

## The Empty Market House.

The other day I picked up an old daily newspaper and saw in it a long article lamenting the fact that there was no market house in Easton, and that the people who came here to supply us with the necessaries of life were obliged to stand out in the weather to dispose of their produce. The writer went on to say that it was a shame that this should be so, and that it would not surprise him, and it should not surprise our own people, if the ideas of the country about went somewhere else with their produce, somewhere where they could be sheltered from the rain and cold. Such arguments were of almost daily repetition, both from press and people, and finally resulted in the formation of a stock company and the purchase of the Bull's Head hotel on South Third Street, as the site for a market house. After the property was bought the clamor increased until the company tore down the old stove and put up the present splendid and spacious building. And what has been the result? The same people that were eager for a market house at once began opposing its use. It wasn't what they wanted. The Circle was good enough. They preferred the cold and damp out-of-door market. There was no longer any danger of the market people taking cold from exposure and dying from consumption. The market house owners offered farmers and truck gardeners stands under cover without charge. But all to no purpose. The people wanted the Circle market, and the city authorities properly obeyed the popular sentiment and sold the Circle space.

I am one of the stockholders. I am not a rich man. I put in it a few dollars that I had saved to help beautify our city and to give employment to our people. I don't suppose any one has any great amount of money in the enterprise, as most of the stockholders are people in moderate circumstances. From the way in which the market house enterprise has been treated I feel that Easton wants no improvements, and if I had ever so much money I wouldn't put it in an Easton enterprise. Those who do so must expect that just as soon as they are done paying out their money they will find arrayed against them the very people who ought to give them encouragement. This is characteristic of Easton, and hence we see no new manufactories and lots of empty houses. It is this dog-in-the-manger policy that has been a bar to the improvement of Easton and the progress of its business.

The newspaper editors have been so strangely silent on this matter that I feel it my duty to write on the subject. What do you think of it, Mr. Editor?

AN OLD EASTONIAN.

—We admit that much that "An Old Eastonian" has written is true. The fate of the market house project will not encourage investments in other Easton enterprises. We are sorry that the people who put their cash in the market building do not find it to have been a profitable move. The city authorities, however, could not do otherwise than to keep the public market at the Circle because of the almost universal demand.

## The Oldest Mechanic.

"History" asks in last Sunday's CALL