Montgomery County Sentinel.

One Dollar and Fifty Cents, if paid in advance. DEVOTED TO PARTY NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. Two Dollars, if paid at the end of the year.

M. FIELDS. ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 27, 1872. VOL. XVIII.—NO. 22.

Professional Cards.

RICH'D M. WILLIAMS,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
ROCKVILLE, MD.
Will practice in the Circuit Court for Montgomery county, and in the Court of Appeals of Maryland.
☞ OFFICE in the Court-House yard.
nov 24—tf

THOMAS J. PEDDICORD,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Rockville, Md.
☞ Particular attention paid to the sale of Real Estate. [jan 27—tf

ROSS PERRY,
Attorney and Counsellor at Law,
Washington, D. C.
Office, No. 5 Four-and-a-half street,
may 15—tf Residence, No. 413 F street.

SPENCER C. JONES,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Rockville, Maryland,
Will practice in the Courts of Montgomery and Frederick counties.
☞ Office, directly opposite the old Washington Hotel. [June 12—tf

WILLIAM BREWER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Rockville, Md.
☞ Particular attention paid to conveyancing and the sale of Real Estate.
☞ Office west of the Court House and one door north of the Presbyterian Church.
aug 19—tf

W. VEITCH,
ATTORNEY AT LAW,
Rockville, Md.,
Will practice in the Courts of Montgomery and Frederick counties.
☞ Office, in the corner room of the old Washington Hotel. [jan 24—y

H. P. BRADLEY, SR. H. W. TALBOTT.
BRADLEY & TALBOTT,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Rockville, Md.
Strict attention given to all business entrusted to them.
☞ Office, directly opposite the Court House. [sept 2—y

M. PETER. JAS. B. HENDERSON.
PETER & HENDERSON,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Will practice in the Circuit Court for Montgomery county, and in the Court of Appeals of Maryland.
☞ Special attention given to examination of Title to Lands, Collection of Debts, &c.
oct 29—yd

LEVI E. BERRY. JOS. E. ROBERTS, JR.
BERRY & ROBERTS,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
Upper Marlboro', Md.
Will practice in the Courts of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert counties. Prompt attention given to all business entrusted to them.
☞ Will attend particularly the trial of cases in the Court of Appeals.
jan 3—yn

DENTISTRY.
DR. F. H. MANFAKEE,
Surgeon Dentist, Mechanicsville, Md.
☞ All letters should be addressed to him at Piney P. O., Montgomery county, Md.
sep 20—y

DR. T. SOLLERS WATERS,
DENTIST,
No. 13 Hanover Street, BALTIMORE, Md
☞ Office hours from 8 A. M., to 2 P. M., and from 3 to 6 P. M.
nov 5—tf

JAMES W. BOSWELL,
LICENSED AUCTIONEER,
Rockville, Md.
☞ Will attend to sales in any part of the county, and his terms will be such as cannot fail to please. All orders addressed to him, at Rockville, Darnestown, or Poolesville, will be promptly attended to. [dec 14—tf

ST. MARY'S INSTITUTE,
UNDER CHARGE OF THE
Misses DUGAN & WALLEY,
ROCKVILLE, MD.
THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION will commence on *MONDAY, September 23, 1872.* Parents are particularly requested to enter their children at the commencement of the session. No deduction is made for absence or withdrawal from the Institute, except in cases of protracted illness.
For particulars enquire at the Institute, corner of Washington and Commerce streets opposite the Post Office.
aug 2—tf

B. F. CARTER,
(LATE PARTNER WITH WM. OLDFIELD, ESQ.)
PUMP-MAKER,
Fountain Green, Harford Co., Md.
Will attend promptly to DIGGING AND WALLING WELLS, PUTTING IN NEW PUMPS and REPAIRING OLD ONES.
NEW PUMPS kept always on hand. Price 50 cents per foot.
ALL NEW WORK WARRANTED.
☞ All letters addressed to B. F. CARTER, Fountain Green, Harford county, Md., or to Hugh Miles, Poolesville, Md., will be promptly attended to. oct 1—3m B. F. CARTER.

UNDERTAKING.
THE undersigned would respectfully inform the citizens of Rockville and vicinity, that he has bought the right, title, interest and good will of his father, in the UNDERTAKING BUSINESS, together with the Hearse, Wagon, &c., necessary for conducting the same, and that he will be prepared, hereafter, upon the shortest notice, to accommodate all who may require his services. A liberal share of patronage is solicited.
W. REUBEN PUMPHREY,
Washington Street,
jan 9—tf Rockville, Md.

JOSHUA DAVIS,
GEORGETOWN, D. C.
Manufacturer and Dealer in, LY
HARNESS, SADDLES,
BRIDLES, WHIPS,
COLLARS, ROBES, BRUSHES,
BLANKETS, COMBS, &C., &C.
☞ Repairing promptly attended to.
Nos 100, High St., GEORGETOWN,
apr 5—1y

Groceries, Liquors, &c.

E. T. LYDDANE,
Corner 3d and Market Streets,
GEORGETOWN, D. C.
Constantly on hand the choicest brands of
GROCERIES, for family use, such as
COFFEES, TEAS,
FRUITS, RAISINS, CHEESE,
SUGARS,
—ALSO—
PURE BAKER WHISKEY,
WINES, and LIQUORS of all kinds, which he offers at extremely low rates. dec 15—1yn

CHAS. A. CARTER. [WM. P. BRADLEY.
CARTER & BRADLEY,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
GROCERS,
Cor. Bridge and Congress St.,
GEORGETOWN, D. C.
WE take pleasure in announcing to our friends in Montgomery county that we, the undersigned, have formed a copartnership for the purpose of conducting the GROCERY BUSINESS in all its branches. Our stock consists of
FINE TEAS,
WINES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC,
CHAMPAGNES, BRANDIES,
PURE BAKER WHISKEY,
AND OTHER BRANDS OF ALL GRADES,
Coffees, Sugars,
SPICES, FRUITS,
CANNED GOODS, FANCY PICKLES,
SAUCES, CRACKERS, &c.,
of all kinds, always in store and for sale at the
VERY LOWEST PRICES.
☞ COUNTRY PRODUCE bought at market rates.
☞ We respectfully invite the public to examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere.
ap 26—tfn CARTER & BRADLEY.

THOMAS M. METZ,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
GROCERS,
89 Bridge St., N. W. cor. Congress St.,
GEORGETOWN, D. C.
—oo—
THE undersigned having leased the old and well-known Grocery House formerly occupied by the late Geo. W. Omes, take pleasure in announcing to the citizens of Montgomery county, and the public generally, that they will keep on hand at all times a large and general assortment of
GROCERIES,
EMBRACING
TEAS, COFFEES,
SUGARS, SPICES,
CANNED GOODS, FRUITS,
FANCY CRACKERS,
BACON, LARD, FISH, SALT, &c.
FANCY PICKLES, SAUCES, &c.,
of every variety, constantly in store, and for sale at reasonable prices.
LIQUORS.
We shall always be supplied with a complete stock of Foreign and Domestic Wines and Liquors, &c., of the best brands.
☞ FLOUR, of all brands, CORN MEAL, &c, always for sale at market prices.
☞ Having purchased our stock upon terms that will enable us to sell AS LOW AS THE LOWEST, we respectfully ask an inspection of the same before purchasing.
☞ COUNTRY PRODUCE bought at all times, at the highest market rates, and people from the country will find it to their advantage to give us a call.
METZ & HENDERSON,
89 Bridge Street,
Jan 26—y15 Georgetown, D.C.

The Cheapest Tea Store
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
is at the southeast corner of
Seventh and I Sts., Washington, D. C.
JOHN DOWLING, Proprietor.
THE PEOPLE of Montgomery county are respectfully invited to visit the
American Tea Store,
corner of Seventh and I Streets, and ascertain for themselves, by experience, the fact that they can here purchase
ALL KINDS OF GROCERIES,
at and even below Baltimore prices.
☞ COFFEE roasted daily by HYDE'S PATENT COFFEE ROASTER, and ground by steam in presence of the purchaser.
aug 16—tf

TO GROCERS AND OTHER DEALERS.
THE undersigned begs leave to inform GROCERS AND OTHERS, that he has taken out a
Wholesale Liquor Dealer's License,
and is now prepared to furnish all who may favor him with a call, with all kinds of
LIQUORS, GROCERIES, &c.
IN ANY QUANTITY, and as cheap as they can be purchased elsewhere.
WM. T. HERRON,
Corner of High and Bridge Streets,
June 20—tf Georgetown, D. C.
FOR SALE
JOHNSON'S IRON BEAM PLOWS and Castings at a reduced price, by
N. D. OFFUTT.

Dry Goods, Millinery, &c.

SPLENDID STOCK
OF
FALL AND WINTER
DRY GOODS,
AT
POPULAR PRICES,
NOW OPEN AT
BENJAMIN MILLER'S,
101 *Bridge Street, Georgetown, D. C.*
—THE LARGEST STOCK OF GOODS we have ever offered our customers. Consisting in part of
LADIES' DRESS GOODS
OF ALL THE NEWEST STYLES, such as Black Silks, from $1.25 to 3.00 per yard, Silk and Wool French Poplins all colors, Irish Poplins, French Merinoes, Empress Cloth from 50 cents up, Mohair Poplins all colors, Colored Alpacas from 25 cts. up to 50 cts.
MOURNING GOODS.
Black Bombarsines, Henrietta Cloth, Black Satenas, Sanies' Cloth, Empress Cloth, French Merino, Lupin's Black DeLaines, Australian Crape Veils, Mourning Shawls, Long and Square.
SHAWLS.
A splendid assortment—embracing 100 of the very popular Striped Shawls in all the newest patterns, and very cheap.
Heavy Long and Square SHAWLS.
Water Proofs from $1.00 to 1.75 in Black Mixed, Blue, Green, and Gold Mixed, Balmoral Skirts, 75 cts to $1.00, 1.25, Hoop Skirts, Embossed Felt Skirts, Ditto for children, Corsets from 50 cts. to $3 00
Goods for Men and Boys' Wear.
Black and Blue French Cloths, Beaver Cloth, Doeskin Cassimers, Cassimers for Suitings, Tweeds, Kerseys, Cashmets from 37½ to 75 cts. Kentucky Jeans, 3-4 and 6-4 Virginia Fall Cloths.
Housekeeping Dry Goods!
50 Pair of Bed Blankets from 3.00 to $12 00 White Flannel from 25 cts up, Red Flannels, Table Damasks very cheap, Napkins, Towels, White Bedspreads large size $1.25, German Quilts, Bed Comforts, Carriage Robes with figures on them, Bleached and Brown Muslins at greatly REDUCED PRICES, 8-4, 9-4 and 10-4 Sheeting, Good heavy Brown Muslin full yard wide at 12½ cts. Bleached Ditto yard wide an excellent article 12½.
NOTIONS AND SUNDRIES.
Goods of all kinds for Ladies and Gents, a splendid stock of Kid Gloves, colored and black, at $1.00, Ladies' Merino Undervests and Drawers, Children's Merino Vests of all sizes, Mens' Merino and Lambs Wool Shirts and Drawers. Hosiery of all kinds, very cheap, Misses Corsets, Bustles, Coats' and Clarks' Spool Cotton, all numbers, 6 cents a spool, 12 dos. Shirt Buttons at 5 cents, and a large stock of Notions of all kinds.
Our Goods have all been purchased for cash in the New York and Baltimore markets, and we respectfully solicit all in search of GOOD and CHEAP GOODS; to call and examine our stock, promising them GOOD BARGAINS.
We would respectfully return our thanks to our customers of Montgomery county for the liberal patronage heretofore extended to us.
BENJAMIN MILLER.
oct 18—tfn

GOOD NEWS
FOR THE
LADIES OF ROCKVILLE AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY.
MILLINERY AND FANCY GOODS,
IN GREAT VARIETY.
I HAVE RETURNED from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore with a beautiful assortment of LADIES' and CHILDREN'S
Hats and Bonnets,
Trimmed and Untrimmed, Flowers, Silks and Ribbons, and a regular assortment of
Fancy Goods,
Ladies' and Children's Parasols, at reduced prices.
I have on hand also a large assortment of Pompadour Braids, Chignons, Switches, Rolls and Curls. Corsets from 50 cents a pair upward. Hoop Skirts, Bustles, Ladies' and Gents' Cotton and Linen Handkerchiefs. A fine lot of Lace and Linen Collars and Cuffs.
HOOP SKIRTS MADE TO ORDER.
I will also state that by buying at 111 Bridge Street, you can save 20 cents on every dollar of investment. Please give me a call and convince yourself of it.
I have also on hand a large lot of TRIMMED HATS at 50 cents each. You will find an assortment of Goods at 111 Bridge Street which cannot be surpassed.
I have Buttons of every description, Silk, Pearl, Gilt, Bone, Agate and Glass.
Infants' Caps and Bonnets, old ladies' Dress Caps, and a great many other articles too numerous to mention.
☞ Particular attention paid to orders.—Country Stores supplied at Baltimore wholesale prices. Do not forget to go to
M. J. YOUNG,
111 Bridge Street,
apr 26—tf Georgetown, D.C.

AUTUMN AND WINTER
FANCY AND STAPLE
DRY GOODS!
STOCK NOW FULL AND COMPLETE
in all Departments for the Present,
and Approaching Seasons of
1872 and 1873.
☞ Northern and Eastern correspondents send us new supplies daily.
☞ Strangers and sojourners will inspect our stock at their pleasure.
☞ Our customers in Maryland, Virginia and other Southern and South-Western States are notified that we are amply prepared to fill their orders as usual.
☞ ONE PRICE ONLY, MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.
PERRY & BROTHER,
PENN. AVENUE AND NINTH STREET,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
(Established 1840.)
☞ An extensive assortment of CARPETS, OIL CLOTHS, CURTAIN MATERIALS, &c., will be found in the UPPER ROOMS.
sep 6—y

Educational Cards.

MONTGOMERY FEMALE INSTITUTE.
THE FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION of the Montgomery Female Institute will commence on Monday, September 16th, 1872, and close June 30th, 1873, the re-opening of the School being postponed from September 2d, on account of the interruption occasioned by the Fair.
THE SCHOLASTIC YEAR is divided into two Terms of TWENTY WEEKS EACH, commencing respectively, Sept. 16th, 1872, and February 14th, 1873. Christmas week, being a HOLIDAY, is not included in the Session of FORTY WEEKS.
THE COURSE of INSTRUCTION embraces the usual English Branches, Book-keeping, Mathematics, the Natural Sciences, Rhetoric, History and Literature, Mental and Moral Philosophy, Latin, Greek, French, German, Music (vocal and instrumental), Drawing, Composition, Penmanship &c. Special attention will be given to *Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic and English Grammar*, as constituting the *ground-work* of a liberal education, and the Principal alone, gives instruction in the *last two* branches, bestowing that care which they demand. Arithmetical and Geometrical Forms are used for Illustration. Regarding the University of Virginia as a model of Southern Educational Institutions, the plan of study pursued, will be made to conform to that, as nearly as possible, with such modifications as are necessary in a course for young ladies. The object will be to furnish the advantages of a thorough, practical and accomplished education, and to promote the *moral* as well as the *intellectual* advancement of pupils; and with this in view, the Teachers will ever strive to imbue the minds of those entrusted to their care, with those principles which will secure this end. The great aim will be to teach the pupil *to think, to discipline her mind and to expand its powers. The pernicious Parrot-System whereby the memory alone is exercised, to the utter neglect of other and higher intellectual faculties, we entirely ignore!*
THE DISCIPLINE will be sufficiently strict and regular to promote the uninterrupted progress of pupils. The Principal's family, with the resident teachers and pupils, constitute one household, and thus compose a *Home School*. Pupils, *always accompanied by some member of the family*, attend such places of worship as parents and guardians may desire, nothing of a *sectarian* character being introduced in the School. The young ladies boarding with the family are not permitted to pay visits, or to receive visitors except members of their respective families. They are required to walk every afternoon (the weather permitting) with one of the Teachers, and are encouraged to take all healthful exercise that is proper, and consistent with duty and discipline. Every care is taken to promote *physical culture*. The strictest attention is paid to the laws of health, and the results have been marked and gratifying. The number of boarding pupils is limited this year, to six; yet the Principal, who has established this School especially to meet the wants of the people of Montgomery County, confidently hopes, in the course of another year, to perfect plans whereby he can accommodate an increased number. A Graduate of the University of Virginia, he has been engaged in teaching since 1860, *except during the four years of the war*. He will be assisted by Teachers of *successful experience*.
The School though a private enterprise, is emphatically a *permanent institution*. Being aided by no donation either public or private, it is dependent solely upon the individual efforts of the Principal, and relies upon *merit* for the patronage of a generous, enlightened and unprejudiced public. It aims to be an institution of *sound learning*. It is situated in a quiet part of the village, with no surroundings calculated to interrupt pupils in the prosecution of their studies. The building is large, commodious and well ventilated, and is provided with every thing necessary to insure comfort.
THE TEXT-BOOKS used, are such as the experience of our most successful educators has found to be the best, and are furnished at city retail prices. Besides the daily examination of classes, there will be two REVIEW EXAMINATIONS, one at the end of each term of twenty weeks.
Monthly reports stating progress, &c., of pupils will be sent to parents and guardians, who are respectfully invited to attend the examinations. No deduction will be made for late entrance, nor for absence, except in cases of protracted illness or of death.
TERMS:
For board, fuel, lights, washing and full course of instruction (*including Languages*) for Term of 20 weeks..... $112.50
Music on Piano..... 25 00
NO EXTRAS.
Daughters of Ministers are not charged for *Tuition* except in *Music*.
Reference is invited to the following Patrons:

Hon. W. V. Boulc,	Rockville, Md.
Dr. E. S. Stonestreet,	" "
R. M. Veirs,	" "
O. S. Muncaster,	" "
James Weit,	" "
S. M. Lyddane,	" "
J. F. Braddock,	" "
E. O. Edmonston,	" "
S. T. Mullican,	" "
E. B. Prettyman,	" "
Rev. Dabney Ball,	" "
Geo. R. Braddock,	" "
D. H. Boulc,	" "
I. B. Maus,	" "
R. A. Bogley,	" "
J. R. Miller,	" "
U. A. Dawson,	" "
T. J. Peddicord,	" "
J. M. Haney,	" "
Miss Mary McP. Russe	" "
Mrs. S. D. Higgins,	" "
Mrs. M. M. Dodd	" "
Mrs. E. B. Williams,	" "
Mrs. Harriet Sage,	" "
Mrs. E. C. Duley,	" "
Mrs. Mary Granger,	" "
Mrs. Harriet Wade,	Darnestville, Md.
Mrs. E. Braddock,	Baltimore, Md.
Maj. A. W. Russell,	U. S. N. Pilla.
Zadok Talbert,	Md. Agric'l College.
B. C. Coit,	Dawsonville, Md.
W. H. Vinson,	" "
J. W. Darby,	Barnesville, Md.
Ursula Clagett,	Offutt's Cross Roads, Md.
C. A. C. Higgins,	Brookeville, Md.
Wm. Huddleston,	Tennallytown, D. C.
Henry Renshaw,	" "
Capt. John T. Pistenall,	Poolesville, Md.
Wm. T. Jones,	" "
Joseph White,	" "
J. M. Kilgour,	Leesburg, Va.
J. T. Vinson,	Washington, D. C.

Address, COOKE D. LUCKETT,
sept 20—tf Principal.
THE 23d ANNUAL SESSION OF ROCKVILLE ACADEMY, WILL begin the 1st Monday in September, 1872. Students who intend to matriculate are urged to present themselves at the commencement of the session, as the classes are then formed and those who come later must expect to accommodate themselves thereto.
Terms same as heretofore.
J. D. ABRAHAMS,
aug 2—tf Principal.

Poetical.

ONLY.
It was only a little flower,
That he gave to me one night—
Only a flower—but O, how fast
My heart beat with delight!
It was only a little flower,
A blossom so sweet and fair,
That on that morn—my bridal morn,
Adorned my dark brown hair.
It was only a mourner's tear,
That fell on the upturned sod,
When a little flower, a pure white flower,
Went home to dwell with God.
It is only a little flower,
That, alone, doth kneel to weep,
When night dews fall, and stars guard all—
All in their silent sleep.

Selected Miscellany.

CAUGHT IN A CHRISTMAS TRAP.
"Yes," said Hugh Witherill, in a decided sort of style, essentially his own, "I've made up my mind to refuse all such invitations. If I spend Christmas anywhere, it will be with Aunt Ellen, on the farm."
"Well," growled his father, the gentleman addressed, "all I can say is, that you're a fool. There's Mrs. Avery has invited you to spend the day with them; and, let me tell you, if you think anything of her daughter Maud, you'd better be working pretty lively. She's not a girl to drop into anybody's hand, and John Marvin is following her up close. He'll be there, of course."
"I suppose so," said the other, a little gloomily. "But that makes no difference. If she don't love him, she won't, no matter how constant his attendance; and if she does love him, I can't begin to practice self-denial in the keeping-away line any too soon. At all events, I promised Aunt Ellen, last summer that, if I could get off, I would surely spend Christmas with her, and I mean to keep my word. So here for a regret," and very philosophically he went to the unpleasant task of declining Mrs. Avery's elegantly-worded invitation to her Christmas dinner.
"Decidedly cool," said the lady, the next morning at breakfast, passing it over to the little girl at her right, who who flushed rosily as she read:
Mr. Witherill regrets that a previous engagement will prevent his being with Mrs. Avery on December 25th, as requested.
"I do think," continued the elderly lady, with considerable pique in her delicately-modulated contralto, "that Hugh Witherill has much too good of an opinion of himself. 'Previous engagement,' indeed! Why, Maud, don't you know I asked him in advance of any of the others, so that he could by no possibility have engaged him to any one else? and, even if it is so, he might have broken it off for us—John Marvin would have done it without one moment's hesitation."
Maud's little nose elevated itself perceptibly at this juncture. Evidently Mr. Marvin was no favorite with its dainty mistress. Mrs. Avery noticed the motion, and, with a look of dissatisfaction, proceeded:
"Now, Maud, it is very foolish in you to make faces when I speak of John Marvin. He and Witherill are decidedly the best *partis* of the season. I have rather given the preference to Witherill, his family is the oldest; but Marvin is just as wealthy, and just as good-looking, and, what's more, want you. Witherill, by all signs," with a scornful look at the billet before her, "is anything but interested."
Maud's nose, which had for a time resumed it natural position, went up again, higher than before, and the young lady's face was scarlet as she answered:
"I hate John Marvin, he is so smooth and sleepy; and as for Hugh Witherill, I hate him, too, I wouldn't marry either of them for anything. I wouldn't marry anybody; and I made up my mind last week, just as soon as you mentioned this hateful old Christmas dinner, to have nothing at all to do with it." Mrs. Avery looked at the excited girl in astonishment, then asked:
"May I venture to inquire, what disposition you propose to make of yourself on that day?"
"Oh, yes; I'm going down to that old country seat in Prince George's where that old couple who fell in love with me last summer, live all alone.—Don't you remember? I was visiting the Mortimers, and went over with Carrie one day, and a thunder-storm came up, and we were obliged to stay all night, and I had such a glorious time—it was so lonesome and nice, after all the company I'd been with, that the old couple asked me to stay and visit them and I did. I staid there a week, all by myself, and I never had such a splendid time in my life. They wanted me to promise to spend Christmas with them, and I told them I would, if I possibly could; and I can. Just as well as not—so I'm going. Now, mamma," as the elderly lady was about to speak, "you might just as well let me go; for, if you forbid it, I'll snub that horrible old Marvin so that he'll never come near the house again."
Mrs. Avery knew her daughter thoroughly—knew that when she said a thing she meant it, and it was, probably, owing to this knowledge that the next morning found Miss Maud Avery on the steam-cars, speeding, along toward the rambling old Maryland residence.
I told you I'd come, if I could, and here I am," she said to the pleasant-faced old lady who met her at the door, with a cordial handshake and motherly kiss. "Were you expecting me?"
"Well," said the old lady, leading her guest into the cheerful sitting-room, where a wonderful log-fire blazed and crackled in pleasant rebelliousness, "I was speaking to Hiram about it only this morning, and he thought you wouldn't come. He said you city lassies always had your hands full about this time of the year, and it wasn't likely a young girl like you would want to run off from the fun and frolic, just to see an old couple. But I'm really glad you've come; and won't be so lonesome, either, for my nephew's coming either to-night or to-morrow morning, and he will be company for you. I think you will like him."
Maud began to wish she had staid at home! Mr. Seymour and his wife she really liked, but their nephew's acquaintance she had no desire to cultivate. But her dissatisfaction soon vanished, under the influence of the pleasant December sunshine, and the strange quiet and peacefulness, which was part and parcel of this southern homestead.
The nephew was not forthcoming that evening, and Maud noted his non-appearance with a sigh of relief.
"One evening without strangers," she murmured, in satisfaction. "And that is considerably better than none at all;" and so, at Uncle Hiram's" (as she had been desired to call him) request she seated herself at the old piano, and sang for hours the simple airs which the old gentleman selected. "Bonnie Doon," and "Old Hundred," "Mocking Bird" and "Lennox," followed each other in quick succession, and she was just in the midst of "Dixie's Land!" when in burst Aunt Ellen, all of a glow with excitement and exercise.
"What's the matter, wife?" asked the old gentleman, breaking off from "I'll take my stand," with a suddenness which caused Maud instinctively to follow his example. "Anything wrong?"
"Oh, dear! yes," said the old lady, energetically removing her wrappings. "Sallie Brown's sick, and she can't come to help me to-morrow in the baking, and there's nobody else in the neighborhood I can get, and what on earth shall I do? I can get along well enough in the regular Christmas dinner; but Sallie's pair of hands cannot be dispensed with in the baking;" and the poor woman very disconsolately gathered up her wrappings, and rose from her chair.
"Mercy, Aunt Ellen!" said Maud, cheerfully, "don't worry about that! I don't believe I'm as good a cook as Sallie Brown, but I was going to ask you anyway, to let me help you to-morrow. Mother laughs at me, because I like the kitchen, and bribe our cook to let me make a cake or pie once in a while, but I tell her I was born with a knack for it, and ought to put it to some account; but I don't get much chance at home, and I'll be perfectly delighted if you'll play I am Sallie to-morrow."
To this arrangement the old lady made few objections, and the next morning found Maud duly installed assistant cook in the house of Seymour. Mrs. Avery would have wrung her hands in holy horror at the picture present by her lovely daughter on that eventful day. Her soft quilted merino wrapper Aunt Ellen immediately vetoed as too nice for the "mussy" work on hand, and for lack of anything else, brought forth one of her own dark calicoes. Three of tiny Maud Avery could have occupied it comfortably, but, by dint of a pin here, a loop there, and a loop there, and a general taking-in all over, she at last declared it able to "stay on." This was then enveloped and covered by a voluminous white bib apron, which, although serving to hide sundry plaits, etc., did not take from the general dumpiness; her abundant wavy brown hair, concerning whose reality there had been standing dispute ever since her *debut*, was tightly coiled round about her dainty little head, and, altogether, Uncle Hiram's criticism was just.
"You don't look so citified; but according to my way of thinking, you are greatly improved."
Aunt Ellen was busy in an animated lecture on puddings and pies, a box of ginger in one hand and a box of cinnamon in another, when her liege lord hurried in with the information that Hugh was coming up the road. Both boxes were dropped in a jiffy, and with a hurried, "Now, child, don't forget! only half of the pudding is to be seasoned with ginger, because some don't like it, and some do," she rushed to the front door.
Maud was vexed with herself, for at the mere name of Hugh, the hot blood rushed to her face in torrents.
"What a goose you are, Maud Avery!" she murmured, scornfully, closing the door between the kitchen and the pantry next to the sitting-room; the while, "What's Hugh Witherill to you, any more than any other man, that a chance name should set you to thinking of him, and make you blush like a school girl? Bah! I'm ashamed of you!" and very deliberately she proceeded to the measuring of her different spices, but the sound of a deep voice in the sitting room upset all her composure. The box of ginger dropped into the pan of undivided pudding; the cinnamon followed suit, and, in a tremor of embarrassment, the self-constituted kitchen-maid sought in desperation for some way of escape. At that moment she would have gone straight back to Baltimore City without changing her dress; but it could not be done. She could not get out to the new station on our new Railroad without being seen from the adjoining apartment; nor could she get up-stairs without passing through it. She was literally cornered.
"Yes," came from the next room in that familiar voice, "I'm here, Aunt Ellen, and you ought to feel considerably flattered, for, I tell you, I was sorely tempted to remain in the city."
"Hum!" said Uncle Hiram, reflectively. "I hope you are not matrimonially embarrassed."
The other laughed—a hearty, magnetic laugh, it was.
"Why, Uncle Hiram, when I was here before, you would be satisfied because I hadn't such an arrangement. You talked matrimony from morning until night. What has changed you?"
"Oh!" said the old gentleman, lowering his voice to an appalling whisper, plainly perceptible to the blushing listener, "I'm of the same mind now, but I don't want you to take up with any body, and we've got the nicest little woman here visiting"—
"Oh!" interrupted the other. "So you propose turning matchmaker; but it's no use, Uncle Hiram. I haven't exactly a sweetheart; but I know a young lady whom I should like very much to see in that role, and if I cannot get her, I won't have anybody."
"Who can she be?" wondered poor half-conscious Maud, while the old farmer sighed his disappointment, and then asked, with some interest: "Is she a city girl?"
"Oh, yes!" returned the other. But don't let that prejudice you against her, Uncle Hiram. She's not a bit vain or affected, and I want you to be real good friends if—pshaw! I'm talking at random. My partner, John Marvin—your's seen him, uncle—is following her up at a great rate, and if he don't marry her, it will be the first time he ever tried for anything and did'nt succeed; so, you see there's no good cause for worry;" and with half a smile, half a sigh, the handsome fellow walked to the window, and looked out.
"Gracious!" said Aunt Ellen, "something's burning. I bet Maud there has forgotten the pies I left in the oven;" and open flew the door between the two rooms, and, all of a flurry, the old lady approached the corner where poor, happy, embarrassed Maud had shrunk away out of sight.
"Why, what's the matter, child?" said she, with a curious look at the scarlet, quivering face. "Come into the sitting-room, and be introduced to my nephew." Then, as the young girl hesitated; "Child! you needn't care for what you've got on. You look prettier than when you're *en grand toilette*," but as she still held aloof, the old lady hit on another tack. "Hush! Hugh," she called, "come out here." And Hugh came. "I want to make you acquainted with ——" and here she stopped in amazement; for, without waiting further words, Hugh had approached her visitor, and taken both hands, with—"Miss Maud Avery! what are you doing here?"
"Cooking," was the reply, for the young lady's composure had somewhat returned.
"I should think so!" said he, with a very comical look at the burnt pies, Aunt Ellen, with many a sigh, was having removed from the oven. "But what in the world brought you down here?"
He was still holding her hands, while the old couple looked on delighted. She pulled them away, and said, in considerable confusion:
"I didn't know you were the nephew."
He gave her one bright, flashing look, and then turned away; but in that glance both felt themselves understood. Later in the afternoon, with the cooking done, and everything in readiness for the morrow, as Maud stood by the window, thinking on the strange fate which had brought them together down there, he approached.
"Miss Maud, I felt terribly at having to decline your mother's invitation; but I should have felt worse if I had accepted, and you been absent. But how came Mrs. Avery to consent to your absence at such a time?"
This was a delicate subject for poor Maud, and she stammered very confusedly, as she replied:
"Well—you know—well, I didn't want to see the tiresome pokes, and I told mamma I'd snub them all if she made me stay."
"Pleasant prospect for me if I'd gone. Very complimentary as it is," said he, gravely, although if she had looked up, she would have seen a light in his eyes which contradicted the soberness of his speech.
"Oh! but," she began, anxious to exonerate herself, "you know you were not to be there."
"Ah!" with perfect seriousness. "So you didn't decide on this visit until the reception of my regret—is that it?"
Maud felt herself entrapped, and the rosebud mouth quivered suspiciously as, drawing her close to his heart, he whispered:
"Little girl, you are caught; that was what I've been trying all day to discover."

"Come where my love lies dreaming" and see how she looks without any paint on her face.
The man who carried out his moral principles forgot to bring them back.
Ban him with your books, has superseded the phrase, "Put a head on him."
"Never put off until to-morrow what you can do to-day, dear Tommy," said mamma. "Then let's finish the plum-pudding to-night," said the sweet child.