The Cecil Whig

ELKTON, JANUARY 4, 1873.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

ATTENTION, BUSINESS MEN.

Business cards of 3 lines and the *Whig* 1 year for $4, *in advance.*

Court.—The Circuit Court of this county will resume its sessions on Monday next.

Local Miscellany.—An extra meeting will commence at Hart's, Elk Neck, to-morrow (Sabbath) evening.

The Directors of the National Bank of Elkton, on Tuesday last, declared a dividend of 5 per cent. on the stock for the last six months.

Wm. J. Jones, Esq., has built a glass house, but being of a nervous, excitable temperament, remembered the old adage and declined living in it. The house has been fitted up for flowers and green plants, which contrast through the windows with the white-robed earth, like January and May.

Our streets have been gay this week with flying sleighs, and jingling bells and happy hearts and pretty girls, whose rubies are a constant protest against bachelorhood, and which unceasingly proclaim in their mute eloquence "if you dare, if you dare!"

The bank house of the National Bank of Elkton, has been remodeled and changed in its internal arrangement, affording additional light and room to the officers. The per cents remain unchaged.

A Fine Business Stand.—Mr. B. F. May advertises his store for rent in to day's issue. This is an old stand, centrally located and equally favorable in this respect for business to any in town.

Game.—Our old friend W. P. Morgan, who is extensively engaged in the wild game trade in Baltimore, sent us an invoice of nice partridges and pheasants or ruffed grouse this week, for which he has our public acknowledgment and thanks.

A New Series.—Money sold at the Mutual Building Association, on Saturday night last, for 128 to 131 per cent premium.

A new series of stock has been advertised by the Directors to be paid in at the January meeting. This affords a safe and profitable investment for persons having a few dollars monthly, which they wish to lay by. It affords them the opportunity of securing a loan or of drawing out their deposits with interest, if they wish to realize their savings at any future period.

Elkton Academy.—The examinations on the 20th and 21st of December were creditably sustained by the scholars, but very meagerly attended by parents and others. This was no doubt owing, for the most part, to a concurrence of circumstances quite unusual.

It is hoped that future occasions of the kind may receive the attention due to their important bearing on the cause of education.

An elegant edition of Shakespeare, and a "Casket of Gems" from the best poets, were awarded as prizes to Miss Florence McFarland and to Miss Mary Terrell for excellence in competative examinations in reading.

Master Edmund Brown also received a handsome volume as a prize for the greatest improvement in writing.

The teachers were agreeably surprised by the donation of a splendid Gold Pen to Prof. Blake, and of an elegant Photograph Album to the Principal, from the pupils.

Pilot Town Items.

Snow.—The artic has paid us a visit.—Sleighing is splendid; a number of persons are enjoying it to the great detriment of the horses.

Lost a Horse.—Mr. James Armstrong, of Conowingo, lost a valuable young horse, recently; he slipped on the ice and broke his leg between the fet-lock joint and hoof.

Married.—Mr. John W. Founds and Miss Murphy, of this town.

Mr. Maxwell.—The friends of Mr. Maxwell will be pleased to learn that he is still improving, Dr. Wood, his attended physician, applied a starch bandage to his leg, and thinks he will be able to walk in six weeks.

Rising Sun Items.

Supper.—The K. of P's. had a grand supper in the Hall, on Friday evening last. Some 70 of them took part. Proceeds about $55 above expenses. For the benefit of the Lodge.

Snowed up.—The trains of the P. & B. Central Railroad, entirely on Thursday afternoon, and trains from Philadelphia several hours late for several days.

Sleighing.—Has been very good, but only used to a very limited extent at least for pleasure. Very few sleighs were out on Sunday,—when before the Epizootic came around they would have been "as thick as hops."

Sales.—Mrs. M. J. Rittenhouse has disposed of the frame house and wheelwright shop on Main street, to Samuel Kewson, who has occupied the same for many years. Mrs. S. B. Stubbs sold a lot on Cherry St. to Dr. L. R. Kirk.

Lecture.—On Monday evening, Dec. 30th, Rev. Dr. Warren delivered his lecture on the "Forces in a Sunbeam," before a large and intelligent audience in the Hall. This is one of a course of lectures for the benefit of our new M. E. Church.

Cecilton Items.

Christmas.—The great, annual holiday was celebrated in the usual quiet way, by feasting on the fat things of the land with a glass of egg-nog and apple-toddy; drunks, the popularity of which seemed to increase in this neighborhood.

Wedding.—The flames of matrimony have reached this community, and seem to be spreading with the velocity of steam. Notwithstanding the inclement weather of last Thursday, a pair of loving, trusting hearts, possessing more than ordinary courage, braved the storm, and drove the distance of five miles and were united in the sacred bonds of wedlock. On Tuesday evening as the old year was fast ebbing out, Mr. Charlie Husfelt and Miss Kate Boyd, celebrated it with their wedding, which was the fourth that has taken place within two months in our midst.

—*The Snow* that fell one week ago is about ten inches deep on a level. It was very acceptable, affording all an opportunity of making Christmas and New Year calls in sleighs.

—*Wednesday* being the first day of the new year, moving was the order of the day; and from early morn until dark, teams, from the old farm wagon, down or up, to the little basket sleigh, were seen hauling goods to and fro making quite a commotion.

—*Coughs and Colds* have been introduced and seem to take well in our vicinty.

—*All young* ladies who failed to take advantage of leap year, will be compelled, if not married within that time, to wait for the dawning of eighteen hundred and seventy-six, unless the gentlemen pluck up courage enough to "pop."

North East Items.

Broken leg.—R. H. Richardson, of Charlestown, on Monday last, had both bones of his leg broken near the ankle, by means of a large piece of ice falling upon him, while engaged in assisting J. B. Graham to fill his ice house. Medical assistance rendered by Dr. Morrison.

Livery.—Messrs. Nowland & Hammond have entered into a co-partnership in the livery business in North East. Business appears brisk, at least during the sleighing season.

Pigeon shooting.—Another match came off on Saturday last, between the crack shots of up and down town. The up's beat the down's by four birds.

New Year's Dinner.—At Wm. T. Richardson's, Charlestown, a large company of *us* youngsters *done* ample justice to his turkeys and geese, and other choice viands of the season.

Good Ice.—The Citizens are gathering their ice. It is very good. Some 8 or 9 inches thick.

Watch Meeting—At M. E. Church was well attended on New Year's Eve.

Improvements during the year.—Twenty new houses; opening the channel of North East run; addition to the McCullough Iron Works; considerable repairs in town; new fences, &c. Every thing has a brisk appearance for the new year.

For The Cecil Whig.

WHAT IS IT!

Much has been written about Church Fairs and there is now a strong and growing opposition to them in the Christian world on account of the "small vices" that almost always accompany them, but what shall we say of a Christian Church that shall invite the co-operation of liquor dealers in raising money for—"The Glory of God?"

Have the latest and most fashionable editions of the Bible omitted the text, "Accursed is he that putteth the bottle to his neighbor's lips," and inserted, Blessed is he that shall raise money for "Church Fairs."

The recent action of one of our influential bodies seems to imply such a construction; and we hope for the honor of the Christian name that the Church will openly disavow any official sanction of disgraceful alliance, else she will probably stand convicted in the minds of many believers, as having sold herself to do evil in the sight of God.

For The Cecil Whig.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

North East, Jan. 1st, 1873.

Mr. Editor—*Dear Sir:*—The rival game of shooting pigeons, which we named in our last as coming off on New Year's day, came off on Saturday last, killing, as we learn twenty three birds out of seventy five. The agent of Jacobs Station and his accomplices, won the game over the agent of station B. and his colleagues. Both agents, however, were so well pleased with the result that they all returned to Jacobs Station where each one received two free tickets. They then started the train for station B. where each one received two more tickets, gratis. By this time the train began to move off lively, and the *brain* becoming somewhat muddled, it was not long before two of the passengers ran together, both falling off the train. The feet of one struck the other in the face, spoiling the appearance of his antagonist's peepers. By the time they were fixed up, old Bacchus and a boy geared; both were percipitated to the ground with no serious results other than some slight wounds, and the loss of the boy's shirt. Thus ended one of the most frightful scenes that ever occurred on this part of the Dead River Grand Trunk Railroad.

We understand the manager of the Iron Works has discharged some half dozen of his men for preferring to board at the above stations.

The pastor of the M. E. Church, of this place (on Sunday last,) sharply criticized the practiced of shooting tame birds, and pronounced it the height of barbarity and cruelty, and unbecoming any civilized community. His remarks were brief, but to the point and received the general approval of his hearers. He also remarked that he saw from his window on Christmas day, a man reeling through the street drunk, and made strong appeals to the citizens to assist in putting forth their efforts to have the rum traffic abolished from our midst, and could in no wise exhonerate the vender. This, we think, is the right step. We hope to get more of it and better, as we have *not* from some half dozen preachers in this place, heard over five minutes discourse on temperance for nearly two years, either private or public.

Frozen Over.—The extreme cold weather of last week froze over the channel of the Susquehanna river between the Lancaster county shore and Caldwell's Island, at Peach Bottom. This closed up the whole breadth of the river at this point, as that portion between the island and the York county shore had been frozen up for some weeks. The freezing up of the part first named indicates extreme cold weather as it does not occur more than once in twelve or fifteen years, on account of the swiftness of the current. The ferry is now therefore stopped and unless the ice has become strong enough to bear, the transmission of the mails and other communication across the river at this place cease for a while.—*Oxford Press.*

Our Bodily Infirmities.

Physical infirmities are the lot of all. Millions are always sick. No man, woman or child is uniformly in perfect health. Much, however, of the sickness and suffering which render life a burden to so many of our fellow beings is due to carelessness and neglect. A mighty antidote to the leading causes of disease has been provided. It is as harmless as it is efficient. No poisonous drug enters into its composition. It is an undefiled stimulant, tonic and aperient, of which every ingredient is vegetable. This unexceptionable preventive and restorative medicine is not "a new thing under the sun." Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will soon have been before the world a quarter of a century; and it is not too much to aver that thousands, aye, tens of thousands, are now using it who would have been in their graves years ago had they not been strengthened and sustained by this wholesome stimulant. The rapidity with which minor ailments often become, when neglected, obstinate diseases, is well known. This tonic is famous for the immediate check which it gives to these breeders of deadly disorders. The sensation of languor, the sick headache, the nervousness, the indisposition to exertion, the nausea, the confusion of brain, the physical debility, which are intended to admonish us of the approach of serious danger, are invariably removed by a few doses of the Bitters. The fame of the preparation as a genuine specific for dyspepsia, bilious complaints, malarious fevers, rheumatism and chronic debility, is as wide as the world; and in these days of infamous charlatanism, when fierce cathartics, that rob the invalid of the last remnants of his strength, are advertised as invigorants, it is indeed a blessing to mankind that Hostetter's Stomach Bitters are everywhere procurable, and everywhere popular.

For Boots and Shoes, Artics and Gums, go see Boulden, in the Hollow.

Boarding.—Persons attending court next week, can be accommodated at the May House, opposite the Court House, on reasonable terms, by Mr. John Owens. Permanent boarders also received.

It had grown into a universal belief that the Glass Front had attained the *nec plus ultra* of perfection as a mercantile emporium. But R. C. Levis, its gentlemanly proprietor has determined the in-coming year to surpass all previous efforts in the line of fine goods.

There will be an Auction Sale at Liberty Grove, on Tuesday next, January 7th, of Notion Goods, Cutlery, Plated Castors, &c. &c. Cheap George, Auctioneer.

Cassimeres, Tucking, Kerseys, Flannels, Cottons and Hosiery, at Boulden's, in the Hollow.

Horse Shoes and Nails, for sale by John E Alexander & Bro.

History of the Rock Presbyterian Church.

We have received a copy of this interesting pamphlet. It was prepared by Rev. J. H. Johns, the Pastor, and read at the recent dedication of the Rock Church. It contains 40 pages and is sold for the benefit of the Church, and can be had of Dr. S. Morrison, Lewisville, Chester county, Pa. Price, 25 cents in paper; 35 cents in cloth.

To give and idea of the history we make the following extracts:

ORGANIZATION OF THE ROCK CHURH.

In the spring of 1720 we find no Presbyterian Church in Cecil county, Md., nearer than Bohemia Manor, none in Delaware nearer than White-Clay-Creek, and none in Chester county, Pa., nearer than the Great Valley. The scattered people had been occasionally visited by ministers of the Gospel, but they yearned and longed to have "the Gospel settled among them." Preachers were scarce and the people poor, and it was both difficult to secure and to support a minister. But at a meeting of New-Castle Presbytery, May 18th 1720, we find the following record: "A certain number of people lately come from Ireland, having settled about the branches of Elk river, having by Thos. Reed and Thos. Caldwell their commissioners supplicated this Presbytery, that, at what time this Presbytery think convenient, they would appoint one of their number to come and preach among them, and then to take such notice of their circumstances and necessities, as, by his report made to this Presbytery at their next session, the Presbytery may the more clearly know how to countenance their design of having the Gospel settled among them. The said commissioners having subjected themselves to the care of this Presbytery, the Presbytery took the affair into consideration, and in compliance with the above-said supplication, the Presbytery do appoint Mr. Sam'l Young to preach one day among said people, between this and the first day of July next, and to take cognizance of their circumstances, and to make report there-of to our next session." At the meeting of Presbytery, June 28th, 1720, Mr. Young reported: "That he had fulfilled the appointment of our last Presbytery with respect to the people of Elk river, and after a serious inspection and inquiry into that affair, he judged that said people will in a short time, be capable to maintain a minister of the Gospel among them. Whereupon appeared here from the above-said Elk-river people two commissioners, name of James Smith and Thomas Sharp, with a letter of thanks to the Presbytery, and a petition wherein they supplicate to be formed into a congregation, and to have supplies of preaching from this Presbytery. Presbytery having deliberately considered said petition, it was put to the vote whether or not they should be erected into a congregation, and it was carried in the affirmative." From the tenor of these records we should judge the society when organized to have been a very feeble affair. At the birth of the feeble child, who thought that it would live for 152 years.

The Church was dependent on supplies for four years.

THE FIRST PASTORATE, 1724–1739.

Joseph Houston came from Ireland to New-England a probationer, preached a few months at Freetown, Mass., was received by Presbytery of New-Castle July 29th, 1724, and appointed to supply the Elk-river Church. September 14th, Rob't Linton and Andrew Steel, commissioners for the congregation, presented him a call. This he considered until Presbytery met at Christiana, October 6th, when he accepted it. The commissioners, Robert Finney, Roger Lawson and Andrew Steel, requested that his ordination might be hastened, showing their eagerness to have a pastor. Hence October 15, 1724, he was ordained and installed. The records of Presbytery relating to that event are interesting, and we shall present them. "A proclamation being made three times at the door of the meeting-house by Mr. Alex. Hutcheson, that if any person had anything to object against the ordination of Mr. Jos. Houston, they should make it know to the Presbytery now sitting; and no objection being made, they proceeded towards his ordination, and accordingly he was solemnly set apart to the work of the ministry, with fasting, prayer, and imposition of the hands of the Presbytery. Mr. Thomas Craighead preached the sermon and presided." Thus began the first pastorate in this Church, which continued for fifteen years. It must have been successful, although we know it was at times very discordant. In 1726 there was a violent strife among the members about seats. The matter was at last referred to Presbytery for settlement, and the following action was taken: "The Presbytery, hearing the mind of the major part of the congregation, *Ordered*, that the minister's seat be next on the right hand of the pulpit; *Ordered*, that Robert Finney have the seat before Wm. Hoge's in building and dividing it; or the next to the minister's, laid out for Andrew Steel, as Robert Finney shall please to make choice, and in case he choose the last, then Andrew Steel may have the first. *Ordered*, that Abraham Emmet, Sr., and Roger Lawson exchange seats, and if any difficulty be in the value of the seats, that they accomodate the same in a friendly and christian manner." We hear no more of this trouble, but the same year another arose of still greater magnitude and violence, respecting the organization of the present New London congregation. Robert Finny, with many others, lived many miles from the Elk-river Church, and were anxious to have a Church organized near them, in the neighborhood of New London.

Mr. Houston and the Maryland part of his congregation stoutly opposed this movement, because another Church so near would weaken their own, and because some of those belonging to the new enterprise had refused to pay off their arrears of salary.—This war between the two congregations was waged in Presbytery and Synod for four years. However, the persistent New London people received a separate organization, May 26th, 1728. Mr. Houston assisted in supplying many of the churches of Presbytery. His name appears in the earliest records we have of Lower-West-Nottingham: "March 23d, 1725, *Ordered*, that Mr. Houston supply the people at the mouth of Octoraro the fifth Sabbath of May, and Mr. Thomas Evans the third Sabbath of April." The original name of the congregation was Mouth of Octoraro.—Mr. Houston was moderator of the Synod of Philadelphia, September 19th, 1733, and for a long time stated clerk of Presbytery. He seems to have been a most active, faithful worker for the cause of souls. In 1739 he left this Church for some unknown reason, and was installed pastor of the Goodwill Presbyterian Church of Orange county, New York, before May, 1740. He died in October, 1740, aged 48 years.

After another vacancy of four years, Rev. Alexander McDowel, from Ireland, became pastor, and remained seventeen years, when he resigned, and became Principal of Newark Academy.

By the union of the two societies of the Rock and West-Nottingham,—which had separated during the great schism in 1741, —Rev. James Finley became the third pastor, and continued for twenty-one years, when getting the "Western fever," he resigned and to the then "Far West," Fayette county, Pa.

We quote from the history: "Mr. Finley left about the close of the Revolution. The people were impoverished and demoralized, and the national currency depreciated by the protracted struggle. The land was poor and unproductive, and the new lands of the West became about this time a great attraction. Multitudes went West. For these and other reasons, the churches were in great straits, and unable to secure or support pastors. This Church had its full share of the trials of the times. Mr. Finley was popular, and when he went West many of his people followed him.—Presbytery still continued to send supplies. Often they had no preaching for months at a time, and in 1795 we have no record of any supply to this pulpit. Still the organization lived, and made repeated efforts to secure a pastor.

After this vacancy of seventeen years, Rev. Robert Graham became pastor, and continued till his death in 1855, a period of 26 years. Then a "supplies," period of six years, when, in 1841, Rev. Abraham DeWitt was installed and continued till 1855. Then Rev. Geo. Marshall from 1856 1861. In 1864, the present pastor, Rev. J. H. Johns was installed.

Since its organization, in 1720, the Church has had seven pastors, and during forty years was dependent on supplies.

THE NAMES.

Pew Churches have had such a variety of names. It was at first called the New-Erection, on the branches of Elk-river, the Elk-river, Great Elk, Upper Elk, and Elk. During the schism from 1741 to 1761, the Old-Side congregation was called Elk, and the New-Side East-Nottingham; and after the re-union in 1761, it is occasionally called Elk, but generally East-Nottingham. The first time that the name Rock appears on the records is Oct., 1787; then we see no more of Rock until 1793, from which time to the present this has been the only name. By an act of the General Assembly of Maryland, in 1801, it was incorporated as "The Rock Presbyterian Church, in North Milford Hundred, Cecil county, State of Maryland."

BUILDINGS.

The first building was located at the Stone-Graveyard, Lewisville, Chester co., and was probably a small log house, with no floor, no fireplace, and a few small windows. In those days the people provided their benches or pews according to their own taste and means, and there was no doubt a variety of the "high and low seats in the synagogue." In this house occurred the strife about seats, which was settled by Presbytery in 1725, as we have already stated.

The second building was erected by the New-Side about 1741, at Sharp's Graveyard. It was a frame, covered with clapboards, and was a decided advance on the original house. When the Old and New side united under Mr. Finley, in 1761, they worshipped for a short time at Sharp's Graveyard. We know what became of this house; tradition says it was removed to the present Cleaver property, and converted into a barn.

The third building was erected in 1761, by the united congregations under Mr. Finley. It was built of stone, and its dimensions precisely the same as those of the present house. It had three doors—one in each end, about ten feet from the east side, and one midway in the west side. Between the end doors was a wide aisle, running the entire length of the Church, in which were the long benches or tables used at the communions. About the middle of the east side stood the massive, elaborately-carved blue pulpit, perched high up against the wall, with an immense sounding-board projecting overhead along the ceiling. A rounding stairway of ton or twelve steps ran up the pulpit on the south side, while beneath the pulpit, in front, was a boxed-up space for the choir, which in those days consisted of one man, "the clark." From the pulpit to the door, in the west side, was a medium sized aisle, and some eight or ten feet from each end of the Church, and running from the long aisle towards the west side, were two narrow aisles. The pews rose in amphitheatre style as they approach the walls.—The back pews along the two ends, also those along the west side, were high boxes, with small blue balustrades in the front.—The pews had doors, and were without paint. The floor was made of plaster.—The two large posts that supported the ceiling, as well as the doors, and the window frames were, like the pulpit, painted blue. The architecture of that Church was very common in those days. In 1805 the building received a new roof, and at different times was repaired, but in 1844 it was thoroughly remodeled and modernized.

The fourth building. After twenty-seven years, the floor, the roof, and the inside generally, needed repairing. The congregation began the work, and kept on repairing, until to-day we enter a virtually new house. What a contrast between this fourth building and the first log house, the second clap-boarded frame one, and the antiquated third!

Journal of The Farm.—This neat agricultural journal, published by Daniel Baugh, Philadelphia, and now in its VI volume, has been wonderfully improved since it was founded, and is now one of the neatest and most presentable agricultural publications that comes to our office. The interest of the farmer is ably advocated and the cuts which embelish the pages of *The Farm* are fine and well executed The price $1 a year places it within reach of all.

Fire Insurance.—All applications for Fire Insurance, will receive prompt attention by C. R. Martindell, General Fire Insurance Agent, Brick Meeting House, Cecil county, Md.

☞J. A. Wilson, agent for "Wilmington City Soap," has again supplied our grocers with a quantity of that superior article.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

A BLESSING TO LADIES.

DUPONCO'S Golden Pills for Females

ARE PERFECTLY HARMLESS,

AND NEVER FAIL.

to immediately relieve and permanently cure suppressed or difficult menstruation, irregularities, &c.

One lady writes, she would be willing to pay $5 a box for them rather than be without them.

Another lady writes, *Duponco's Golden Pills* relieved me in "two days," without any inconvenience, like magic.

"Beware of Counterfeits." The genuine is now put up in large white boxes, containing "double quantity" of Pills, and upon each box you will find the U.S. Revenue Stamp printed from my *private die*, upon which you will find the words Duponco's Golden Periodical Pills, in (white) letters. None genuine without that stamp. The small red and yellow boxes are no longer used, because of their being counterfeited.

Price, $1 per Box. Six Boxes, $5.

Sold at Dr. Mitchell's Drug Store, Elkton, Md.

By sending $1 through the Elkton Post Office, can have the Pills sent (confidentially) by mail, to any part of the country, free of postage.

Sold also by Smith & Painter, Wilmington; H. M. Brickley, Chester, and by S. D. Howe, Proprietor, mar 29, 1872—1y New York.

MARRIED.

WILLIAMS—CUSIC.—On December 24th 1872, by Rev. E. Kinsey, J. W. Williams, formerly of Cecil county, to Josie Cusic, of Front Royal, Va.

RICHARDS—LANGDON.—December 26, by Rev. S. A. Gayley, Granville Richards to Lizzie Jennie Langdon, both of Harrisville.

JACKSON—BAKER.—At the residence of the bride's father, near Principio Furnace, Cecil county, Md., on the 23rd of December, by Rev. Samuel Logan, Albert S. Jackson and Margaret A. Baker, both of this county.

MILLER—BOOTH.—Dec. 16th 1872, by Rev. J. E. Alexander, George H. Miller and Catherine M. Booth, all of this county.

WHANN—SINGLES.—December 31st, by Rev. J. W. Weston, at the residence of the bride's parents, near McClellandville, Thomas Whann, of Chester Co., Pa., and Annie S. Singles, of Cecil county.

DIED.

HOWARD.—December 14th, 1872, after a long and painful illness, which she bore with christian fortitude, Layinia M. wife of H. D. M. Howard, and youngest daughter of S. B. Foard of this town, in the 35th year of her age.

Dearest sister thou hast left us;
Here thy loss we deeply feel;
But 'tis God who has bereft us—
He will all our sorrows heal.

THE MARKETS.

Elkton Markets.

CORRECTED EVERY FRIDAY.

Red Wheat	1 70@1 90
White Corn	53
Yellow Corn	53
Oats	40@45

Baltimore Markets.

Flour, Spring extra $7.75; Howard street $8.50; Western super $6.25a6.50; extra $7a 7.25; family $8.37½. Wheat.—Virginia red, 200 cents; choice white and amber nominal at 225a230 cts. good red 185a190 cents, and amber 200 cts. Oats.—Mixed Western 46 cents; dark do. 45 cents, and bright western and southern 50 cents.

Philadelphia Markets.

Flour active for some grades, others dull; super, $4.50@5.50; extras, $6; Penna. extra family, $8.25@9. Wheat sparce and firm; Red, $1.8@1.95; white, $2@2.10.—Corn quiet; old yellow, 64@65c. Oats, 45 @50c.

Baltimore Hay and Straw Market.—We quote a good demand for hay, with a fair supply, and the market is firm. Western $30a35; prime Pennsylvania $35, and choice Cecil county $37a38. Rye straw is in better supply, but with a good demand prices are steady, at $30a32, all per ton of 2,000 pounds.

The Philadelphia Cattle Market.—The receipts of beef cattle were unusually small this week, owing to the interruption to travel by the snow storm. But there was not much demand. Prices were nominal. Sales of extra 5a6c.; choice 5a7½c.; and fair to good 5¼a6¾c. Receipts, 900 head. Cows and calves were nominal at $25a50. Receipts, 100 head. For sheep there were no new arrivals. We quote choice at 7c.; and fair to good at 5¼a6¾c. Hogs were in fair request at $5.75a6.25 per 100 lbs. for corn-fed. Receipts, 3000 head.

TO CONTRACTORS.

UNITED STATES MAILS.

MARYLAND.

Post Office Department,
Washington, December 1, 1872.

PROPOSALS will be received at the Contract Office of this Department until 3 p. m. of March 3, 1873, (to be decided on or before March 20, 1873,) for conveying the mails of the United States, from July 1, 1873, to June 30, 1876, in the State of Maryland, on the routes and by the schedules of departures and arrivals herein specified.

[Bidders will examine carefully the forms, and instructions annexed.]

The attention of bidders is called to the 4th section of the Post Office appropriation act of March 3, 1871, which requires that *all bids of $500 and upward shall be accompanied by a check or draft of not less than five per cent. of such bid.*

RAILROAD ROUTES NOT ADVERTISED.

2612. From Plumsonville to Frederick, 3 miles and back, three times a week, by a schedule of departures and arrivals satisfactory to the postmaster at Plumsonville.

2626. From College St. James to Ercildoville, 3 miles and back, three times a week, by a schedule of departures and arrivals satisfactory to the postmaster at College St. James. Proposals invited for six-times-a-week service.

2683. From Conoocheague, by Fairview and Courtese, to Mason and Dixon, (Pa.) 10 miles and back, three times a week. Leave Conoocheague Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 1 p m; arrive at Mason and Dixon by 4 p m; leave Mason and Dixon Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 4.30 p m; arrive at Conoocheague at 7.30 p m.

2684. From Dundee to Skipton, 5½ miles and back, once a week, by a schedule of departures and arrivals satisfactory to the postmaster at Dundee.

2685. From Westminster, by Mexico (n. o.) and Snydersburgh (n. o.,) to Manchester, 10 miles and back, once a week. Leave Westminster Saturday at 9 a m; arrive at Manchester at 12 m; leave Manchester Saturday at 1 p m; arrive at Westminster by 4 p m. Proposals invited for twice-a-week service.

2686. From Sniffville to Lanham, 4 miles and back, three times a week, by a schedule of departures and arrivals satisfactory to the postmaster at Snitzville.—Proposals also inviting for service omitting Lanham, and ending at Wilson's Station (n. o.)

2687. From Mulliken Station (n. o.) by Mitchellville and Shepherd's store, to West River, 12 miles and back, three times a week. Leave Mulliken Station Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9 a m; arrive at West River by 12 m; leave West River Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 1 p m; arrive at Mulliken Station by 4 p m. Proposals invited for six times-a-week service.

2688. From Duffield to White Plains Station (B. & P. R. R.) 2 miles and back, three times a week, by a schedule of departures and arrivals satisfactory to the postmaster at Duffield.

2689. From Port Tobacco to Murdock Station (B. & P. R. R.) 2 miles and back, six times a week, by a schedule satisfactory to the postmaster at Port Tobacco, and making connection with trains north and south.

2690. From Lake Roland, by Brooklandville, to Stevenson's Station, 5 miles and back, six times a week, by a schedule of departures and arrivals satisfactory to the postmasters.

FORM OF PROPOSAL, GUARANTEE, AND CERTIFICATE.

PROPOSAL.

The undersigned ——, whose post office address is ——, county of ——, State of ——, proposes to convey the mails of the United States, from July 1, 1873, to June 30, 1876, on route No. ——, between ——, and ——, number ——, by the advertisement of the Postmaster-General, dated December 1, 1872, "with celerity, certainty, and security" (law of June 8, 1872,) for the annual sum of —— dollars.

This proposal is made with full knowledge of the distance of the route, the weight of the mail to be carried, and all other particulars in reference to the route and service; and, also, after careful examination of the laws and instructions attached to advertisement of mail service; and of the provisions contained in the act of Congress of June 8, 1872.

Dated ——, ——, Bidder.

GUARANTEE.

The undersigned, residing at ——, State of ——, undertake that, if the foregoing bid for carrying the mail on route No. —— be accepted by the Postmaster General, the bidder will, prior to the 1st June, 1873, enter into the required obligation, or contract, to perform the service proposed, with good and sufficient sureties.

☞This we do, understanding distinctly the obligations and liabilities assumed by guarantors.

Dated ——, ——, ——

CERTIFICATE.

The undersigned, postmaster at ——, State of ——, certifies, UNDER HIS SEAL OF OFFICE, that he is acquainted with the above guarantors, and knows them to be men of property, and able to make good their guarantee; and that bidder and guarantors are above the age of 21 years.

Bids of $5,000 and upward must be accompanied by a certified check, or draft, on some solvent national bank, equal to 5 per centum on the present annual pay on the route; or in case of new service, not less than 5 per centum of one year's pay proposed in bid.—(Section 253, Act of June 8, 1872.)

The Postmaster must not sign the certificate until the sum of the bid is inserted and the bid and guarantee signed by all the parties, and dated.

OATH REQUIRED BY SECTION 246 OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS, APPROVED JUNE 8, 1872, TO BE AFFIXED TO EACH BID FOR CARRYING THE MAIL, AND TO BE TAKEN BEFORE AN OFFICER QUALIFIED TO ADMINISTER OATHS.

I, ——, of ——, bidder for conveying the mail on route No. ——, do swear (or affirm) that I have the ability pecuniarly to fulfil my obligation as such bidder; that the bid is made in good faith, and with the intention to enter into contract and perform the service for which said bid shall be accepted; and that the signatures of the guarantors thereto are genuine, and that I believe the said guarantors to be pecuniarly responsible for and able to pay all damages the United States shall suffer by reason of my failing to perform my obligations as such bidder.

Sworn and subscribed before me ——, for the of ——, this —— day of ——, A. D. 187 , and in testimony thereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my official seal the day and year aforesaid.

[SEAL.]

Note.—When the oath is taken before a justice of the peace, the certificate of the clerk of a court of record should be added, under his seal of office, that the person who administered the oath is a duly qualified justice of the peace.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS AND POSTMASTERS.

Containing also conditions to be incorporated in the contracts to the extent the Department may deem proper.

1. Seven minutes are allowed to each intermediate office, when not otherwise specified, for assorting the mails.

2. On routes where the mode of conveyance admits of it, the special agents of the Post Office Department, also post office blanks, mail bags, locks and keys, are to be conveyed without extra charge.

3. "Way bills" or receipts prepared by postmasters, or other agents of the Department, will accompany the mails, specifying the number and destination of the several bags, to be examined by the postmasters, to insure regularity in the delivery of bags and pouches.

4. No pay will be made for trips not performed; and for each of such omissions, if the failure be occasioned by the fault of the contractor or carrier, three times the pay of the trip will be deducted. For arrivals so far behind time as to break connection with depending mails, and not sufficiently excused, one-fourth of the compensation for the trips is subject to forfeiture. For repeated delinquencies of the kind herein specified, enlarged penalties, proportioned to the nature thereof, and the importance of the mail, may be made.

5. For leaving behind or throwing off the mails, or any portion of them, for the admission of passengers, or for being concerned in setting up or running an express conveying intelligence in advance of the mail, a quarter's pay may be deducted.

6. Fines will be imposed, unless the delinquency be promptly and satisfactorily explained by certificates of postmasters or the affidavits of other credible persons, for failing to arrive in contract time; for neglecting to take the mail from, or deliver it into, a post office; for suffering it to be wet, injured, destroyed, robbed, or lost; and for refusing, after demand, to convey the mail as frequently as the contractor runs, or is concerned in running, a coach, car, or steamboat on a route.

7. The Postmaster General may annul the contract for repeated failures to run agreeably to contract; for violating the post office laws, or disobeying the instructions of the Department; for refusing to discharge a carrier when required by the Department to do so; for running an express as aforesaid; or for transporting persons or packages conveying mailable matter out of the mail.

8. The Postmaster General may order an increase of service on a route by allowing therefor a *pro rata* increase on the contract pay. He may change schedules of departures and arrivals in all cases, and particularly to make them conform to connections with railroads, without increase of pay, provided the running time be not abridged. The Postmaster General may also discontinue or curtail the service, in whole or in part, in order to place the route supplied by the service, or when over the public interests, in his judgment, shall require such discontinuance or curtailment for any other cause; he allowing as full indemnity to contractor one month's extra pay on the amount of service dispensed with, and a *pro rata* compensation for the amount of service retained and continued.

9. Payments will be made by collections from, or drafts on, postmasters or others, after the expiration of each quarter—say in November, February, May, and August, provided that required evidence of service has been received.

10. The distances given are believed to be substantially correct; but no increased pay will be allowed should they be greater than advertised, if the points to be supplied are correctly stated. Bidders must inform themselves on this point, and also in reference to the weight of the mail, the condition of hills, roads, streams, &c., and all toll-bridges, turnpikes, plank-roads, ferries, or obstructions of any kind by which expense may be incurred. No claim for additional pay, based on such ground, can be considered; nor for alleged mistakes or misapprehension as to the degree of service; nor for bridges destroyed, ferries discontinued, or other obstructions causing or increasing distance or expense occurring during the contract term. Offers established after this advertisement is issued, and also during the contract term, are to be visited without extra pay, if the distance be not increased.

11. Bidders are cautioned to mail their proposals in time to reach the Department by the day and hour named (3 p. m., March 3, 1873,) for bids received after that time will not be considered in competition with bids of reasonable amount, received in time. Neither can bids be considered which are without the guarantee required by law, and a certificate of the sufficiency of such guarantee, and the oath of the bidder according to section 246, act of June 8, 1872.

12. Bidders should first propose for service strictly according to the advertisement, and then, if they desire, *separately* for different service; and if the *regular* bid be the lowest offered for the advertised service, the other propositions may be considered.

13. There should be but one route bid for in a proposal. Consolidated or combination bids ("proposing one sum for two or more routes") cannot be considered.

14. The route, the yearly pay, the name and residence of the bidder (that is, his usual post-office address,) and the name of each member of a firm, where a company offers, should be distinctly stated.

15. Bids for routes in use, as far as practicable, the printed proposals furnished by the Department, to written in full the sum of their bids, and to retain copies of them.

Altered bids should not be submitted; nor should bids once submitted be withdrawn. No withdrawal of a bidder or guarantor will be allowed unless the withdrawal is received twenty-four hours previous to the time fixed for opening the proposals.

Each bid must be guaranteed by two responsible persons. The bid and guarantee should be shown plainly with the full name of each person.

The Postmaster General reserves the right to reject any bid which may be deemed extravagant; and also to disregard the bids of failing contractors and bidders.—(Act of June 8, 1872, section 230.)

16. The bid should be sealed, superscribed "Mail Proposals, State of ——," addressed "Second Assistant Postmaster General, Contract Office," and sent by *mail*, not by or to an agent. Bids of $5,000 per annum and upward must be accompanied by a certified check or draft on some solvent national bank, equal to 5 per cent of the amount. (See law of Congress of June 8, 1872.)

17. The contracts are to be executed and remitted to the Department by or before the 1st day of June, 1873, otherwise the accepted bidder will be considered as having failed, and the Postmaster General may proceed to contract for the service with other parties, according to law.

Transfers of contracts, or of interest in contracts, are forbidden by law, and consequently cannot be allowed. Neither can bids, or interest in bids, be transferred or assigned to other parties. Bidders are cautioned that they will be expected to perform the service awarded to them through the whole contract term.

18. Section 239 of the act of June 8, 1872, provides that contracts for the transportation of the mail shall be "awarded to the lowest bidder tendering sufficient guarantees for faithful performance, without other reference to the modes of such transportation than may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty, and security thereof." Under this law bids that propose to transport the mails with "celerity, certainty, and security," having been decided to be the only legal bids, are construed as providing for the entire mail, however large, and whatever may be the mode of conveyance necessary to insure its "celerity, certainty, and security," and have the preference over all others, and no others are considered, except for steamboat routes.

19. A modification of a bid in any of its essential terms is tantamount to a new bid, and cannot be received, so as to interfere with regular competition.—Making a new bid, with guarantee and certificate, is the only way to modify a previous bid.

20. Postmasters are to be careful not to certify to the sufficiency of guarantors without knowing that they are persons of sufficient responsibility. (See section 247, act of June 8, 1872.) They must not sign the certificate until the sum of the bid is inserted, and the bid and guarantee are sign