

# St. Croix Avis

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., MONDAY, 26TH JANUARY 1920.

No. 20.

## THE ST. CROIX AVIS

is printed and published daily (Sundays and Holidays excepted) by G. Johansen, at the Avis Office.

TERMS---50 cents monthly in advance, 2 cents per single copy.

Entered as second-class matter May 26th 1917 at the Post Office at Christiansted, St. Croix, V. I. of the U. S. A., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name, as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

## SCEPTIC AND CHRISTIAN.

A story is told of two men who were once travelling in the far west of America—one a sceptic, the other a christian. The former was on every occasion ready to denounce religion as an imposture and its professors as hypocrites. According to his own account of the matter he always suspected those who made pretensions to piety, felt particularly exposed in the company of Christians, and took special care of his horse and water when any such (Christians) were around him. They (the two men mentioned above) had travelled late one evening and were in the wilderness. They at last drew near to a solitary hut, and rejoiced at the prospect of a shelter. They asked admission and obtained it. But it was almost as dreary and comfortless within as without, and there was nothing prepossessing in the appearance of its (the hut's) inhabitants. These were an elderly man, his wife, and two sons, sunburnt, hardy, and rough. They were apparently hospitable, and welcomed our travellers to such homely fare as the forest afforded; but this air of kindness might be assumed to deceive them, and the travellers became seriously apprehensive that evil was intended. It was a lonely place, well suited to deeds of robbery and blood. No help was at hand. The two friends communicated to each other their suspicions, and resolved that on retiring to their part of the hut they would barricade the door against the entrance of their host, that they would have their weapons of defence at hand, that they would be alternate in watching so that one should be constantly on his guard while his companion slept. Having hastily made their arrangements,

they joined the family, partook of the homely meal, and spoke of retiring to rest.

The old man said it had been his practice in better times, and he continued it still before his family retired, to commend them to God, and if the strangers had no objection he would do so now. The Christian rejoiced to find a brother in the wilderness, and even the sceptic could not conceal his satisfaction at the proposition. The old man then took down a well-worn Bible on which no dust had gathered though age had marked it, and read with emphasis a portion of the sacred Scriptures. He (the old man) then supplicated the Divine protection, acknowledged the Divine goodness, and prayed for grace, guidance, and salvation. He prayed, too, for the strangers—that they might be prospered in their journey, and when their earthly journey was done, they might have a home in heaven.

He was evidently a man of prayer, and that humble cottage was a place where prayer was wont to be made. The travellers retired to their apartment. According to their arrangement, the sceptic was to have the watch during the night; but, instead of priming his pistols and bracing his nerves for an attack, he was for lying down to sleep as quietly as if he had never thought of danger.

His friend reminded him of their engagement, and asked how he had lost his apprehension of danger. The infidel felt the force of the question and all it implied, and had the frankness to confess that he could not but feel as safe as at a New-England fireside, in any house or in any forest where the Bible was read as the old man read it and prayer was offered as that old man prayed.—*Contributed*

**T**HE Promoters, Former Members, and Persons desirous of participating in the Horse Racing to be held on Estate "Manning's Bay" on Easter Monday, as well as those desirous of becoming Members of the Saint Croix Racing Association are cordially invited to attend a meeting at Kings Hill, on Sunday, 25th inst. at 3 o'clock p. m.

Subject:

Membership;

Election of Officers.

For the St. Croix Racing Association

Signed:

A. DE CHABERT. K. HENDERSON,  
W. H. FLEMING. E. L. BROWN,  
CORNELIUS PENTHENY.

## Publication.

**I**T is hereby brought to public notice that the Government has, this date, authorized REV. MARTIN F. MULLIGAN to perform civil-religious functions in the Municipality of St. Croix.

Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States, St. Croix, January 13, 1920.

C. C. TIMMONS,  
Government Secretary.

## Publication.

**L**IEUTENANT O'Hagan, U. S. Navy, at his own request has been relieved of his duties as Despatching Secretary of St. Croix.

COMMANDER COLBY, Financial Adviser to the Governor, in addition to his other duties, has been detailed as Acting Despatching Secretary of St. Croix.

## FOR RENT.

**The Dwelling House At Estate Northside** completely furnished—situated near the sea. Fine surrounding scenery, and a short distance from town.

For particulars apply to

C. E. HAGEMANN.

Frederiksted, St. Croix, V. I., January 15th 1920.

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