

Our Washington Letter.

From our regular correspondent Washington, Mar 2 1888

Mr. Vilas, when he took charge of the Interior Department, found the condition of business, particularly in the U. S. Patent Office, very much in arrears, and the habits of the employees of the Office simply disgraceful.

Practically there has been no Commissioner of Patents during the present Administration. Mr. Cleveland's first appointee was a criminal lawyer, named Montgomery, who, if he had been asked at the time to define a patent, must have had recourse to the dictionary.

The employees, clerks, examiners, bureau chiefs and copyists, turned their energies to play, while thirty thousand inventors paying into the Patent Office over a million of dollars per year, petitioned, prayed, and cursed, in vain, for action on their cases.

About a year ago all Patentdom was rejoiced by the announcement that Montgomery had resigned. Now we will have a change! Anything, what 're betide, we've seen the worst. The change came in the shape of the present Commissioner, Mr. Hall, an intelligent, educated, phlegmatic man, who not only knew how to define a patent, but who did nothing but define, refine, super and subterfuge them, until his superordinates and patent lawyers cannot find his meaning.

His definitions in the shape of decisions on cases appealed to him have been in the teeth of law and established usage, and have thrown the practice into confusion. Meanwhile the actual work of the Patent Office, that of examining inventions and issuing patents, has gone from bad to worse. Mr. Hall, absorbed in the mysteries of abstract Patent law appears to be unaware that the immense force of principal and assistant examiners are making no effort to catch up.

This is not an overdraw picture of the condition in which Mr. Vilas found the Patent Office. To picture the chaotic, the despair and the agony of the thirty thousand or more inventors whose rights under the Patent law have been so shamelessly delayed and neglected would require the genius of a Dore.

Mr. Vilas has a Napoleonic habit of poking about the camp incog, and without brass-band accompaniment. Last week he took a stroll through the Department. He saw things that are quite familiar to the habits of the Patent Office, but which filled him with righteous wrath.

High salaried men were reading, telling stories, joking, jolling with their feet upon their desks, as oblivious to surveillance as the distant clamor of thirty thousand swindled applicants for patents. Then Mr. Vilas inquired concerning the condition of a case about which the inventor had written to him. If any but the Secretary of the Interior had appealed to Mr. Hall he would have got only such plausible explanation as the negligent and culpable examiner could make up. He probed the matter and found that action on the case had been wantonly neglected.

The inventor, who is a very poor man but had lost several hundred dollars. But this is only one of thousands of cases. The result of Mr. Vilas' tour of inspection was an order issued prohibiting reading, letter writing, gossiping, loafing and visiting among the employees of the Patent Office. The order is excellent. But its enforcement! There's the rub. The employees of the Patent Office occupy as many as a hundred rooms, and they work or rather avoid work with closed doors. They are skilled in all the arts of evading espionage, and if school-boys contrive to eat apples and read dime novels under the eye of the teacher, what cannot these older offenders do behind closed doors, screens and mammoth desks.

The wretched condition of business under the present head of the Office and his execrable rulings has suggested a remodeling of the U. S. Patent Office and its laws. Senator Gorman has introduced a bill in the Senate to establish a court with three judges, whose duty among others shall be to hear and decide appeals from the rulings of the Commissioner of Patents. The new bill has many excellent features of which I may write hereafter.

Give Them A Chance!

That is to say, your lungs. Also your breathing machinery. Very wonderful machinery it is. Not only the larger air-passages, but the thousands of little tubes and cavities leading from them.

When these are clogged and choked with matter which ought not to be there, your lungs cannot half do their work. And what they do, they cannot do well.

Call it cold, cough, croup, pneumonia, catarrh consumption or any of the family of throat and nose and lung obstructions, all are bad. All ought to be got rid of. There is just one sure way to get rid of them. That is to take Boschee's German Syrup, which any druggist will sell you at 75 cents a bottle. Even if everything else has failed you, you may depend upon this for certain.

Pool Room.

The pool room over the News office is open at all hours. The public who are fond of the sport are invited to all when in town.

LOCALS AND GENERAL NEWS.

CUKLED FROM THE COUNTY AND EISEWHERRE.

Oh where, Oh where can he be Gentle spring.

The Election bills passed the Senate Tuesday night's session.

The Caroline fishermen will soon be saucy. They caught their first herring on the 2d.

Fish of all kinds are very scarce and our fishermen are not catching enough to market.

The boys of the high school and academy of Denton, have organized as a company of soldiers, they are drilled twice a week.

Frederick county is asking the legislature to give them the whipping-post, and their magistrates to have final jurisdiction in petty cases.

The county commissioners will not receive or consider any bids for the building of the bridge over the east fork of Corcoran river until further notice.

We have secured correspondents at several places in the county, as our columns will show, we want one in each town; read our offer and let us hear from you.

Rev. Bishop Curtis will be at St. Peter's Catholic Church, on Thursday evening of next week, also on Friday. Services will be held at 3 p. m. each day and 10 a. m. on Friday.

Mr. Louis Zimmer, started to take his sister-in-law out for a sleigh ride; when turning out of one of the avenues near the wharf into the main road he upset the sleigh, which threw them out and caused the horse to runaway. Neither were injured, the sleigh was slightly damaged.

Monday like its predecessor of one week ago, gave us an extra taste of winter in a cold snowstorm. It began snowing about 8.30 a. m. and continued with slight intermissions until night on Wednesday. The present law has been so amended that the owners or occupants of shores within the limits of Kent or Queen Anne's counties may grant the privilege of fishing opposite their shores to any resident of the state.

Our town has had quite a sensation this week, having been visited by resurrectionists. In 1876 and old colored man died here from injuries received at night at the hands of some person or persons unknown at the time. After the inquest heaving no friends that would bury him, he was buried at public expense on the creek shore. On Friday last some parties thinking it about time he was resurrected, took up his bones and sold them to Justice Winchester, who buys animal bones, so says current report.

The city delegation has amended the pool bill so that its provisions shall apply to the state at large. In other words, it will prevent pool-selling or betting at Pinlicko and at the county fairs as well as in cities and towns if it is passed in the shape the delegation proposes to report it, unless the House eliminates this amendment and makes the bill read as it originally came from the Senate. It will almost surely be killed. It is quietly whispered that this is the intention. Whether this is so or not remains to be seen.

The law of the State forbids dredging of oysters by steam. It is now evaded in the waters of the Eastern bay in this manner: When there is not widd enough to enable the dredging boats to work by using their sails they combine together in groups of six and employ a steam tug to pull them back and forth over the bars, working the dredgers as successfully as if the breeze was blowing. The break of the freeze started the oyster business in full blast, and for ten days or more all the departments of the trade have been busy. Boats and oyster-men, of all kinds have steady employment, packing houses are busy, orders are plentiful and prices good. The freeze did not hurt materially the quality of oysters in Talbot waters.

Frederick Belsom, who at present occupies bachelor apartments at Hotel de Casey, and accounts of whose little eccentricities have appeared in these columns, has been performing a hand-cuff trick lately that would make Prof. W. W. Dayton sick. Fred, owing to certain defects in our laws, has been in the habit of wearing a chain, made of three or four pair of hand cuffs, attached to one of his ankles and a convenient staple in the floor. In some manner he got hold of a small piece of wire and bent it so accurately that the cuffs yielded to its magic without any persuasion, and with this piece of wire and chain of hand cuffs he had made many blamable seizures, gotten up for the express amusement of the boy that attends to the jail chores, pass swiftly by. The boy finally tired of this display, and notified Sheriff Casey with the result that Belsom now adorns a genuine set of leg irons. Belsom admitted that he seldom ever wore the hand-cuffs except when some one of the jail officials were around.—Kent Independent.

CHURCH HILL ITEMS.

Our little village was again visited by a snow storm on Monday, the 5th. The young men, in fact some of the old ones participated in sleigh riding; even up until a late hour Tuesday you could hear the jingle of the merry bells.

Rev. J. A. Arters left on Tuesday to attend Conference, which convenes at Union Church, Wilmington, Del., on Wednesday, 8th. Rev. Q. A. Wheat, has not gone yet owing to the illness of one of his members. Both preachers are expected to return for another year.

Rev. Mr. Dewing, of the Presbyterian church here preached his last sermon on Sunday last. He has had a call to another station, but where, we have not as yet ascertained.

The discussion of the free bridge across Chester river seems to be the topic of the day here—some for a free bridge and others against. Several petitions both for and against have been in circulation each receiving a large number of signers, but I think the majority of the people in this district are in favor of free bridge.

The people in town and vicinity are looking forward to a prosperous year, the peach crop is not hurt yet and the farmers are wearing a pleasant smile. There is no sickness to mar the pleasure of the community. Mr. John Johnson near Coxes is very ill at this time, but physicians has hope of his recovery.

Carpenters work has not begun yet, but the prospect seems to be good. Several new houses are expected to go up this year. Mr. John Evans is preparing to build a barn and a small addition to his dwelling, on his farm, near here. Mr. T. H. Barcus has contracted to do the work, and will begin in about ten days.

Our merchants here are preparing for spring trade, and business is beginning to look up generally.

The young men of this place, have organized a literary club. They occupy the room in the town hall, where they pass away the time in reading and discussion of different subjects.

Miss Georgia Wilson and Miss Gertrude Smith of Ingleside are visiting friends here. Miss Birdie Hines is the guest of W. J. Evans of this place.

Mr. T. H. Barcus received on Monday a beautiful stallion grey hound, the only one of that specie in this section of the State. Hus.

KENT ISLAND ITEMS.

Our citizens here have a petition for signers to send to the Honorable Body of the General Assembly of Maryland to have the place known as Broad creek changed to Broad river, so that vessels can harbor there, go up and down the bay—it being the only harbor on our island, on the bay side, that vessels of any kind can harbor at. We second the motion.

The tide water of the Snesquehanna river has at last started the ice and drift stuff and the shores of our island are being filled daily with ice, logs, lumber and kindling wood which the average Islander handles with care and piles it on lumber yard and wood pile.

We wish to correct a small error made in last weeks item, in which we stated that our band met in Mr. Hugh Legg hall three times a week to practice. It should be at Beitzel's hall, though they sometimes play in Legg's Hall, Beitzel's hall being the general place of meeting.

Our town of Stevensville no longer avillage can boast of two halls and can compete with her sister towns in neatness and improvements as it is now a thriving little town.

Our roads which has been almost impassible is somewhat improving. But we cannot as yet give them any praise until we see the move our supervisors will make with them.

We happened to be present on Tuesday night, one of our bands meeting nights, and must say that the young men deserve a great deal of credit for the good music that they furnish. MEZEPPA.

A New Way to Catch Oysters.

A correspondent of the Eastern Ledger at St. Michaels writes that paper as follows:

A new feature in oyster tonging, and one that is just now exercising our congeners, is the introduction her by Mr. Wm. B. Adams, of Royal Oak, of a patented implement manufactured at Solomon's Island, Calvert Co. In some respects it is similar to ordinary tongs, having iron shafts six feet long, to which are attached ropes arranged to draw the heels together when on the bottom. The whole thing weighs 80 lbs. and is hoisted by a rope over a pully at the end of a shaft, thence to the mast head, down the mast and around a spool turned by a crank. It is said that a bushel at a time can be taken with this novel machine, which can be used in any depth of water with the greatest ease. The question now being discussed is whether or not the use of such a tool is authorized by our tongmen's license. There is a great diversity of views, and the State attorney has been appealed to. If he decides that they are allowed by the law, it is probable that a petition will be forwarded to the legislature asking for the passage of a law prohibiting the use of such a tool, as it is said that the destruction of the oysters of the river would follow their coming into general use.

If you have any printing you want done, bring it to the News office, where you can get all kinds of printing done.

TO BUILD A NEW RAILROAD.

A number of gentlemen interested in the proposed Baltimore and Cape Charles railroad were in Elkton Mar 3rd and affixed their signatures to a paper incorporating the road. This was necessary under Article 41, Revised Code of the General Incorporation Laws of the state, which requires that the signatures be acknowledged before a justice of the peace of one of the counties through which the road is to pass. The gentlemen were Senators John B. Brown, of Queen Anne's county; William D. Burchinal, of Kent; G. W. Goldsborough, of Caroline; J. A. Johnson, of Dorchester; Samuel K. Dennis, of Worcester; and Col Phillip W. Downes, of Caroline.

Senators Robert F. Bratton, of Somerset, and Clinton McCullough, of Cecil, two other incorporators of the road had previously signed. Senator E. S. Toadvine, of Wicomico, is also among the incorporators, but has not yet signed as such. The incorporators state their object is to build a railroad through the counties of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester, starting at a point on the Baltimore and Ohio's Philadelphia extension near Elkton and terminating at Cape Charles City, Va. The capital stock named is \$200,000, divided into shares of \$50. It is proposed to secure over one-fourth that amount by legislation at the present session.

It appears that several years ago a large amount of money was appropriated by the Legislature for the internal improvement on the Eastern Shore, of which \$53,000 was Cecil county's share. This money was never used, and now it is proposed to secure this amount to be used in constructing this new road. This company is the outgrowth of a movement started some time since at Denton, it being proposed at that time to call the road the Elkton, Denton and Cape Charles railroad.

Marriage Licenses. The following marriage licenses were issued during the month of February by Wm. Dever, clerk of the court:

To WHITE COUPLES. Samuel W. Jones—Rebecca Davis. G. L. Hazley—Mattie R. Bishop. James T. Rhodes—Teresa V. Borles. James H. Cotts—Mary Etta Carey. Stephen J. Clow—Rutha Fields. Wm. H. Higgins—Nora Arringdale. James E. Anderson—Ella N. Leggar. Noah W. Blunt—Mollie Quillian. John T. Jones—Nannie M. Johnson. Michael Voltz—Lilly Shawn. Joseph Furbush—Ann R. Furbush. Joseph T. Bullen—Florence Hoxter. Samuel Sparks—Gertrude Green. Chas. E. Amos—Ella Dillen. Casper Porter—Mattie Mulder. Wm F. Bailey—Mollie Wood. John O. Phillips—Juliet M. Tucker. Charles Collier—Lena Dawkins.

To COLORED COUPLES. Pere Stansbury—Julia Bardley. John A. Turner—Martha Daniel. Wm. H. Wilson—Mary Brown. Thomas Saunders—Aline Dunn. Alex. Watson—Minnie M. Phillips. To white couples, 18; to colored couples, 5.

Road Supervisors.

The supervisors for Kent Island and this district, are as follows:

Fourth District—Jacob R. Tolson, James B. Bright, John H. Price, Jas. E. Tolson, Alfred Carmine, Louis Bryan, Hugh and Caleb Legg, W. T. C. Norman, Thomas W. Carville, Cornelius Tanner, A. C. Lowery, John Gibson, Thomas Edenfield, John T. Norman, Edward M. Legg, Wm. Harris Legg, James R. Legg, Alexander Thompson, Walter A. Roe, Frank E. Legg.

Fifth District—Jacob Shahan, Alex. Godwin, Robert J. Wilson, George Marve, W. W. Nelson, Eugene L. Dudley, Chas. Butler, John D. Kirby, Samuel Merchant, John L. Rhodes, W. T. Wheatley, E. B. Vandye, Thos. Dodd, Emory T. Roe, John B. Brown, Robert Reeves, Benjamin Nelson, Hon. John M. Robinson, Thomas Shortall, Nicholas Callahan, John Bishop, Joshua Chance, John Michael, Wm. H. Collier, Thomas P. Vassant, Dr. W. H. DeCoursey, Louis Heigargather, Thomas O'Donnell, James Murry, N. B. Kirby, John Strannahan, Wm. H. Allen.

Piratical Dredgers.

The dredgers off Swan Point bar are more than ordinarily bold in their thefts this winter. Indeed they have grown reckless and defiant. The tongmen have a gun planted ashore, and the dredgers carry rifles, and do not hesitate to fire on any one who approaches the shore. Recently Mr. Chas. Strong and several others started to attend to some fish-nets. Much to their surprise, as they approached the shore a volley of rifle balls whizzed by them. They ran for a fish house nearby, being fired at as they ran. They were kept in the house from ten o'clock, a. m. until four o'clock, p. m. Bullets were repeatedly fired through the house, and poked the sands alongside. The party were compelled to lie close behind a log for protection. The dredgers have made by their minds to take oysters where they please, and it seems that the State has not prevented them doing so.—Chester town Transcript.

Hard on Judges and Preachers.

The reversed editor of the Talbot Times was the guest of Mr. N. E. Nichols in Eastern last Sunday. Mr. Nichols says "There is one advantage in being the guest of Judge Nichols, i. e., you are relieved from doing any very large share of the talking." Justice Nichols says that may all be true, but if he does all the talking when Methodist preachers dine with him he don't do all the eating.—Ledger.

New Stations of the Cross.

New Stations have been purchased for St. Peter's church, Queenstown. The ceremony of blessing and placing them on the walls, will begin at 3.30 p. m., Thursday, March 15th. Bishop Curtis will perform the ceremonies and preach on the occasion. There will be mass on Friday morning at 10 o'clock, and the stations Friday afternoon at 3.30 the Bishop will preach at both services. Saturday morning at 10 o'clock the Bishop will preach at St. Joseph's. On Sunday morning the Bishop will preach again at St. Peter's, Mass at 10.30. These services are intended to assist and encourage Catholic in making their Easter duty. It is hoped that all Catholics will be present and those who are not Catholics are most cordially invited.

Rev. W. J. Scott.

HOME MARKET.

Corrected Weekly by W.H.DENNY Butter..... 20@25 Eggs..... 2 dozen 20@22 Feathers..... 25@40 Chickens, live..... 11@15 Irish Potatoes..... Bus. 75@100

BAITING MARKET. CORRECTED WEEKLY.

Fultz..... 94@97 Longberry..... 92@90 Corn, White..... 60@61 Yellow..... 60@62 Oats..... 37@42 Rye..... 47@52 Irish Potatoes..... 30@50 Sweet Potatoes..... 1,15@1,20@1bb1

Elliott & Co.

CENTREVILLE, Md. Jan. 1, '88.

A Happy New Year to all, and may this be one of prosperity to our county and people.

We begin the year with determination to sell goods, and in order to do it we know it means correct prices and good Goods.

We have on hand a large stock of Ladies, Misses and childrens coats and New Markets, which were bought late in December and at very low prices, we marked them low and have had good sales on them. We have now determined to close them out, and in order to make a quick time will give a disc. of 25 per cent. on each garment. Our stock of Dress Goods is still to large and we will make the following discount on purely winter goods of 25 per cent., on medium goods 15 per cent., on Domestic stuff 10 per cent. We have a few pair Mens leather boots to close below cost. We have a small line of Holiday Goods left at 25 per cent. disc. We mean and intend to close out all unseasonable Goods and begin the cutting prices before the season is over, that persons needing such Goods can get the benefit of the cut prices at once.

We cordially invite you to come and see us and get our prices, that you may be convinced of what we are doing. Our Terms are Cash.

ELLIOTT & CO., "GLASS FRONT,"

OPP. ARLINGTON HOTEL, Silk Handkerchiefs, Mufflers, Kid Gloves at Elliott.

ROAD NOTICE.

To the Honorable the County Commissioners of Queen Anne's County:

We hereby hand you a petition, the object of which is to open a public road beginning at the southwest corner of the farm of Davis Bishop, on the public road leading from Clannahan's Shops to Flat Iron Square, running through to the public road leading from Church Hill to Layden's Station, in a northeasterly direction through the lands of said Bishop and over the road or right of way now open from said farm to said public road.

WILLIAM HURLOCK, DAVIS BISHOP, WOODLAND, PINLEY 2,185

REWARD

REWARD are those who read this and their act; they will find honorable employment that will take them from their homes and families. The profits are large and sure for every industrious person. Many have made and are now making several hundred dollars a month. It is easy for any one to make \$5 and upwards per day, who is willing to work. Either sex, young or old, capital not needed; we start you. Everything new. No special ability required; you, reader, can do it as well as any one. Write to us at once for full particulars, which we mail free. Address Stinson & Co., Portland, Maine. 2y

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In every Department the Goods are now and assortment complete without exception. Will be marked at Prices to enable us to close out all Winter Stock before March Inventory.

Our entire stock without reserve will be offered at such extraordinary Bargain Prices, as heretofore never been known in Queenstown.

This sale will exceed any of our former sales, as our stock is much larger, choicer and more varied than ever before, and will be sold regardless of cost. We carry no Goods that price will sell, from season to season.

The goods will be offered at these losing prices this month only. All are urgently requested to inspect what we offer, as early as possible. We have a Fine Stock of Goods.

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All persons indebted to us on open account, are requested to call at our store and make prompt settlement. If you cannot pay the cash for the account due, we request your note with endorser. This notice applies to all owing us prior to January 28. We expect a strict compliance.

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