Maryland Journal

TOWSON, MD.

Saturday, December 28, 1889.

1865—1890.

With this issue the JOURNAL closes twenty-five years of existence, and still controlled by the same hand that so anxiously and so tremulously, established it in 1865. A quarter of a century of continuous, patient, important labor in one calling, demanding the utmost scrutiny and watchfulness and responsibility, is more than ordinary mortals are usually subjected to. But, looking back over that vista of twenty-five years, the great wonder is that the frail and modest barque then launched upon the sea of journalism should have so majestically weathered the storms through which it has passed without losing its rudder; or those marts of public opinion or sails of generous appreciation, which were liberally vouchsafed to him who in an anxious hour was impelled by the force of circumstances to step into a breach where it was apparent some willing worker was seriously demanded. Of such efforts are enterprises born, and the JOURNAL was thus started under a tremendous breeze, (the civil war then prevailing,) though gradually and happily growing towards a conclusion. We shall not attempt to recount those scenes, as it would fetch forward unpleasant recollections, now quietly laid aside in the chamber of memory.

But, not forgetting or desiring to forget the past, we have to do with the living, acting present. During the past the JOURNAL has bravely stood forward in defense of the very best interests of the people of Baltimore county. Their prosperity has been its delight, and anything calculated to injure them was felt by it. The JOURNAL has gladly given its best energies in the good cause of the people's rights, which has acknowledged that earnest labor by a generous recognition. The paper is now established firmly in the affections of the people, and the hope is that it may never depart therefrom. At least it shall not do so whilst the pleasant duty of controlling it is not disturbed. Whilst the labor has been pleasant it has been accompanied by the inevitable, the enervating wear and tear of body. The heart is still young, but the reflection is evident that as the goal of ambition is approached, physical energy is less vigorously responsive, though willingly given.

We shall not attempt to recount the tremendous strides we as a people have made in the past quarter of a century, as it would take more time and space than we would be justified in appropriating, and serve no end of compensation beyond a reiteration. Our population has increased in wonderful numbers, and the people have advanced in all that material prosperity which tends to make them happy and contented. We know that the people are depressed at present; but this is not the first or only instance. Periodically a people pass through seasons of depression, but it is to leave off some old-fangled notion or habit and step out into the sunlight of advanced ideas and new prosperity. We are gradually growing wiser, better, more intelligent, and, consequently, more powerful. The ideas we once entertained, the things we once believed we could not get along without, we gently lay aside, and we now do what we once merely dreamed of doing. Thus we progress, for the noble word "Excelsior!" emblazoned on the banner of progress is a talismanic word, and shapes our actions because we cannot help it. We know there are those who fight against the inevitable, but the remorseless engine of Progress plows its way ahead, and those who fail to hear the blast from its hot throat or the ringing of the bell of warning, are dashed from beneath the wheels of the impetuous energizer.

We hope that the next quarter of a century of progress will find our people still more powerful, still more wise, still more elevated above the things of to-day; and though in the course of nature we may fall by the wayside ere the golden goal is reached, yet with the eye of faith we see that golden lining which emblazons the cloud of ignorance and doubt, and will ultimately reveal those things now hidden from our ken.

With an earnest desire for the continued prosperity of the people of Baltimore county, we cheerfully commence another era which we are sure will mark our progress towards that perfection which is the natural trend of a people, consciously relying upon the belief that that fruition which awaits determined effort will reward the weariless seeker.

We sincerely wish the readers of the JOURNAL A PROSPEROUS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of Maryland will assemble on Wednesday, January 1st. It will be a most important session and will need the unremitting attention of our representatives. A conference of prominent Democrats throughout the State will take place at the Hotel Rennert on Monday next, 30th, as to the highest interests of our dear old commonwealth.

There is but little discussion as to who will be elected officers of the Senate and House. A fellow citizen of Baltimore county is spoken of for President of the Senate, Senator Lindsay, and for Speaker of the House, Mr. John Hubner. There is a wide feeling for Mr. Hubner for the position, and his extensive knowledge of legislative business well fits him for it. His fellow citizens would be pleased should he receive the the honor.

We trust our genial fellow citizen, Mr. Walter R. Townsend, will again be selected Reading Clerk. His services in the sessions of 1886 and 1888 have given him a complete knowledge of this most important position, whereby he is enabled to greatly facilitate the business of the House. It is a laborious post but Mr. Townsend is equal to the occasion.

OPPOSED TO A BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.

Since the discussion of the road question we have conversed with many tax-payers from every portion of the county, a large majority of whom express themselves as utterly opposed to the Baltimore *Sun's* bonded indebtedness scheme. The people are not willing, at a time like this, when wheat is selling at about 79 cents per bushel, and other farm products at about the same ratio, to take on any bonded indebtedness whatever. They prefer to bear the ills they have than fly to those they know will eat into the bone like a canker worm. There seems an almost universal sentiment in favor of the District or Township system as the most feasible; the changing of our present road law to suit such system; the letting of the roads out by contract to competent and reliable persons.

The people say the *Sun's* scheme looks very pretty upon paper—i. e., beautifully engraved bonds, to be laid away in handsomely lacquered tin boxes in bank vaults or safe deposit companies for the children of the holders to look at, and, periodically, have the interest demanded, which would be forthcoming from the toil and sweat of the poor, weary farmer's brow, for the farmers are not able to take them, scarcely able to pay taxes. One shrewd old fox in the county says he does not see why the *Sun* is so deeply interested as to the public roads of the county unless there is some hidden desire not made apparent. The people of Baltimore do not use our county roads only to an infinitessimally small degree. At the same time our people give the *Sun* full credit for an honest desire to see our public roads made better. No doubt that is the *Sun's* only desire.

The good, hard common sense of our people seems to be awakened upon the subject, and we doubt not they will vigorously give their views at the meeting next Monday.

NO MORE "BACK-SALARY" GRAB BUSINESS, IF YOU PLEASE.

It will be a disgrace to any member of Congress who will vote to make the United States Treasury refund the amount of any Congressman's salary stolen by Silcott, the defaulting cashier of ex-Sergeant-at-Arms Leedom, except such members whose names are known to have been forged to an order for the salary.—Those who used the Sergeant-at-Arms' facilities to get their salaries, often in advance, ought to be content and lose it. It is amusing to the country to see members trying to wriggle the Treasury into responsibility for their losses.—The Seargeant-at-Arms' "Bank" is only a private affair. It is now being tried to be made out that the Sergeant-at-Arms is a "disbursing officer" of the government. As a matter of course he is disbursing officer, but it is of a private character, for the convenience of the members of the House. We do not believe there is more than one or two members of the House who really know how and why the Sergeant-at-Arms came to be a "disbursing officer." If we mistake not it originated about 1844, or thereabouts, and with the late Hon. A. J. Glossbrenner, of York, Pa., who, about that time, was Sergeant-at-Arms of the House. There was trouble with the Treasury Department about salaries of Senators and Representatives; no money being forthcoming. Glossbrenner, who was a shrewd man, offered to advance the members their salaries, they paying a good percentage therefor. Glossbrenner got his money, hundreds of thousands of dollars of it, from the York County (Pa.) Bank, and from this has grown up the system which now prevails. It became a matter of tremendous importance to the members who wanted their salaries and didn't want the trouble of going to the Treasury Department for the funds. The system of giving the Sergeant-at-Arms an order for salary of members has thus grown up and been recognized by the Treasury officials as being "regular," and there is no doubt that Treasury officials helped the members out of the difficulty, too. But there is no law recognizing the Sergeant-at-Arms as a "disbursing officer."—There should be one, however. A regular recognized agent of the Treasury should have an office, or "Bank," if you may choose so to term it, at the Capitol, where Senators and Representatives could receive their salaries. The Sergeant-at-Arms has not been disbursing this money these many years for nothing; he gets his per cent. out of it, and it has long been recognized as a perquisite of his office.

The people are critical upon this "grab" business now, and any member who lost his salary through trusting Silcott and attempts to make the United States Treasury pay the amount the second time, will be held accountable by the people who sent him to Congress.—They don't want to hear any more of any "back-salary-grab" business. The glorious manner in which the people acted twards the "back-salary-grab" of a few years since is still fresh in the minds of the people, and they'll have no more of that kind of thing. The member who votes for it will have to stand from under.

BELFORD'S MAGAZINE.

Jefferson Davis spent the last year of his life in literary work. He wrote an article on Andersonville for the *North American Review*, exonerating the Confederate Government from the charge of wanton cruelty toward Federal prisoners. On the publication of his reply to Lord Wolseley in the *North American* (which, Mr. Davis charged, was mutilated by the American editor in the interest of the English Government), Mr. Davis refused to permit the *North American* to publish his article on Andersonville unless the editor should agree to publish it unmutilated. The editor refused to give that pledge. Mr. Davis thereupon withdrew his article and transferred it to *Belford's Magazine*. It will appear in the January number.—In the same issue *Belford's* will publish a brief autobiography of Mr. Davis, written a short time ago. A few weeks before his death Mr. Davis completed for the Belford Company "A Short History of the Confederate States." It will be issued at an early date.

A COURT OF PATENT APPEALS.

Senator Gorman has introduced a bill to establish a Court of Patent Appeals of the United States, which shall consist of a Chief Justice and five Associated Justices, to be appointed by the President, and who shall hold office during good behavior. In case of vacancy in the office of Chief Justice, or his inability to perform the duties of his office, they shall devolve upon the Associate Justice who is first in precedence until such disability is removed. The Justices are to receive a salary of $8,000 a year. The bill also provides for the appointment of a Clerk and Marshal, with their deputies, the Clerk to receive a salary of $2,400 per year and the Marshal $3,000 a year. After the passage of the act there shall be no appeal from the Circuit Courts of the United States, or from any Territorial or District Court, in cases touching patents or trade-marks, copyrights or labels, to the Supreme Court of the United States. All cases relating to patents, &c., now pending before the United States Supreme Court shall be transferred to and be heard by the Court of Patent Appeals. When any Judge of this Court resigns his office after ten years' service, and having attained seventy years of age, he shall during the rest of his life receive the same salary as he did at the time of his resignation.

HENRY W. GRADY DEAD.

Henry W. Grady, the distinguished Southern editor of the Atlanta *Constitution*, died at Atlanta on the 23d inst. He took pneumonia from his recent visit to Boston, where he delivered a remarkably prophetic address at the annual dinner of the Boston Merchants' Association. A few extracts of this address appear in the columns of the JOURNAL to-day.—Mr. Grady was one of the most brilliant men in the South. His death is universally regretted, North and South.

BALTIMORE CORN BOOM.—Nearly 300,000 bushels of corn went from Baltimore on the 21st inst., in steamers bound for Europe. This port is doing an unprecedented export business in corn. One hundred and seventeen steamships are bound for Baltimore, and all are charactered for corn. Fifty-one steamships are now bound from Baltimore, and eighteen steamships are in port. Most of these arrived in ballast, having discharged their cargoes at Philadelphia and New York.

The exports of corn so far this year are 15,518,495 bushels, 3,368,719 bushels for the same time of 1888.

The January shipments will be still larger.—The exports in flour and wheat show a slight falling off when compared with last year. It is a corn boom exclusively.

THE "AMEICAN'S" CALENDAR.—The Baltimore *American* sends to its readers a very neat calendar for 1890, filled with a large amount of useful information and lithographed in a unique and tasty style by the American Bank Note Company, New York. Our metropolitan neighbor prints a most excellent journal, which is managed by Gen. Agnus with distinguished ability. For twenty-five years it has been a welcome visitor in the sanctum of the JOURNAL, and it always has the news.

☞ The Board of Electrical Control and Review of New York city, last week removed 370 poles and 100 miles of dangerous electric-light wires. This has partially put the city in darkness. The electric light companies have been arrogant and saucy and thought they could continue to impose upon the public. They are now laughing on the other side of their mouth. They say they will sue the city for all losses—but they'll get about as much damage as one might get into a lady's thimble.

☞ Wm. H. Droste, who several years since was a patrolman and afterwards a Sergeant upon the Baltimore police force, but latterly attached to the detective force, has been appointed Captain of the Northwestern District vice Capt. Geo. W. Earhart, resigned. Capt. Droste is recognized as one of the most sagacious officers upon the force.

THE NEGRO QUESTION.

What the People of the South Are Doing for the Ungrateful Negro.

At the dinner of the Boston Merchants Thursday night of last week, Mr. Henry W. Grady, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*, spoke of the progress of the South in solving the color question, and now since his almost tragic death the past week the following summary of his speech is prophetic:

"The President of the United States, in his late message to Congress, discussing the plea that the South should be left to solve this problem, asks: 'Are they at work upon it? What solution do they offer? When will the black man cast a free ballot? When will he have the civil right that is his?' I shall not here protest against a partisanry that for the first time in our history, in time of peace, has stamped with the great seal of our Government a stigma upon the people of a great loyal section. But, sir, backed by a record on every page of which is progress, I venture to make earnest and respectful answer to the questions that are asked. We give the world this year a crop of 7,500,000 bales of cotton, worth $450,000,000, and its cash equivalent in grain, grasses and fruit. This enormous crop could not have come from the hands of sullen and discontented labor. It comes from peaceful fields. It is claimed that this ignorant labor is defrauded of its just hire. I present the tax books of Georgia, which show that the negro, twenty-five years ago a slave, has in Georgia alone $10,000,000 of assessed property, worth twice that much.

Does not that record honor him and vindicate his neighbors? What people, penniless, illiterate, has done so well? For every Afro-American agitator stirring the strife in which alone he prospers I can show you a hundred negroes, happy in their cabin homes, tilling their own land by day and at night taking from the lips of their children the helpful message their State sends them from the school house door. And the school house itself bears testimony. In Georgia last year we added $250,000 to the school fund, making a total of more than $1,000,000, and this in the face of prejudice not yet conquered, of the fact that the whites are assessed $368,000,000, the blacks for $10,000,000, and yet 49 per cent. of the beneficiaries are black children, and in the doubt of many wise men if education helps or can help our problem. Charleston, with her taxable values cut half in two since 1860, pays more in proportion for public schools than Boston. Although it is easier to give much out of much than little out of little, the South with one-seventh of the taxable property of the country, with relatively larger debt, having received only one-twelfth as much of public lands, and having back of its tax books none of the half billion of bonds that enrich the North, yet gives nearly one-sixth of the public school fund. The South, since 1865, has spent $122,000,000 in education, and this year is pledged to $37,000,000 more for State and city schools—although the blacks, paying one-thirtieth of the taxes, got nearly one-half of the fund.

In the South there are negro lawyers, teachers, editors, dentists, doctors, preachers, working in peace and multiplying with the increasing ability of their race to support them. In villages and towns they have their military companies equipped from the armories of the State, their churches and societies built and supported largely by their neighbors. What is the testimony of the courts? In penal legislation we have steadily reduced felonies to misdemeanors, and have led the world in mitigating punishment for crime, that we might save, as far as possible, this dependent race from its own weakness. In the penitentiary record 60 per cent. of the prosecutors are negroes, and in every court the negro criminal strikes the negro juror, that white men may judge his case. In the North 1 negro in every 185 is in jail—in the South only 1 in 446. In the North the percentage of negro prisoners is six times as great as that of native whites—in the South only four times as great. If prejudice wrongs him in Southern Courts, the record shows it to be deeper in Northern Courts.

Now, Mr. President, can it be seriously maintained that we are terrorizing the people from whose willing hands comes every year $1,000,000,000 of farm crops, or have robbed a people who 25 years from unrewarded slavery have amassed in one State $20,000,000 of property? or that we intend to oppress the people we are arming every day? or deceive them when we are educating them to the utmost limit of our ability? or outlaw them when we work side by side with them? or re-enslave them under legal forms when for their benefit we have even imprudently narrowed the limit of felonies and mitigated the severity of law? My fellow-countrymen, as you yourselves may sometime have to appeal at the bar of human judgment for justice and for right, give to my people tonight the fair and unanswerable conclusion of these incontestable facts!"

This speech rang throughout his audience like a silver bell struck with a sledge hammer, and it was vigorously applauded.

DR. CHARLES O'DONOVAN.

Dr. Charles O'Donovan, one of the best known and most prominent physicians in Baltimore city, died at his residence, No 113 West Monument street, on Monday afternoon, 23d inst. at five o'clock, from heart trouble. Dr. O'Donovan has been confined to the house for the last three weeks. He was attended by Dr. Frank Donaldson, Dr. William T. Howard and Dr. Geo. W. Miltenberger. He was in his sixty-first year. A wife and six children survive him, Dr. Charles O'Donovan, Jr., his eldest son, being very prominent in the medical profession.

Dr. O'Donovan was the eldest son of the late Dr. John H. O'Donovan, a graduate of the University of Maryland, and a prominent practitioner for over forty-five years in Baltimore. He married Miss Jenkins, daughter of Mr. Hugh Jenkins, of Baltimore city, in 1858. He was a graduate of the University of Maryland, and has been a very prominent member of the medical profession for the last forty years. He was a member of a number of medical societies, and is now President of the Alumni of the University of Maryland. His death is deeply regreted by his host of friends. Dr. O'Donovan was also a well-known member of the Catholic Church. A requiem mass was celebrated at the Cathedral. [*American.*

Dr. O'Donovan owns a beautiful farm at Sweet Air, Baltimore county, to which it was his pleasure to drive each week during the summer months, remaining a day or two and then returning to the city. Dr. O'Donovan was esteemed very highly for his many noble qualities.

DEATH OF DR. SETH PANCOAST.

Dr. Seth Pancoast, a homeopathest physician, died at his residence in Philadelphia on the 16th inst. The deceased was a descendant of one of the three Pancoast brothers who came to this country with William Penn. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1852. He became Professor of Anatomy in the Philadelphia Female College in 1853, and in the following year was called to the chair in the Pennsylvania Medical College. In 1887 he wrote "The Cabala," the first on the subject in the English language, in which are explained the ten "sepheroths," which are the bases of the cabala. In 1875, Dr. Pancoast calculated the return of the seventy cycle of Trithemius in 1878, announcing that, if the calculation were correct, there would be a revival in theosophy and other occult studies, which has since occurred. His work is merely a prelude to a much larger one, which has not yet appeared in print. Dr. Pancoast had the finest private collection of works on the occult sciences in United States.

He recently came into prominence from the interest he took in the recovery of the treasure from the British sloop-of-war Debrask, which was sunk in 1798 in Delaware Bay, between Cape May and Lewes. There was supposed to be $10,000,000 in the vessel, and Dr. Pancoast organized several expeditions to recover the gold and copper. He failed twice to find any trace of the warship, and he eventually turned over the whole scheme to the Merritt Wrecking Company, which made a final attempt during the recent summer, but without success.

AN IMPORTANT COMMISSION.

Mayor Davidson's appointment of five prominent business men to examine every branch of the city government, note its mode of business, and observe whether improvements could not be suggested and reforms inaugurated, cannot but have the most beneficial effect. The members of the commission are John A. Hambleton, of the banking-house of John A. Hambleton & Co.; John Curlett, treasuror of the Central Savings Bank and President of the Maryland White Lead Company; J. Wesley Guest, cashier of the Citizens' National Bank; Eugene Levering, of the firm of E. Levering & Co., importers and jobbers of coffee, and Stephen Bonsal, importer of coffee. Messrs. Hambleton, Curlett and Bonsal are Democrats, Mr. Guest is a Republican, and Mr. Levering is a Prohibitionist. In a letter to the appointees the Mayor says all departments of the city government were directed to afford every facility for conducting the investigation of their workings.

☞ Gen. Edward Shriver has again been elected Water Register of the Baltimore City Water Department. He has held the position the past six years.

"BETTER ROADS DEMANDED"

Under the above caption we extract from the New York *Times* of the 22d the following:

In consequence of the ruinous effect of the continued rains of the past year upon the roads and highways about New York extraordinary interest has been manifested by property owners of the suburban counties in the system of road making inaugurated by Mr. Chauncey B. Ripley in Union county, N. J.—Roads that have been considered of the first-class and that have cost enough to make a solid and durable highway have been so softened by the wet weather that they have succumbed to the strain of ordinary teaming and are cut to pieces and seamed with dangerous ruts.

"Respecting work on the country roads," said Mr. Ripley "the weather has been so unfavorable for the past ten days that very little work has been possible. Not more than two or three days at most were suitable. The unprecedented rains have made mud intolerable on the country roads and often in the cities as well, though of course not so generally.—The work in Union is progressing slowly, but, according to contract, rigidly in all cases. Many questions have been asked me about the provisions of the contracts under which we are working, mostly by letters, which I am still receiving from many sections of country suburban to New York. I should be glad to answer them, once for all, through *The Times*.—Our public roads are generally laid out 66 feet wide. Of this width one-fifth, or about 13 feet, on each side is allowed and used for sidewalks and shade trees. The county roads are macadamized only 16 feet in width of 8 feet on each side of the centre line, which the surveyor first defines, and which, when found, controls all other lines in the progress of the work.

First among the essentials of a first-class road is drainage. The contract, specifications, and drawings all provide for such a grade as shall carry off all water from the surface of the road and that which percolates through the stone. Before any stone is laid the roadbed is perfectly graded, with reference to shedding water toward the sides as well as carrying it off lengthwise. The centre of the roadbed is higher and the slope to each side is regular. A shoulder is left on each margin of the 16-foot bed, so that the foundation stones cannot spread. The roadbed is made smooth and rolled before any stones are place on it.

After its preparation is completed a layer of blocks of stone about 12 inches long by 6 or 8 inches on the sides is laid, each stone by hand. Each stone stands an inch or so away from other stones. The stones in the first layer are pretty uniform in size, and of trap rock, and crack of split easily when struck with a stone hammer, which is used, on the top of each stone till all are broken into, say, half a dozen pieces. The broken pieces fall down wedge shape, spreading so as to fill the vacant spaces left between the blocks, as originally laid, and from a mass of wedged stones that will stand in the position they are left by the hammer forever, we may almost say.—After this the roller is applied, and the stones are packed by rolling. Then a layer of larger stones is placed upon this foundation, say stones of the size of 2 to 2½ inches on a side. This layer is then rolled, and a finer grade is used on top till stone dust and gravel complete the evenness of the surface. The roller now used on the Union County roads is a steam roller, and has a pressure twelve tons.

What do such roads cost and how is the money raised?

The cost is about $10,000 a mile, I judge by observation and imperfect reports. It is not far from that sum I can safely say. It seems a great deal to one not acquainted with road making. It is not. We have few good roads in our county have not cost at least that amount of money per mile. And they wear out in a few years. The money under our county act is raised by bonds, running twenty years at 4½ per cent. interest. The interest on these bonds is all that the present generation will have to pay, as a rule. It is very light, too, when spread over a county. A taxpayer owning a house and lot worth $5,000 and having $5,000 more at interest told me the other day his yearly tax would not be more than a dollar or two greater on account of these roads. Although at first a croaker and opposed to them, he is now in favor of the roads.

But when the bonds fall due, what then? When the bonds fall due Union County will contain three times the number of inhabitants it has at present, and the taxable property will be three times as great. This we are safe in assuming, and more, judging the future by the past two decades every day of the increasing interest in improving carriage roads in Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, and Westchester counties in New York. The earth is so full of water from the excessive rainy season we are passing through that the old style of gravel roads has been put to a severer test than ever before in the memory of this generation. This accounts in some degree for the increase, and makes better roads a greater necessity."

JEFFERSON DAVIS' WILL.

The will of Jefferson Davis is as follows:

"I, Jefferson Davis, of the county, of Harrison, and State of Mississippi, being of sound and disposing mind, but of such advanced age as to suggest a near approach of death, do make this my last will and testament, written with my own hand, and signed in the presence of three competent witnesses:

1. I give and bequeath to my wife, Varina Davis, all of my personal belongings including library, furniture, correspondence, and the Brierfield plantation, (proper,) with all its appurtenances, being and situated in the county of Warren, State of Mississippi, and being the same on which we lived and toiled together for many years from the time of our marriage.

2. I give and bequeath to Mary Routh Ellis, of Philadelphia, Pa., all of my right title and interest in and to the Elliston plantation, being situated in the parish of Tensas, State of Louisiana, the same being the place on which her father resided.

3. I give and bequeath to Mary Ridgley Dorsey, eldest daughter of William H. G. Dorsey, of Howard county, State of Maryland, all of my right, title and interest in and to the Limerick plantation, being and situated in the parish of Tensas, State of Louisiana, viz., the interest in and to so much of said plantation as was the property of the late Mrs. Sarah A. Dorsey.

4. I give and bequeath to my daughter Varina Anne Davis, all the other property—real, personal and mixed—which was inherited by me from Mrs. Sarah A. Dorsey, deceased and of which I may die seized and possessed.

5. To my wife, Varina Davis, and to my daughters, Margaret Davis Hayes and Varina Anne Davis, as residuary legatees, I give and bequeath all the property, real, personal and mixed, of which I may die seized and possessed and which has not been disposed of by the preceding articles.

I appoint my tried and true friend, Jacob U. Payne, of New Orleans, La., and my son-in-law, G. Addison Hayes, Jr., of Memphis, Tenn., executors of this my last will and testament, they to serve without bond and to have immediate seizure and possession of all my property; contemporaneously with the happening of my death and to each I delegate the power to select and appoint his successor, to take effect in the contingency of the death of either before the affairs of the estate have been finally settled.

In testimony whereof this will, written by my own hand, is signed on the day and date below written, and in presence of Frank Kennedy, R. W. Foster and A. Evans.

JEFFERSON DAVIS."

The Mary Ridgley Dorsey referred to in item 3 is a niece of the lady from whom Mr. Davis inherited "Beauvoir," Miss.

WHERE CORN IS USED AS FUEL.—A Kansas state official who returned to Topeka from a trip throughout Northwest Kansas, says that thousands of bushels of corn are being burned for fuel. In some counties the market price of corn is less than 15 cents per bushel, while coal is from 25 to 35 cents per bushel. The corn makes excellent fuel. The corn crop on hand is immense. In all the principal corn-producing counties it is stacked up in great racks, without protection of any sort, it having been impossible for the last thirty days to obtain cars to move it in. The railroads have been unable to supply the extraordinary means of transportation. Every railroad is short from five hundred to two thousand cars.

From this latter circumstance people should be happy that business is improving. When the railroads are busy everybody else is, or, ought to be, busy.

SPEAKER REED'S COMMITTEES.

Speaker Reed on Saturday 21st announced his Committees for the House. The Maryland members are situated as follows:

Mr. Gibson—Rivers and Harbors, Militia.
Mr. Stump—Immigration and Naturalization.
Mr. Stockbridge—Commerce, Mines and Mining.
Mr. Rusk—Naval Affairs, Indian Depredations, Claims.
Mr. Compton—District of Columbia.
Mr. McComas—Election of President and Vice President, Education, Appropriations.

☞ The total number of passengers carried by the Philadelphia passenger railways for 1888 was over one hundred and fifty-one millions, yielding $7,042,658. The expenses of operating were $4,284,143, leaving net income of $2,758,515.

☞ The Baltimore and Ohio authorities are laying track troughs on their Philadelphia Division. This will greatly facilitate the fast trains now run over that road.

[Correspondence of the Maryland Journal.]

OUR BALTIMORE LETTER.

Festival Lights and Shadows—Some Holiday News—Episode of the Catholic Parade—A Parallel Procession—A Time for Reckoning—An Age of Marvels—The Eve of Some Great Day—As to the Gulf Stream.

BALTIMORE, December 27th, 1889.

"Nothing but holiday doings, from one end of this great city to the other," exclaim the bright young people, as they come in, flushed with exercise, after having mingled with the great crowds that throng our streets at this season of the year. They are thinking, of course, of the multitudes of eager, happy-looking people whom they have jostled on the sidewalks; of the gorgeous displays of the holiday merchants, and the bewildering splendors of the wares offered to them by these public benefactors, in whose festive bazars they have invested their surplus cash, besides having sundry little struggles with their own feelings and consciences.

For these holiday seasons are times that test people's principles to a greater extent than we are wont to realize, probably. Especially as the Christmas-tide, which brings "peace on earth, and good will to men," by its custom of gift-giving, requires us to settle with ourselves certain questions as to the amount of self-denial which we propose to practice in order to bestow pleasures upon our fellow-beings, and to see, with our own eyes, how far we will open our hearts to take in the needy; and just how willing we are to forgive those who have injured us; and to prove all this in some plain and practical manner. So that one of the most valuable functions of these holidays, is the office they perform in furnishing us with a stated time and occasion for the exercise of these specific virtues.

All of which moralizing is a digression, however, from the statement of the merrymakers that the festival Spirit has everything its own way, and propels all things before it, in its full tide of mirth and joyousness. And what with their elegant attire; their luxurious surroundings; the brilliant scenes out of doors; the lights, flowers, and music of the churches; the gorgeousness of their private entertainments; and the glitter and glamour of public amusements, the young and the gay, who abound in this world's goods, may easily be excused for fancying that the whole world is keeping high festival, and that "all sorts and conditions of men" are harmoniously happy together.

Let those who can enjoy such charming delusions rejoice in them while they may. But those who are advanced in years know all too well that the lights in this beautiful picture are toned down by somber shadows. There are bits of holiday news, of a very unfestive character, borne to us on the air. In the abode of luxury, where there were preparations for festival cheer, the mother is stricken with paralysis, and the dazed household have only a season of fear and consternation instead of the usual rejoicings. Then there is the silent chamber where the babe lies cradled in its coffin, without one token from the hand of Santa Claus. And other children gather around their father's dying bed, to take their last farewell of him whose loving hand should have led them along the dangerous paths of human life. The season brings no festival this year to such as these.

And the dreadful tokens that stream from many a door-bell proclaim to us that, even in our very midst, there are numbers of mourning souls who are living quite apart from our holiday world. The sad processions that we meet on the streets, every day, tell the same direful story; and if we think of the chambers of sickness where humanity endures tortures enough to expiate many of its shortcomings; of the desolated homes whose light seems to be quenched forever; or if we let our fancy wander among the poor who are suffering from want, and the evil-doers who enjoy their wickedness; or if even we take account of the vast masses of our race who are indifferent to their own highest interests, we shall have overwhelming proof that the brightest of our holidays are really something more than mere festive and joyous occasions.

While the great Catholic parade was passing along our streets at night, a few weeks ago, a sad scene was taking place in one of the homes upon the route. A young man, the pride of his family, was supposed to be recovering from an illness, and had been sitting up, amusing himself by practising upon his violin. But during the progress of the parade, he went back to his bed, and it was soon seen that something very serious ailed him. So a physician was summoned, and he was found to be dying. Then a messenger was sent out into the street to stop one of the carriages in the procession, and bring in a priest, who arrived only in time to administer the last rites to the dying man. And while all this was taking place, the torches waved, and the bands that passed the house played merry music, and the crowds hurrahed, all of them happily unconscious of the discords they were making in that sorrowful chamber of death.

So, too, the great procession of the holidays has always to pass by many a sad scene like this, and its music jars upon many a soul in a very similar manner. For the tragedies of life take place all the year round; and in the hearts of most persons who have advanced far in life there are sacred death-chambers where dead forms lie forever embalmed, and many a stricken soul will spend the festive seasons there; and for all of us the holidays at least unlock these chamber doors, and bid us spend some thoughtful moments with the memories of the past.

These may seem to be very somber reflections for the joyous Christmas-tide. But we must remember that this season brings us also to the close of another year; a time when it is wise for us to reckon up the proceeds of the past, and to arrange our plans for future proceedings. As individuals, and as a people we should consider what we have accomplished in the past, and wherein we have failed in our endeavors; and we should see to it that whatever has been amiss in our previous performance may receive our careful attention in the time to come. It is, therefore, a time for serious thought; and though we are not at all at liberty to neglect the live issues of the hour, or to ignore the gracious influences of this happy time, it is yet incumbent upon us to ascertain the point to which the close of the year has carried us, and to have some intelligent idea of the direction in which the ages are carrying us.

It is a great thing to be alive in this period of the world's history, when so many important issues are impending, and when our modern magicians are working such wonders around us. We have seen, during the last fifty years, the evolution of such forces as have transformed the whole state of affairs on this planet; and the records of almost every day show us the results of some new discovery that has been brought to bear upon the problems of human life. We live in an age of marvels.

All thoughtful persons admit, too, that every indication points to the fact that we are on the very eve of great changes in our world's history. Governments and thrones are crumbling to pieces around us; the old rulers of the nations are passing away from the earth; and it looks probable that before long mere children may be their only remaining sovereigns. The masses of the people in all civilized lands are seething in discontent, under the evils of their condition, and everything seems ripe for great changes of some kind.

Even the physical condition of the earth appears to be undergoing some sort of mutations, likewise; as testified to by our remarkable weather, and various other happenings of 1889. Apropos of which, it was suggested, at a recent meeting of scientists in Washington, that our climate is undergoing an alteration in consequence of a change in the course of the Gulf Stream; that peculiar freak of nature being already responsible for the mild climate of the British Isles, which have really the same latitude as frozen Labrador.

CHELYS.

[Correspondence of the MARYLAND JOURNAL.]

WILL WE EVER WALK THE GOLDEN STREETS?

PIKESVILLE, Dec. 23d, 1889.

Dear JOURNAL:

We heartily endorse the views of Mr. Lurman in reference to buying out the toll roads of the county; and believe, for the reason he gives, it is better for the tax-payers that they remain as they are, for surely we have no county roads that can compare with the toll roads in comfort, and yet does not cause a tax upon our lands to keep up and but slight cost by toll. They are the main arteries of travel to our principal market, and fear if they were made county roads we would soon have cause to grumble of them as we do now of what we have.

There is no public improvement nor manufacturing plant that brings to us the convenience and wealth that our toll roads do along which the lands are assessed; sell at as much as $1,000 an acre, while in the interior they are assessed and sell as low as $10, averaging, possibly, $30; and if the assessed value of property along and close to the toll roads were separated from that of the interior, I think it would be found to be largely in excess.

The law certainly should protect the corporation (whose plant is of so much value to us) against the unjust penalty sometimes imposed because of the carelessness of some traveler drunk, asleep, or otherwise, in driving over a bank and breaking his neck at noon of a sunny day, where the road is 60 feet wide, as was the case a short time ago on the Reisterstown Road.

As a tax-payer of the county I would prefer not to buy. These roads were built, some of them 100 years ago at a cost of about $10,000 per mile; have furnished much comfort in travel and much increase in the value of our lands, and the cause of many improvements, thus broadening the base of our taxation, and could not be built to-day for what they originally were, nor could not be bought for what they originally cost.

We also agree with Mr. Lurman that our county roads are too wide. Twelve-foot pavement on one side, 8-foot summer road on the other, with a 2-foot gutter on each side, making 24 feet, would be abundance—less to work and more economy.

While we are a strong advocate for and would be an hearty supporter in paving our roads, I cannot agree with our friend to place our county under bond to secure the means necessary—about $3,000,000; interest at 4 per cent., $120,000: nearly double of what our annual road tax is at present. Much of our lands are already mortgaged, and many of our citizens know from experience the dire results of having such ornaments upon their home—their all—the necessity of them caused, many times, by bad rules of the proprietor and bad management of the principal in charge by the injudicious expenditure of money and loss of time. The mortgage bringing only temporary relief, the end is the worst.

The cause to-day of the existing trouble is a worthless road law—in other words, what would be bad rules which allows and brings about bad management of the worst kind, which leads to extravagance in the expenditure of the money. In the suburban Districts the management, though not the best, has been better than in other Districts, and we can boast of our roads and proud to be able to say that neither the county nor our Districts have been mortgaged, nor an extra levy, save that in the 1st and 13th Districts, has been made to keep up our roads. Nor do we believe a county road law can be made that would bring about the desired result, because what would do for one District or portion of the county will not do for all. The undulations of the lands, the variety of soil, the available hard material, nor the financial ability of the people are not the same all over the county. Therefore the present law or any other county law causes, and would cause, the good that might be done in one part of the county to be clogged and retarded by the inability existing in other parts.

The further evidence that the present sum is not ajust one is, that every petition for a new road is accompanied with a lawsuit, sometimes lasting for years. We want a law by which every District can be independent, go on and improve as its citizens thinks best and are able to do. The time required to get the use of a road after the petition is presented is disgraceful, when we could and should, with a proper law and management, know in twenty-four hours after applying for the road whether we would or not be favored with a road, and in six days the laborers could be at work opening the roads, and that, too, without objection on the part of any one, but help from all.

Our present law is a voluminous article, containing 13 pages, beautifully composed, and, if continued under a bonded indebtedness of the county, ought to be gilt-edged, and the whole can be summed up in a few lines as follows:

"Wherever twenty or more of the taxable inhabitants of Baltimore county desire the opening of a road they shall come unto us at our office in the Court House in the city of Towson where we will be glad to greet them, and without objection bless them with another county mud road.

Yours Truly, &c.

Which is full measure for all we are likely to get out of our present road law, kind Providence lending aid sometimes with a shower from on high.

Let us see who these taxable inhabitants are from whom the twenty are drawn. There are several classes of them in our county. No. 1 is an industrious, good and worthy neighbor from some other county or State, renting a farm for two or three years, or until he can do better somewhere else, owning household goods, horses, cattle and farm implements, but not an inch of land any where, and a Baltimore county tax-payer and inhabitant. No. 2 is the worthy mechanic, leasing a lot, built and furnished his own house, has his pigs in the pen, his cow and horse in the lot or stable and wagon for his use; as a rule lives along the toll roads, and an inhabitant and tax-payer of the county. No. 3 is the store, hotel or ordinary keeper from somewhere else, (hard to tell sometimes where,) but a tax-payer of the county. No. 4 is the gentleman from the city owning his country seat of a few acres; house well furnished, carriage and a pair of high steppers for the pleasure and comfort of his family spends six months and one day in the county to avoid city taxation and thus becomes a taxable inhabitant of the county. No. 5 is the much-to-be-depended-upon laborer, a good citizen, deserves credit for his industry and economy, has secured a home for his family and is a tax-payer. No. 6 is the manufacturer, owning and living in his comfortable and taxable dwelling, owning millions in plant exempt from taxation, also an inhabitant of the county. No. 7 is the mule—if owned by the manufacturer is plant and not taxable, though a resident; if owned by a railroad is stock and not taxable, though a resident; but if owned by a farmer is stock and is taxable, also a resident. No. 8 is the speculator who has found a hole somewhere in the county which, from forced circumstances, can be and is bought cheap, and thus becomes a t