S! PILES! PILES!
re Guaranteed!
VEGETABLE PILES SALVE,
e of Bleeding, Blind, and
ching PILES!
ctor of the Vegetable Piles Salve,
ly offers his remedy as a sure,
nd thorough eradicator of this
lady, and asks but a trial to
asserts.
tances where it has been used, it
f, sometimes after a single ap-
ndreds in this community have
or far as the proprietor has been
hin, not a failure has resulted.
t is he of its efficacy, that he
ll to return the money in every
e it fails.
GLE BOX, and give it a trial,
d you will never regret it.
y mail, to any address on re-
its.
HICKERING, Sole Agent,
No. 226, West Pratt Street,
Baltimore, Md.
'S INDIAN VERMIFUGE.
introduction of this beautiful
on, it has been steadily advanc-
g favor. Its astonishing effica-
g worms has won for it many
ver known, and these are speak-
to others, so
To being intro-
duced, demand for it
Destroy more than ever.
To more worthy
WORMS. already shown
cross putting
hand some
merly. It is now prepared with
care of uniform strength, with
ns, so that any one can admin-
ely Vegetable--Perfectly
fe and Harmless!
ver been known to fail to expel
worms existed. The proprie-
sert that it is superior to any
tion in the world.
BRINER'S INDIAN VERMI-
take no other. Price 25 cents
or sale, by
JOHN H. HIGGINS,
Rockville Md.
and
and Storekeepers everywhere.
TZ'S MIXTURE,
SAFE & RELIABLE REMEDY
r the cure of Rheumatism Pain-
rvous Affections, Sprains, Burns,
ngs, and all diseases requiring
ernal application on man
Horses, it will never fail to cure
Fistula, Old Running Sores,
rony, if properly applied. For
s Bruises, Scratches, Crocked
Chafes, Saddle or Collar Galls,
r Wounds, it is an infallible re-
Try it, and be convinced of its
RHEUMATISM
ons afflicted with this disease, no
of how long standing, can be
tly and effectually cured by us-
ese mixture.
re is nothing in the world so
nd so good to take away bad
, and cure Frost Bites, as this
ation. Try it, and satisfy your-
Price 25 and 50 cents per bot-
Prepared by S. A. FOUTZ
ale, by
JOHN H. HIGGINS,
Rockville, Md., and
and Storekeepers everywhere.
ice to Creditors.
is hereby given that the subscriber
tained from the Orphans' Court of
county letters of administration
al estate of
'SAN A. GOTT,
county, deceased. All persons
s against said deceased, are here-
exhibit the same with the vouch-
the subscriber, on or before the
June, 1863; otherwise, they may
be excluded from all benefit of
Persons indebted to said estate,
d to make immediate payment.
my hand this 3d day of June,
MARY E. GOTT,
Administratrix.
ice to Creditors.
s hereby given that the subscrib-
s obtained from the Orphans'
tgomery county, letters testamen-
personal estate of
TSON GRANGER,
county, deceased. All persons
s against said deceased, are here-
exhibit the same with the vouch-
o the subscriber, on or before the
, 1863; otherwise, they may
excluded from all benefit of said
ons indebted to said estate, are
make immediate payment. Giv-
hand this 13th day of May,
MARY R. GRANGER,
Executrix.
20 REWARD.
OLEN from the subscriber's sta-
ar Clarksburg, Montgomery Co.,
night of the 8th instant, a BAY
a BLACK MARE. The horse is
14 years old, 15 or 16 hands high,
nd, the front shoes new. When
ngle harness, he invariably starts
into a pace before he strikes a
are is about 12 or 13 years old,
gall on her right shoulder. It is
ey were stolen by two of my ne-
o ran off the same night.
the above reward for
s, or $10 for either of them.
HORACE WATERS.
00 REWARD!
AY from the employment of Mr.
Belt, of Loudoun county, Virginia,
AN, Thomas, aged about 19 or
six or eight inches high, of copper
was last seen in the camp of
e, some time in August last, and
where in the neighborhood of the
ks, Montgomery county, Md., or
city, D. C.
one hundred dollars if taken up
ery county, Md.; one hundred and
if taken in Washington city, D.C.
he must be delivered to my po-
the Great Falls, in Fairfax coun-
OBT. R. JACKSON, Trustee
for A. T. Scott and Children.
e-Servant Wanted.
E having a good HOUSE-SER-
T to hire, will hear of a desirable
her, with liberal wages, by in-
lication at the SENTINEL office.
31
ol Teachers Wanted.
ersigned wishes to engage, imme-
three gentlemen as Teachers, to
of Oak Hill, Union and Pooles-
y Schools, in Medley's District,
county, Md.
GEORGE W. CHISWELL.
School Com'r 4th Election Dis.

# THE SENTINEL.

ROCKVILLE, MD.

FRIDAY.....JUNE 27, 1862.

## WAR NEWS.

We have accounts from Southern papers, that the Federal troops, in their attempt to capture a Confederate battery, on James Island, near Charleston, S. C., were repulsed and compelled to retire, after sustaining a heavy loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. The Charleston Mercury, in giving an account of that gallant and well contested affair, adds: "that but for the restless vigilance and quick presence of mind of Colonel Lamar, the battle would have fallen into the hands of the Federal troops. The latter prosecuted the assault with remarkable courage and tenacity of purpose. Three times they advanced to the attack, and on each occasion were driven back. It was a bloody fight, fought against odds by exhausted men, without preparation." The Mercury claims that, in the end, the Confederates gained a signal victory.

A Federal dispatch, dated Memphis, June 19th, states that an expedition, composed of four gunboats, several transports and two regiments of Federal troops under Col. Fitch, which was sent from that place to remove obstructions in the White river, Arkansas, encountered two Confederate batteries some eighty-five miles above the mouth of the river, and an engagement ensued, which seriously damaged the Federal steamer Mound City, but resulted finally in the capture of the batteries. During the cannonading," we are told, "a ball penetrated the boiler of the Mound City, causing a fearful explosion and loss of life." The crew consisted of one hundred and seventy-five men—of these one hundred and twenty-five were either killed or wounded. Captain Kelty, the flag-officer, was badly scalded, but it was thought he would recover. The batteries, which are said to have mounted eight brass and iron guns, were carried by storm, and the commanding officer taken prisoner. The "rebel loss" is estimated, in the unofficial account of the battle, at one hundred and twenty-five killed and wounded, and thirty prisoners. Colonel Fitch, on the other hand in his official report states that "the enemy's loss is unknown. We have buried eight of their dead, and other dead and wounded are being brought in."

At half past one o'clock, on Wednesday last, General McClellan telegraphed to the War Department that the Federal pickets, notwithstanding a sharp resistance on the part of the Confederates, were advanced considerably during the morning. A second dispatch, written at a quarter past three in the afternoon states that "the enemy is making a desperate resistance. But that Kearney's, and part of Hooker's Divisions, "are where I want them." It was found necessary, however, to reinforce Hooker a right with a brigade and a couple of guns. The men are said to have behaved "splendidly." General McClellan is desirous it should be understood that "it is not a battle, but merely an affair of Heintzelman's corps, supported by Keyes. On the Federal right we are told that "Porter has silenced the enemy's batteries in front."

A third dispatch, at five o'clock in the afternoon, announces that "the affair is over, and we have gained our point fully, and with but little loss." The Confederates are reported to have been driven from their camps in front of redoubt No. 3 and finally, we are told—"all is now quiet."

From Harper's Ferry, on Tuesday, we are informed that the greater part of the troops that place were throwing up earthworks on Bolivar Heights, that Gen. Ewell, according to rumor, was advancing on New Creek, but that two regiments had been sent to assist in repelling him, although General Kelley was fully able, we are assured, to receive Ewell without any such assistance. Jackson's movement down the Valley having been checked, the combined forces of Fremont, Shields and Banks were preparing to pursue him.

By the arrival of the steamer Connecticut at New York, it is reported that the Confederate force at Mobile has recently been strengthened by twelve thousand men from the army which evacuated Corinth. Fort Morgan—which was taken by the newspaper correspondents more than a week ago—is still in possession of the Confederates, and has been strengthened.

What is still more important is the fact that the towns on the west coast of Florida have been re-occupied by Confederate troops, and in larger numbers than before. Even the retention of Pensacola by the Federal authorities appears to be a matter sufficiently in doubt to lead to the erection of other fortifications as a means of protection against attack.

From Corinth, Tennessee, we are assured that it is now positively ascertained that Gen. Beauregard, after transferring the command of the Confederate troops in that quarter to General Bragg, took his departure for Richmond on the 15th instant, and was at Montgomery *en route* for the Confederate capital on the 17th.

The New York papers publish General Butler's letter to Mayor Monroe, of New Orleans, in which the former explicitly reaffirms his but too well-known "woman order" in all its offensiveness, and, as he writes, "that there shall be no room for misunderstanding it." He expressly tells Mayor Monroe that "whatever woman, lady, or mistress, gentle or simple, who, by gesture, look, or word, insults, shows contempt for, thus attracting to herself the notice of my officers and soldiers, will be deemed to act as becomes her vocation as a common woman, and will be liable to be treated accordingly."

Governor Todd, of Ohio, is making another strenuous effort to fill up the five additional regiments of troops to serve for three years, which he was authorized to raise some time ago by the War Department; but the men come forward so slowly that none of the regiments are complete.

The Lynchburg *Virginian* states, "on reliable authority," that a party of guerrillas attacked, captured and burnt, recently, on Sewell's Mountain, one of the wagon trains of Gen. Cox, loaded with provisions.

The correspondent of the New York *Express* asserts that an attack upon Richmond by the way of the James river is now impossible, in consequence of the formidable character of the obstructions which have been placed in the river by the Confederates, and the powerful fortifications that have been erected on the adjacent bluffs. The gunboat Galena is pronounced to be a failure. In the attack on Fort Darling several shots "went clean through her."

"In no place where the North has made its power felt," says the London *Morning Post*, "has its voice been recognized." That journal acknowledges that the Federal Government has achieved victories, but denies that those victories were successes in the true sense of the term. They have failed, we are told, to make any moral impression upon the people of the Southern States. In the opinion of the *Post*, "martial law and military despotism are but poor exchanges for a Republican form of Government."

The London *Times* intimates that as the neutral policy of England has been misunderstood, and has drawn upon her the enmity of the Northern people, it might have been wiser for the English people to take security for themselves, instead of putting so much confidence in the fairness and good feeling of others. "If this fact be established," adds the *Times*, significantly, "the error is still reparable."

General Blenker's division, which is as notorious for its marauding propensities as for its brutal conduct towards the people of the Valley of Virginia, has become greatly demoralized since the battle with Jackson at Cross Keys. Blenker himself—so says the correspondent of the New York *Tribune*—has been relieved of his command by order of General Fremont. "The brief space allotted to me," says the writer, "would not allow anything like a recital of the barbarities and butcheries of Blenker's men; and even should I record a half dozen or so, they would scarcely be credited."

Extraordinary preparations are being made at Washington for the accommodation of the wounded in the coming battle. In addition to the ten or twelve churches which have been taken for hospital uses, workmen were employed all Sunday last in erecting extensive frame buildings for a similar purpose.

Eleven hundred and eighty additional horses were called for about a week ago by Gen. Morgan to supply the loss of that number broken down—and lost, probably—during the march of that portion of M'Dowell's division which was sent in pursuit of Jackson, but with such unfortunate results.

In accordance with the law which was recently passed by Congress the War Department has issued an order offering a premium of two dollars for each accepted recruit, and also stating that every soldier that enlists shall receive his first month's pay in advance.

## Whither are we Drifting!

In our issue of the 6th instant, we called attention to the proceedings of the "Union Convention of Baltimore City," and expressed our fears that "the attempt there initiated—to turn over the (so-called) Union men of Maryland to the Abolition cause—would be adopted by that which is patriotically and gave, as a justification for our apprehensions, the fact, that several of the more prominent Union papers in the State had endorsed the resolutions of that convention, and concurred in the propriety of their being adopted by the unconditional Union men of the State, who were advised to "proclaim it as a leading article in their creed." One of the resolutions, above referred to, declared it "to be the duty of the loyal people of Maryland to adopt the policy proposed by President Lincoln and that it was their *interest*, more especially of the slaveholders, to remove from their midst an institution which has ceased to be profitable." This convention, be it remembered, was styled the "Union Convention of Baltimore City," and we have yet to hear of the first (so-called) Union paper in the State, deny the right of that convention to assume that name. It must be taken for granted, therefore, that it was really what it professed to be, "the Union Convention of Baltimore City," according to whose ethics, Abolition and Union are one and the same thing. As a proof that the convention was justified in assuming such ground, we introduce, just here, a short extract of a debate lately had in the House of Representatives, in the course of which Mr. Sedgwick, an abolition member from New York, said, "that there was not a loyal slaveholder in all this country." Mr. Wickliffe, of Kentucky, said "that the statement, there was not a loyal slaveholder in this country, was false." The Speaker, (abolition,) reminded Mr. Wickliffe that he was indulging in personalities, and must take his seat. Mr. Sedgwick remarked, "that what he meant to say was this—the man who is not willing and anxious to sacrifice the institution of slavery to save the country, is not loyal; and he would say further, that he would not leave one slave in the wake of our advancing armies." Thus, we have the issue plainly made up—Abolition and loyalty are to occupy one side, and the Constitution and disloyalty are to be allotted the other side, or take back seats.

But who, let us ask, gave the "Union Convention of Baltimore City," the right to teach Maryland slaveholders their *duty*? Who gave them the right to dictate to the people what is, or what is not, their *interest*, or what is *profitable* or not? We cannot imagine an instance of more downright presumption or impudence than this.

The real friends of the "Union" desire to see the re-establishment, if possible, of the Union as it was; they wish to see the Constitution preserved as it is; but, to accomplish this, they believe that the Abolition party must first be sunk. The Abolitionists say, "perish the Union a thousand times, rather than that negro emancipation shall be abandoned." Who, then, are the true friends of the Union?

But to come down to the President's policy—that the General Government should extend pecuniary aid to any State that would adopt his gradual emancipation scheme. In what part of the Constitution does Mr. Lincoln, or any other man, find the power to appropriate money from the National Treasury to aid any State which may adopt gradual emancipation, or, in fact, any other policy? There is no such power to be found there; and why? Simply because that sacred instrument was not the work of Abolition hands, and, therefore, the Abolitionists can see nothing in it but a "covenant with hell, and a league with the devil." They will have nothing short of "an anti-slavery Constitution, an anti-slavery Bible, and an anti-slavery God."

Such are the men whom it is recommended to the people of Maryland, by the "Union Convention of Baltimore City," to take into fellowship, as brother *loyalists*; whilst those who are in favor of the Union, as it was, and the Constitution, as it is, are denominated *rebels*.

We are not so uncharitable as to suppose that all those among us, who are designated as "unconditional Union men," contemplate a complete amalgamation with the Abolitionists; but we ask them to put the question seriously to themselves—Whither are *we* drifting? If they really look forward to an alliance of the kind, why don't they say so openly? But we cannot help believing that many of them have a hankering notion of the sort, or else their papers would come out and distinctly denounce the insidious attempts to consummate it. In the meantime, we would conjure them to beware! The decision of this question, now, will have much to do in determining another question, which is likely to arise hereafter, and which, we fear, Maryland may soon be called upon to decide: and that is, in case of a dissolution of the Union, to which section will Maryland attach herself—to the North or to the South? The idea is no doubt fostered by some, that Maryland will not be allowed a free election in the matter: that the General Government will resort to force to compel her to remain with the Northern section; but if the seceded States be able to achieve their independence, who will gainsay their ability to *demand* that Maryland shall be free to make her own election? No, Maryland will be allowed to settle this question for herself, and by that decision, whatever it may be, it will be the duty of all good citizens to abide; and, if her choice should not accord with the wishes of those who desired her to take a different course, they can shake off the dust from their feet, and seek an abode in some more congenial locality.

## Charles Sumner's Endorsement of the President.

We give below the letter of Senator Sumner, of Massachusetts, as it will be found to throw much light on the question of the President's abolition tendencies:

*From the Boston Journal.*

We are permitted to publish the following private letter from Hon. Charles Sumner, in reply to a letter addressed to him by a personal friend:

SENATE CHAMBER, June 5, 1862.

MY DEAR SIR: Your criticism of the President is hasty. I am confident that, if you knew him as I do, you would not make it.

Of course the President cannot be held responsible for the misfeasance of subordinates, unless adopted or at least tolerated by him. And I am sure that nothing unjust or ungenerous will be tolerated, much less adopted by him.

I am happy to let you know that he has no sympathy with Stanley in his absurd wickedness, closing the schools, nor again in his other act of turning our camp into a hunting-ground for slaves. He repudiates both—positively. The latter point has occupied much of his thought, and the newspapers have not gone too far in recording his repeated declarations, which I have often heard from his own lips that slaves finding their way into the national lines are never to be re-enslaved. This is his conviction, expressed without reserve.

Could you have seen the President—as it was my privilege often—while he was considering the great questions on which he has already acted—the invitation to emancipation in the States, emancipation in the District of Columbia, and the acknowledgment of the independence of Hayti and Liberia, even your zeal would have been satisfied, for you would have felt the sincerity of his purpose to do what he could to carry forward the principles of the Declaration of Independence. His whole soul was occupied, especially by the first proposition, which was peculiarly his own. In familiar intercourse with him, I remember nothing more touching than the earnestness and completeness with which he embraced this idea. To his mind it was just and beneficent, while it promised the sure end of slavery. Of course, to me, who had already proposed a Bridge of God for the retreating fiend, it was most welcome. Proceeding from the President, it must take its place among the great events of history.

If you are disposed to be impatient at any seeming shortcomings, think, I pray you, of what has been done in a brief period, and from the past discern the sure promise of the future. Knowing something of my convictions and of the ardor with which I maintain them, you may, perhaps, derive some assurance from my confidence. I say to you, therefore, stand by the Administration. If need be, help it by word and act, but stand by it and have faith in it.

I wish that you really knew the President, and had heard the artless expression of his convictions on those questions which concern you so deeply. You might, perhaps, wish that he were less cautious, but you would be grateful that he is so true to all that you have at heart. Believe me, therefore, you are wrong, and I regret it the more because of my desire to see all our friends stand firm together.

If I write strongly, it is because I feel strongly, for my constant and intimate intercourse with the President, beginning with the 4th of March, not only binds me peculiarly to his Administration, but gives me a personal as well as a political interest in seeing that justice is done him.

Believe me, my dear sir.
With much regard,
Ever faithfully yours,
CHARLES SUMNER.

ILLINOIS ELECTION.—The people of the free State of Illinois, the home of President Lincoln, at a recent election, on the adoption or rejection of a new Constitution, decided, by a large majority, not to allow any free negro or mulatto to settle, vote or hold office in that State.

ADDITIONAL ISSUE OF TREASURY NOTES.—Congress, on the 24th inst., passed the bill authorizing the additional issue of one hundred and fifty millions of United States notes; forty millions of said issue to be of less denomination than five dollars. These notes are to be a legal tender, but not to bear interest.

MORE SOLDIERS WANTED—*Drafting Threatened.*—Some of the Northern papers, particularly in Massachusetts, express the opinion, that drafting will probably have to be resorted to, to obtain the additional number of troops needed by the President to carry on the war.

The Governor of Rhode Island has issued an address to the people of that State, exhorting every able-bodied citizen to join some military organization, and, in order to facilitate such a movement, intimates that, unless the present opportunity for voluntary service be embraced, he will be compelled to resort to the power conferred upon him by the laws, on that subject.

GOING INTO SUMMER QUARTERS.—There is much talk in Federal quarters of suspending military operations on the part of the Federal armies, from the first of August till the first of November, and go into summer quarters. This policy is suggested in opposition to that of the Confederates, who favor a protraction of the war into the sickly season, and drawing the Federal armies into the interior, beyond the reach of their gunboats.

☞ The inquiry is heard from all quarters, What is McClellan doing? He is fulfilling the phrophecy of the Abolitionists—"Setting on the eggs near the Chickahominy, that were laid on the Potomac." So don't be uneasy, gentle inquirers; he will show you, after a while, a wonderful brood of web-footed "skedaddles."

## MARRIAGE.

MARRIED, on the 24th instant, by Rev. WM. TRAPNELL, Mr. DARIUS M. HIGGINS to Miss ELIZABETH LAVENIA, youngest daughter of the late SINGLETON PRATHER, all of this county.

[Baltimore "News Sheet" please copy.]

## THE MARKETS.

BALTIMORE, June 25, 1862.

GRAIN.—The feeling to-day for Corn was decidedly better, and we note a slight improvement in sales. The transactions include 70,000 bushels Corn at 57a60 cents for white, and 56a57 cents per bushel for yellow. We continue to quote choice white Wheat, out there is hardly any at $1 50a$1 60, but the bulk of the receipts still dull and inactive at prices ranging from $1 20a$1 25 per bushel. We quote Southern red at $1 15a$1 24, and Pennsylvania do. at $1 10a$1 23 per bushel. Oats are dull at 38a40 cents per bushel for Maryland and Pennsylvania. We note sales of prime Pennsylvania Rye at 70 cents per bushel.—*Sun.*

## Maryland, Montgomery County—Set.

ORPHANS' COURT, JUNE TERM, 1862.

ORDERED, this 18th day of June, 1862, by the Court and the authority thereof, that TUESDAY, the 22d day of July next, be assigned LEWIS M. MUNCASTER, Executor of Otho Mariner, late of Montgomery county, deceased, to pass his final account in the personal estate of said deceased, and make distribution of assets in hand, according to the provisions of the will, the creditors, if any, are hereby notified to present their claims, authenticated as aforesaid, for settlement on or before said day: Provided he give notice of the same, by publishing a copy of this order in some newspaper printed in Rockville, Md., for three successive weeks prior to said day.

Test— JOHN W. SPATES,
June 27—3t Register of Wills.

## Notice to Creditors.

NOTICE is hereby given that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Montgomery county, letters of administration on the personal estate of

ELIAS LEIZEAR,

Late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the 24th day of June, 1863; otherwise, they may by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate. Persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment. Given under my hand this 25th day of June, 1862.

PERRIE LEIZEAR,
Administrator.

## AN ARREST!

WAS ARRESTED, on Monday last, about two miles above Darnestown, A MAN, (name unknown,) having in his possession TWO HORSES—one a dark brown, about 16 hands high, heavy built, nine or ten years old, and shod all round: the other, a bay, about 15 hands high, eleven or twelve years old, nearly blind, and is likewise shod all round. The man, on his way to the Justice's office, "skedaddled," and has not been heard of since.

The owner or owners of the above horses, now in my possession, are requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take them away.

WILLIAM MULLICAN,
June 27—3t Darnestown, Md.

## HARVEST GOODS!

THE Subscriber has just received a supply of HARVEST GOODS—such as GRAIN AND GRASS SCYTHES, FORKS, RAKES, &c., which he will sell low for cash.

R. A. BAKER,
June 20—tf Quality Hill, Rockville.

## GRAIN CRADLES!

THE undersigned has for sale a large lot of GRAIN CRADLES, which he will be happy to dispose of to the farmers of this county, at the lowest price for CASH.

REPAIRING done at the shortest notice. A lot of GRAIN RAKES, WHET-BOARDS, SCYTHE-STONES, &c.

Also—A lot of GOOD LIQUORS, suitable for harvest.

M. GREEN,
Quality Hill, Rockville, Md.
June 20—tf

## A. WARNITZ,

DEALER IN MEN AND BOY'S CLOTHING, HATS, BOOTS, AND SHOES, ALSO, MILITARY AND FURNISHING Goods,

No. 101 Bridge Street,
GEORGETOWN, D. C.

☞ CLOTHING of every description made to Order at the shortest notice, and every attention to give satisfaction.

June 6—1y DAVID SOHN, Salesman.

NEW SUPPLIES DAILY.

DRY GOODS in all the departments of current wants, in addition to our usual large stock on Northern and Eastern correspondents send in new supplies daily.

PERRY & BRO.,
Penn. avenue and 9th street,
"Perry Buildings," Washington, D. C.
feb 14—tf

## LOCAL AFFAIRS.

THE COMMISSIONERS STILL IN SESSION.—The Commissioners, we learn, did not complete the annual levy last week. They were again in session yesterday, and, we learn, completed their arduous labors—fixing the county tax at 42 cents on the $100; the State tax, it will be remembered, is 25 cents on the $100—making a total of 67 cents! No school tax was levied for the current year.

THE APPROACHING HARVEST.—Our farmers are busily engaged in cutting their grass, which promises to be very fair. They will commence their wheat and rye harvest some time within the coming week; but, we are sorry to hear continued complaints of serious damage to the latter crops, by the joint worm and red weevil or midge, or what is termed, in some localities in this county, "Yankee lice." The late rains have rendered the ground in fine order for tobacco planting, and will be of timely benefit to the growing corn, &c.

*For the Montgomery County Sentinel.*

### The Public Schools of Montgomery county—The Commissioners Refuse to make a Levy for the Support of the same—The Parties who are to Blame, &c.

MR. EDITOR: It is known to the people of this State and county, that the Legislature of the State of Maryland have, for the past thirty years, been directing their attention to the subject of public schools throughout the State, in endeavoring to establish a General School System. Failing to agree upon any general law, by which a uniform system could be established, *ad interim*, most of the counties obtained, through instructions given to their respective representatives, special laws for the better encouragement and support of these institutions, adapted to their wants, conditions and ability—thus making it, at this late period, impracticable, as well as impossible, to obtain a general law.

Seeing this inability upon the part of the State, Montgomery county, through the energy of her representatives, during the winter of 1860, obtained a special law, by which the defects in the organization and administration, under the old system, were eradicated, and a higher and more vigorous standard, both as to the education of the children and the competency of teachers, was aimed at, as well as being mild and uniform in its application, and free from all political or sectarian tendencies; in this way, securing it from any embarrassment that might create, or in any way tend, to disturb the cause for which it was drafted, or check the offspring of its growth and development.

In order that the reader may be better acquainted with and understand the true objects of this law, I will give, in a condensed form, its general and leading provisions. It appointed five persons—one from each election district in the county—who were styled the "Board of Commissioners of Public Schools of Montgomery county," and to hold their office for two years from the first Thursday after the first Monday of March, 1860, and every two years thereafter and appointments to be made by the Judges of the Orphans' Court. It gives to the Board of school commissioners power to appoint a treasurer, to said board the examination and appointment of teachers; the erection of school-houses and purchasing of sites; to call upon the county commissioners annually for a levy for the support of said schools; said levy not to be less than, nor more than twenty cents on the one hundred dollars, and making it obligatory on the county commissioners to levy the amount estimated and reported to them by the said board of school commissioners. It appointed ten persons—two from each election district in the county—who were required to divide the said election districts into school districts, and make a report of the same to the school commissioners. It then goes on and prescribes the further duties of the school commissioners, the treasurer, their time of meeting, compensation, &c.

In accordance with the provisions of the law, the members of the board were duly qualified and entered upon their arduous and responsible duties. I say arduous, because of the fact of having to attend to the erection of school-houses throughout the county; the examination of teachers; prescribing the course of study, and the organization of the schools, was no little task, and accompanied with no little labor. The sum expended (as per report of the school commissioners) for the first year, in the construction of school-houses, was $3,961 28; the total number of schools, 22; the amount paid school teachers, $7,614 12; the number of scholars attending school, 1,242—thus giving unmistakable evidence of the good result under this new system, and strongly indicating its ultimate and complete success, as well as realizing the fondest anticipations of the framers of the law. Indeed, from all parts of the county, the schools met with great encouragement and support, as well as receiving the unqualified endorsement of the board of school commissioners. It is true, that the bill, on account of the amount of taxation, did meet with some determined objection in one section of the county; but, I understand that, under the good results of the law, the objections—except with some few persons—have been removed.

But it seems to have been destined that this law should not long continue to spread its good results throughout the county, nor, for any length of time, escape the touch of political tad-poles, who always infest dirty water, or even from the iron grasp of the gigantic minds of would-be statesmen, or a retired ex-Judge.

Mr. Dunlop, a member of the last Legislature, "solitary and alone," (for Bowie Davis, Esq. denies, I understand, having any complicity in the matter,) anxious to engraft upon the annals of legislative proceedings some relic, as the mark of the occasional entrance of a great man into that honorable body, conceived the statesman-like idea that this law should be changed, and, consequently, reports a bill to that effect. In looking over this bill of Mr. Dunlop, I see it limits the amount of taxation to ten per cent. instead of 20, as under the law of 1860. To this change I have no particular objection, if it will meet the requirements of the board in carrying on the schools. The next change sought, is to prevent any one member of the board of school commissioners from acting as treasurer to said board. I cannot see what reason he can assign for this change, unless it be to create an additional office for *his old friend*, the present clerk of the county commissioners. The next and last change is, to take the power of appointment from the Orphans' court, and give the same to the county commissioners! Now, why not be satisfied with the reduction of taxation and creation of an additional office, and leave the power of appointment in whom it was already vested? No; this was not what he desired, as I will presently show.

Now, the time of appointment, under the new law, was to be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, and every two years thereafter. Unfortunately for Mr. Dunlop, just at this period his—

"Vaulting ambition o'erleaps itself, and falls upon the other side;"

for, in his zeal in drafting the bill, he designated a time for the appointment to be made prior to the passage of the bill—he neglects the repealing clause, as well as to add, "this act shall take effect from and after the date of its passage." It is true, that this last clause is not essential to the validity of the bill, but, unless embodied within the same, will prevent it from going into force before the first day of June. In other words, the Constitution has declared, Art. 3d, section 31, "No law passed by the General Assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next, after the session at which it may be passed, unless it be otherwise expressly declared therein." Glanting at the time mentioned, and the promptness with which the commissioners acted, I am warranted in the assertion, that he did intend that the bill should take effect upon its passage; but he overlooks all these precautionary matters, and, in his glory and fancied security, returns to his constituents and political playmates, if not with a copy of the bill in his pocket, at least, with its language and purport on his tongue. One word as to the motives which prompted him to make these changes in the law. Was the question of taxation the leading cause? Let us see. The first levy the school commissioners required, was 15 per cent. This is a heavy tax, we admit; but it is known that the first year was the most expensive one—school-houses had to be erected and sites purchased for the same; the expenses of the commissioners, who divided the county into school districts, had to be met, &c. The second year they ask for 12 per cent.—a reduction of three per cent.; this year for ten per cent.—a further reduction of two per cent.—thus coming within the very purview of Mr. Dunlop's law; and since he has placed the ultimatum of taxation at ten per cent., it is to be supposed he has no objection if the amount required falls to that standard. I think I have met this cause of objection to the law of 1860, in this respect. As to the second, "that no member of the board should act as treasurer to the same," is of little importance. I suppose, however, some hungry friend was promised office for "services rendered," and this was done to meet his case. I come now to the last objection—the taking of the appointment from the Orphans' court, and giving the same to the county commissioners. Why this change? Is it to be supposed that the gentlemen who constitute the Orphans' court—men of character and standing—would so grossly misrepresent the trust imposed, as to appoint persons not fitted for the duties required by the law? I say no; and do charge, that Mr. Dunlop's objection to the Orphans' court and board of school commissioners, was on account of the political complexion of these two bodies, and none other; and this was the very motive that induced him to bring about any change in the school system. Let him deny it. I will now leave the honorable member to enjoy his "*otium cum dignitate*," with the privilege of a parting word in the conclusion of this article.

The county commissioners are called together; new and more responsible duties have been imposed upon them since their last meeting; a copy of the new law, through their energetic clerk, was obtained, and, on assembling, they take into consideration the same. It was urged that they had no power to make the appointment, since there was no provision in the bill as to the time when it should go into force, and that, therefore, the bill did not go into effect before the 1st day of June. The opinion of their attorney was asked; and, in the very teeth and letter of the Constitution, he gave it as his opinion, that they had the power at that very time to make the appointment. I am prepared to prove this assertion! The commissioners, in accordance with their attorney's opinion, did make the appointment. The appointees, before qualifying, read the law, and decided that the commissioners had no power to make the appointment before the 1st day of June—thus ignoring the opinion of the learned attorney; and well they might, for any young man, in the *first quarter* of his *professional tutelage*, would be ashamed to give such an opinion.

In the meantime, and prior to the meeting of the commissioners' court, on the 16th of the present month, the board of school commissioners, as appointed by the Orphans' court, feeling satisfied of the utter illegality of the late law, concluded and did obtain the opinion of one of the most distinguished lawyers of the State—a gentleman who has garnered his experience not only from a full practice in the profession of the law, but from ten long years as Judge on the bench of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, which opinion declares the law absolutely null and void, and the law of 1862 in full force and power.

Upon the faith imposed in this opinion, the school commissioners made application to the county commissioners, at their last meeting, for a levy of ten per cent. on the hundred dollars for the support of the public schools, within said county. They refused to make the levy.* In other words, saying to the honest poor man, educate your own children; we will no longer foster these institutions by levying a tax on the people; we repudiate the very idea—we refuse to obey the mandates of the law. And thus, the custodians of the interest of Montgomery county, made such by legislative enactment and *the will of the people*, by this high-handed outrage, have struck a paralyzing blow at the very foundation of all society; for, if we would keep pure the streams which form society, we must elevate the minds and morals of the masses of the people; and cold and selfish, indeed, must be the heart of the man who, from prejudice or other causes, would obstruct these little pathways to the formation of honesty of character and purpose, and the cultivation of the mind and soul.

In conclusion, I would ask, who is to blame for the present unfortunate condition of things—the closing of the doors of the public schools in the county? That the commissioners are, in refusing to make the levy, I have already charged; but the howling indignation of a grossly misrepresented people will knock the loudest and longest at the door of the man who *first conceived the idea—the Honorable Member* of the last Legislature. God save us from any more such legislation, and from the clichés of all such great men! I shall probably have more to say on this subject in a future communication.

* The abolition organ of your place is my authority for this latter statement.

CRACKLIN.*

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