

# STATE OF MARYLAND.

## Burning of "Portland Manor," an Old Colonial Structure.

### A HUSBAND CHARGES CRUELTY.

### Wants a Divorce Because of Alleged Bad Treatment.

**Charged with Violating the Local-Option Law—The St. John's College Students, Gale and Catron, Return to Annapolis—They Contradict the Sensational Stories Published About Them—Democratic Mayorality Convention at Hagerstown.**

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
ANNAPOLIS, March 2.—The residence of Mr. Samuel Brooke, a handsome colonial structure, widely known as "Portland Manor," was destroyed by fire about 3 o'clock this morning, together with nearly all its contents, including about \$500 worth of wine in the cellar. Only such furniture and wearing apparel as could be gotten out quickly was saved. In the frame dwelling besides Mr. and Mrs. Brooke were two colored servants, who discovered the fire. Mr. Brooke had retired about midnight, leaving everything in his house, as he thought, secure. The fire is supposed to have originated in the kitchen. The property was insured in the Montgomery county company for \$1,000—\$1,000 of which was on the house and \$1,000 on the furniture.

Portland Manor was originally surveyed December 8, 1667, and resurveyed in 1688. At the latter date it contained 2 1/2 acres. The land was subsequently divided and has had among its former owners many distinguished persons. The present owner, Mr. Brooke, purchased the property from Major Jarves Kent. It had previously been owned by the Darwells, of West River, a descendant of whom now owns the adjoining farm, which was recently purchased from Mr. Edwin Gott. The earlier Darwells had come in possession by a deed from Lord Baltimore. This dwelling, though frame, was a magnificent structure and occupied a beautiful location, being situated between Bristol and Mount Zion. It is five miles from Upper Marlboro', and about the same distance from the line which divides Calvert from Anne Arundel county. Mrs. Nevett Steele, of Annapolis, tonight received a note from her father stating that in an hour the entire house was consumed. Some of the out-houses were also destroyed.

Robert Moss, counsel for James E. Brashears, returned elected as State's attorney for Anne Arundel county, has filed his brief in the Circuit Court in the contested election case of Claude vs. Brashears. The brief in behalf of Leonis Claude, his republican opponent, was filed two weeks ago by W. Shepard Hagan, who is his brother-in-law. Brashears had been returned elected by 104 majority, and even throwing out the alleged defective ballots he claims he has a majority of from six to ten, as counted by the court. The republican candidate claims that but for the exclusion of certain ballots by election judges he would have been elected over his democratic opponent. The case will be decided by the court without oral argument.

Judge Kevon, who has been sick with grip, returned to the Carroll County Court today.

Charles J. Koch, of Eastport, Anne Arundel county, by his attorney, Robert Moss, has filed in the Circuit Court application for divorce from his wife, Ida Koch, to whom he was married January 2, 1904. They had lived together not more than a month when the husband alleges, his wife began treating him with cruelty. She continued to treat him badly, threatening his life, and on one occasion committed an assault upon him, he says, driving him out of the house and forcing him to seek shelter in the house of a deputy sheriff. Since February 17 they have not lived together. Koch is a truck farmer, and is said to be an industrious young man.

No oyster-dredging licenses have been issued at the comptroller's office for nearly a month. The season is nearly over and No. 507 will probably be the last one to go out this season. Next week the comptroller will make the quarterly distribution of the public school fund.

The schooner Maria Elizabeth, reported as having run into the wreck of the sunken steamer Nelly White, at Sandy Point, has been raised and taken to Henner's railway, at Eastport, opposite Annapolis. This is the fourth vessel that has met with a similar accident on the wreck of the steamer since the buoy was carried away by the ice, over a year ago.

The oyster police schooner Dalry Archer, Capt. Howard Alvey, arrived in Annapolis today for repairs. The vessel, which guards the local oyster grounds in lower Anne Arundel waters, became disabled during the severe northwest gale. The State steamer McLane relieved the sailing vessel, while she is being repaired. Capt. Alvey said he left only one dredger on the grounds.

Max L. Michaelson, who keeps a general merchandise store at Gaesville, Anne Arundel county, was held in \$100 bail for the action of the grand jury by Justice Baill, of Eastport, charged with violating the local-liquor prohibition law. It is charged that Michaelson sold a number of persons, including a minor, hard cider, which made some of the party intoxicated. Thomas Crandall, aged about fifteen, one of the witnesses, said he became sick by had to be removed to a warehouse nearby. Others complained of dizziness, and the inference was that the cider contained other ingredients. It was disposed of at two cents a glass. State's Attorney Brashears contended that Michaelson had sold intoxicants and that he should be held for the violation. Robert Moss represented the accused, who testified he had purchased the article as sweet cider. Among the witnesses were J. Hamilton Lyons, Morris Smith, Fielder Sears, Thomas Crandall, O. Hazard, Edwin Dixon, Robert Leatherbury. The security was furnished by Charles Weiss, of Annapolis.

The application of the Annapolis, Washington and Chesapeake Railway for franchise to use the streets of Annapolis was considered by the city council and referred to the city counselor.

## A ROUGH TIME ON THE BAY.

**But the St. John's Students Were Able to Navigate Their Craft in Safety.**

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
ANNAPOLIS, Md., March 2.—Hamilton A. Gale, of Baltimore, and John Catron, son of Congressman Catron, of New Mexico, students of St. John's College, who were reported to have had a thrilling experience in the Chesapeake bay Saturday, returned to Annapolis this afternoon. The young men came in a boat which had been engaged in fishing at Kent Island, where they landed about half past 11 o'clock Saturday morning. They appeared to be surprised that so much excitement had been caused by their absence, and said at no time during the trip did they consider themselves in danger.

They had started from Annapolis at 9 o'clock Saturday morning in a 16-foot naphtha launch for Kent Island, intending to pay a social call on a family residing on the island. The little launch, owing to the heavy north-west wind, made a harbor for a short time at Greenberry Point, near Annapolis, and after a half hour's delay proceeded across the bay. An oysterman on his way to Annapolis cried out, "Look out, boys, a squall is coming." There was a heavy sea on, which tossed the boat considerably, but no water was taken in, and later, when the steamer Cambridge, of the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway Company, offered assistance, the young mariners, feeling themselves able to navigate their vessel, refused to accept aid and reached Kent Island in safety. It is said the young men are well up in seamanship and that they have experienced rough weather before.

The mother of Mr. Gale arrived this morning, accompanied by Mr. Harold Mies, of Baltimore. They had read in a newspaper a sensational account of the hardships to which the boys were said to have been exposed and called on Governor Lowndes to search for them. Governor Lowndes issued orders to this effect. Shortly after doing so a fishing vessel containing Everett Hubbard, Jarvis Sullivan and Edward Brown arrived with the two students. The launch was left at Kent Island, as the young men did not care to risk coming back under unfavorable conditions. Mrs. Gale is a guest at the executive mansion tonight. Young Gale met his mother shortly after his return.

### St. Mary's County.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
LEONARDTOWN, March 2.—Mr. W. Turner, a prominent farmer of the fifth St. Mary's district, lost his life Saturday night last by an accidental fall into an uncovered well. Mr. Turner was a brother of Mr. Jesse Turner, ex-president of the St. Mary's board of county commissioners. The deceased was an ex-Confederate.

John N. Graves, ex-member of the House of Delegates, ex-deputy collector of internal revenue and a prominent southern Maryland republican politician, died suddenly at his home, near Oakville, this county, Friday last. Mr. Graves was about fifty-eight years of age. His remains were buried at Mt. Zion Sunday in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends.

Henry Buss, colored, a United States pensioner, was found dead in his room in Leonardtown Sunday morning last.

### The Queen Anne's Murder Case.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
CENTREVILLE, Md., March 2.—Nothing new in regard to the murder of Mr. Samuel M. Koch has developed. Thomas Brown's counsel has, of course, forbidden him to talk. He is perfectly self-possessed and asserts his ability to prove his innocence. The authorities are prosecuting a vigorous, though quiet, investigation for additional evidence. As yet no time has been fixed for a preliminary hearing, as both the State and defense desire to collect more facts.

### Howard County.

[Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]  
ELLSGOTT CITY, Md., March 2.—Dr. Augustus Higgs, a Howard county physician, is ill from pneumonia at his home, Cooksville. His condition today was reported critical.

Warden Gearheart, of the Howard county jail, today received a telegram from a town in Pennsylvania saying that Tug Wilson had been captured. This was the man who escaped from the jail here about two months ago along with Edward Kerney, but Wilson was recaptured and is now in jail here awaiting the action of the grand jury. Kerney was not captured, and the dispatch probably

refers to him. Both Wilson and Kerney are charged with robbing cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Miss Sarah Onthank died at her home, at Thistle, near Hchester, yesterday, after a lingering illness, aged about sixty-five years. She resided at Oella for a number of years, where she was highly esteemed. Miss Onthank was an aunt of the Rev. Father Joseph Cunnane, and leaves one sister, Miss Alice Onthank, also of Thistle.

The force of men at work grading the Ellicott City Branch of the Columbia and Maryland Electric Railway has been largely increased and the road will be completed within a few weeks.