the roanoke beacon.

years and ten-the alotted age of
man and woman kind, and from now man and woman kind, and from now
on every day she lives will be one of grace. David says that the days of grace. David says that the days of our years are three score years and
ten, but if by reason of strength they
be four score years yet is be four score years yet is their stren-
gth labor and sorrow. the labor and sorrow. Yoor old man,
he did troubled life. He sinned and he repented in great anguish, as he exclaimed, "My sin is
ever before me." Solomon sayeth, "The day of oue's death is better than the day of his birth." And
Job said, "Cursed is the night when I was born." Jeremiah's life was one of lamentation. The maxims and preeachers are wouderfully beantiful and have never been equalled, Gut great men are not always wise, and died accursed. The man who said, "Rejoice in the wife of thy youth and be thon always ravished with her love," forsook his own and
consorted with a thousand others of all nations, creeds and colors. He reigned eigbty years and died a dis-
appointed, dishonored, degraded and miserable old man. But old age is not necessurily unhappy. The poe speaks of

## "An old age eerene and bright,

and another poet says: "The world is very lovely. Oh, my God, I thank Thee that wive. Onr old age is very muca what we choose to make
it. It is a sad thing to be weary and tired with tie weight of years. It io pitiful to look upon an old man who never smiles, who has outlived all
social pleasures and whose company social pleasures and whose company
is neither sought uor desired. For is nether sought nor desired. For
the sake of our neighbors und friends the sake of our neighbors and friends
it is our duty to be cheerful in their company. We should sometimes smile even if we have to force it.
Let us grow old gracefully. I have now in mind just such an onehale, healtify old time gentleman of four score years, whose presence is al ways welcame and whose children,
and grandehildren and neighbors and friends give him glad greeting when he comes. He will be missed when
he dies, for the world jo better that he liess in it. His Christian fuith,
he his moral couduct, his good example and his cheerful disposition are : benediction to the community.
But I was thinking about my wife's birthday. There are thirtyseven birthdays in our family, and then. Tl. y average about three a month, but this one of hers is a very notable one, for she is the maternal ancestor, and this day fulfills her
years and crosses the line. Seventy years ago she was born, and not long after that the stars fell. Of course they did. Seventy is a numeral of
sacred signiticance. There were sacred signiticance. There were
seventy elders of Israel and seventy wise men compiled the Old Testament. The Jews were kept in captivity seventy years. The Lord sent out seventy of his disciples to preach and teach the people, and seventy years is the allotted age of mankind Bot written any wrinkles on her brow nor furrows on her cheek nor silvered her raven hair. If the long
a silvered her raven hair. If the long
war had not in ervenec she would War had not in ervenec she would
not look more than 50 years now. But the wear and tear of the war and anxiety while fleeing from the foul invader, with six little hungry children tagging after her, made yeurs of months and weeks of days. But women, especially mothers, can endure more distress and suffering than men. The maternal instiuct keeps them up. They ean suffer and be strong. It looks like the motherhood of ten children would wear a woman out, but they seem to thrive on it, and laue in life they take on flesh uad round up all the
corners, But they never stog work My wife has made over five thousund little gurments and is still making them, for the little grandechildren
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