are not confined to the work of constituents when these happen to visit Washington. It is just as important a part of his duties to prevent bad legislation as it is to promote good legislation. Much of the time which a congressman spends out of his seat is devoted to committee duties, if he happens to be on a committee empowered to sit during the sitting of Congress. Much more of his time is spent in appearing before committees of which he is not a member to prevent legislation which would be injurious to business interests in his own district.

In a word, a congressman's place is not a sinecure. He has no time to spare from his duties, though these duties may not always keep him in his seat. Let us not overwork him, nor censure him for not being at one and the same moment in the hall of the House of Representatives and in one of the departments.—Richmond Dispatch.



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Call at J. W. Kelly's drug store, Ayers ask, Big Stone Gap, Va.
The Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court of the County of Lee on the 23 day of April, 1894.
Zion Hobbs, Plaintiff, vs. J. C. Chance, Exr., &c., et al, D'f's.
The object of this suit is to recover of J. C. Chance, Exr. of W. D. Jones, deceased, \$277.50, with interest from March 21st, 1894, and foreclose a vendor's lien retained in a deed dated March 21st, 1893, from Zion Hobbs and wife to Wm. D. Jones, upon a tract of land in Lee County, Virginia, containing sixty acres, more or less. And an affidavit having been made and filed that the defendants, J. C. Chance, Exr. of Wm. D. Jones, deceased, Catherine B. Jones, John M. Jones, Nancy E. Allen, J. G. Allen, W. J. Carmack, D. B. Jones, John Jones, Rosa Jones and Edna Jones are not residents of the State of Virginia, it is ordered that they do appear here, within fifteen days after due publication hereof, and do what may be necessary to protect their interest in this suit. And it is further ordered that a copy hereof be published once a week for four weeks in the Big Stone Gap Post, and that a copy be posted at the front door of the court-house of this county on the first day of the next term of the County Court.
A copy—Tested: A. B. Messer, Clerk.
H. A. W. Skues, p. q.

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