

**LOCAL MATTERS.**

**Dredging Lake Roland.**—The contractors, Messrs. Thomas P. Morgan & Co., of Washington, D. C., who signed the contract with the water board in February last for the work of dredging Lake Roland, have been busily engaged since the first of April on the borders of the lake in making the necessary preliminary arrangements, and are now nearly ready to begin operations. They have constructed a dredge boat and a scow, putting into the steam boilers and other machinery. They have also finished one scow and nearly completed another. The active work, dredging, will commence sometime during the first week in June, will be continued through the summer and fall, until ice forms in the lake, and will be resumed as soon as spring opens and prosecuted until the same depth of water is attained which the lake had when it was formed some twenty years ago. The clam shell dredge is to be used as more effective than the scow, and causing less disturbance of the water. As the dredging operations will be confined to the upper part of the lake, and will cover only a third of it, it is thought that the clearance of the surface of the water will not be greatly affected, but that it will be recognized at all times while the work is going on, so as to keep up without diminishing the supply of the reservoirs. The silt and sand removed by dredging will be carried off by the scows in dump boxes and deposited along the upper borders of the lake. The amount of dredging called for is three hundred thousand cubic yards, which, at the contract price of twenty-two cents per cubic yard, will amount to sixty-six thousand dollars. If the quantity thus removed does not complete the work a supplementary contract for the removal of the remainder will have to be entered into. The contractors estimate that to carry out their present agreement will occupy them at least two years.

It is now about twenty years since Jones's falls was adopted by the council as the source of our water supply, and the valley of Roland's run—from the northern point where the latter rivulet forms a junction with Jones's falls, down to the southern point where the Owling's Mills branch of the Northern Central railway leaves the main trunk, and covering all the space between the two roads,—was selected as the most appropriate site for the new lake. Seventeen years have elapsed since the lake was completed, and following as it does the curvature of the hills, with their bays and inlets, and broadening out as they advance or recede, it forms a beautiful sheet of water, whilst the original object as it respects the dam, was to raise up the dam that holds back the waters in hidden form in a rocky gorge. It was confidently asserted by many persons at the time the lake was constructed that it would furnish an ample supply of water for city uses for double the population we now have. But even with the reservoirs built for storage purposes it has proved inadequate, and the city has been obliged to have recourse to the Gulpwoder, as wiser heads suggested should be done in the first instance. Nevertheless, for high service, and especially for delivery in the northwestern part of the city, the supply from Jones's falls will always prove useful, even when the ample volume of water furnished by the Gulpwoder is brought in.

But, admirable as Lake Roland is in many respects both as a piece of engineering and as a superb adjunct to the suburban landscape, its most serious defect has always been that when it was constructed and has been for some time, the turbid water in seasons of great freshets from entering the body of the lake, nor were any precaution taken for intercepting by check-dams near the mouths of the tributary streams the coarser particles of sand and gravel which every freshet brings down and empties into the lake. If provision had been made for diverting the waters of freshets by sluice-ways constructed on each side of the lake and discharging into Jones's falls below the dam the water of the lake would at all times have contained pure, and all the silt and sand which freshets bring down and which, by accumulating from year to year, during the past seventeen years, have diminished its capacity not less than one third, would have been carried off at once, the sluices here being a fall of seventeen feet between the level of the water at the head of the lake and that of the bed of the stream below the dam. The purity of the water at all seasons of the year would thus have been preserved. The construction of check-dams, as recommended by slides and others, was the next best thing to have done. They would not have prevented muddy water from entering the lake, but they would have intercepted the greater part of the coarse sand and fine gravel brought down by freshets, and thus rendered unnecessary those dredging operations which are now about to be undertaken.

**Release of Prisoners in Jail Commitments.**—It is understood that Judge Brown has taken steps to abolish the custom which has prevailed to a great extent of discharging prisoners from jail before they have either served out their term or paid the fine and costs, for the non-payment of which the altho, here being a matter of justice of the peace. This practice, it is stated, is wholly unwarranted by law, and has grown to be an abuse. On the eve of elections a certain class of politicians interested themselves, it is said, in the release of prisoners whose services would be appreciated at the polls. A large proportion of the persons arrested daily by the police are of those who were previously released after serving but a few days of their term. There is a case on record at the middle district station showing that a man has been committed to jail three times for thirty days each during this month. This practice entails a great deal of unnecessary labor on the police force and police justices. The statute says that the commitments made by the police justices shall be reviewed by the judge of the Criminal Court on the Saturday following. It is thought that the altho, here being a release in any other person than the executive of the State. It is customary with the grand jury also to release a number of persons, largely those known as "bummers," at their stated visits to the jail. Those who are not under sentence can of course be released by the grand jury, when no sufficient case is found against them, but numbers of this class of bummers usually return to the jail in a few days.

To remedy the existing evil it is stated that the court will permit no prisoner who has been committed to be released until either his term of imprisonment has expired or until he has paid the fine and costs. It is stated that the police justices will be instructed that under the existing law they can use discretion in making commitments on light charges of drunkenness, breaches of the peace, &c., on the first offense, when there are mitigating circumstances. The change, it is thought, will relieve the police docket to a great extent.

**Health of the City.**—The deaths in Baltimore last week numbered 99, against 147 the corresponding week of 1875. In that week deaths from consumption were 31, scarlet fever 17 and convulsions 5. Last week deaths from consumption were 16, scarlet fever 9, and convulsions 3. The causes of death were: Apoplexy 1, asthma 3, burns 2, cancer of breast 1, cancer of liver 1, cancer of uterus 1, cholera infantum 5, cholera morbus 1, cirrhosis of liver 1, consumption of lungs 16, convulsions 3, cramp 1, diarrhoea 4, diphtheria 4, disease of heart 3, disease of spine 1, dropsy (general), 1, drowned 2, scarlet fever 9, typhoid fever 3, gangrene (lungs), 1, hemorrhage of lungs 1, inanition 1, inflammation of bowels 1, inflammation of stomach 1, inflammation of prostatic 3, inflammation of kidneys 1, inflammation of pericardium 1, inflammation of peritoneum 1, inflammation of pleura 1, meningitis 2, meningitis 1, tuberculosis of spine 2, pneumonia 8, premature birth 2, inflammatory rheumatism 1, softening of brain 1, suicide 1, whooping cough 3, enteric colic 1, purpura hemorrhagica 1—total 99. Under 1 year 23, between 1 and 2 years 18, between 2 and 5 years 6, under 5 years 47, between 5 and 10 years 9, between 10 and 15 years 1, between 15 and 20 years 3, between 20 and 30 years 7, between 30 and 40 years 6, between 40 and 50 years 6, between 50 and 60 years 7, between 60 and 70 years 5, between 70 and 80 years 5, between 80 and 90 years 1. Nativity.—United States, males 33, females 19—total 52; colored, males 12, females 14—total 26; foreign, males 13, females 3—total 16; whole total 99, corresponding week of 1875, 147. Still-births 14.

**Launch of a Coast Survey Schooner.**—A fine schooner of 140 tons was launched Saturday at noon from the shipyards of Wm. E. Woodall & Co., at Lucas Point. The vessel is intended for the United States coast survey, and is the second launch built by contract for the government by Woodall & Co. She is intended especially for sounding and observation of currents in the Gulf stream, and as she will be anchored yet a month or two at a time, is built very sharp and has other qualifications for riding steady. She will be commanded by Capt. Robert Platt, formerly of the steamer Bates, and will be ready for service in a few weeks. She is built in the "composite" style, that is the frames and beams are of angle iron and the planking of four inch yellow pine, fastened with galvanized screw bolts, which secures greater combined qualities of lightness and durability than can be had in a vessel made either of iron or wood separately. She is 90 feet long, 20 feet breadth of beam, and 11 1/2 feet deep, and has accommodations for 7 officers and a crew of 12 men. The cabin and other quarters are partly finished and when completed will be very handsome. The launch was satisfactory, and was witnessed by a large number of people.

**Verdict of Promise Forfeit.**—A verdict was returned in the Court of Common Pleas yesterday assessing damages at \$11,000 in the case of Mary Wendt against Joseph H. Farnsworth for seduction, breach of promise of marriage, and for the support of a two-year old child of the parties to the case. Mr. John Henry Keene was counsel for Miss Wendt. Farnsworth made no defense. Miss Wendt and her brother-in-law were examined as witnesses. She lives in York, Pa., and testified she had known Farnsworth six years; that he promised to marry her and seduced her, the child being two years and three months old. She brought suit before in York, but stopped it on a promise by Farnsworth to marry her, but he married another. Farnsworth now lives in Baltimore and is a baggage-master on the Northern Central railway. Miss Wendt is a rather good looking young woman of about twenty-six, and of rather pleasant bearing in court. It is not expected to realize the amount of the verdict.

**Marriage.**—Marietta Carmine was divorced a vinculo matrimonii from George W. Carmine by a decree of the Circuit Court on Saturday. G. W. Carmine is enjoined not to marry another during the life of Marietta Carmine. She alleged that her husband had been guilty of exceedingly vicious conduct towards her ever since their marriage, in 1863.

**Bishop Haven on Grant and Temperance.**—Bishop Gilbert Haven, of the M. E. Church, and Mr. Hiram Price, of Iowa, delegates to the Conference, delivered addresses Sunday night on temperance at the Congregational Church, East and Hoffman streets. Bishop Haven said he was in great part a solid-wood Congregationalist, with Methodist veneer. This question of temperance was the great reform of the day; it came next after the great anti-slavery reform in the government. His first vote was for freedom, and he kept on voting for freedom until it was the victor after the bloody tide of battle and sword over this land four terrible years. Four years ago he cast a presidential vote for Black and Russell, the temperance candidates, of whom scarcely any one present had ever heard. Eight years ago he had voted for the great soldier, but for four years ago he thought the soldier could take care of himself, as he usually did. The bishop was glad to have voted for prohibition, and intended to keep on voting it until, like voting for freedom, success came. He added half-jocosely: "So if I should get a chance to vote for him (Grant) again, I should then only be equal to the rest of you who have voted twice for him."

The bishop believed the people were indifferent to both the parties of the vote, and did not care who they voted for. The temperance people wanted the issue on prohibition made up. It must come to a contest of the ballot. When every voter declares he will vote for no man for Governor or Congress or for the Legislature unless he is for prohibition, then and not till then will the reform be won. He had seen a lager beer street celebration and in a wagon were four men in aquatic armor, while the beer ran into foaming cups, and he saw a meaning in that. This struggle will not end with the peaceful contest of the ballot. Like the other great reform it will come through the shock of arms. "I believe," said he, "as sure as I am standing here that the battle against rum is got to be fought to a bloody issue. Then will true freedom be secured in the land, and every young man and young woman have peace and happiness in this country."

**Church and Secular Brotherhoods.**—Services were held Sunday night at St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, Rev. Dr. Grammer, rector, in behalf of the Protestant Episcopal Brotherhood. A paper was read setting forth the objects of the brotherhood by Rev. Mr. Sheppard, and addresses were delivered by Rev. B. E. Brown, Rev. Wm. Kirkus and Rev. Dr. Grammer. The speakers claimed that while there could be no word of complaint against secular brotherhoods or benevolent societies, church organizations were the proper instrumentalities for the exercise of charity, and that Christians should not permit their interest in secular societies to interfere with duties to the needy in the Church, nor to allow themselves to too highly prize the advantages and pleasures derived from the lodges.

Dr. Kirkus said it was strange that after nearly twenty centuries Christians had yet to learn the first principles of Christianity, which might be learned in the parable of the Good Samaritan. It was marvelous that Christianity had existed so long, seeing what miserable wretches Christians have led. It is a good thing to have a soul, and it is often a good way to get at the soul through the body. Some clothes and money are sometimes better than a religious trust. It was every man's duty to relieve the body of a fellow creature no matter what is done for the soul, but the soul could also be attended to.

**The Excursion Season.**—The Maryland Steamboat Company will open Holly Grove to the public next Monday for the summer season. The grove has been improved and is in excellent condition, having shelter for 2,000 persons, bowling alleys, swings, boats, flying horses, shooting gallery, &c.

On Thursday, June 3, the handsomely appointed steamer Columbia will inaugurate weekly afternoon trips to Annapolis. The Weems's Fair Haven excursions and the Pentz excursions to Annapolis will be commenced early in June. The steamer Cyra P. Smith makes Sunday afternoon excursions to Pavilion Retreat, on Bear creek, which have always been well patronized. The Baltimore and Pulaski Excursion Company has extended its facilities for accommodating continental travel by water, and at the low charges will do a large traffic in that direction in transporting excursionists.

On Thursday Greenwood Park, a sylvan retreat on the Western Maryland railroad, will be opened for the season, and the event will be marked by an excursion from Baltimore. The picnic ground at Blue Ridge, on the same railroad, will be opened later in the month.

**Thanks for Valuable Services.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, Hon. B. H. Bristow, has transmitted to Capt. George R. Slicer, of the revenue steamer "Ewing," stationed at this port, a letter from Hon. Geo. M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy, enclosing a copy of a letter from Rear Admiral Rodgers, of the U. S. Naval Academy, commending Capt. Slicer for valuable services rendered with his cutter in assisting to haul the U. S. steamer "Tallapoosa" off a shoal upon which she had been grounded for several days. In transmitting the Secretary of the Treasury the complimentary letter of Rear Admiral Rodgers, the Secretary of the Navy expresses in fitting language his thanks for the services rendered by Capt. Slicer.

On Saturday, 27th inst., the steamer Kent, with freight and passengers, bound to Annapolis and West River, broke her shaft off Tally's Point, as before stated, and was fortunately met by the "Ewing," and towed safely into Annapolis. The "Ewing" rendered valuable assistance in relieving vessels during gales that occurred last winter.

**A Deserted Boy.**—John Carey, a bright boy, twelve years old, was brought to the eastern police station at a late hour Friday night by police officer Skinner, who found him wandering about the streets. The boy's story is that on last Monday he left his home in Plymouth, Luzerne county, Pa., under the charge of John Ferguson, a miner and a boarder at the house of the boy's father. They visited the centennial exhibition at Philadelphia, came to Baltimore on Friday night, and at the Philadelphia depot Ferguson disappeared, leaving him alone and penniless. He was taken to the police headquarters by Capt. Henry of the eastern division, and taken by Marshal Gray to the Children's Home of the Henry Wason's Aid Society, on North Calvert street. Marshal Gray telegraphed to the boy's father in Plymouth, Pa., and last evening received an answer stating that the father was too poor to bear the expense of sending his son home. What disposition will be made with the boy is undecided, but he will remain where he is for the present.

**Free Summer Excursions.**—The Free Summer Excursion Society met yesterday at the Boys' Home, North Calvert street, and adopted regulations for future excursions. The time and plans for the first excursion to their grounds, "Aوندale," on the steamer Maryland, will be arranged by the executive committee next Monday. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, John T. Ford; vice-president, J. M. Druil; treasurer, George S. Brown; secretary, Chas. J. Meyer; chairman of committee on tickets and care of children, William Dardanel; executive committee, A. B. Munch, chairman; J. O. A. Herwig, Dr. C. W. Wulow, G. H. Mercer, George S. Brown, J. A. Henderson, F. W. Lawford, J. F. Bradenbaugh, A. F. Crane, Jr., C. J. Meyer, J. M. Druil and John T. Ford.

**Trial for Setting Fire to a House.**—The trial was commenced yesterday in the Criminal Court of John Lundeman and John Weyforth, on indictment for misdemeanor in setting fire, November 22, 1875, to the liquor store No. 123 Franklin street, reared and occupied by Mr. Lundeman. The fire occurred about 3 P. M., but was extinguished before any damage had been done. The stock of liquors according to the State's testimony was worth about \$500, and the insurance was \$2,000, with \$300 on the house.—The witnesses examined were police Capt. Lapsen, Fire Inspector Holloway, W. Shaw, of the salvage corps, and others. As the house was rented and occupied by Lundeman, the offense, if committed, is a misdemeanor and not a felony. The trial will go to-day.

**Marine Matters.**—The United States revenue steamer Guhrle, which is stationed at Baltimore, is at Booz's ship yard, at Canton, undergoing repairs. She will have a new deck, be repainted and thoroughly renovated, and will not be ready for service for several weeks.

The steamer Florida, of the Baltimore Steam Packet Company, is at Siskner's ship yard undergoing some alterations which have been deemed necessary.

A new light-house steamer named the Laura, built at Malster's yards, foot of Ann street, has been so far completed as to be ready for the water, and will be fitted out for service in a short time.

**From Charleston.**—The steamship Falcon, Capt. Kirby, arrived from Charleston yesterday with a large cargo and passengers, as follows: Mrs. C. Wagner, Mrs. Mary Wolf and child, Mrs. G. Harris and son, D. Quigley, C. B. Tumbo, Wm. and Mrs. Gerbuer. The Falcon brought 908 crates vegetables, together with 629 barrels new potatoes. Produce growers about Charleston in the last two or three years have devoted much attention to potato raising, and have met with success. Their crop nearly supplies Northern cities, and is well marketed before that grown further to the North is ready to compete.

**Baltimore's Argosies in Port.**—There were entered at the Baltimore custom-house, yesterday, three cargoes of molasses, from the West Indies, with a total of 1,243 hogsheads and 194 tierces, together with 40 hogsheads sugar, two cargoes of pineapples from the Bahamas, with a total of 7,000 dozens, together with a number of green turtles, boxes of shells, corals, sea feathers, and other curios, and a cargo of 550 tons guano from Callao. Of the six vessels bringing the cargoes five were American and one British.

**Strawberry Pickers.**—Several sail vessels left Fall's Point yesterday afternoon for points in Anne Arundel county with women, boys and girls, who were engaged to pick strawberries. A number of strawberry pickers also moved on Anne Arundel in wagons by way of the Long Bridge, Light street extended. The Maryland strawberry season will be at its height this week, the Norfolk crop having been pretty well marketed. Strawberry festivals form a leading feature for public entertainment.

**Park Travel.**—The travel to Druid Hill Park for the past week was as follows: Donble teams, 3,192; single teams, 6,050; horseback, 544; on foot, including the passengers by the park railway, 23,198. The number of teams was largely increased on account of travel through the park to the races.

**Gasoline for Street Lamps.**—Mr. Loney has drawn up the ordinance for introducing the use of gasoline in place of gas for all the city lamps, and he says it will probably be presented to the council this evening. The committee has not as yet agreed on the kind of gasoline lamps to be used, but think that such a provision should be embodied in the ordinance. One of those examined is the apparatus of Hall & Brooks, of Baltimore, which uses the gas-barrel. The oil is forced up to the burner through a pipe in the centre of the post from a tank sunk under the pavement. The tank requires to be filled twice a week, and compressed air is applied to force up the oil. The proposition to furnish gasoline per year vary from \$20 to \$28 for each lamp. The new lamps or apparatus to be purchased by the city are not included in these bids. Arrangements in the event of a contract will be made with the contractor to light and clean the lamps as well as supply them. It is stated that great precaution is necessary in lighting gasoline lamps. If there is any leakage, the vapor arising therefrom being heavier than air, will remain in the lamps, and in that case, when the match is applied an explosion is sure to result. The committee have ordered an advertisement inviting proposals for furnishing gasoline, apparatus, &c.

**Plants for Patterson Park.**—A fine lot of plants have been received from the botanical gardens at Washington to form a nucleus for the collection to adorn the new botanical conservatory in Druid Hill park. They are the gift of Hon. Thos. Swann, who gave all the plants he was entitled to, according to custom, from that valuable institution. Mr. Wm. R. Smith, superintendent of the botanical gardens, took especial pains to make a good selection for Patterson Park. The list comprises many rare and beautiful plants, among them a coffee tree, an India rubber tree, Adam's needle yucca pulchra, ocotilla, jaboticaba, cacti, yucca, dracaena, six varieties, palms, six varieties, and cacti, six varieties, house-plant material, from Jas. T. Reeves, and also ferns from R. W. L. Baskin, have been received.

**Anniversaries** were held Sunday by the Sunday Schools of Jackson square M. E. Church, Franklin street M. E. Church, Strawbridge M. E. Church, Calvary M. E. Church South, Whatcoat M. E. Church and Franklin square Baptist Church. The attendance at each was large. Most of the speakers were members of the General Conference of the M. E. Church, at Jackson Square in the afternoon. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk and Chaplain C. C. McCabe spoke. They also made addresses at night at Whatcoat Church, Rev. H. B. Ridgway, of New York, spoke at Strawbridge. A reunion of the schools connected with the old East Baltimore Station M. E. Church was held in the afternoon at the Eastern Avenue Church, at which addresses were made by Rev. G. H. Jacyly, of Michigan, and Rev. H. Hoys, of Indianapolis.

**May Festival.**—Sunday (being the last Sunday of May) the festivals peculiar to the month in the Catholic churches were largely observed. About five hundred children of the Ignatian Sunday school were in procession on the street and in the church, carrying numerous bouquets to lay on the altar of the Blessed Virgin. The girls were in white with wreaths of flowers on their heads. The children of St. Francis Xavier, colored church, also turned out very numerous, as also the children of a number of other churches in different sections of the city.

**Killed by a Cow.**—John Hamilton, sixty-five years old, living with his son, Andrew Hamilton, No. 47 Cumberland street, was kicked in the abdomen by a cow which he was milking, on Friday morning, from the effects of which he died on Sunday morning. Mr. Hamilton was knocked senseless, and although Dr. Pennington attended him and did all he could to relieve the sufferer, it was without effect. The cow had recently been purchased from John Grayson, of Baltimore county. Mr. Hamilton leaves a wife and some young children.

**Hotel Purchase.**—The Northern Central Railway Company has purchased for the sum of five thousand dollars, subject to a ground rent of two hundred and fifty dollars, Snider's Hotel, formerly known as the Belle House, at the Green bay junction of the Northern Central road, Lake Roland. The company now making considerable improvements to the property, and in addition are sodding the ground at the side and front of it and are making the station very attractive.

**Free Methodist Tabernacle.**—A tent 30 by 40 feet, on Columbia street, between Parkin and Poppleton streets, to be known as the Free Methodist Tabernacle, was opened yesterday, and a dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Thomas Lowe. A sermon was preached at night by George H. Bourcox, who is to have charge and preach during the week. A tent in charge of the Methodist City Mission is open for service immediately opposite.

**The Monthly Meeting** of the Consolidated Board of Catholic Societies was held Sunday at Raine's Hall, James Donnelly president, Patrick Henry secretary. On motion of John Motyan, the president was authorized to call a convention of all the Catholic societies in Baltimore to arrange for a parade on the 4th of July, in the event that the city authorities agree to have a demonstration on that day.

**Approved.**—The mayor has approved the ordinance requiring contractors for grading, paving and curbing streets to commence work within fifteen days, also resolutions regarding assessments for the opening of Forrest street to pay D. C. E. Miller \$12 50 and James F. Griffin \$50 for services rendered; to insure the Baltimore City College and female high school buildings.

**Sudden Death.**—Jacob Bruner, a nodder, 63 years old, died suddenly during Sunday night, at the house of John S. Young, 175 Pennsylvania avenue, where he was boarding. He was found lying dead upon a lounge down stairs yesterday morning, having laid down there with the view of resting before retiring. Coroner Osle believing death to have been caused by heart disease did not hold an inquest.

**The Junitta,** United States training ship, Capt. Greene commanding, will leave Baltimore to-day for Annapolis, and thence will proceed on her summer cruise. Since the Junitta has left the pier at Henderson's wharf and preparations for sea have been commenced very few of the boys or seamen came ashore.

**Confirmations.**—Bishop Whittingham confirmed seven persons, yesterday morning, at St. Thomas' Protestant Episcopal Church, Homestead, Baltimore county, Rev. Dr. Van Antwerp, rector. Bishop Whittingham impressively addressed the candidates for confirmation.

**Foreign Imports.**—The schooner Nellie Bowers, Captain Stackpole, from Matanzas, brought 556 bbls. and 50 tierces molasses; brig Clara J. Adams, Capt. McAdams, from Havana, 687 bbls. and 71 tierces molasses.

**Foreign Exports** yesterday were 53,221 bushels corn, 31,783 bushels wheat and 434 barrels flour for Europe, and 524 tons coal for the West Indies.

**Centennial Bonds.**—The grand jury on Friday last indicted Mr. John Hook, No. 124 Saratoga street, for selling on Sunday, May 7, explosive caps, used for "centennial bonns."