Ellicott City Times
AND
HOWARD COUNTY ADVERTISER.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1878.

☞ Advertising rates on first page.
☞ Death and Marriage Notices inserted free of charge.
Obituaries five cents per line.
Rule and Figure Work will be charged double the regular rates.
☞ Correspondence is respectfully solicited from all parts of the County and State—but communications must, in all cases, be accompanied by some responsible name as a voucher for the writer's good faith.

Weather Meteorological Observations.

TAKEN AT WOODSTOCK COLLEGE, from January 10, to January 16, 1878.

DAYS.	THERMOMETER. Max.	Min.	Mean.	R. H. S. Inches.	Force.	Wind. Direction.	WEATHER.
Thursday,	41 0	30 5	40 40	R.—1 1	3	N.	Cloudy
Friday,	42 0	26 0	37 80	R.—0 11	3	N. W.	Cloudy
Saturday,	45 5				1	W.	Clear
Sunday,	42 0	33 5	37 37		1	S. W.	Cloudy
Monday,	56 0	25 5	38 30	R.—1 0	1	S. W.	Cloudy
Tuesday,	33 5	31 5	41 90		1	S.	Fair
Wednesday,	25 0	23 8	36 62		3	W.	Fair
		25 0	29 50		1	N. W.	Clear

*One inch of melted is considered equivalent to ten of unmelted Snow.

[EXPLANATION.—Thermometer, *Max.*, *Min.* showing the extreme heat (in the shade) and cold in the 24 hours; *Mean*, the result of observations made at 7 A. M. and 2 and 9 P. M., obtained by dividing their sum by 3; *R. S. H.* rainfall, snow, or hail (melted) during the 24 hours; *Wind*, force, graduated between 10 (the highest) and 0 (a dead calm), taken at 4 P. M., *Direction*, the prevalent direction *from* which it blows. In the *Weather* column is given the general aspect of the sky during the day.

THE Democratic caucus has nominated Hon. James Black Groome of Cecil County, to succeed Dr. Dennis as U. S. Senator.

THE BALTIMORE "BEE" has changed its name, and is now known under the more dignified title of *The Morning Herald*. It continues to be an interesting journal, well conducted and always full of the latest news.

THE WASHINGTON "CAPITAL" is one of the most spicy, readable and original newspapers published in this country. It always contains something good, and its articles are all written in a pleasing manner. The peculiar genius of Don Piatt, the Editor, has made his paper an institution of Washington, and originality is one of its most characteristic features. We would advise all who are in want of an interesting journal to subscribe to the *Capital*.

THERE will be a meeting held at Catonsville on Saturday, the 26th inst., by the citizens of the First, Second and Thirteenth Districts of Baltimore County to consider the question of the annexation of that portion of our sister county to Howard. There appears to be an increasing desire on the part of our neighbors across the river to come over to us, and this desire on their part seems to us to be as wise as it is natural. The annexation movement is in the hands of some of the most substantial and energetic citizens of that portion of Baltimore county, and will be pushed with a vigor that promises to secure its ultimate success.

Apart from the many other advantages which would accrue to the citizens living in the three districts which it is proposed to annex to our own county, it strikes us that their close proximity to our city, and their remoteness from Towsontown, are in themselves all sufficient reasons indicating the wisdom of the projected movement. We have often thought what a serious inconvenience it must be to the people living on the border of the Patapsco, within a stones throw of the Court House here, to be obliged; at the sacrifice of time and money; to go to Towsontown for the transaction of their public business. There is hardly a man, in whatever calling he may be engaged, who does not find it necessary to frequently visit the county seat of the county in which he lives, for some purpose connected with his every day business life. We are not surprised therefore that our neighbors should object to being forced to travel many miles to reach the Court House at Towsontown, when they are living in sight or an easy distance of the one in this county.

Should our Baltimore County friends succeed in their efforts to become citizens of Howard, we will guarantee that the welcome which they shall receive will be so cordial as soon to efface any regrets they may feel in parting from old associations.

THE *Evening Bulletin* says:

"C. C. F." has to record yet another case of misplaced confidence. Mr. Archibald Stirling, Jr., has been reappointed. These things must be very saddening to a genial and elastic soul, especially where there are so many of them. It is to be feared that, if the honorary commissionership to the Paris Exposition be bestowed in some unexpected quarter, a pair of spectacles will be broken which have "seen" Europe as it was never seen before and probably never will be seen again.

Taxation of Mortgages.

ONE of the most important subjects which is likely to be brought before the present Legislature is the question of the taxation of Mortgages, and it is a subject which demands from our law makers their most serious attention and consideration, because it is one of vital interest to a large class of our citizens. Governor Carroll in his message; and Comptroller Woolford in his annual report, both speak of this subject, and each holds different views from the other. The Governor says, and we think very wisely: that the exemption of mortgages from taxation, was in his opinion, made by the Legislature on broad grounds of public policy, and that to impose the tax would drive capital from us "and render real estate worthless as a borrowing security, when it ought to be the best that can be given for the return of money loaned." The Comptroller on the other hand takes direct opposite views of the matter, and argues, with a show of logic, that justice to the owners of other property requires that mortgage debts should be taxed at their value as all other productive property. We think however that the arguments of Mr. Woolford are much better in theory than they would ever be in practice. Until that perfect, just and equal system of taxation, which is the ideal of all who give their attention to the subject, has been established, we must always expect one class of our citizens to bear some heavy burdens in order to escape burdens still heavier. The end of all law is justice—that the law however sometimes appears to fail in securing equal justice to all, is oftentimes less the fault of the law, and more the fault of human nature. Until the coming of the Millennium—which seems far distant—we suppose it will continue to be the natural aim of all men to secure the greatest gain to themselves irrespective of what it may cost their fellows. The true policy of the law therefore would seem to be to lighten as much as possible the burdens of the man whose necessities force him to borrow money on a Mortgage, notwithstanding that by so doing we grant immunities to the one who loans the money.

Suppose then that debts secured by Mortgages are taxed, who will pay that tax? Since 1870 this class of debts has been exempt from taxation altogether, and yet if we look at any mortgage left for record in any Clerk's office in this State to day, we will read this covenant, "and the said Mortgagor hereby covenants to pay all taxes on the property hereby mortgaged, or that may hereafter be levied there on, *and on the mortgage debt hereby intended to be secured.*" Superabundant caution on the part of the Mortgagee places that covenant there when there is no necessity for it. Does any one imagine that it would be omitted if the contingency there provided for were to become a reality? Would not the covenant in that case be made if possible even stronger? Indeed does any one doubt but that the Mortgagee would secure his taxes as he now secures his bonus—by deducting it from the amount which he loans on the Mortgage—and thus evade the tax law as he now evades the usury law. But says Mr. Woolford, the mortgagor cannot "be compelled to pay any portion of the taxes imposed on the debt, unless he agrees to do it, and he can agree to pay an equal amount in addition to the lawful interest, whether the debt is secured by mortgage or not, and the probability is, that he will be governed by the prospect of gain from the use of the money, or by his necessities, in the one case as well as the other." That may be true, but he will pay it nevertheless, because he *is* governed by his necessities, and they will and do force him "to agree to pay it," just as they force him "to agree to pay" a higher rate of interest than six per cent, the usury law to the contrary notwithstanding. With most men being "compelled to pay," and being "compelled to agree to pay," is simply a distinction without a difference. As is stated by a worthy correspondent in this issue of the TIMES—but few men mortgage their farms for the purpose of speculation. The Mortgages are generally placed there, in order to raise the means wherewith to carry on their farming operations, that they may earn bread for their families. And if this tax is imposed they must pay it—or the capital will be invested elsewhere, and as the Governor says real estate will become worthless as a borrowing security.

We also fail to see any logic in the argument that because obligations not secured by Mortgage are subject to taxation, that therefore it would be expedient to impose a tax on debts so secured. Take for example a judgment debt which is a lien on real estate, and which the Comptroller thinks ought to be exempted if Mortgages are—and look for an instant at the difference in the methods of ordinarily contracting the two kinds of debts. In the commercial transactions of every day life one man becomes indebted to another, and failing to pay that debt he is sued, and the creditor obtains a judgment. There the existence of the debt is a fixed fact—the debtor and creditor are on equal footing—and there the debtor can neither "be compelled to pay" nor "compelled to agree to pay," the tax levied on such a debt. With a few exceptions most of the obligations unsecured by Mortgage are contracted in some such way, and thus they escape the objections which we have been urging against the taxation of Mortgages, the tax being paid by the proper party. But in the case of a debt secured by mortgage the Mortgagor solicits a loan, and the Mortgagee is at liberty to dictate his own terms. He loans his money or not as he chooses, and he does not choose to loan it unless the borrower agrees to pay the tax, and the latter being governed by his necessities is obliged so to agree or to suffer the consequences.

These, together with several other considerations, prompt us to believe, that were the ideas of Mr. Woolford adopted by the Legislature, and a tax imposed upon Mortgages that instead of making lighter the burdens imposed upon the farmers and householders of our State, and withdrawing immunities now granted to capitalists, such a tax would only increase the former without effecting the latter. We believe with the Governor that "the community which can borrow money at the lowest rate for the improvement of its lands and houses is certainly the most prosperous,"—and we do not believe with the Comptroller that the Legislature would best serve the interests of the land holder by imposing a tax on the many mortgage debts in this State.

Hon. Richard T. Merrick.

We take pleasure in giving place in our columns to the following well merited tribute to the Hon. R. T. Merrick, which we find in the Washington *Capital* of the 13th inst. Mr. Merrick, now a resident of our county spent last summer at his beautiful country seat near this city, and by the interest he manifested in our county affairs as well as by his courteous and affable manners, won for himself many warm friends, whilst his great intellectual power had long since drawn to him the admiration and respect of all.

"If the Democracy of Maryland" says the *Capital*, "wish to enjoy the luxury of a senator who will honor the position, instead of selecting a man who will be honored by it, the best thing they can do is to tender the place to Richard T. Merrick, Esq. There is probably no man in the United States, certainly no one in the Democracy, who has such claims to be considered a statesman as this eminent attorney. He has been known to us for years as a man winning in his ways, eloquent in his utterances and learned in his profession. But it was when a disputed Presidency found a strange tribunal in the electoral commission that Mr. Merrick's real measure was taken, and he swung at once into a national reputation, as not only one of the ablest men at the bar, but as possessed of intellect that widened his usefulness into the arena where statesmen are so sadly needed.

Mr. Merrick's career as a politician must be singularly agreeable to the Democracy of Maryland. He has been brave, steady and consistent from first to last. In the darkest hour of that Democracy he was faithful when few stood firm, and at a time when even an expression of Democratic faith imported like his eloquent utterances spoke the courage of a true man.

How this honorable career contrasts with the truckling of the political prostitutes who have sold their party in the same transactions in which they sold themselves, and have been reformers and patriots on full rations and good pay.

It is not, however, that we urge the selection of Mr. Merrick upon the ground that even courage and consistency should be rewarded, but that at long intervals we may have a man in public life we can love, look up to and admire. Richard Merrick is no less a hard student than a brilliant thinker, and when we add to this high-toned integrity, we have qualifications that are necessary to our country as they are novel to public life.

—A convenient apparatus for the sick room where cold drinks are wanted is recommended by "Les Mondes." It is made by placing two vessels (presumably of glass), one within the other, and filling the inner vessel with a solution of nitrate ammonia. The outer vessel may be a goblet, and the inner vessel is formed in the shape of an inverted truncated cone, and has a cover that is large enough to cover the goblet. For a goblet of water 150 grammers of the nitrate of ammonia are placed in the inner vessel, and water is added till it is filled. To hasten the action, the solution should be stirred as the water is put in. The water in the goblet is soon reduced about 22 degrees Fahr., when the inner vessel may be removed. To use the solution again it is only necessary to spread it in the sun till the water evaporates and the nitrate recrystallizes.—*Scribner of Feb.*

—Mrs. Susan McGowan, a rich lady of seventy, residing in Pottsville, Pa., died suddenly of paralysis, at the dinner table Wednesday. She leaves an only son and heir.

—Safe, reliable, harmless and cheap, is Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. Price only 25 cents.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

B. & O. R. R. LOCAL TIME TABLE. *East.—Fred. Acc.* 7.14 *A. M., (Daily).; E. City Acc.* 8.05 *A. M., on Sunday at* 9.00 *A. M; Winchester Acc.* 10.12 *A. M.; E. City Acc.* 2.30 *P. M.; Way Train*, 3.15 *P. M.; Mail Acc.* 4 54 *P. M.; Milk Train Acc.* 6 28 *P. M., (Daily). West.—Way Train arrives* 6.13 *A. M., leaves at* 6.28 *A. M.; E. City Acc. arrives at* 7.05 *A. M.; on Sunday arrives at* 8 38 *A. M.; Mail Acc. arrives at* 8.38 *A. M.; E. City Acc. arrives at* 2.10 *P. M.; Winchester Acc. arrives at* 4.57 *P. M.; Fred. Acc. arrives at* 5.58 *P. M., (Daily); Sykesville Acc. arrives at* 7.04 *P. M., (Daily). Theatre train leaves Baltimore at* 11.00 *P. M., arrives at Ellicott City at* 11.55 *P. M.*

Burglary.—On Saturday morning last the citizens of our usually quiet city, were startled to learn of a bold burglary which had been attempted the previous night. The telegraph and ticket offices at the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road depot, were opened, and the contents of the desks were strewn promiscuously over the floor. Nothing of value was obtained in either, however—the iron safe baffling the skill of the unprofessional thieves. The warehouse was then visited, and a ladies trunk was opened, the contents of which shared the same fate as the contents of the desks in the offices. The burglars are supposed to have been tramps, many of whom nightly infest the city. The only booty obtained was some thirty six cents in money and two boxes of chewing tobacco. The tools which they used in effecting an entrance were taken from the blacksmith shop of Mr. Benjamin Mellor.

On the same night unsuccessful attempts were made by, as is supposed, the same parties, to gain an entrance into several other places in the city. Our citizens will in the future keep a sharp look out for these interesting gentlemen.

Pedestrianism is becoming a favorite and popular pastime and recreation, and there is perhaps none which is more conducive to good health, especially during such pleasant weather as we have been favored with this present winter. On Tuesday last the Rev. Mr. Poole, accompanied by his wife, walked from this city to Baltimore, a distance of ten miles, in three and three quarter hours. After dining at Painters, with appetites doubtless much increased by their exercise—they returned home on the cars.

On the same day two young ladies of the Monumental city, rode to Catonsville on the street cars and walked from there to this city and back. These examples of pedestrianism are well worthy of imitation, and few of us have any idea how much real pleasure there is to be derived from this kind of exercise, or how much of it we can endure without inconvenient fatigue, until we have once tried it.

Simpsonville News. The last purchase of Simpsonville has fallen in the hands of Mr. James Simpson & Bro., who are making many improvements in the village, and are converting the old woolen factory into a flouring mill with three pair of burrs and a new turbine wheel which will have all the facilities for doing a large business. The burrs which are attached to the saw mill and formerly used for chapping purposes and making meal will be used for grinding bone and plaster.

The store is in full operation and carried on by our enterprising young merchant, Mr. William Wall, who runs a market wagon weekly in connection with his store, and is always willing and ready to supply the neighborhood with all their needs and wants.

The shops, both blacksmith and wheelwright, are run to their full capacity, the hum of the hammer is heard from early morn until late at night.

Nearly all the houses are being renovated and repaired, Simpsonville now contains a population of fifty inhabitants. The march of improvement is still onward, there is scarcely a day but that there are new comers, applying for houses and there are none to be had. The proprietors contemplate building several houses the coming summer.

The village is now under a rental of nearly $1200.

Temperance Meetings.—On Sunday night last, in the Emory M. E. Church, Mr. Applegarth of Baltimore, spoke to a very attentive audience on the subject of temperance, and on Thursday night last, Mr. Townsend, a young lawyer of Baltimore, delivered a fine discourse on the same subject, to a crowded house. His remarks were interesting in their nature and were effectively rendered and all who were present were glad of the opportunity they had, to listen to the eloquence of the speaker. The citizens of our community seem to be awake in this matter and from the interest manifested, intemperance will soon cease to be a vice in our city. About seventy-five more persons signed the pledge, during these two meetings. There will be a temperance meeting on to-morrow (Sunday), at 7 o'clock P. M. Speakers from Baltimore are expected to be present.

Accident.—Mr. Neal Cavey of the third district, met with a painful accident on Wednesday last, while on his way to Baltimore with a load of hay. Mr. Cavey was riding on the top of his load when crossing the Railroad below Catonsville, the hay carriage was thrown from the wagon, throwing Mr. Cavey with great force against the north bank of the road, bruising him very badly. He was taken to his home suffering very much. As no medical examination was made the extent of his injuries has not been ascertained—it is feared by our informant that Mr. Cavey has sustained serious internal injury.

The Orphans' Court and County Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday last. In the Orphans' Court letters testamentary were granted to Mrs. J. B. Peter on the estate of the late George W. Peter, and several accounts were passed by the Court. The County Commissioners were engaged in the transaction of ordinary routine business.

Mrs. M. L. H. Tyson has exchanged her estate known as "Glenelg," containing about 700 acres, situated in the fifth election district, and improved by a handsome granite mansion, with beautifully laid off and ornamented grounds, with Mr. William S. P. Shields, of Philadelphia, for property located in Camden, New Jersey, valued at $65,000.

Personal.—Mr. J. Thomas Clark of this county, has been appointed Clerk to the Committee on the Judiciary in the House of Delegates, and Mr. William B. Peter, Clerk to the Committee on Finance in the Senate. Mr. James D. Gallaher, of this city, has been appointed a Messenger to the House and Mr. Shipley of Savage's doorkeeper in the Senate.

Large Beeves.—Mr. David Clark of the fourth district, last week sold two remarkably large Beeves, the two together weighing four thousand and eighty-five pounds. The tremendous oxen attracted no little attention, when they were passing through the streets of our city.

Religious Notice.—The Rev. Hugh Roy Scott will (D. V.), deliver an address at St. Peter's Church in this city on Sunday night next. His subject will be lay work amongst the poor in the city of London. Seats free. Service commences at 7 P. M.

(COMMUNICATED).

Now that the question of taxation of "mortgages," is occupying the attention of the legislature, is it not the duty of the people of the State to interest themselves in this important question. One of the main arguments used by the advocates of this measure, is that if mortgages be not taxed, then that a large amount of property escapes taxation entirely. This, to many who do not go fully into the reasons and objects of taxation, generally appears to be beyond contradiction, and they argue that if mortgages be not taxed that all the money represented by mortgages, necessarily pays nothing in the way of taxes. But is this true? To a limited extent it is, but it is much less so than appears at first blush. If I have a farm worth ten thousand dollars, and upon that, raise for speculative purposes ten thousand dollars by way of mortgage, that ten thousand dollars escapes taxation. But what proportion of mortgages are raised for purely speculative purposes? Outside of large cities, not one in a hundred, and even in the cities, but a small portion of the whole number. But say that having a farm worth ten thousand dollars, I wish to improve it by additional buildings; or not having fully paid for my farm I wish to finish paying the purchase money; or being in debt must raise money to keep my property from being sold. Does money raised by mortgage for any of those purposes escape taxation? clearly not. For the first instance the law provides that all new improvements shall be taxed. In the second instance I pay taxes upon the whole value of my property and nothing there escapes. In the third instance, I raise money to pay my debts, and am really owner of the property, only to the extent of what it is worth beyond the mortgages, still I pay taxes upon the whole value. And nearly all the mortgages in this State are raised for one or the other of those three last named reasons, and but few men are willing to mortgage their homes for purely speculative purposes. If mortgages be taxed then mortgagor and mortgagee, both pay tax upon the same property, for the mortgagee is owner of the property to the extent of his mortgage and this no one can deny. Then again this becomes a double taxation, which all will allow is an abomination. A perfect system of taxation, says Kent "is a great desideratum in civil government," he might well have said an impossibility, some property will escape no matter who makes the law, it always has been so and will be to the end of time. Then again, there comes in another important thing to be considered, the consent of the lender; he loans his money, or not, as he chooses and makes his own terms, and can any one suppose that a man will lend his money, if it is taxed, unless the borrower pays the tax for him. If the bill becomes a law, the debtor class must pay the tax and money will be driven from the State to seek investment, where liberality in legislation, places fewer burdens upon capital. I think that investigation would prove that those States offering the best inducements to the investment of capital and where fewest restraints are placed upon it, are those where money is most easily obtained, and where the debtor class, (the large class in all communities), already harrassed to death by taxes, interest, bonds, commission, and a thousand other charges; is less oppressed.

WILTON.

(COMMUNICATED.)

WOODSTOCK, Jan 17, '78.

On Thursday morning the body of Mr. Walter J. Ford, a well-known farmer of the fourth district of Baltimore county, was found in the river a short distance above this place, on the Baltimore county side, where it was discovered under circumstances which your correspondent will proceed to relate. He had been missing since Tuesday morning last, having left home to visit a cousin, residing near Randallstown on the Liberty pike. He left this gentleman's about nine o'clock P. M., and it has been learned, stopped at several places between that and eleven o'clock, the last of which was at Cole's store at Marriottsville. The last seen of him, until his body was found, was near Ward's chapel in the above neighborhood. Not being home on Tuesday morning enquiries were made for him, but without any success. The neighborhood became interested in his absence, and at once horseman began to scour the country. Two days of fruitless search brought nothing to light, as all efforts had been made in a direction contrary to his real whereabouts. On Tuesday morning a sorry horse with saddle, but without bridle, was found by the workingmen in Eaton's quarry, which was taken in charge by one of the men. This fact coming to the notice of the deceased's friends, on Thursday morning they called at the quarry and recognized the horse as belonging to Mr. Ford. To strengthen their belief that he had been in this locality, several families living on the Howard county side reported that they had heard somebody calling out before day-light on Tuesday morning, on the opposite side of the river, but supposing it was from coon hunters, who are often in that locality, no attention was paid to the voice. Also they said on the same morning a dog was seen to run to and fro before a large sunken tree and continued for several hours after day light. These particulars were sufficient to satisfy the friends of the deceased that he must have been in the locality where the cries were heard and the dog was seen, which animal had returned home late on Tuesday, without its master, with whom it had left. Search along the river at once began and in a walk of less than ten minutes, brought them to the partly sunken tree, where hidden from the other side was the still corpse of Mr. Ford, in an almost upright position in which it was held by a branch from the tree trunk, while in his right hand was his cane upon which he seemed to lean for support. Your correspondent visited the place soon after he was found, and from appearances it was evident he had not been drowned, but had perished to death from cold. His hat was still on his head, which was thrown slightly back so as to avoid swallowing the water which it is very plain did not go above his chin, as marks of it could be seen in his beard and back of the head, but no farther up. Between his left arm and side a stalwart limb, of the sunken tree had passed, entangling about it the folds of his heavy overcoat, which no doubt was the principal cause of his not getting out. In his left hand, as stated, he grasped his cane which evidently was used to balance him against the treacherous limb on the other side. Footmarks were seen in the frozen bog, (which after the rain of Sunday was soft) and the mark of his body as yet in the bank where he made his final struggle. The locality where he was found is the most forsaken spot in this section and can be described as a small marsh filled with undergrowth so thick as to make progress through it almost impossible, while to the rear stands thickly wooded hills almost perpendicular and requiring great exertion to climb. The immediate vicinity is, according to local traditions, an unlucky place. Opposite stands a towering rock which was pointed to me as where a woman jumped off with her two children and all were drowned; while another gentleman details that a coolie slave named Jack did jump off and actually perished in the deep water below. From this circumstance it is known as "Coolie Jack's Hole." On another occasion a gentleman named Black, while riding on the railroad, reached this place and a train coming on him suddenly he was forced to jump off and let the animal be killed. This last tragedy will not only increase the horror felt from "Coolie Jack's Hole," but will serve to strengthen the traditionary romance with which past casualties have invested it.

How the unfortunate man could have got to this lonely place eight miles from his home, is without an answer in the mind of the writer. Justice Andrew Dorsey was apprised of the circumstance and summoned the following jury of inquest: W. F. Weller foreman, J. T. Isaac, Thomas Chapman, Wm. Clegg, George Webb, Chas. Peach, Isaac Halbrook, Wm. A. Mansfield, W. F. Gardner, Geo. S. Clark, Lewis Holzman, W. C. O'Dell.

The verdict was "that the deceased came to his death by exposure in the Patapsco river."

(COMMUNICATED).

COOKSVILLE, Jan. 16, '78.

MR. EDITOR: News must be scarce in Long Corner, that your correspondant at that place, in last week's paper should have so little to note, that he must need criticise my article of the week previous; which criticism I propose to reciprocate, lest he should have reason to "chuckle." He assumes an air of injured innocence in gravely informing us that a "reporter is not responsible for the belief or unbelief of persons, &c., in regard to things reported. I certainly said nothing impeaching his veracity; I only thanked him for the solution of a "vexato quaestio." He affirms "facts are often reported, which are by no means scientific truths." Every fact is an absolute truth, and whatever is claimed to be a "scientific truth is *unscientific*, unless it can be demonstrated by fact, for science is "the comprehension or understanding of FACTS by the mind." In explanation of his illogical position, he says it is "*historically true*" that Baron Munchausen died years and years ago, but it is a *fact* that some people are of opinion that he still writes from Cooksville." As he is the only one known to the writer that is of the opinion that Baron M., "still writes." I prefer to believe what is *historically true* (and it may be only mythologically so, for I was not around here 'years and years ago),' than to believe this *fact* of his, which is not a fact. I have no aspirations to personify such a character, and even if I had they would come to grief, for there is an individual not many miles from here who spent his Christmas in Virginia, and he reports the *fact* that he saw twenty-one tons of rabbit skins!! It was not in Louisiana, or I might think it was Returning Board Count. A rabbit skin weighs about an ounce. By a scientific calculation, I have ascertained that this 21 tons represent 672,000 dead rabbits. We retain facts by the impression they make upon us. A slave owner remarked to one of his slaves, "Sam I didn't know you got a whippin last week." To which Sam responded, "Didn't you boss, I know'd it at de time I got une" A farmer doubted that it could be "scientically true" that his corn was up, which his darkey reported to be a *fact*. It can't be so Pete, because I "just planted it yesterday," to which Pete answered, "I know dat boss, but *de hogs gin it a lif*." To illustrate the other side of the question, that a fact is not necessarily a scientific truth, I give H. an anecdote. A darkey being out hunting fired his gun and missed the bird. He remarked to his companion. "Pomp I know jes why I missed dat bird! "Splanify it den Julius." "Becase" said Julius, "dat powder bin used be fo." It was *scientifically true* that he missed the bird, but it was not a *fact*, that the powder had been used "befo."

I have not time nor space to argue negatively upon "a belief in signs." Admitting that "a certain degree of superstition does permeate all classes," a high degree of civilization is incompatible with superstition and it is well known that scientific enquiry is rapidly dispelling superstition everywhere, and only in the fastnesses of heathendom, has it any positive foothold. Superstition is antipothetical to intelligence. In regard to being governed in "certain agricultural pursuits" by the phases of the moon, it is not a "species of superstition. Because some of the most important exploits recorded in Ancient History, "were begun and consumated at the dictation of Augurs and Sign readers," it cannot be proven that the results were wrought by those oracles. Hence superstition is unscientific. Does the gentleman believe that because the pensive ground-hog leaves his "little bed," on a certain day in February and comes out in daylight, and retreats to his den, fearing he will catch his death of dampness, or that he will get sun burnt, that this *fact* (!) occasions six weeks of winter weather?

But about this occultation business. He says in explanation of the validity of the prediction, that, it indicates war, "that if a lady richly and showily dressed (we will call her Luna), goes to a church, or concert, &c., and see another lady dressed in last years toggery, &c., (we will call her Venus) she partly occults her. Then he says "she crosses her disc." What is a ladies' disc? As the country school master said when the examining committee asked him what a "dismal" fraction was, "I don't know." Then he continues, "or in other words crosses her in front, (then this disc must be a sort of a pull back or set back)." "And sits by her and then it is called the complete occultation or total obscuration of Venus." A planet to occult another must be directly in front of it and not *by it*, so to this demonstration H. cannot add "Q. E. D." Besides the displeasure of the "lady in last years toggery" at the one "richly and showily dressed," if it give rise to "belligerent tendencies," I fail to see the application to this occultation.

But to conclude—H. closes his articles by saying, "chuckle Cooksville. But know of *thee* it will never be written *Troja fuit*."

It the gentlemen is as well posted as he ought to be on "scientific truths," he would know that in a Homeric sense this phrase, owing to recent investigations of Dr. Schlieman should undergo a transposition into *Troja est*; its personal application to the writer is nullified by his own admission, that I still write "from Cooksville," and I have only to add, I will "fight it out on this line if it takes all summer," but I don't want to get mad because it makes me sick, so I would say to him, "Let us have peace."

M.

(COMMUNICATED).

LISBON Jan. 14, 1878.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Russia and Turkey have been fighting for some time and it seems that Turkey in Europe, as well as here, has lately been compelled to yield to superior force. But it is not of these hostile powers, I care to speak particularly now. I wish to call attention to the war of the literary Titans in our own county. Long Corner and Cooksville have commenced their conflict. The contest will no doubt be an interesting one. We shall have no objection to an occasional exhibition of opossums and snakes by the respective *Savants*, for the purpose of diversion or amusement, whether the "possums" are opossums or "oppossums," and the snakes have a remarkable peculiarity which makes the length from head to tail different from that from tail to head. And we may add, a deer story, every now and then will not be out of the way.

It does not follow that because Cooksville is in a hollow, it will prove to be a Sleepy Hollow, though it is evident there was some drowsiness there about "Xmas." We advise its *savant* to remember that Long Corner is long, and has the advantage of a *remarkable hill*, in consequence of which his antagonist there will not likely be very easily cornered. To be a little abrupt—was the "occultation of Venus," by a larger or a less luminary? Let us have this question settled. 'H.' and 'M.' do not seem to agree in their statements on the subject. If 'M.' is now satisfied, as he appear to be, "that the temporary obscuration of a planet progosticates belligerent contact of Nations," we do not understand, as he does, that Osman Pasha should *therefore* surrender, unless he, the Pasha, thought they would all endeavor to get a slice of his Turkey, and it would therefore be wise in him to make the best possible disposition of it as soon as possible.

We write the above by way of inciting and urging on the combatants; but before dropping the subject, permit us to say that Lisbon and Poplar Springs were once partially involved in "obfuscation" and "obteneration," by the furious onslaughts of their champions, and we fear that Long Corner and Cooksville may suffer a little from "occultation" and "obscuration." But a *hill* cannot be easily hid, and a hollow that has an eye hanging on a bush winking at its owner can never be destitute of light. So much for Long Corner and Cooksville, with the kindest wishes for both in the coming struggle.

Messrs. Editors, it is with pleasure we now address our remarks particularly to you. We have not at hand a copy of your first issue, and therefore are able only partially to refer to your excellent *inaugural*, as it may be called. Whilst faithfully maintaining and upholding the principles of the democratic party, you give your readers to understand that you will always bear in mind the wide difference between party fidelity and party subserviency, "and that you will avoid the latter as carefully as you will adhere to the former. One could not do otherwise, and be possessed of true manhood. It is gratifying too to learn that your columns will not be used for the purpose of personal abuse. It is hoped, however, you will favor the freest discussion, and be ready to publish both sides of any question. Truth has nothing to fear from truth. The world will still move, even if you imprison Galileo, and make him tell a lie. In concluding, I hope the TIMES, under your management, may prove worthy of support. W.

DIED.

At Lisbon, on Saturday, January 12th, MRS. ELLEN BUCKINGHAM, in the eighty-third year of her age.

On January 5, 1878, ELSIE PEARL, infant daughter of George H. and Sallie F. Scaggs.

A precious one from us has gone,
A little one we loved so dear,
A place is vacant in our home
Our darling little Elsie gone.

Often does the Heavenly Father,
His peculiar love display;
When he comes his flock to visit
And bears a little lamb away.

Away to the Heavenly Father,
He has taken our baby sweet;
Little Elsie is with Jesus
Parents smile but do not weep.

BY HER LITTLE FRIEND, A. E. MCCALLEY.

New Advertisements.

PUBLIC SALE OF TINWARE.

The undersigned about to discontinue the Tinning business, will sell at Public Sale on **Saturday Night, January the 26th**, at 7 o'clock, his entire stock of Tinware of every description, Stoves, Stove Pipes, &c. Also a complete set of TINNERS TOOLS, in excellent order.

Terms of Sale—All sums of and over $10 a credit of 30 days will be given purchaser giving note with approved security; all sums under $10, CASH. No goods to be removed until terms are complied with.

WM. B. COLLIER,
Ellicott City, Jan. 18th, 1878.

P. S.—Until the 26th I will sell at private sale to Country Merchants or House keepers, at greatly reduced prices.
Jan. 19-4t. W. B. C.

Executrix's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given, That the subscriber of Howard County, has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Howard County, in Maryland, Letters of Testamentary on the personal estate of

GEORGE W. PETER,

late of Howard County, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on before the **28st day of July next**; they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment.

Given under my hand this 15th day of January, 1878.

JANE BOYCE PETER,
Executrix.
Jan. 19-6ts.

ROAD NOTICE.

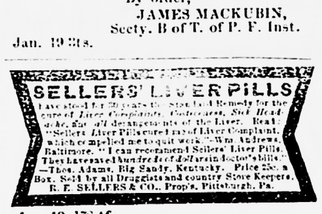
Notice is hereby given that the Undersigned intend to petition the County Commissioners of Howard County, for a PUBLIC ROAD, in the Third District of said county, commencing at a point on the St. James road, near the Sykesville bridges, and running thence through the lands of J. M. Zimmerman, C. Brooks and J. D. Warfield, to the Gorsuch Switch road, near J. D. Warfield's barn, thence on the bed of said Gorsuch switch road to the western branch of the Patapsco, thence with or near said stream, through the lands of C. Brooks, J. D. Warfield, C. Schmann, William O'Neal, Perrin Naddy, Harman Schmann, Edward Woods, and Henry Devries to the Tunnel road, and thence across said road, through the lands of Henry Devries, H. Unbach and Wm. Davis, on the most practicable road to Marriottsville.

CHARLES SEHMANN,
WILLIAM PRESTON.
Jan. 19-4ts.

ELECTION NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Patapsco Female Institute, for the election of Five Trustees for the ensuing year, will be held at the Court House in Ellicott City, on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4th 1878, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

By order,
JAMES MACKUBIN,
Secty. B of T. of P. F. Inst.
Jan. 19 3ts.



Jan. 19, '78-1f.

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D. SPRECHER'S.