Ellicott City Times

AND

HOWARD COUNTY ADVERTISER.

J. HARWOOD WATKINS,
J. THOMAS CLARK,
Editors & Proprietors.

TERMS—$2 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1879.

SECRETARY SHERMAN estimates the cost for running the government next year at $264,000,000. If his party get first class marshals and deputy marshals they can run it pretty well out of existence for that sum.

THE message sent by President Hayes to Congress on Monday last is an ordinary document and barren of any important practical suggestion to the Legislative body. The message opens with the financial question and suggests that the coinage of silver dollars be suspended and the greenbacks retired from circulation. The President then refers to polygamy in Utah and asks the enactment of further laws for its suppression, while admitting that the Executive has been powerless to enforce those already in existence. This subject is followed by some uninteresting and rather spread eagle platitudes upon the price'ess boon of a free and universal suffrage. Then comes a long disquisition upon the importance of Civil Service Reform and a request that Congress make another appropriation for the Civil Service Commission already established, whose recommendations neither Mr. Hayes or any body else ever heeds. The President then enumerates a few items of insignificant foreign business which Mr. Evarts has been engaged in for the past year. He quotes largely from the reports of his various secretaries; thinks the Army should be increased and sundry new army buildings provided for; desires Congress to make an appropriation for Deputy Marshals; suggests that ten additional Circuit Judges be appointed; asks for liberal appropriations for the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Education, the erection of a library building in Washington and farther aid for the Washington Monument; and recommends the adoption of a generous policy towards the District of Columbia. This is about all which the message contains and it is rather dull reading matter. Mr. Hayes should feel grateful to the New York *Times* for having purloined a copy of his message before its delivery to Congress. The incident of the theft is the only thing which has given any interest to the document.

MOST of our County Officers will find reason for self congratulation in the report of the committee submitted to the Taxpayers' Convention on Tuesday last, and which appears elsewhere in our columns. It ought certainly to be gratifying to them to know that the most serious fault which the Committee has to find with their administration of their respective offices, is the fidelity with which they have adhered to the time honored precept which teaches that a thing worth doing at all is worth doing well. The Committee was charged by the Convention with the duty of examining into the County expenditures for the purpose of discovering if there was any judicious manner by which those expenditures could be curtailed; and it has performed that duty by recommending, as it strikes us, the rather unwise economy of paying half price for work half done instead of full price for work fully done. In the report there is less fault found of immoderate charges than of what, the Committee thinks, immoderate work. There is no pretense, for example, that the bill for printing the Local Laws is excessive,—there is only an intimation that it would be more economical to keep the people ignorant of what Local Laws are passed;—no averment that too much money is charged for printing the Registers' lists,—but only the suggestion that some money might be saved by not informing the public at all what persons have been newly registered and what names have been taken from the registration lists. And so in the Registers office, there is no allegation that the work done upon the records is not worth the money paid for it, but only an assertion that the work is more perfectly done than it need be or than is consistent with the curtailment of county expenses. These matters, of course, are questions to be decided by the people themselves, and unless they choose to require all the county work to be done in the most perfect manner they certainly ought not to be required to pay for it as though it were done in that manner. But if they do require it to be so done, then they should be willing to pay a fair price for it. To have the work done imperfectly at half price would be very much on the order of the "penny wise and pound foolish" policy; and should the County Commissioners adopt all of the suggestions contained in this report they may earn an enviable reputation for economy, but we fear they would do it at the expense of their reputation for a wise and judicious management of county affairs. The importance,—nay the economy even—of doing all work in the best possible way, is admitted by the committee itself in the wise demand it makes for the adoption of a more elaborate and comprehensive system of book-keeping in the Board of County Commissioners office. And that this importance was recognized by the Taxpayers' Convention itself, is evidenced by the duty which it imposed upon its committee of suggesting how the exhibits of the county expenditures shall be more clearly placed before the public.

We cannot entirely agree with the committee in all of the suggestions it makes for the reduction of the accustomed charges of officers for certain services. Justice is surely as important a consideration in this matter as economy; and we can see no reason why a public officer should not be paid as much for the work he does for the public, as he would be paid for similar work if done for a private employer. The report says that a smaller compensation to the State's Attorney for the trial of criminal cases would save the county from two to three hundred dollars per annum. Of course it would—but would a smaller compensation be a just one for the time and labor the State's Attorney gives to those cases? He gets, we believe, from twenty-five to forty dollars for a jury trial. Now we cannot say how much less than that amount, the chairman of the committee who prepared this report, may charge his clients for cases involving the same amount of labor; but we can say that if he charges them anything less he is certainly very poorly compensated for his time and receives a much smaller reward than his legal abilities entitle him to. And, indeed, each member of the committee before signing the report, might well have asked himself, if he would be willing to perform the duties of any of the offices for a sum as small as that to which the report recommends the salaries to be reduced. There are it is true, some men so fortunate, that they can afford to serve their country for no other reward than the consciousness of a duty well performed—but they are few. And if we would have intelligence and energy in our public service, we should be willing to pay at least as much as intelligence and energy will demand in the private walks of life. A faithful and competent public servant, if entitled to no greater compensation than his fidelity and competency would win for him in private service, is certainly entitled to no less. We once heard a very shrewd judge of human nature say that many people think virtue is its own reward when they might otherwise have to pay that reward themselves—but we hope the taxpayers of Howard County are not of that class.

We regret that the committee should have used some language respecting the Road Supervisors, which a more careful inquiry into the facts would have convinced it was unjust. The accounts of these officers are kept in detail, and the officers themselves have no reason to fear a comparison in intelligence and integrity with any other class of citizens in the county. Instead of being "generally incompetent and grossly negligent" and "making the employment a source of personal profit and petty depredations upon the county treasury," as the report claims, the supervisors are generally intelligent gentlemen of public spirit, who do their work as well as their limited powers will permit. We have every sympathy with the desire of the committee for economy in public expenditure,—but we do not think it would be wise to secure the economy at the cost of common justice.

The Governor's Guest.

Brilliant Meet of the Elkridgers at the Manor—Skillful Riding.

A field day, a most exciting chase, and the best hunt of the season was what the Elkridge Fox Hunting Club had Saturday. On Thanksgiving day the hunt was but a drag one; but Saturday all the excitement, the pleasure, the great enjoyment of a real fox hunt was the lot of Governor Carroll's guests. It would seem, after the run on Thursday these young hunters would have been satisfied for a while; but not so, when Governor Carroll invited the club to the manor to enjoy a real old Howard hunt, for that county is noted for its old hunters, its sly foxes and its hospitable people. Friday looked like rain; in fact, it did rain. But what are a few little drops of water to a body of light-hearted young people, who only look for the morrow and clear weather? so, of course, the rain did not keep the Elkridgers in the city when the manor was prepared to receive them. The 4.20 P. M. train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad carried as merry a party of ladies and gentlemen from this city as ever left it. Twenty-two they numbered, and their destination was Ellicott City, and the party were the Elkridgers, who were on their way to the manor. The horses had been sent out by the groom, in the morning, and together with the Governor's carriages awaited their arrival at the depot. Doughoregan Manor was a blaze of lights. It is a magnificent old house, 300 feet front, with a magnificent lawn and avenues. A beautiful lawn tennis court in the rear, and handsome shrubbery. It presented a beautiful sight when the party drew up at the door. The Governor and Mrs. Carroll with their daughters and several ladies, greeted the new comers. The liveried servants led this one and that one to his room, to brush the dust off after their journey.

DINNER AT THE MANOR.

The announcement of dinner brought as hungry a party as could be found to the table. The room was beautifully adorned with rare plants from the green-houses, while the table was decorated with pyramids of flowers, and groaned with its weight of delicacies and wines. At the head and foot of the table sat Governor and Mrs. Carroll, while around the table was seated Miss Lou Carroll, Miss Nita Carroll, Miss Lena Hull, Miss Fanny Lehr, Miss Catherine McLane, Miss Virginia McTavish, the Misses Carroll from Baltimore county, Messrs J. Fenner Lee, Tucker Carroll, John T. Hardey, Harper Carroll, Bradley T. Johnson, Jr., William Hardey, Dr. Hebb, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Rogers, and the following members of the Elkridge Club, Hoff Gilmor, Jesse Tyson, Fred. Shriver, Frank Brown, W. T. Frick, Edward Murray, Thomas Chappell, Edward Voss, Dr. F. Dulin, Prof. Rowland, of the Johns Hopkins University; Charles A. Gambrill, Samuel M. Shoemaker, Jr, Edward Jackson, Chas Tiernan and Harry Ferguson. The guests were two busily engaged for the first few minutes for much conversation; but as the courses came on jokes and witty conversation were heard on all sides. After dinner the gentlemen smoked, and the ladies prepared for the german. The band, from this city, taking this occasion, refreshed themselves with the good things prepared.

A GERMAN AND A VIRGINIA REEL.

The large parlors were brilliantly lighted, and the arrangement, fragrance and beauty of the flowers, together with the pretty dresses of the ladies, made as magnificent a sight as seen at any german in this city. The merry party danced figure after figure, until the prudent ones thought of the morrow and advised retiring. "A country ball without a Virginia reel was out of the question," and so an old-time reel was danced by all. Then, of course, as this was a hunting party the hunters' quadrille had to be danced; and by the time the company broke up, the grandfather's clock at the head of the stairs struck 1 o'clock. The ladies retired, and the gentlemen serenaded them by singing the glee, "Good Night, Ladies," and it was 2 o'clock ere all were asleep

WAKING FOR THE HUNT.

One, two, three, four, five, six, sounded the guardian on the stair, and bang! bang!! sounded on the doors, for the same liveried servants who so nimbly had carried the satchel upstairs on Friday, now drove sleep from the eyes of all. All were ready in an amazingly short space of time, and a hasty breakfast was partaken of, for Reynard is sly and is only found when the morn is fresh. The magnificent lawn in front of the old manor was a pretty picture: there stood the numerous grooms with the beautiful horses, all anxious to be off. The Governor had his thoroughbred saddled, as was the beautiful English hunter which Miss Carroll was to ride. Miss Virginia McTavish's beauty of a horse was also in waiting for her. The club members' horses have all had some tough runs to keep up with this little beauty, for Miss Virginia McTavish is a beautiful rider. The horses of Gilmor, Gambrill, Tiernan, Brown, Shriver, Chappell, Ferguson, Shoemaker, Voss, Dulin, Tyson, Rowland, Frick, Murray and Jackson were all ready, and the owners in the handsome club costume made up the picture. The ladies all went to the meet, but only two followed the hounds. Dr. Hebb, Will Hardey and Mr. Rogers took charge of the hunt. To the large pack of dogs belonging to the club were added those of the veteran fox-hunter of Howard county, Mr. John Hardey. The day was windy and bad for the dogs, but excellent for Master Reynard, and Mr. Hardey shook his head and predicted but little chance for uncovering a fox.

AWAY WE GO.

At the the signal, with many farewells to the ladies, the merry hunters, with bugle calls and shouts, rode away from the meet directly towards the Big Woods and started across country. It was a pretty sight to see one after another clear a neat worm fence with a pretty ditch on the other side. Gov. Carroll led his guests over, while Miss Carroll followed in beautiful style. Miss McTavish cleared it "clear as a whistle;" but two of the gentlemen went down, but recovered soon. The Big Woods, which are three miles from the Manor, were reached at length, and all were ready to start. Barnsly had his pack of dogs ready, and they were thrown off into the woods. It seemed for a while as if Mr. Hardey's probabilities would come true, for nothing was heard from the dogs; until suddenly a sharp, then a prolonged cry, came to the hunters. Then came the sweet music of thirty dogs, all wild with excitement, and the chase was begun. Miss McTavish dashed off, followed by Mr. Voss; but, unluckily, the lady was a better rider than the latter, for he pulled up in the mire. Mr. Gilmor went to his rescue: but he, too, came near needing aid as well. Away they all went, at length, over a fence, then through a meadow. A stone wall was beautifully cleared by the Governor, Misses Carroll and McTavish, Messrs. Gilmor, Rowland, Harper Carroll, Willie Frick, Shriver, Dulin and Chappell. Miss McTavish led all over a deep ditch; then over a stiff fence. These latter came quite frequent, and so well did the ladies ride that the party separated, some following in the wake of the hounds, others climbing up an eminence to see the run. Away sped poor, frightened foxy, the dogs after him in full cry, and then the party. Nothing could be prettier than to see the leader dash through a deep stream, the dogs to swim after him, and then the horsemen to come down the hill at a fearful pace and take the stiff water jump as if it were a tiny stream. Many of the gentlemen preferred to remain with the old hunters, who said, with the wind blowing as it did, the fox would double, and by waiting they would have the best chance, and so it seemed; for before long down came Master Reynard, in full view, through a ravine. He ran with the wind and had shut the dogs out. The poor, little fellow thus gained a little, and returned to his cover. This hunt lasted over forty minutes and was the most enjoyable the club, has ever had. Messrs. Hardy and Frick blew in the dogs, and the party rode to Hammond's Woods, about five miles off and here again they broke cover. The dogs were put in the wood and the corns again drawn. A fox was aroused, but by one o'clock the party had not captured him, and, being satisfied with the two runs, returned to the manor after a most enjoyable day.

HONORS TO THE HUNT.

The honor of the day, as to jumping, belongs to Miss McTavish, for the ditch she took was in beautiful form. Miss Carroll also distinguished herself by taking a fence. Mr. Frank Brown, Governor Carroll, Messrs. Harper Carroll, Willie Frick, Gilmor, Dulin, Chappell, Shriver and Professor Rowland deserve praise for their fine riding. At the manor, on the return of the party, a magnificent dinner was set, one of the features of the table being a roast pig with an apple in its mouth, which was pronounced "too cunning" by the ladies. At the other end of the table was a "game *pate*." It was fully half-past four when the company left, the larger part riding to town. The appearance of the club as they rode through Ellicott City created a big sensation. It is the verdict of all that they never had a better time or enjoyed a better hunt.—*Baltimore Sunday American.*

FEEBLE LADIES.—Those languid, tiresome sensations, causing you to be scarcely able to be on your feet; that constant drain that is taking from your system all its elasticity; driving the bloom from your cheeks; that continual strain upon your vital forces, rendering you irritable and fretful, can easily be removed by the use of that marvelous remedy, Hop Bitters. Irregularities and obstructions of your system are relieved at once, while the special cause of periodical pain is permanently removed. Will you heed this?—*Cincinnati Saturnay Night.*

—We were exposed last week to a pitiless storm, that wet our feet and stockings, and indeed our person all over. In fact we took a cracking cold, which brought sore-throat and severe symptoms of fever. The good-wife asserted her authority, plunged our feet into hot water, wrapped us in hot blankets, and sent our faithful son for a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. It is a splendid medicine, pleasant to take, and did the job. We slept soundly during the night and awoke well the next morning. We know we owe our quick recovery to the Pectoral, and shall not hesitate to recommend it to all who need such a medicine.—*Tehuacana (Texas) Presbyterian.*

—Chew JACKSON'S Best Sweet Navy Tobacco.

LOCAL AFFAIRS.

Taxpayers Convention.—At the first convention of the taxpayers of this county, which was held here on the 24th day of last May, a resolution was adopted appointing a committee of seven, one from each district, with the President, Judge Merrick, as chairman, to examine carefully into the details of the county expenditures of the past year, and report at a future meeting, to be called by the president, whether or not said expenditures can be reduced to a lower figure consistent with an efficient and faithful administration of its affairs. In pursuance of this resolution the convention was called together, on Tuesday last, the 2nd inst., to receive and act upon the report of said committee.

The citizens of the county present at the meeting were the following: Dr. Williams, Thos. H. Gaither, Saml. K. George, John H. Owings, John R. Clark, Walter Dorsey, James Clark, George W. O'Donnell, John W. Dorsey, John J. Myerly, Reuben Dorsey, Asbury Haynes, Upton Clark, Henry A. Penny, Judge Harban, Jno. R. Brown, Beal Cavey, E. A. Talbott, Dawson Lawrence, Joshua D. Warfield, Louis J. Watkins, Wm. A. Hammond, Soper Childs, Wm. B. Peter, James D. Cooke, F. C. Pue, Thos. Warfield, Chas. Hanson, H. E. Wootton, Wm. Thomas, Dr. S. A. Keene, Joseph D. McGuire, Nicholas Miller, James Rowles, Wm. Isaac, Judge Mathews, Joseph Renehan, Thos. O'Neal B. H. Wallenhorst.

Judge Merrick, after a few preliminary remarks, read the following carefully prepared and exhaustive report, which was received with warm expressions of approval.

The committee appointed by this convention on the 24th of May last and charged by resolution to inquire into the details of the county expenditures for the past year and to report in what manner, in their judgment, the said expenditures can be reduced, and to suggest how the exhibits of the county expenditures shall be more clearly placed before the public, beg leave, to report, that they have made such inquiries as under the circumstances were within their power. In the nature of things the minute details of expenditure in all the branches of county administration were not scrutinized for the purpose of seeing whether there might not have been in all of them by the exercise of more rigid economy some reduction of cost. The committee confined their examination to those subjects, in the main, wherein some rule or standard of prices might in their judgment be advantageously indicated as a guide for future administration. And first they beg leave to suggest that the accounts of the Commissioners should be so kept as to exhibit a balance sheet of the total receipts, as well as of the expenditures, from all sources; under the present system of accounts the public are left utterly in the dark in this respect. For example there is a lumping statement of the cost of jurors, bailiffs and witnesses at $5,000. Now we know that about $3,000 per annum is received by this county from other counties and the city of Baltimore chiefly for the expenses incurred in the trial of removed cases. At September Term, 1878, this item was precisely $1606.50 and at March Term, 1879, $1284, aggregating $2890.50. These sums are received from other counties and instead of being applied to the specific account of judicial expenses, are used for roads, bridges or other subjects, so that one is unable, except by a protracted investigation, to determine what our judicial expenses are, or what is our road or bridge account or the like. Again there is an estimate made of six per cent. deduction for prompt payment of taxes, and yet it nowhere appears in the published statements how much of that allowance is actually made; nor what proportion of the taxes levied remains uncollected, so that here again the statement of the gross levy does not at all represent the true income from taxation. Being of opinion that accuracy of statements of receipts and expenditures is essential, no less to the security of the public funds, than to economy in their disbursement they recommend that a revision of the whole system of accounts should be made and a simple comprehensive and accurate system of books should be adopted and adhered to in the future. Any competent book-keeper could arrange the details of a plan which need not farther be insisted upon here, but may be earnestly commended to the next county administration. Second, there should be a specific statement of the administration of the road fund by the several supervisors; of the amount allowed in each road district, and the rate of costs of repairs per mile in each district. The public have no means of knowing what each supervisor receives and expends. The road law contains ample provisions if they were properly executed. But it is a notorious fact that the law is for the most part a dead letter. The supervisors are generally incompetent or grossly negligent of their duties, and there is an absence of that spirit of vigilance in the citizens of different portions of the county which is an essential adjunct to the efforts of the Commissioners for the due and efficient execution of the road law. Until a higher standard in the office of supervisors is established by the efforts of the County Commissioners and by the force of public sentiment we cannot expect better results. The law places the duties of road supervisors among those compulsory and honorable duties of the citizen, like the service on juries, which should be performed in turn by the most intelligent and best educated men and they should not be left to the grossly ignorant or to those who make the employment a source of personal profit and petty depredation upon the county treasury.

Nothing is more important to the development of the material prosperity and to the increase of population of the county than good roads. The benefits of our central position and proximity to a great commercial city are most seriously impaired by the difficulties of intercourse. The value of our lands is disproportionately small compared with their intrinsic worth and so they will remain until the people of Howard County awake to a sense of their true interests in this regard.

The attention of your committee has been called to the rates of allowance heretofore made to sheriffs for transporting prisoners under sentence to the penitentiary and they are of opinion that a very large reduction in this item of expenditure ought hereafter to be insisted upon. A considerable annual saving to the county will be the consequence.

The allowance for the support of prisoners in jail will also admit of very material reduction and your committee think that the jailer should not be required to pay a profit upon his appointment, to the sheriff of the county. With the overthrow of this abuse and a proper consequent reduction in the price of subsistence of prisoners as suggested, six or eight hundred dollars per annum would be saved to the county.

The extra compensation to the State's attorney for the trial of criminal cases, while relatively much lower than in other counties, might and should, in view of the reduction of all salaries to public officers, also be curtailed, and here again a saving of from two to three hundred dollars per annum can be effected without detriment to the public service.

The charges for stationery and other office expenses in the offices of clerks and registers which have heretofore been made under color of an unconstitutional act of Assemby (1865 ch. 151) are another item of expenditure needing correction and to remove all doubts for the future the Legislature should be asked to repeal that law. The attention of the Judges of the Circuit Court has been directed to the cost of dockets for the use of the several judges and in future this item of expenditure your committee are advised will be reduced to a minimum.

Your committee have also had occasion to consider a practice of very many years standing in this county of preparing and charging against the county very voluminous entries of the proceedings of the Orphans' Court. The fees from parties transacting business in that court do not exceed on an average $600 and yet the cost to the county of keeping the minutes of their proceedings has been about $900. The system requires immediate reform in the judgment of this committee. While the present incumbent of the office of Register of Wills has been only following the precedents of several of his predecessors, and although there be great order and exactness in the manner in which his books of entries are made up, your committee are of opinion that the greater portion of these entries ought to be dispensed with and that the Judges of the Orphans' Court who have a control over the matter should direct their minutes to be entered with brevity.

The charges for public printing present another instance of needlessly extravagant expenditure. A great part of this expense is due to inconsiderate legislation over which the Commissioners have no control—such for example as the publication in newspapers of registration lists and public local laws. Over one thousand dollars is the present levy for this purpose. A proper reform in this particular will reduce the expense one-half.

This committee is also of opinion that the cost of collecting the state and county taxes might be greatly reduced. The allowance for the current year is $2551.59 or 4 per cent. for county and 5 per cent. for state taxes. Various schemes have been suggested for affecting a reduction in this particular. Some are under the impression that the collection should be entrusted to a county treasurer who should also be the clerk of the board of Commissioners and that a salary of $2,400 would secure efficiency in the work of collection, and be a saving on the commissions now paid and the salary of the clerk to the board as at present paid, of over one thousand dollars per annum. Others think that offering the collection of taxes to the lowest bidder as is done in Harford county, would be the cheaper and better plan, while others again suggest that by uniting the office of tax collector with that of sheriff in a small county like ours, where the sheriff's duties are light a much lower rate of cost and a higher grade of service would be attained. With such variant views as to the best remedy all agree that some change should be made.

From the foregoing suggestions it must be quite apparent that it is not only easy but our bounden duty to make certain obviously urgent reformations which will on the instant operate a reduction of at least ten per cent. upon that portion of taxation which is not of a fixed and imperative character. By adverting to the basis of taxation it will be observed that we levy, a fraction over 23 cents on the $100 for school purposes alone, and 8.75 cents on the $100 for interest on the public debt of the State. So that aside from these fixed burdens our levy for strictly county purposes is 47.97 cents on the $100 or $36,837. Now the curtailments above particularized will exceed ten per cent. of the sum last indicated and it is more than probable that still greater curtailments may and will hereafter be made so that the reduction will equal 10 per cent. upon the entire taxation of the county for all purposes, county and state included.

Your committee having thus called attention to the specific suggestions which under your resolution they have felt obliged to make in some detail beg leave to add that they do not wish to be understood as intending to cast any personal reflection upon the present board of commissioners, or upon any incumbent of the various positions the costs of which they have discussed. The general disturbance of values, and the consequent extravagance of expenditure which has pervaded all orders of society in private as well as in public concerns could not have existed for so many years without exerting some influence upon the affairs of our county. Happily, we have suffered much less than other communities, and have been among the first to recognize the necessity of correcting the errors into which we have insensibly fallen.

Your committee have not averted to the many reforms in State administration and in State expenditure which are demanded by the tax paying citizens. That duty has been devolved by the State Taxpayers Convention upon a committee selected from the different counties, and we feel inclined to adhere strictly to the views of that body as to the propriety of keeping purely local county reforms distinct from those affecting the State at large. But we cannot close this report without congratulating the people of this county upon the fact that the impulse which they were the first to give has been felt throughout the State, that the spirit of reform dominates in every political gathering and finds expression in the resolutions of all parties and influences the selection of men for places of public trust everywhere; and that we have a confident expectation that what has been indicated as the will of the people will find permanent record upon the statutes of our next legislature.

Respectfully submitted,
WM. M. MERRICK, Chairman,
JOHN LEE CARROLL,
THOS. H. GAITHER,
S. K. GEORGE,
WM. H. HARDEY,
WALTER DORSEY.

At the conclusion of the reading, of the above report, a vote of thanks was tendered the members of the committee for the very faithful and able manner in which they had discharged the duties committed to them.

Mr Jno. R. Clark after complimenting the committee on the able and comprehensive report they had just submitted, moved that the county papers be requested to publish it in full, free of charge, which motion was unanimously carried.

Three separate resolutions introduced by Messrs. Dawson Lawrence, Jno. R. Clark and Wm. A. Hammond, were embodied into the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed by the President, of which he shall be chairman, to prepare a draft of a law for a more economical collection of State and county taxes, and also drafts of such other laws as in their judgment shall be conducive to the interests of the County; and that said committee report to an adjourned meeting of this convention.

In accordance with the above resolution the following committee was appointed: First district, Jno. J. Donaldson; second dist., Wm. B. Peter; third dist., Jno. R. Brown; fourth dist., Walter Dorsey; fifth dist., Jno. R. Clark; sixth dist., Jerome C. Berry.

Mr. Dawson Lawrence, who is an ever ready and vigilant member of any deliberative body, succeeded in submitting to the convention a series of resolutions, a few of which we publish below:

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Convention, the office of School Examiner should be abolished; the duties of the same in the school districts to be performed, as formerly, by the local Board of Trustees.

Resolved, that we coincide with the State Taxpayers' Convention, as well as Governor Carroll, in denouncing the present mode of inspecting tobacco and believe that the practice should be either greatly reformed or abolished entirely.

Resolved, That we agree with the decision of the recent State Taxpayers' Convention in regard to the burdens imposed upon taxpayers by the present mode of dispensing spirituous liquors, and that some change should be made to regulate the trade.

Resolved, That we truly, earnestly urge our representatives in the General Assembly to sanction and pass all bills, and to favor all measures which in their judgment may have a tendency to remove the evils which now accompany the trade aforesaid.

Resolved, That we again announce our conviction that all the property in the State should bear its due proportion of assessment and taxation, any exemption, whatever, having a tendency to advance special interests, and to that extent operates unjustly upon the property not exempted, and hence is destructive of that sound principle in free government, "That each individual should bear his just proportion of the burdens of government," according to the actual value of his real and personal property.

These resolutions were referred to the committee of seven above named. Mr. Wm. A. Hammond offered the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That all taxpayers of the county, be and they are hereby invited, to present to the committee of seven heretofore appointed, such drafts of laws as they may deem desirable to have corrected.

The meeting was very pleasant and harmonious, and another will be held the first Tuesday in January to receive and act upon the report of the committee of seven, appointed to draft laws to be submitted to the next Legislature.

Accident.—On Wednesday last, Mr. Oscar Banks a blacksmith, living at Elkridge Landing, had his skull badly fractured by an accidental blow inflicted by an inexperienced employe, Robert Soper, whom he had striking whilst drawing out a piece of iron. Mr. Banks leaned his head forward to see that the iron was being wrought out properly and received the blow intended by Soper for the iron. He was attended by Dr. Rex, and at last accout he was in an improving condition, and considered out of danger.

Lecture.—Prof. Reider, the converted Jew, will lecture in Patapsco M. P. Chapel, on Wednesday, Dec. 10th, at 7 P. M. Subject—"The Jewish Tabernacle and its Furniture in its Typical Teachings." This lecture contains a vast amount of valuable biblical information which ought not to be lost, particularly by Sunday School teachers and scholars, nor by the public in general. Adult tickets 15 cents, children 10 cents.

Remember Farmers we will buy any kind of produce you have to sell, and sell you any kind of produce you wish to buy. It will pay you to call on us.

LAMKIN & BURKE.

—"The Life and Words of Christ," by Geikie, heretofore published at $6.00, is just brought out in a handy volume, good type and handsomely bound, for the price of 50 cents, by the American Book Exchange, New York. A fine edition, wide margins, half Russia binding, gilt top, is sold for $1.00.

Annual Report of the School Examiner.—In accordance with the requirements of the law I append a statement of the financial condition of the School Board for Howard County, and with the same would respectfully submit a few explanatory remarks, for the purpose of showing, how it is that we were slightly in arrears to our Teachers for their salaries for the year ending September 30th, 1879. Also an approximate cost for each school, and the cost *per capita* for each pupil.

As to the first, the explanation is very simple, viz: the number of schools has increased, and the *State tax* has fallen off, thus it will be seen that we are required to do *more*, with less money, hence the deficiency. For example, the amount of State tax for last year was eight thousand two hundred and fifty dollars and four cents, this year it was only seven thousand one hundred and ninety-nine dollars and thirty four cents, showing a falling off of *more* than one thousand dollars from the State.

The Board of County Commissioners appreciating this, coupled with the fact that certain localities were demanding, very justly, additional school facilities increased their levy for school purposes one thousand dollars. I will here state that this increased levy had annexed to it a condition that the School Board should reduce the salaries of the teachers, hence the reduction from $500 to $450 for the one class, and from $475 to $425 for the second.

The School Board received during the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1879, $21,751.71 and had in full operation during the year 43 schools, and the services of two extra assistants for a portion of the year; thus it will be seen that after charging the schools with all the expenses of the system, viz: Fuel, repairs, books, printing, rent, furniture, salary of secretary and per diem of commissioners, &c., the expense of running a school of fifty-eight pupils the average number for each school in the county for ten months is $505.85, and having enrolled during the year *more* than twenty-five hundred scholars, we find the cost per capita to be about eight dollars It is sometimes said that useless branches are being taught in the public schools, if this *is* a fact which we deny, the fault lies with the State Board and not with us. But that we may see what is studied, the annual report shows that of these 2500 pupils, that less than 200 are studying more than is included within the three R's, viz: Book-keeping 27, Algebra 37, Natural Philosophy 87, Geometry 11, Physiology 6, Latin 15. So that the objection, "too much attention is given to the higher branches," is the result of a want of knowledge; to say the least of it, as to what is being done in our public schools.

RECEIPTS.

State School Tax,	$7199 34
" Free School Fund.	1622.57
State Donations,	1200.00
County Levy,	8994 88
Sales of Books,	780.24
State Appropriation to Colored Schools,	1951.68
	$21,751 71

DISBURSEMENTS.

Balance due Teachers June 30, 1878,	$955.82
Teachers Salaries, $16,153.02	
Paid the Teachers,	14,954.95
Fuel,	477.53
Incidental expenses of schools,	106.05
Rent,	238.00
Books and Stationery,	1147 59
Repairing,	290.35
Lumber, Black Boards & Stoves,	113.59
Paid to Colored Schools,	1950.16
Insurance,	41.75
Printing and Advertising,	139 92
Salary of Examiner,	1,000.00
Per Diem of Commissioners,	211.00
Office Expenses and acc't books,	125.00
	$21,751.71

JOHN G. ROGERS,
Secretary and Treasurer.

The Howard County Teachers' Association met on Friday, November 28th, 1879, in the Court House in this city, at 10 o'clock A. M., President J. R. Musser in the chair. The term of officers having expired, the Association at once proceeded to the election of new officers for the ensuing year. President, Wm. J. Robinson, Vice President, T. B. Dorsey, Secretary and Treasurer, G. M. Thomas. Motion carried that members pay quarterly dues to the new treasurer, and by new motion he was authorized to remit to C. J. Meehan balance due on last year's account $4.72. Mr. W. J. Jones was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms. Mr T. B. Dorsey moved to apply to School Board for a day upon which to hold monthly Associations—lost. Motion by Mr. T. B. Dorsey that "the President appoint three or more members at each meeting of the society, who shall announce a subject of study, on which they will lecture as to their mode of teaching the same at the next meeting, said lecture not to be less than ten or over thirty minutes long"—carried. Moved and carried that the lectures be heard before the consummation of programme. Mr. G. M. Thomas moved that the committee on programme report at a meeting antecedent to the one on which it is to be exercised—carried. President appointed as committee on programme, J. R. Musser, Miss L. V. Hobbs, J. W. Quinan, and lecturers for next meeting J. L. Hill, Miss C. M. Bishop and Miss J. Kirby. Committee on programme submitted. Reading, J. A. Denton, Essay, T. B. Dorsey. Parsing and Analysis—"O bosom black as death! O lime'd soul: that struggling to be free, art only more engaged. Help, Angels, make assay! Bow stubborn knees! and heart with strings of steel be soft as sinews of the new born babe." Their methods of instructing 2nd grade arithmetic, Misses Groves, M. Hewitt, A. E. Johnston and Messrs. T. L. Maclin, Burns and Harman. A regular programme for order of business was adopted. Moved by Mr. T. B. Dorsey, "that a member being ready to perform his part and the Association not hearing him, shall be paid by latter 50 cents to liquidate his fine when he fails to perform an assigned part—carried. As an expression from the teachers as to their choice of time for Teachers Institute, was solicited by the Examiner, it was moved and carried to fix upon the first Tuesday after Whitsuntide. The following programme for the Institute was submitted and read by the Examiner. First Day—T. B. Dorsey, History, J. T. Thompson, Writing, Miss F. E. Brian, Reading, R. B. Crane, ——. Second day—J. L. Hill, Natural Philosophy, C. L. Burns, Orthography, Miss A. E. Johnston, Geography, J. H. Quinan, ——. Third day—P. T. Harman, Arithmetic, J. R. Baker, Physiology, Miss C. M. Bishop, Discipline, Miss J. Hardey, ——. Fourth day—J. A. Denton, Algebra, G. M. Thomas, English Grammar, Miss L. V. Hobbs, Vocal Music, J. W. Wyatt, ——. Fifth day ——. No further business coming before the house, the Association adjourned until February 1st, 1880.

W. J. ROBINSON, President.
G. M. THOMAS, Secretary.

Jottings.—At 8 o'clock Tuesday morning last Mr. W. H. B. Dorsey, a resident of Mount Airy, dropped dead from apoplexy. Mr. Dorsey was for many years agent of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad at Mount Airy, and was very well known along the line.

Benjamin Baldwin has sold his farm of 124 acres at Oakland Mills, on the Columbia road, six miles from this place, to Henry Schaffer, of Owing's Mills, Baltimore county, for $2,600.

Miss Miranda Selby died on Wednesday night of last week, at the Union, from injuries received from a fall, a distance of fifteen feet through a porch, on the first of September.

At this season of the year when coughs, colds, croup and hoarsenes are prevalent the Pulmonary Balsam of Dr. I. J. Martin, will be found an invaluable friend to have in the house.

Mr. J. N. Miller, of Clarksville, has recently had his dwelling house tastefully remodeled, and it presents a very neat and attractive appearance.

The finest assortment of Christmas goods in the market. Call and examine. Lamkin & Burke.

The store of Mr. H. C. Becker, was entered through the front window on Thursday night and robbed of a number of shirts, pants, etc.

There is a very successful revival in progress at the Thistle M. E. Church. The attendance at these meetings is very large.

Mr. Wm. J. Kelly, an old and respected citizen of Baltimore county, died on Tuesday night last, of dropsy.

Great bargains in carpets can be gotten by calling at M. Mendels 444 W. Baltimore St. Baltimore, Md.

Seven tramps were arrested on last Thursday night by the officers and lodged in jail.

(COMMUNICATED.)

HOWARD COUNTY, Dec. 4th, 1879.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I would most respectfully ask your indulgence while I call the attention of our citizens to the base slander that has been perpetrated upon a portion of our community, in that portion of the report of the Taxpayers Committee, as reported in the Baltimore *Gazette* of Wednesday last, which represents the road supervisors of this county as composed of men "generally incompetent and grossly negligent of their duty," "grossly ignorant or those seeking personal objects and petty depredations on the county treasury."

This report coming, as it purports, to do, from a committee composed of the chief executive officer of the State, an ex-Congressman, the President of the new board of Commissioners, and others, would seem at the first glance to be entitled to due consideration, but when it undertakes through its chairman to lampoon a most respectable portion of our fellow-citizens, men who have been before this county for years in high official position, men whose integrity has never been questioned, and if it should be, would stand an enviable comparison with any on the committee, I think we have just cause for an expression of indignation.

It is very true none of us have returned our extra pay as a member of Congress, nor had the same even heralded through the land, nor have any of us returned a portion of the stamps and stationary apportioned to us as members of the General Assembly, and yet we may be honest and even intelligent, except perhaps, when measured by the man who would seem to say "remove these men from between the wind and *my gentility*."

We would like to know what the chairman's standard of intelligence is? His answer would be *Ecce Homo*, I have no doubt, but fortunately for us we may have good roads, and intelligent and honest supervisors, without even the assistance of such a paragon of intelligence, education and integrity, yea; we may even have a learned Attorney General and he not be the incumbent.

He complains of the road law being a "dead letter," let us not forget the source or rather the compiler of it.

He wants a simple system of book-keeping inaugurated so that even *he* can understand it. Now after examining the accounts of the County Commissioners including road accounts and seeing how plain and simple they are, so plain that he who runneth may read and understand, and the wayfaring man could not err therein, we are of the opinion that the chairman's standard of intelligence is not what we want.

He claims that there should be a specific statement of the administration of the road fund. Now if this remarkable man had looked into the books of the Clerk of the Commissioners, he would have seen there the amounts apportioned to each district, who its supervisor is, the amount each one receives, and what is spent by each one, there it is in black and white, each entry made from an itemized account sworn to by the deputy supervisors, inspected and endorsed by the supervisor of the district, and then examined by the commissioners and paid by an order on the collector of that district, and not paid out of funds collected from other counties or the city of Baltimore.

Now if the gentlemen's intelligence and education do not enable him to understand these things, why, he should not blame the road supervisors.

I am not aware that there is any provision requiring the cost per mile to be stated.

It may not be out of place to say here, that the books of the commissioners show that the road supervisors and their deputies represent nearly two hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars of the taxable basis, these "grossly negligent, self-seeking, petty depredators." And that the public may know these men, and who are thus depicted I give their names. 1st dist, Chas. Bathgate; 2nd dist., A. M. Johnson; 3rd dist., A. McLean; 4th dist., G. K. Ridgely, Azel Mercer; 5th dist., W. W. Iglehart, Ulysses Johnson; 6th dist., J. C. Berry. Deputies, 1st dist. Wm. Rowles, Rudolph Mullman. 2nd dist., B. Burgess, Thos. R. Carr, James Clark of John, John G. Rogers, Wesley Tucker, B. C. Sunderland, Roby Easton, John James. 3rd dist., J. D. Warfield, J. R. Walker, G. W. Brown, O. C. Amos, J. Renehan, Wm. A. Iglehart, Jas. O'Donnell, Sam'l Brown. 4th dist., Jas. Dill, H. W. Snyder, G. W. Basemen, Luther Bradford, J. D. Scott, C. Warren Dorsey, Zaddock Talbott, Augustus Warfield, A. D. Mullineaux, R. W. Bowman, W. C. Musgrove, W. H. Forsyth, N. C. Hobbs, R. Hutchins, E. G. Selby, A. P. Forsyth, Wm. Carr, Wm. Matthews, J. W. Wardeld, R. T. Mercer, P. T. Cauthorn, M. C. Davis, D. P. Gaither. 5th dist., Joseph Smallwood, Geo. W. Carr, Robt. Lilly, Samuel Johnson. 6th dist., Wm. Cooke, S. C. Hearn, R. H Brown, P. C. Gorman, J. W. Earp, Hammond Dorsey, T. S. Aagerman, George Scaggs, S. Thompson, N. Wheeler, S. W. Warfield, Jacob Souder, J. C. Bentley, H. C. Cole, M. L Patterson.

A DEPUTY SUPERVISOR.

—It is true economy to use the best means first; hence when the Baby is suffering with Colic or Diarrhœa, etc., use at once Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup and give its remarkably quick and beneficial effect.