THE ROANOKE NEWS, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1891.

The greatest difference between the kinds of ability and capacity which are now more common than ever and the higher forms of genlus is, the London Spectator thinks, this-that the former depend upon the due division of labor. depend upon the due division of inbor, the careful study of appropriate means and methods of intellectual discipline. in a word, on the accumulation of sult-able intellectual experience; while the intter depend upon the careful fostering of unique and only half understood instincts and powers, such as induced the prophets of the Jewish people to retire into the wilderness, or in our own contury sent up Wordsworth to his retreat among the Cumberland hills, Thomas Carlyle into his Dumfriesshire fastnesses, Alfred Tennyson to his seashore ruminations and John Henry Newman to his lonely Oxford rides and walks and his still more solitary Sicilian wanderings.

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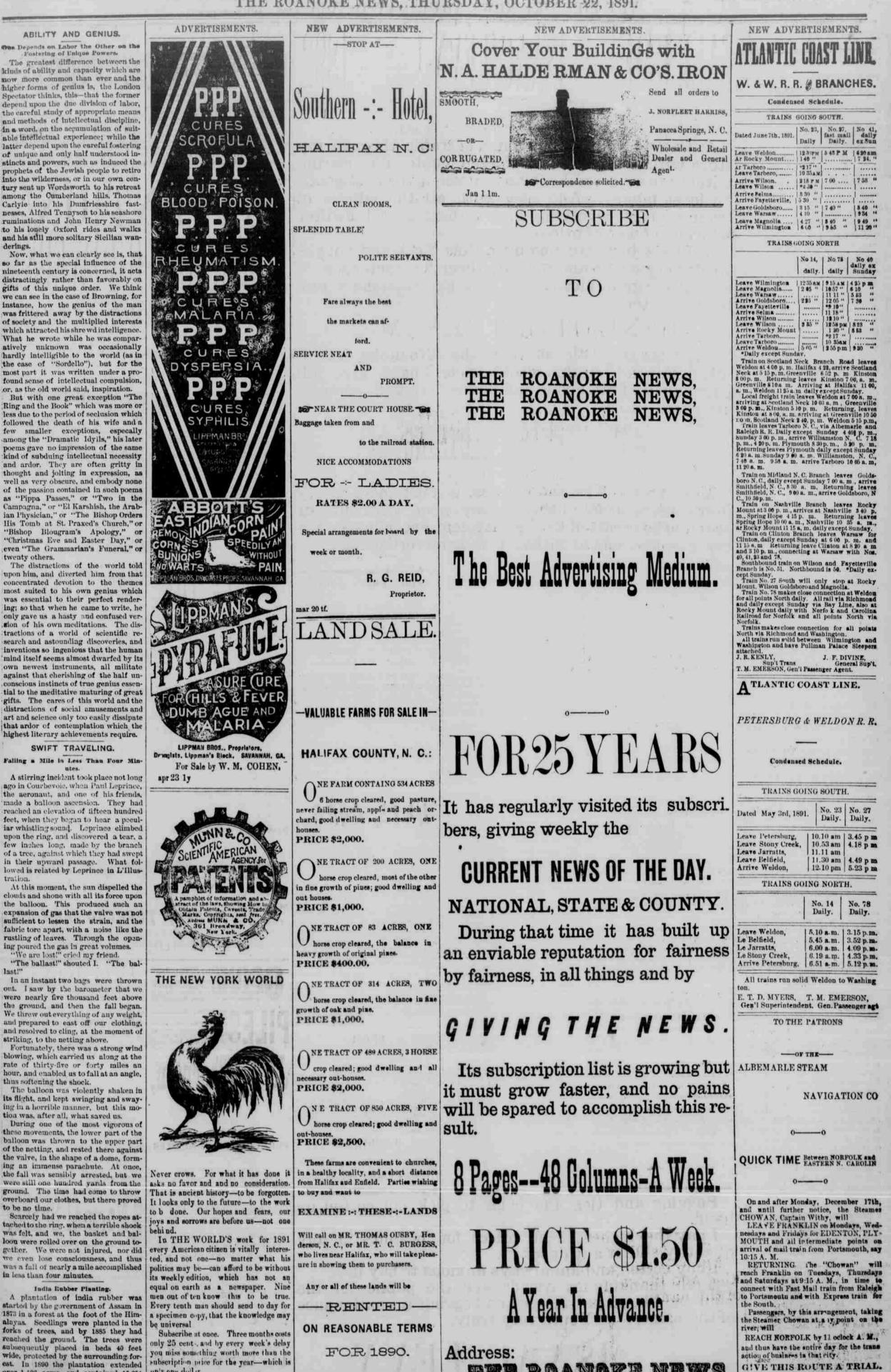
be profitable until after several years

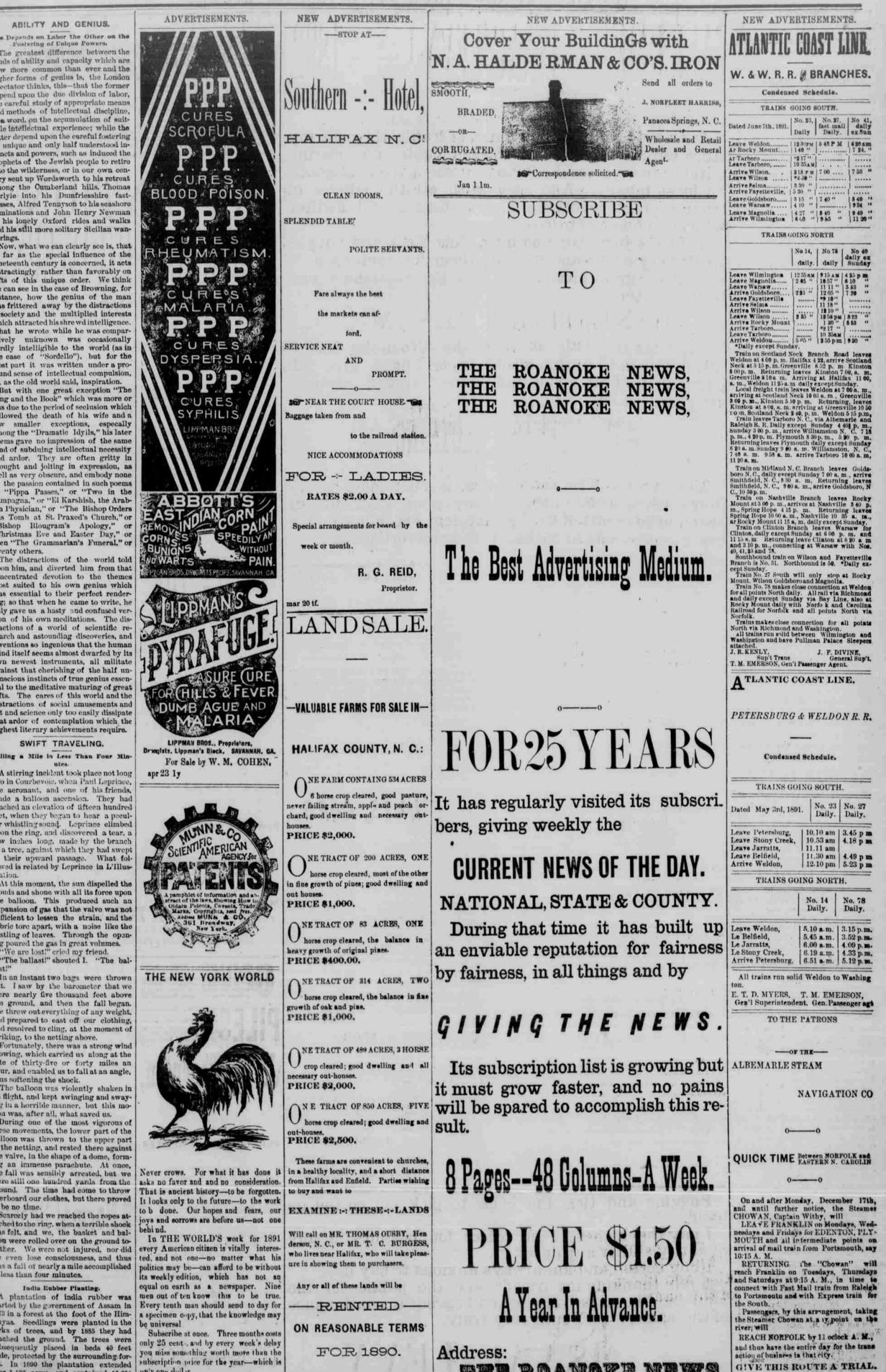
so far as the special influence of the nineteenth century is concerned, it acts distractingly rather than favorably on gifts of this unique order. We think we can see in the case of Browning, for instance, how the genius of the man was frittered away by the distractions of society and the multiplied interests which attracted his shre wd intelligence. What he wrote while he was comparatively unknown was occasionally hardly intelligible to the world (as in the case of "Sordello"), but for the most part it was written under a profound sense of intellectual compulsion, or, as the old world said, inspiration.

less due to the period of seclusion which followed the death of his wife and a few smaller exceptions, especally among the "Dramatic Idyils," his later poems gave no impression of the same kind of subduing intellectual necessity and ardor. They are often gritty in thought and jolting in expression, as well as very obscure, and embody none of the passion contained in such poema as "Pippa Passes," or "Two in the Campagna," or "El Karshish, the Arabian Physician," or "The Bishop Orders His Tomb at St. Praxed's Church," or "Bishop Blougram's Apology," or "Christmas Eve and Easter Day," or even "The Grammarian's Funeral," or twenty others.

The distractions of the world told upon him, and diverted him from that concentrated devotion to the themes most suited to his own genius which was essential to their perfect render-ing; so that when he came to write, he only gave us a hasty and confused version of his own meditations. The distractions of a world of scientific research and astounding discoveries, and inventions so ingenious that the human mind itself seems almost dwarfed by its own newest instruments, all militate against that cherishing of the half unconscious instincts of true genius essential to the meditative maturing of great gifts. The cares of this world and the distractions of social amusements and art and science only too easily dissipate that ardor of contemplation which the highest literary achievements require.







J. H. BOGART Franklin. Va., Dec. 15, 1888. Supt'

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Address

Respectfully.

Weldon, N. C.