Maryland Journal

TOWSON, MD.

Saturday, January 12, 1889.

BEARING FRUIT.

The non-realization of the profuse promises made by the landowners and real estate dealers to the citizens of "the Belt," previous to the Annexation election, is bearing fruit much sooner than we had at first believed.—The aforesaid citizens were honied over by all kinds of specious promises, but few of which the aforesaid real estate dealers and landowners really believe would be realized, at least within a quarter of a century. It costs money to open and pave streets; to furnish gas, electric, or oven gasoline lamps; chemical engines, (for none other are practical); to lay down water mains and furnish water that is now low in quantity; to furnish even fifty policemen; to establish and keep open public schools. All these desirable things can be had, *but they must be paid for*. Where is the money to come from? Out of the city treasury, to be sure. The citizens of "the Belt" were hoodwinked, made to believe that as soon as Annexation was accomplished, all the above great benefits would be realized. Now that they see that they are as far off as before Annexation, and still receding, they commence to complain. This they ought not to do, because they had their eyes open.—The JOURNAL completely exposed all the hollow promises then made, and showed that some of them would not be realized within less than a quarter of a century. To this latter we may easily enumerate water and gas. It costs hundreds and thousands, yea, millions of dollars, to lay water mains, even through a compactly built portion of the city, and nearly as costly through an open country. And what would be the use of laying them where there are no houses? The same can be said of gas mains. It is true the city could furnish the police. But is she doing it beyond the fifty authorized by the last Legislature? included in which is the thirty formerly employed as county police?

In elucidation of what we have said above we give herewith the colloquy which took place at the meeting of the Baltimore City School Board on the 8th inst. The whole thing is suggestive of what is to come for the future. The duped citizens of "the Belt" will find that they will not get more than 60 cents benefit out of a tax levy of $1.90, and soon to be from $2 to $2.25 per $100. Added to this will be the absolute certainty that the 19th Section of the Annexation Act, (the 60 cent taxation section), will be repealed, (we believe at the next session of the Legislature). There is not the shadow of a doubt of its unconstitutionality—for one person cannot be legally taxed one rate and another a different rate under the same system and authority. The following are the proceedings of the School Board alluded to:

Last evening, at the meeting of the School Board, Mr. C. J. King, Chairman of the Committee on Expenditures, to whom had been referred a resolution offered by Mr. Monroe, of the Twenty-second ward, that the teachers in the Annex schools received the same pay as those in the old city schools, submitted a resolution to the effect that the salaries of all public school teachers in the Annex continue as at present until September 1st, and from that date the salaries be the same as in other city schools. The resolutions recommended that the Committee on Conference urge the Council to adopt a resolution to that effect.

Mr. Monroe said that if it was right to increase the salaries in September, it was right to do so now, and he could not see why the equalization of salaries should be delayed.

Commissioner Alcous Hooper, of the Twenty-first Ward, stated that he was disappointed in the report. When the matter was discussed on the hustings, he said: "It was stated that the Belt schools were not as good as the city schools, and we were assured not only by the Mayor, but by all others interested in annexation, that the schools would be brought to a level with the city schools in every respect. We were countrymen, and, perhaps, we believed too easily. But what is said to us now? You pay only 60 cents taxes on the $100, and you must wait for the benefits promised. We hear now nothing but flattery and commendation of the excellence of our schools, and when the city is asked to make good its promises, it says no, but gives no reason for its decision. The citizens of the two annexed wards will consider it an insult that their schools should be placed on a different plane from the other schools. The principals of the Annex schools have the work of about four principals, and they are asked to do more work and for less pay. You have established School No. 13 in the Annex, and give the principal a larger salary than those in the old Annex schools.—The change in the salaries should be made at once."

Mr. Fenton offered a substitute, that the City Council be requested to equalize the salaries of the teachers in the Annex with those in the other city schools.

Mr. Wentz asked why should those teachers who have taught so long for a certain sum be suddenly paid an increase? "Is it a game to get the money out of the city treasury, and make the city pay for annexation? Has it not cost enough already? If it is so cruel to pay them the salaries now, why was it not a cruel proceeding to do the same thing before annexation? I led the discussion for annexation much against my will. I was spokesman for annexation in the legislature, and I never made such promises as alluded to." Mr. Wentz said that no one else in the board had made promises. Mr. Fenton stated that Mayor Latrobe had been on the hustings.

Mayor Latrobe said: "All that I said on the hustings was that the schools in the county were not absolutely free schools, and I said that after annexation they would become free schools."

Captain Fenton argued that the Annex was now a part of Baltimore, and their children should receive the same advantages of education as the children attending other city schools. If the Annex schools are conducted on the same plan as a city school and the teachers have the same duties to perform, they should receive the same pay.

Mr. Foley, who had charge of the Annex schools for a time, said that the teachers are entitled to more pay, and had the schools remained in the county they would have received larger salaries than at present.

Mr. Monroe said that the citizens of the Annex have as much interest in the welfare of the city as any other citizens. He could not see why an imaginary line should regulate the salaries.

Mr. Bear—Does not an imaginary line make difference in the taxes?

Mr. Monroe—We don't like to hear this talk about the tax rate; and it has the same effect on us as a red flag has on a bull. We do not like to be told that we shall receive benefits in the proportion of the $1.90 to 60 cents. You must remember that there are owners of farms which were free from debt, and, after annexation a debt of over thirty-five million dollars was placed on the property.

A vote on Captain Fenton's substitute, that that the Council be requested the change the salaries at once, was taken, and lost by a vote of 11 to 8. The ayes were Messrs. Burk, Fusselbaugh, Foley, Sheehan, Mitchell, Fenton, Hooper and Moore; nays—President Morris, Williams, Felber, Wentz, Barnes, McAfee, Baer, Baker, Durding, Sharrette and King. The Mayor asked to be excused from voting, as the matter might come before him officially.

A resolution was adopted that the salary of A. Herring, of Annexation School No. 12 be fixed at $985, and that of Fred Schroeck at $550 per year, to date from September, 1888, the same as before annexation. These salaries had been reduced after annexation.

Upon this subject the *American* says:

"The Annexation is beginning to make itself heard, and is demanding what it believes to be its dues, Intimations are being made through its representatives that the city is not fulfiling its promises as promptly as it thinks it has the right to expect."

As the music has commenced we may expect to hear more of it. The notes will swell in size and frequency.

One thing is certain, the citizens of "the Belt" have been duped. As they have made their bed so must they lie. The county authorities have been duped also. The Annexation Act stipulates that the County Commissioners were to receive what was due for our property in 90 days from the election; and here it is eight months and no money yet. Mayor Latrobe was exceedingly anxious to get control of our property and literally, as it were, "rushed in where angels fear to tread," and took possession of our property in a great hurry, as though he feared he was not going to get it.—As to taking possession of our property, and paying for it, he is like the man who married in a hurry and repented at leisure.

SUNK OFF STEELTON.

The Atlantic Transport Line steamer Montana, Captain W. H. Williams, was sunk on Saturday afternoon, 5th inst., in the bay below Steelton by the North German Lloyd steamer Main, Captain Moller. The Montana is lying in twenty-seven feet of water, with her upper deck aft of the bridge under water. The steamer Main, after having struck the Montana, backed off and dropped anchor, and remained alongside all night.

The story of the collision, told to an *American* representative by Captain Williams, is as follows:

"The Montana, with a general cargo and 214 head of cattle, left her pier, at Locust Point, in the morning at 8.30 o'clock. The weather was very thick, and we anchored at quarantine. The fog lifted about twelve o'clock, and we steamed out into the bay. When off Steelton, some of the machinery got hot and after running down almost as far as the head of the new cut-off channel, we dropped anchor.—The weather again became thick, and I concluded to remain there until it lifted. It was about 1.30, when all hands but the third officer, who was on the bridge, were at dinner, when some one—the steward, I think—shouted down the companion-way that a ship was coming at us at full speed. Pilot Shinnick and my chief engineer, R. M. Young, and myself ran out to the middle of the ship. We had hardly got there when a big steamer which I afterwards found to be the Main, crashed into us just abreast of the fourth hold on the starboard side at full speed. All was confusion on our boat, the men shouting and between them all there was a fearful pandemonium.

Eighty-seven cattle were drowned by the accident. No lives were lost.

William. H. Williams, master of the Montana, on behalf of the owners of that vessel and of the owners of the cargo, by John H. Thomas, attorney filed a libel in the United States Court against the steamship Main, claiming $300,000 damages on account of the sinking of the Montana by the Main, and $150,000 damages to the cargo of the Montana. This would make $450,000. The vessel will not sell for more than $200,000.

RAILROAD NEWS.

The *Sun* of the 8th says:

"The Baltimore and Drum Point Railroad Company has issued a pamphlet giving its prospectus, together with a copy of the charter and the laws relating to the company, and also other matters connected with the enterprise. The prospectus says the authorized capital stock is $1,500,000, for which the total subscriptions are $627,000, and $873,000 remain to be subscribed for. The $627,000 subscribed is made up as follows: By Anne Arundel county, $200,000; Calvert county, $100,000; State of Maryland, $152,000; estimated private subscriptions, $100,000; land subscriptions $75,000. To aid the completion and equipment of the railroad, the prospectus says, the company has prepared for issue 1,500 bonds of $1,000 each, bearing six per cent. interest, to run for forty years. This $1,500,000 of bonds is to be secured by a mortgage upon the property, with the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company as trustee. A call has been made upon the individual subscribers to the stock for the payment of an assessment.

SUSQUEHANNAH AND DEER CREEK RAILROAD.

The directors of the Susquehannah and Deer Creek Railroad Company met in Bel Air on Tuesday 8th inst. Mr. John Moore was elected Chairman and Mr. Harlan secretary. A mortgage to secure the issue of bonds was read and approved. Mr. Van Bibber moved that the report of the board of directors be accepted and its actions approved.—This was passed unanimously. The board of directors report that they have procured the services of a competent corps of engineers, have had the line from Bel Air to Stafford surveyed and the route located thereon, and have procured the right of way complete from a connection with the Maryland Central Railroad in Bel Air to the Susquehannah river at Stafford. Their chief engineer, Mr. R. E. Cutter, has prepared a map of the line thus located, which is presented for the examination of the stockholders. The board of directors further report that all of the railroad has been put under contract to Mr. John Henry Miller, of Pittsburg; that the western division of the road will run from the Maryland Central, at Bel Air, to the bridge at Deer Creek, and that he will construct and complete it for traffic by October 1st, 1889. The number of shares voted was 317, all of which were cast for the following:—George M. Jewett, D. C. Wharton Smith, S. A. Williams, George E. Silver, W. Beatty Harlan, Benjamin Silver, Jr., Johns H. Janney.

A TERRIBLE TORNADO IN PENNSYLVANIA.

40 Lives Lost at Reading and 10 at Pittsburg.

On Wednesday afternoon, 9th inst., a terrific tornado swept over Reading, Pa., entailing widespread disaster and ruin in that place. To the west of the city barns were unroofed, farm outbuildings were blown over, crops rooted up and things destroyed in every direction. The storm came from the west and only took in a very narrow strip of country. It took off portions of roofs of houses as if they had been chopped off with an axe. A passenger car on the Reading Railroad was upset and shivered to splinters. The Company's shops were struck and a fire ensued, and they were soon reduced to ashes. Four men were burned in the debris. It is estimated that the storm traveled at a velocity of more than a hundred miles an hour. It struck the Reading silk mill, where 275 girls were employed, and demolished it, and fully 200 people were covered in the ruins. It is thought 35 to 40 of the people are maimed and killed. There is much sorrow in many homes in and about Reading, and it will be several days before full accounts of the terrible effect of the cyclone can be gathered.

BALTIMORE'S FLOATING DEBT.

The floating indebtedness of Baltimore city for 1888 is $407,000. The tax collections did not reach what was expected, which shows that the volume of business was not as large as formerly, so that the generality of taxpayers were not able to pay their taxes. The most positive barometer in the business world is the failure to pay taxes promptly. Baltimore city is not the only place where taxes come in slowly, it is so throughout the State, as well as in the country. A portion of the city's floating indebtedness is $132,343 which has been paid to operate the Belt for seven months. As soon as Mayor Latrobe settles with Treasurer Morgan as to the amount he is to receive for collecting taxes in the Belt, Mr. Morgan can help the city treasury a few thousands.

Bart. E. Smith, Street Commissioner, has asked for $17,000 for the 21st and the 22d Wards. This will be but a drop in the bucket as far as any paving of streets in the Belt is concerned. It will fix them up about as the county was formerly able to do.

BALTIMORE'S NEXT POSTMASTER.—Among the Republican gentlemen named for Postmaster at Baltimore, under the incoming administration, is Mr. W. W. Johnson, President of the Young Men's Republican Club. Gen. Frank Brown would no doubt be perfectly willing to surrender to so excellent a gentleman as Mr. Johnson. We hope the new Post Office building may be soon finished so that Gen. Brown may be able to welcome the new Postmaster in the new building.

Dr. Geo. W. Bishop, United State Treasurer at Baltimore, is trying to get back the $1,243 stolen silver from his vaults about two years since. It will have to be done by a bill which must pass both houses. It is only justice to the Dr. that he should get his money back, but there are so many larger, and oftener unworthy things, crowding up in a short session, that if the bills successfully runs the gauntlet it will be indeed fortunate.

Among the persons who propose to visit Washington on the 4th of March next upon the occasion of the inauguration of Benjamin Harrison, is a portion of a drum corps at Yorkshire, N. Y., who beat drums in 1840. These patriotic old boys, however, want free passes and their expenses paid. They have applied to the Inauguration Committee in Washington for the necessary adjuncts, and they will no doubt get them.

[Correspondence of the MARYLAND JOURNAL.]

OUR BALTIMORE LETTER.

"Vidocq" at Sea—Qualifications of Voters—Snares and Delusions—The Intellectual Panacea—The Political Schoolmaster's Vocation—Trust-Worthy Murderers—Eyes Which See Not—An Unorthodox Truth—A Dangerous Experiment—A Noble Expiration—In Memoriam.

BALTIMORE, January 11th, 1889.

Before taking leave of the political questions which have been exercising the JOURNAL'S correspondents for some time past, there are a few words to be said to the frank and emphatic "Vidocq," concerning certain of his ideas and statements. He is so just and reasonable in the most of his remarks, that it is all the more noticeable for him to be so widely at sea as he is, with regard to several points.

For instance, he does not advocate the property qualification for the right of suffrage, because that would make the owning of property the "only" evidence of intelligence and virtue. Whereas, the possession of property is no evidence whatever of either intelligence or virtue on the part of the possessor. It may be an evidence of shrewdness and cunning; but even idiots can inherit wealth, and often do; while the acquisition of property, in these degenerate days, is oftener an evidence of rascally dishonesty than of any other "virtue" whatsoever. There is no "only" at all about this business, unfortunately. Besides; in discussing this question, everybody seems to lose sight of the fact that some of the very wisest and best of men have been as poor as church mice. The greatest students, and the most pious of souls, are just the people who care the least for money. The property test would probably disqualify our Lord himself and the most of His disciples, if they were back in this world under their former conditions. Property is not only, not "the only" test in this matter, but it is not any test at all as to a fitness for voting.

Then "Vidocq" very calmly says: "Let the qualifications be of a moral and intellectual kind." Which is simple and easy enough to say; but very amusing to think about; and withal would be quite impossible of accomplishment. For how is any moral qualification to be tested, please? As any one who has ever tried to run a church can testify, there is no way of making sure of a man's morality. In fact, he cannot be at all sure himself of the amount of morality which he possesses. Look how many Sunday School teachers, and class-leaders, and even preachers, who are so overflowingly full of that commodity that they are obliged to impart some of it to others, we yet hear of every year being obliged to decamp to Canada, or go to Europe, or abscond in some direction. And furthermore, as in the receiving of church-members we are obliged to depend in the main upon the man's own testimony concerning himself; so would the man be required to swear to his own goodness to obtain his political privileges, when, of course, as every one knows, the worse he was the more unscrupulous he would be about swearing falsely as to the amount of morality in his possession.

While, to cap the climax, as the man who had just been to church and confessed that he was a "miserable sinner," with "no health in him;" or the good Methodist brother who had just been to class-meeting bewailing his original sin, and the superabundance of old Adam in his constitution, could not consistently go to the polls and swear to a different story, why of course it would only be the hypocrites and unscrupulous villains who could testify to their own goodness; and so it would come about that only the immoral classes would be allowed to vote. People ought to consider these things before they undertake to advocate morality qualifications for voters; but as a matter of fact they do not, and hence fall into all sorts of snares and delusions.

But still more delusive than the morality matter, if that be possible, is the "intellectual kind" of qualification suggested. It is utterly amazing that people can be so fatuously blind as to accept this intellectual business as the panacea for all the evils that afflict our race. So, to hear people talk of suggesting and adopting practical methods for testing a man's intellectual qualifications for voting; and actually proposing to have the school-master at the polls, to set up his classes and "ascertain whether a voter could read the English language with intelligence," making that performance the basis of the right to vote, makes one feel as though one had been attending a literary symposium at a lunatic asylum. Just think what fun there would be at any such intellectual examination of all our ward bummers! It would be better than a circus! A regular school examination is often a very ludicrous affair, but it could not compare in amusement with such a funny show as this, whose indescribable humorousness must be left to the imagination's powers.

But this proposition is also manifestly unjust. There are thousands of our citizens, more especially in the west, who are intelligent enough, and yet can read only in their German mother-tongue, or some other foreign language. Indeed, not many years ago there were plenty of good people in one of our next door States, yes, even in Baltimore county, who knew no other language than the Pennsylvania Dutch. Would it be right to disfranchise all these worthy people because they could not write successfully with the intricacies of English? A test of this sort would not even draw the line between the intelligent and the ignorant classes.

And there are several other points to be considered. In conducting such examinations, for example, the judges themselves would be so different in capacity that the same standard of proficiency could not be every where maintained. If these gentlemen happened to be persons who really know exactly when "the English language is read with intelligence," there are not very many ordinary readers who could pass the bar of their criticism. There are numerous preachers, in fact, who read English in a most atrocious manner. It is excruciating to listen to them; and yet no doubt some of them would be able to vote in a very intelligent manner. It would be quite safe to trust them with a vote even though they murder the King's-Queen's-or President's-English, in an utterly barbarous manner.

And, on the other hand, if these judges were extreme in the opposite direction of leniency, what hosts of dolts and idiots would slip in upon the registration books! While, of course, we could not expect any more honesty among the politicians in this matter than in any other; and we may be sure that somebody's money would be as potent here as anywhere else in the political struggle. Though even if this business were fairly conducted, the art of reading has become so generally acquired, in some sort, that most of the low down, vicious elements of our population, regardless of complexion, could pass such a reading test as our authorities would be likely to impose. So that any such laws or statutes for this case made and provided would yet be ineffectual in "excluding from the ballot-box such thousands of disreputable voters as some persons imagine it would." And besides and beyond all the rest of it, he must be of a very sanguine temperament, and a very hopeful disposition, who imagines for one moment that the politicians are going to permit the accomplishment of any scheme that will abridge their powers. It is very strange that people cannot see, and understand and realize, that the politicians really have things in their own hands, and that nobody knows how to get the power away from them. Why cannot people comprehend this stubborn fact?

Only one point more. The gentleman so often quoted makes the remarkable statement that: "Intelligence and morality go hand in hand." Which is not remarkable, of course, in the sense of being a new and unheard-of assertion, for a great many persons hold similar opinions, but it certainly is very remarkable that anybody can fail to see the fallacy of such a conclusion. We hear this doctrine preached on every side, interminably. But really, intelligence and morality have no necessary connection whatever. If we had our eyes only half way opened we could see illustrations enough of this fact. Does not everybody know that the highest intelligence is quite compatible with the greatest immorality? Was not Byron intelligent, for instance? But it is not necessary to adduce instances: everybody who will use his eyesight can find cases enough of intelligent people who are addicted to all sorts of vices. It is amazing that people overlook this truth that is ever before their faces.

But because most good people try to become intelligent, the notion prevails that intelligence produces virtue, or that the two things are almost synonymous; whereas, they are really by no means identical. Intelligence and power, are identical, however; and perhaps this is where the mistake arises. Knowledge widens one's horizon, and increases one's capacities, it is true. But to give a man power, and to produce in him the disposition to use his capacities in proper directions, are two distinct and very different things. Hence, though it may sound exceedingly unorthodox to say so, if the vicious classes cannot in some way or manner have instilled into them the desire to do right, the less education you give them, the better it will be for those who are obliged to live with them.

It is taking us a long time to learn that education does not put the element of goodness into human hearts. But a bitter experience will teach the world something on this subject some day. Knowledge is power; and the more power you give to those bent upon making a bad use of it the more potent you make their influence, and the wider the sphere in which they can work for evil. We are making a dangerous experiment with our general-education theories. Perhaps the fates require us to make it. But somebody will witness some unexpected results by and by. It requires no prophetic powers to foresee the collapse of many of our pet theories at no very distant day. At this present moment we are on the very verge of some unpleasant disillusions.

In the meantime it is very touching to witness the whole-souled, pathetic efforts of the good women of our own and other lands, to effect the betterment of the world's condition. It seems that women are just awaking to the realization of the fact that as woman plunged the human race into its present state of misery, it is their bounden duty to devote themselves to the task of trying to extricate us from our woful plight. At any rate they are working, manfully, to rescue what is left from the wreck of perishing humanity, and to do whatever now lies within their power towards making some expiation of their great fore-mother's mistake.

We have a band of them in this city working nobly in behalf of all sorts of wretchedness, with twenty or more branches of endeavor, reaching out in as many directions. For some time they have had in their hearts and heads a project for building a thirty thousand dollar structure in which to carry on their labors of love. To this end they held a Bazar this fall, from which they made over four thousand dollars, thereby raising their fund in hand to about half the sum needed. Their Hall is to be a memorial to the late lovely Mrs. James Carey Thomas, who was so long their beloved President. As this lady had many warm friends in the county, it may be of interest to them to know that a dainty little volume has been published as a memorial of her. It is beautifully bound in white and dove grey, with gold lettering and a golden palm-branch as its only ornaments. It is to be had of the W. C. T. U., or at the Baltimore street headquarters.

CHELYS.

[Correspondence of the Maryland Journal.]

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, January 7th, 1889.

Senator Reagan, when asked about the rumors of opposition to the re-election of Senator Coke, laughed good-naturedly and said: "It's all bosh, Coke will be unanimously re-elected. Texans always know when they have a good thing."

Senator Cullom raised quite a laugh at the expense of Senator, or, as he is often called here "Granny" Blair, Saturday, when he presented to the Senate resolutions adopted by the Columbia Turnvereln, of Lake, Illinois. The resolutions after reciting their opposition to Mr. Blair's bill for compulsory religious instruction in public schools, etc., recommends "that Congress make appropriation sufficient to pay tutors to instruct such Representatives or Senators like Mr. Blair in the rudiments of history and other studies calculated to develop and broaden their minds so that they may no longer disgrace our nation in the eyes of the world by resolutions and bills to which there is no parallel in history, but which remind one forcibly of Spain in the fifteenth century." This is rather rough on Blair and his kind, but as long as they act on the obsolete idea that people can be made good and virtuous by the enactment of laws, they can expect no better.

Senator Brown, of Georgia was in his seat Saturday for the first time this session. His health has improved slightly.

The Republican comet, Blaine, has arrived here. Its arrival has created a great commotion in the political firmament; his satellites, such as Senators Hiscock, Plumb, Chandler, Representatives Phelps, Boutelle and others of that ilk are sailing around with an air of great dignity and taking especial care to keep out of the way of the fiery tail of the comet; they realize that there is great danger to them, should a collision take place. The appearance of a comet in the sky has from time immemorial been considered the certain forerunner of wars and disturbances, and the longer the tail the greater the disturbances or war.—Of course it would only be the hypocrites and unscrupulous villains who could testify to their own goodness; and so it would come about that only the immoral classes would be allowed to vote. People ought to consider these things before they undertake to advocate morality qualifications for voters; but as a matter of fact they do not, and hence fall into all sorts of snares and delusions.

But still more delusive than the morality matter, if that be possible, is the "intellectual kind" of qualification suggested. It is utterly amazing that people can be so fatuously blind as to accept this intellectual business as the panacea for all the evils that afflict our race. So, to hear people talk of suggesting and adopting practical methods for testing a man's intellectual qualifications for voting; and actually proposing to have the school-master at the polls, to set up his classes and "ascertain whether a voter could read the English language with intelligence," making that performance the basis of the right to vote, makes one feel as though one had been attending a literary symposium at a lunatic asylum. Just think what fun there would be at any such intellectual examination of all our ward bummers! It would be better than a circus! A regular school examination is often a very ludicrous affair, but it could not compare in amusement with such a funny show as this, whose indescribable humorousness must be left to the imagination's powers.

But this proposition is also manifestly unjust. There are thousands of our citizens, more especially in the west, who are intelligent enough, and yet can read only in their German mother-tongue, or some other foreign language. Indeed, not many years ago there were plenty of good people in one of our next door States, yes, even in Baltimore county, who knew no other language than the Pennsylvania Dutch. Would it be right to disfranchise all these worthy people because they could not write successfully with the intricacies of English? A test of this sort would not even draw the line between the intelligent and the ignorant classes.

And there are several other points to be considered. In conducting such examinations, for example, the judges themselves would be so different in capacity that the same standard of proficiency could not be every where maintained. If these gentlemen happened to be persons who really know exactly when "the English language is read with intelligence," there are not very many ordinary readers who could pass the bar of their criticism. There are numerous preachers, in fact, who read English in a most atrocious manner. It is excruciating to listen to them; and yet no doubt some of them would be able to vote in a very intelligent manner. It would be quite safe to trust them with a vote even though they murder the King's-Queen's-or President's-English, in an utterly barbarous manner.

And, on the other hand, if these judges were extreme in the opposite direction of leniency, what hosts of dolts and idiots would slip in upon the registration books! While, of course, we could not expect any more honesty among the politicians in this matter than in any other; and we may be sure that somebody's money would be as potent here as anywhere else in the political struggle. Though even if this business were fairly conducted, the art of reading has become so generally acquired, in some sort, that most of the low down, vicious elements of our population, regardless of complexion, could pass such a reading test as our authorities would be likely to impose. So that any such laws or statutes for this case made and provided would yet be ineffectual in "excluding from the ballot-box such thousands of disreputable voters as some persons imagine it would." And besides and beyond all the rest of it, he must be of a very sanguine temperament, and a very hopeful disposition, who imagines for one moment that the politicians are going to permit the accomplishment of any scheme that will abridge their powers. It is very strange that people cannot see, and understand and realize, that the politicians really have things in their own hands, and that nobody knows how to get the power away from them. Why cannot people comprehend this stubborn fact?

Only one point more. The gentleman so often quoted makes the remarkable statement that: "Intelligence and morality go hand in hand." Which is not remarkable, of course, in the sense of being a new and unheard-of assertion, for a great many persons hold similar opinions, but it certainly is very remarkable that anybody can fail to see the fallacy of such a conclusion. We hear this doctrine preached on every side, interminably. But really, intelligence and morality have no necessary connection whatever. If we had our eyes only half way opened we could see illustrations enough of this fact. Does not everybody know that the highest intelligence is quite compatible with the greatest immorality? Was not Byron intelligent, for instance? But it is not necessary to adduce instances: everybody who will use his eyesight can find cases enough of intelligent people who are addicted to all sorts of vices. It is amazing that people overlook this truth that is ever before their faces.

But because most good people try to become intelligent, the notion prevails that intelligence produces virtue, or that the two things are almost synonymous; whereas, they are really by no means identical. Intelligence and power, are identical, however; and perhaps this is where the mistake arises. Knowledge widens one's horizon, and increases one's capacities, it is true. But to give a man power, and to produce in him the disposition to use his capacities in proper directions, are two distinct and very different things. Hence, though it may sound exceedingly unorthodox to say so, if the vicious classes cannot in some way or manner have instilled into them the desire to do right, the less education you give them, the better it will be for those who are obliged to live with them.

It is taking us a long time to learn that education does not put the element of goodness into human hearts. But a bitter experience will teach the world something on this subject some day. Knowledge is power; and the more power you give to those bent upon making a bad use of it the more potent you make their influence, and the wider the sphere in which they can work for evil. We are making a dangerous experiment with our general-education theories. Perhaps the fates require us to make it. But somebody will witness some unexpected results by and by. It requires no prophetic powers to foresee the collapse of many of our pet theories at no very distant day. At this present moment we are on the very verge of some unpleasant disillusions.

In the meantime it is very touching to witness the whole-souled, pathetic efforts of the good women of our own and other lands, to effect the betterment of the world's condition. It seems that women are just awaking to the realization of the fact that as woman plunged the human race into its present state of misery, it is their bounden duty to devote themselves

[Correspondence of the Maryland Journal.]

AS TO PUBLIC ROADS AND OTHER COUNTY AFFAIRS.

PIKESVILLE, Jan. 5th, 1889.

Dear JOURNAL:—We feel assured you have had a merry Xmas and a happy New Year, and hope that many more of happy years may be added to the already handsome sum, and that your columns may continue to be as newsy and interesting in the future as they have been in the past. This is a progressive age, and how rapidly we do move along, the days weeks and months all seem to pass much more rapidly than they used to. Have you heard of the good things the Belters are enjoying since their descent into the city, and during the holidays? The engines on various railroads are not allowed to warn travelers of approaching danger by blowing their whistles at the crossings within the city limits, consequently there has been some loss of property and must be danger of loss of life to humanity. Neither are they allowed to purchase a load of hay, corn or straw, unless weighed within the city limits, so they are compelled to pay extra for hauling down to the old scales and back to place of delivery without profit to the seller. Taxes are not to be increased until 1900, but any newly-created property is assessed at city rates; but, the best of all, the blooms are not allowed to enjoy a fast ride on the avenues within the limits, as they could before their descent, without danger of arrest, although some of them have, I understand, contributed in the past to the improvement of their avenues. It has been said that the pen is mightier than the sword; we do not deny it. To-day, January 5th, the mightiest thing around Pikesville is a female blizzard, ruling, as the sex generally rules, with a rod of heavy showers, much to the damage of our roads. While these things cannot well be prevented, it is a consolation to know that this is only the first time we have been wet and not got dry. Although singular, nevertheless it is true, that when farmers have any business to transact, an agricultural meeting to address, a ditch to dig, a road to make or improve, as a rule they call upon some member of the legal fraternity to tell them what to do, how they shall proceed, how to grow corn, wheat or potatoes, where the ditch should be dug or the road located, or how improved. In the nature of officers they call upon him for advice and vote as the boss politician says as to who shall represent us in our Legislature as law-makers, or fill our Commissioners' chairs as managers of our county affairs, that the farmers could be bettered.

Once in a while some gritty gentlemen—bankers or merchants—purchase property in our midst with a view to development and money-making, and call upon and obtain assistance from our Commissioners to make valuable their private property. Within a few years past three respectable gentlemen of this class have purchased property largely in the 4th District with the same speculative object in view. When everything, as they thought, was cooked and primed, they very suddenly made the very valuable discovery (which our long-headed forefathers had failed to do) that the public convenience stood very much in need of the opening of another road from Worthington's Valley to the Reisterstown Turnpike, at Mr. Benj. F. Groff's Mill. They started out with a petition, and succeeded in pulling the wool over the eyes of a few tax-payers of the 4th District by securing their signatures, among which were two very careful, modest, retired and reliable gentlemen,—farmers of the Valley,—who sometimes use strong and hot coffee as a beverage and a little profane Scripture as a ventilator. Said petition represented to the Honorable the Commissioners of Baltimore County that the public convenience required the opening of the above-referred to road, naming particularly the route to pass through, twisting and bending to suit, to make more valuable the speculative property of these retired gentlemen, not farmers, and who had not yet been in the neighborhood long enough to be well informed to know what the public did require, if anything. But these gentlemen have not, as yet, been so successful, as gentlemen some time have, a counter-petition, signed by many old resident-farmers and tax-payers, protesting against the opening of the road as petitioned for upon the very simple and truthful grounds that the public convenience does not require it. Worthington's Valley already has two roads, and much of them paved, running north and south, and one running east and west, through the entire Valley, touching, bordering on, or running through every farm on it, and around it, much to the convenience of all who could wish to go or come, and are as good as country roads generally are, which, with their tributaries, lead to churches, schools, mills, stores, shops, post offices and railroad station, all near and to Baltimore by either the York Pike, the Falls Road Pike or the Reisterstown Turnpike, and have always been and do yet prove road enough, and more than can well be kept in order. The consequence will be that in a few days these retired farmers and merchants, with the old resident-farmers and tax-payers, born and raised there and hereabouts, will meet in the Commissioners' Office at Towson and pay some member of the legal fraternity to help decide for and tell them what they shall do about the roads in and from Worthington's Valley. Did you ever see the picture of the two fools pulling at a cow (one at the head and the other at the tail) and the wise man sitting under her with a milk-bucket? If you never have, come on the 10th school day, when the Commissioners, with the aid of the legal fraternity, should not decide satisfactory to all parties, the case will then be appealed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, where a jury of 12 men, made up of farmers, storekeepers, restaurant-keepers, &c., disinterested in the roads or the welfare of the residents of the Valley and who know nothing in the world about the matter only what they are told, will be called upon to decide what the people of Worthington's Valley shall do about roads.—About this time some money will be wanted by the legal fraternity and somebody will have to furnish it. The roads will not be made any better by the proceedings, and it would be a difficult matter to tell who will be benefitted, certainly not under any circumstances will the farmers of the Valley be.

There has been a great deal of this kind of business going on in our county, newcomers dictating what old residents ought to have, and demanding at the point of the law what *they* will have in the way of private property for individual benefit under the affirmation that the public convenience (which carries with it a tremendous weight) requires such road; and we here question very much the constitutionality of our road law that allows one party to enter in and devote to his special benefit the property of another under such unjust and unkind pretense as is always used, destroying in part the property upon which it has been fitted up at some expense to suit the owner, and made more sacred to himself and family as a comfortable home in their old days.

We have lost the "Belt," and we are to-day more of a rural district than ever we were.—We have no lands assessed, and taxed by the foot to help swell our treasury. It is time we should use every economy in the expenditure of our county funds to keep down our taxes and lessen our expenses, and we should be satisfied with the necessities and not want so many luxuries. Speculators should develop their property at their own expense, and not at the expense of their neighbors.

We were much gratified to know there is a disposition with our Commissioners to economize by lopping off some officers where they could be spared and curtailing the salary of others, and we can assure them that it is the wish of all that they continue so to do as far as practical and circumstances will permit.—Especially will they consider well and view with scrutiny every petition for a new road that may be placed before them.

We call the attention of our Commissioners particularly to this matter, because we know they are very frequently imposed upon in their wish to please all. We claim to be a good citizen, and hope we will prove such. We are a large tax-payer, and hope not in arrears. These are progressive times, and we do not propose to be behind, and we are as strong an advocate for good roads as any other man, because we know their value.

There is nothing that makes our country as valuable as good roads, but a surplus of bad roads lessen the value of our lands. No man should be Supervisor of Roads unless he be a large tax-payer and will serve without pay. Then if he did his duty the money would go to the laborer on the road and not to the Supervisor. Our roads would improve and the Supervisor would be well paid for his services by having good roads to travel over.

During the past summer two new roads were granted in the 4th District. One was engineered and located an entire mile through a swamp, where it never will be a good road, (and I challenge successful contradiction,) not at all convenient for the public, and to go to Mr. Dolfield's Station, where there is not a station, nor suitable place to make one. This road could have been placed on high ground without a hill or bit of marih to intersect three other roads, which would have opened up the entire neighborhood and been one of the best things possible for the entire public if engineered right; but, as it is, it is a nuisance. The other road from the Valley to Glyndon Station was engineered and stretched out about three miles through a swamp, when one mile on good ground would have met every want and connected with a well-peaved county road the balance of distance required.

The case of Bonitis avenue, to be heard by the Commissioners on the 16th inst, is more than a parallel case to the two just referred to, and engineered by the same parties. Four seventy-three one hundredth miles of road is asked for, requiring 12 large bridges and many culverts, and fully three miles of it through a bad swamp, running parallel with and very close to and for two miles, crossing once the Western Maryland Railroad at a very dangerous point, and lengthening a distance of two miles to Baltimore, and no way to get to it only at each end. A road located on much better ground and only three miles long would answer the same purpose, if a road was at all required, and be much more convenient for the entire public.

We have more than enough of bad roads, and want no more, but better avenues by improving what we have. The time is not far distant when we will have to pay dear for hard material if we would pave our roads. We cannot afford a road to a gentleman's back door when he has one to his front door, nor is Baltimore County Treasury a charitable institution to contribute to the development of private property to the extent there appears to be a mania for demanding.

It is ridiculous for farmers to spend their money at law about roads instead upon the roads, when we can do without the former and not the latter. There has been money sufficient spent by the farmers of Worthington Valley in the last fifty years at law to pike all the roads in the Valley and one to Baltimore; and here is a chance to spend more without improving the roads.

As a party to this concern, I think it would be wisdom and more business-like if all concerned would agree to employ a competent engineer, who could tell us what is the best to do to secure good roads, then we could, if we would, get something for our money, but in law the winner is looser. Yours truly,

G. F. G.

[Written for the MARYLAND JOURNAL.]

BALANCE.

BY H. CLAY PREUSS.

Some see the highest good of life
In fortune, rank or talents;
But this we hold the richer gift:
A calm and even balance.

Some minds grow to one extreme,
Till growth becomes distortion:
The highest charm of classic Art
Is beauty of proportion.

Throughout the endless course of worlds,
From first to lowest station,
This law of Balance, framed by Heaven,
Shines out through all creation.

It chains the storm, and keeps in check
The tidal march of ocean;
Within its sphere, the planets roll
In grand, perpetual motion.

See! when Balance slips its hold
Upon the world of matter,
The winds rush madly round the globe,
And seeds of ruin scatter.

The earthquake, in a reeling orb,
Makes black and frightful chasms;
In thunder, lightning, we behold
Poor Nature in her spasms.

In governmental systems, too,
Of noblest institution,
The loss of balance surely brings
The throes of revolution.

'Tis balance that 'twixt all extremes
Holds equal, just relation:
The temp'rance preached by Paul of old
Gives high corroboration.

Yet spite of balance, Earth must have
Her poets and her Saviors;
Men whose lives are in extreme—
Her *Wesley's, Poe's* and *Xavier's*.

And yet these martyr-minds do form
But shining, bright exceptions:
'Tis in the soul's *