

THE MAXTON UNION.

A DEMOCRATIC JOURNAL—THE PEOPLE AND THEIR INTEREST.

VOL. III. NO. 37.

MAXTON, N. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1889.

\$1.00 A YEAR

TOWN DIRECTORY.

B. F. McLEAN, Mayor.
ENOCH BURNS,
J. LEACH,
J. D. JOWERS,
W. J. CURRIE,
Commissioners.
J. P. SMITH, Town Marshal.
LODGES.
KNIGHTS OF HONOR, No. 1,720 meets on second and fourth Wednesdays at 7.30 P. M. **J. B. WEATHERLY**, Dictator. **B. F. McLEAN**, Reporter.
FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE Council meets on Tuesdays after second and fourth Sundays at 7.30 P. M. **A. McL. MORRISON**, President.
Y. M. C. A., meets every Sunday at 7.30 P. M. **W. M. BLACK**, President.
MAXTON GUARDS, **WM. BLACK**, Captain, meets first Thursday nights of each month at 8 P. M.
CHOSEN FRIENDS meet on second and fourth Monday in each month. **Argus Shaw**, Chief Counselor; **S. W. Parham**, Secretary and Treasurer.
SILVER STAR BAND, **W. S. NICKERSON** Leader, meets each Monday and Thursday at 8 P. M.
MAXTON LODGE, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIUS, meets every Friday night, except first in each month, at 8 o'clock.
ROBESON COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY
H. McEachern, President.
W. W. McDiarmid, 1st Vice President.
Dr. J. D. Crook, 2nd Vice President.
A. D. Brown, Secretary.
Wm Black, Treasurer and Depository.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
Rev. Joseph Evans, **Rev. H. G. Hill, D. D.**
Rev. J. S. Black, **Rev. J. P. Meeks**
Rev. J. F. Finlayson, **Jos. McCollum**
J. P. Smith, **Duncan McKay, Sr.**
N. B. Brown, **Dr. J. L. McMillan**.

ADULTING COMMITTEE.
J. P. Smith, **D. H. McNeill**, **J. A. Humphrey**.

Place of next meeting—Lumberton, N. C. Time of next meeting—Thursday, May 30th, 1889, at 11.30 o'clock a. m.
Bibles and Testaments can be purchased of **Wm. Black**, Depository, Maxton, N. C., at cost.

All churches and Bible Societies in the county invited to send delegates.

Forward all collections to **Wm. Black**, Treasurer, Maxton, N. C.

CHURCHES.
PRESBYTERIAN, **REV. DR. H. G. HILL**, Pastor. Services each Sabbath at 11 A. M. Sunday School at 10 A. M. Prayer meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock.
METHODIST, **REV. W. S. HALES**, Pastor. Services second Sunday at 4 P. M., and fourth at 11 A. M. Sunday School at 9.30 A. M.
MAXTON LITERARY SOCIETY meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

MASONIC.
MAXTON LODGE A. F. & A. M. meets 1st Friday night in each month at 8 P. M.

GENERAL DIRECTORY OF ROBESON COUNTY.
Senator, **J. E. Purcell**.
Representatives, **J. Hamilton McMillan**,
D. C. Regan.

County Commissioners, **J. H. McLean**,
J. L. McEachern,
W. J. Regan,
D. A. Buie.
C. S. C. C. B. Townsend.
Sheriff, **H. McEachern**.
Tax Collector, **R. O. Pitman**.
Reg'r Deeds, **S. W. Bennett**.
Treasurer, **W. W. McDiarmid**.
Board of Education, **J. S. Black**,
V. S. McQueen.
Supt. Pub. Instr'n, **J. A. McAlister**.
Coroner & Supt. of Health, **Dr. R. F. Lewis**.

It is feared that lovers of blanc mange will have to go without their favorite delicacy another year or else pay a very high price for the material from which it is made. Sea moss gathers along the Vineyard and South shores of Massachusetts are in despair. Almost none is being secured. They attribute the dearth of the moss to the unusually mild weather with no ice. Reports from other shores more distant are of complaints of little or no moss at this time, when there should be plenty.

The Washington Star says that "the death of Crown Prince Rudolph only disposes of one keen disappointment felt for years by the Austrian people to bring in another. Rudolph, as a boy and up to the time of his marriage with Stephanie, nearly nine years ago, was looked upon as likely to become a safe ruler. Of late years he had fallen into dissolute life, separated from his young wife, and rapidly aggravated the constitutional weakness of his family by physical excesses. His death introduces a dilemma in regard to the succession. Rudolph's only child is a little daughter not regarded as a child of good health. Should she die the crown would go to Prince Karl, the Emperor's brother, who, with his two sons, are pretty thoroughly disliked by the Austrians. The little Princess Elizabeth is therefore likely to become Empress some day, and, until she matures, the match-making powers will be ransacking all Europe to find a good, virtuous, and wise husband for her."

THE NEW CABINET.

The Men Whom President Harrison Has Appointed.

Careers of the Members of His Official Family.

Secretary of State.



JAMES G. BLAINE.

James Gillespie Blaine has been so long a public life that his history is an open secret to every citizen. He was the son of Ephraim L. Blaine and Marie Gillespie, and a grandson of Ephraim Blaine, who was the trusted friend of General Washington and an officer in the Continental Army. Mr. Blaine was born in West Brownsville, Washington County, Penn., January 31, 1830, and is therefore fifty-nine years of age.

Mr. Blaine received his first schooling in Lancaster, Ohio, where he went in 1841 to reside with a near relative, Thomas Ewing, then Secretary of the Treasury. He prepared for Washington College and was graduated from that institution in 1847.

While teaching in a military school in Blue Lick Springs, Ky., which was his first venture into graduating from college, Mr. Blaine met Harriet Stanwood, of Maine, and after a brief courtship they were married. Blaine soon removed to Augusta, where he pursued a half interest in the Kennebec Journal and became its editor.

Mr. Blaine's debut in the political arena dates back to 1855, when he was chosen a delegate to the first Republican Convention, which nominated General Fremont for the Presidency. After a short experience as editor of the Portland (Maine) Advertiser, Mr. Blaine launched into a political career. In 1858 he was elected a member of the Legislature, and served three terms of two years each, and the last two terms as Speaker. While in the Legislature he became Chairman of the State Committee, which position he held uninterruptedly for twenty years.

In 1863 Mr. Blaine took his seat in Congress, where in one branch or the other he served for eighteen years.

From this Mr. Blaine's biography need scarcely be told. In the brief months of Mr. Garfield's Presidency Blaine was Secretary of State. His memorable fight for supremacy as a leader of the Republican party with the late Roscoe Conkling is also too well known to need rehearsing. So, too, is his defeat when he ran for the Presidency against Grover Cleveland. After this Mr. Blaine turned his attention toward completing his book recounting his experience while in Congress, and although he did not take an active part in politics, he never relaxed his grip as the leader of the Republican party.

Mr. Blaine is possessed of an ample fortune and is a familiar figure in Washington society.

Secretary of the Treasury.



JOHN W. NOBLE.

Ex-Senator William Windom, appointed Secretary of the Treasury, has filed that responsible position before, having been chosen by President Garfield in 1881. Having lived many years in Minnesota and having represented that State in the United States Senate for three terms, the popular impression is that he is a native of that State, whereas he was born in Belmont County, Ohio, May 10, 1827.

After graduating at an academy he studied law at Mount Vernon, Ohio, and was admitted to the bar in 1851. Being of a general disposition and possessing some legal ability, he was made prosecuting attorney for Knox County in 1852. He held the position until 1855, when he removed to Minnesota. Soon after his arrival in that State he decided to mix politics with his law business, and very soon became a prominent figure in the Republican ranks, and in 1859 his party sent him to Congress. He served from 1859 to 1869, two terms as Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

In 1870 he was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Daniel S. Norton, deceased, and subsequently was chosen for the term that ended in 1877. He was again elected in 1881 to enter the Cabinet of President Garfield as Secretary of the Treasury.

Upon the accession of President Arthur in the same year Secretary Windom retired from the Cabinet. Upon his return to Minnesota the Legislature of that State elected him to serve the remainder of his term in the Senate. In that body Mr. Windom acted as Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Foreign Affairs and Transportation.

Within the past few years ex-Senator Windom has made New York city his headquarters, being engaged in the promotion of railway and financial schemes.

Secretary of War.

Redford Proctor, who, it is said, has been given the portfolio of the War Department, is a native of Vermont and was at one time Governor of the State. Among the reasons given for the recognition by the new President of the Green Mountain State in Cabinet are, first, the eminence of Ex-Governor Proctor in his party, it being

stated that he virtually controls the party in his own State, and second, the fact that he, as the chairman of the Vermont delegation to the Chicago Convention, last year, was head of the only delegation in the whole body which voted solidly for Harrison first, last and all the time.

Ex-Governor Proctor has all his life been engaged in "trade," being in every sense a self-made man, who has managed to get together a respectable fortune in a State that is not noted for being burdened with wealth. He lives at Proctor, a town founded by him, and which is situated a few miles from Rutland. He is in practical control of the whole output of the Vermont marble quarries, and is one of the largest dealers in that commodity in the United States.

At his home at Proctor he is a farmer on a large scale, where he owns out of the finest fields of Windsor, Vermont, and is one of the world. Throughout the State of Vermont Mr. Proctor is highly respected, and has the reputation of being a "square man."

Secretary of the Navy.

General Benjamin F. Tracy, who, it is thought will be the new Secretary of the Navy, is about fifty-nine years old. He was born in Oswego, N. Y., and secured his education in the common school of his native town. After leaving the Oswego Academy he entered the law office of Nathaniel W. Blaine, where he remained until he was engaged in the study of law until 1851. He was admitted to the bar and soon made a mark in his profession. In 1853 he became the Republican candidate for District Attorney of Tioga County, and though it was a Democratic stronghold he was elected. Two years later he was again elected to the same office.

He was elected to the Assembly in 1861 and a year later he recruited the 102nd and 13th Regiments and received his commission as Colonel of the former regiment from Governor Morgan. He subsequently was tendered and accepted the command of the 13th United States Colored Troops.

After the war General Tracy settled in New York and resumed his practice of the law as one of the firm of Benedict, Tracy & Benedict. He was one of the counsel for the defense in the celebrated Becher trial. In 1870 General Tracy was made United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, which position he held until 1871, when he was forced to resign because of the growth of his private practice. In 1881 he was appointed Judge of the Court of Appeals and served one year.

General Tracy is a well-known breeder of trotters and with his son owns the Marshall stud, at Apalachin, Tioga County, N. Y.

Secretary of the Interior.

General John W. Noble, the Secretary of the Interior, is a St. Louis lawyer. He was a general in the army and was honored on several occasions for bravery. Mr. Noble has done a great deal of traveling during the past ten years of his life, and has a wide knowledge of the world and things. His marriage with Mrs. Noble has never yet been seen to lose the cool dignity which he learned so well to control during the years of army service.

Mrs. Noble was a Miss Halstead, from Rochester, N. Y., and was married to the general at Northampton, Mass. They celebrated their silver wedding on the 6th day of February last. Mrs. Noble's life has been one of energy and vigor. She has frequently brought out and developed some literary talents. She is a devoted friend of the cause of the West. He was associated with her in establishing classes for thorough study of the classics.

Mrs. Noble's salon was frequently frequented by talent of the highest order. While not fond of society, as the word goes, she entertains in a great deal, and as a hostess is unequalled in grace and hospitable manner. She has no children living; her two sisters make their home with her, the Misses Lily and Leonora Halstead.

The Postmaster-General.

John Wanamaker, the Postmaster-General, is now in his fifty-second year, having been born in Philadelphia, July 11, 1837. Mr. Wanamaker is of German stock on his father's side and a descendant of the Huguenots in his mother's line. He was fashioned for a business career in his early years of circumstances. His education was, therefore, not elaborate.



JOHN WANAMAKER.

He began work early and from his meagre earnings managed a way to save something each week. At the age of twenty-three he had \$100 to his credit. A lucky investment in real estate increased this amount to \$300, thus enabling him to start a clothing store on his own account. His soon rose to be one of the leading clothing stores in the city, and afterward gradually converted the business into the dry goods line.

His appearance in business was almost simultaneous with his advent into public life. He became identified with every popular movement, and when the Centennial Celebration Commission was created his was one of the first names mentioned. He was also prominently identified with the movement for the correction of the abuses in the municipal government of Philadelphia.

Mr. Wanamaker is a man of very charitable instincts and dispenses his bounty with a free and unstinted hand. He has established several institutions for the benefit of the poor in Philadelphia. Although Mr. Wanamaker has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs he has never held any office. He has been frequently solicited to permit the use of his name for Congress and Mayor of Philadelphia, but has never been induced to yield.

In religious movements Mr. Wanamaker takes a lively interest. He is an active member of a Presbyterian community and often speaks at church gatherings. Beside the interest derived from his vast business, Mr. Wanamaker owes \$3,000,000 worth of real estate. He was an earnest pleader in the cause of Protection during the last campaign and contributed largely to the election expenses.

The Attorney-General.

William Henry Harrison Miller is a typical Indiana lawyer of high standing. He is fifty years of age, and member of General Harrison's law firm in Indianapolis for about ten years, having left a large practice at Fort Wayne, Ind., to join it. He is a man on whom the President has been accustomed to rely in important cases.

Mr. Miller has never held a prominent public office, and enters upon an entirely new experience in Washington. He is rather under the medium height, of average build and is in the full vigor of his mental powers. He is a Western man by birth and education, though he is named after the first President Harrison, the grandfather of his Chief. It is nowhere stated that there is any family connection between them.

Secretary of Agriculture.



JEREMIAH M. RUSSETT.

Jeremiah McLain Russett, who has been appointed Secretary of the newly created Department of Agriculture, is from Ohio, having been born in Morgan County, in that State, in 1830. His early life was spent in farm work, and upon attaining majority he moved to Wisconsin and engaged in agriculture in Vernon County.

In 1862, during the war, he entered the Union Army and was commissioned Major of the 54th Wisconsin Regiment, rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and served with General William T. Sherman from the siege of Vicksburg till the close of the war. In 1863 he received the brevet of Brigadier-General of Volunteers for meritorious service at the battle of Gettysburg.

Mr. Russett was elected Bank Comptroller of Wisconsin in 1875, which post he held till 1870, in which year he was elected a member of Congress by the Republicans. He served three terms, and as Chairman on pensions performed important services in readjusting the pension rates.

President Garfield offered him the post of Chief of Affairs in Paraguay and Uruguay, also chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, both of which offers he declined. In 1882 he was elected Governor of Wisconsin and served three terms.

Future Land Battles.

Speculating as to what the future land battle will be like, Lord Wolsey says: "The battles of the future will be very different from even those of 1870, and will bear very little resemblance to those of Crimean times. One remarkable change will be the absence of nearly all that terrific noise which the discharge of five or six hundred field guns and the roar of musketry have caused in all great battles. We shall have, practically, no smoke to mark the position of the enemy's batteries and troops in action. The sound of cannon will be slight, and will no longer indicate to distant troops where their comrades are engaged and the point upon which they should consequently march. Our countries and advanced posts can no longer alarm the main body upon the approach of the enemy by the discharge of their rifles. The cannon or bivouac will no longer be disturbed at night by the spluttering fire of pickets in contact with the enemy. Different arrangements for giving the alarm upon the approach of hostile columns will have to be resorted to. The columns on the march cannot in future be warned by the shots of flanking parties, of the enemy's proximity, and a battle might possibly be raging within a few miles of it, without that fact becoming at once apparent."

It can hardly be exaggerated to assert that the invention of a noiseless and smokeless powder will change the aspect of future battlefields and the conditions of future war, fully as much as the original introduction of the "villainous saltpetre" changed the warfare of a past age.—Times-Democrat.

Greek Onions in New York.

"They are fine, boss, fine" urged the man, holding out for the inspection of a Third Avenue grocer a handful of oddly shaped vegetables.

"They are Greek onions, and people who have eaten them say they are sweeter and pleasanter than any American or Bermuda onion. Sixty-five cents the crate. Come on, if we don't sell some pretty soon the boss will have a fit."

The vendor glanced apprehensively out toward his wagon, on which sat a neatly dressed, swarthy faced man.

"That man is a creek," he went on. "Some of his friends in the old country sent the fruit to him—50¢ crates in all. They cost him \$1.10 a crate. He couldn't sell 'em at the markets and we are trying to peddle 'em out of the wagon. He put every cent he owned into the onions and he'll commit suicide if he loses it all."

The grocer, out of kindness, took a single crate. This was six weeks ago, and he has never seen the onions to every body who has come into his store; but it's a new thing, and nobody will be a them, and my tongue is beginning to parch in my throat. My wife prepared some, and they are very nice—nice and toothsome."

The onions differ from all other varieties, in that they are shaped like a gilliflower apple or an inverted plump-bob. They have a metallic glister, and are about the color of burnished copper.—New York World.

Checks of Seven Figures.

The Marquis of Aylesbury has just sold to Sir Edward Guinness an estate valued at \$1,500,000. In this connection stories have been brought up of similar large transactions in England, the most important of which undoubtedly is the payment made at the time of setting for the Manchester Canal. On the 1st of August the directors of the Canal Navigation Company paid over to its constructors a check drawn on Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co. for \$2,500,000.

THE INAUGURATION BALL.

A Night of Festivities in the Big Pension Building.

Floral and Other Decorations on an Immense Scale.

We give below a graphic account of the great ball which ended President Harrison's inauguration.

In the evening the President and Mrs. Harrison attended the inaugural ball held in the Pension Building. Beyond all question the room in which the ball was given is the biggest room in the United States. From one end wall the floor stretches away just 315 feet from the other end wall looms up about one-sixteenth of a mile, in other words, a tape line stretched across the width of the room would measure 116 feet, the glass roof which lets in the daylight and keeps out the elements is no less than 100 feet above the floor. To put it otherwise, here is a ball-room one-sixteenth of a mile long, a third as wide and with a roof almost as high above the dancing floor as is the roadway of the Brooklyn Bridge above the waters of the East River.

The floor area of this vast room—a matter of nearly 37,000 square feet—is unbroken save by eight gigantic columns that tower up almost out of sight. There are two rows of these columns—four in each row—dividing the interior of the building into three main sections. These columns are something like 7½ feet in diameter, and serve to strengthen the impression of vastness which instantly forces itself upon a visitor to the Pension Building.

This vast room was magnificently decorated in every part. In the center was a Chinese pagoda, fifty feet long, thirty feet wide and nearly sixty feet high. It was two stories high and was festooned with flags and bunting. In the pagoda the Marine Band and Beck's Orchestra, of Philadelphia, were stationed, the former furnishing promenade music, and the latter music for dancing. Round about each of the eight great columns were four streamers of laurel—each 100 feet long—and in the spaces between the streamers great palm leaves covered up the marble pillars. Midway between the floor and ceiling were American shields fastened to each pillar, and at the base of every column was a broad band of crimson plush, bordered with yellow plush. From the center of each of the three sections of the roof forty streamers of laurel, red, white and blue bunting depended, stretching



BALL ROOM IN THE PENSION OFFICE.

away to the tops of the great columns and the side walls. In the central section of the room, over the pagoda, a large full-rigged floral ship hung from the intersection of the streamers. It was thirty feet long, had all its sails set, and its masts were decorated with laurels and streamers, of which it was made were roses, milkweed balls and bright colored cut flowers. The piece typified the "Ship of State." Beneath the intersection of the two other groups of streamers were great balls of laurel and cut flowers, each ten feet in diameter.

At the west end of the room an immense oil portrait of President Harrison hung in a frame and named after the twenty-two long by ten in width, and at the east end there was a similar likeness of Vice-President Morton. On the tiled dancing floor beneath each portrait was a great cluster of potted plants, ferns and palms. The two other corners of the room were the symbolical pieces which represented the several departments of the Government. Each of these pieces was about 8x15 feet in size and was made of immortelles, roses and laurel. The eight pieces representing the eight departments, were suspended at intervals from the arches of the first gallery. The room occupied by Pension Commissioner Black, at the corner of the first gallery, was set apart for President Harrison's use, and the florist and decorator transformed the plain-looking office. Festoons of laurel, bunting and flags and bunting. To the north of the President's room was the room assigned to the ladies of the Presidential party and to the east was the Vice-President's room.

President Harrison, Vice-President Morton, their wives and the ladies of their party reached the scene of the ball shortly after 9 o'clock. They were escorted to the ball by J. C. A. T. Britton, Chairman of the Inauguration Committee, and Mr. E. F. Beale, Chairman of the Reception Committee. They met them at the entrance and, with the members of the committee, escorted them to their respective rooms.

Soon after the arrival of the President the members of the diplomatic corps and the Reception Committee were introduced to him, and, escorted by the members of the committee and followed by the diplomatic corps, the President and his party made a tour of the ball room and shortly afterward left the building.

The dancing floor had been divided into sixteen sections, and each section was in charge of an aide to the chairman of the floor and promenade committee and nine assistants. The galleries were also divided into sections, to be similarly managed, and dancing was permitted there. Surgeon M. L. Ruth, of the United States Navy, Chairman of the Floor and Promenade Committee, took his stand near the base pagoda and by means of electric bells gave directions to the band and those in charge of the dancing.

Dismantled His Saloon.

During a recent revival meeting at Arkansas Village, Pippin County, Va., William Manierca, a saloon-keeper, rose as with tears streaming down his cheeks declared that he had been made to see his sin, and would no longer sell liquor. Followed by a curious crowd he went to his saloon, where, with the assistance of a Methodist clergyman, he smashed up his bar and billiard-tables and poured his whisky and beer into the streets. Mr. Manierca then called the crowd into the dismantled saloon and held a prayer-meeting. He then posted up the following notice:

"To My Friends: Having been led to see the error of my ways I have cleared out my saloon and have an opportunity to make a new start. God to lead an upright and Christian life and have purchased a stock of flour.—Chicago Times.

Checks of Seven Figures.

The Marquis of Aylesbury has just sold to Sir Edward Guinness an estate valued at \$1,500,000. In this connection stories have been brought up of similar large transactions in England, the most important of which undoubtedly is the payment made at the time of setting for the Manchester Canal. On the 1st of August the directors of the Canal Navigation Company paid over to its constructors a check drawn on Messrs. Glyn, Mills & Co. for \$2,500,000.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

In 1818 wool sold at \$2.50 a pound.

The weight of the heart is from eight to twelve ounces.

Calamari explodes at one stage and poisons people at another.

It costs \$25 fine or thirty days in jail to sell boys cigarettes in Ohio.

A Trenton, (N. J.) thief got five years for stealing a seventy-five cent knife.

One police patrol wagon in Boston made fifty-eight trips during a Saturday night recently.

Brunswick, Ga., claims the youngest bank cashier in the world. He got his place at nineteen.

At Hawkinsville, Ga., a spread has just been finished in which 15,577 yards of thread were used.

The man in Indiana who is running a skunk farm is said to be more than gratified with the success of his venture.

The type-writer had its origin in a machine sent to the Paris Exposition in 1853 by M. Foucault, for use by the blind.

An enterprising California farmer took out his traction engine and plowed and seeded seventy acres in twenty-four hours at his ranch.

The skeleton of a mastodon has been unearthed in California. It is thirty feet long, and has spines between six and seven feet in length.

There is a young man in Carrollton, Ga., over twenty-one years old, who never ate a bit of butter or drank any buttermilk in his life.

The Custer monument in Montana has been so greatly defaced by Indians shooting at it that it has been found necessary to recut the same on it.

A German experimentalist has proved that a single hair will support four ounces without breaking, stretching under the process and contracting again.

Watertown, Minn., boasts of a little girl, seven years old, who drove a team and did a full share of work in cutting, stacking and threshing 500 acres of grain.

W. R. Thurston, of Gloucester County, Va., has a curiosity in the shape of a cast-off oysterman's shoe to which fifty-five living oysters have attached themselves.

Captain Frink, of South Windham, Me., who has been almost totally deaf for nearly two years, during a violent storming attack a few days ago, regained his hearing.

John Hill, an old citizen of Fletcher, Ohio, who died a few days ago, immortalized himself during the campaign of 1868 by driving a team of forty-eight horses to a meeting at Piqua, Ohio.

Jake Boner, a New Orleans stonecutter, was informed by a messenger the other day that a son had been born to him. He began to dance on the scaffold, and the result was a fall and a broken neck.

Benjamin Franklin's watch is owned by a Lancaster (Penn.) gentleman, who still carries it and says that it keeps good time. It is of silver, shaped like a biscuit, and has engraved on its back: "Ben Franklin, 1776, Philadelphia."

A young woman in Bridgeport, Conn., recently complained to the police that she was being systematically robbed of her jewelry by an unknown thief. It was subsequently found that the owner of the missing articles had taken the trinkets herself while asleep and hidden them between the mattresses of her bed.

Mast Trees.

In the Provincial Charter of 1691, under which the Plymouth Colony and the Province of Maine were united with Massachusetts, it was provided that all trees of the diameter of twenty-four inches and upward, twelve inches from the ground, growing upon land not heretofore granted to any private person, should be reserved to the Crown, for the furnishing of masts to the royal navy.

A Surveyor-General of Woods was appointed, to see that his provision of the charter was carried into effect. Near the coast all white pines of suitable dimensions were marked with the "broad arrow"—three cuts through the bark with an axe, like the track of a crow.

This was the King's mark, and Mr. Gould, in his "Portland in the Past," says that within his remembrance trees bearing it were still standing, and were pointed out as curiosities.

Long after the revolution had obliterated the royal authority, men who had been taught in boyhood to respect the King's mark hesitated to cut such trees.

"In felling a mast tree," says the same writer, "it was necessary to 'bed it,' to prevent its breaking. This was done by cutting the small growth, and placing the small trees across the hollows, so that there should be no strain upon one section more than upon another, when the monster pine struck the ground."

The mast was hauled out of the woods on one strong sled, whether in winter or summer, and so many oxen were required that the kind pair were often choked in crossing a hollow, being hung up in their yoke by the pulling of those ahead of them.

A mast-hauling was a great event, and everybody within walking distance came to see the show.—Youth's Companion.

A Charitable Chinese Lady.

Recently there was a large crowd at the iron bridge, close to the Victoria's yamen, at Tientsin, China, and, on inquiring the cause, a correspondent learned that the wife of the Victoria Li Hung-chang, pitying the numberless poor without proper food or clothes suffering in the bitter weather, was distributing in 1900 cash to each under age, to enable them to return to their native homes instead of dying in a ditch—truly a good and charitable lady.