#### TUESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 19, 1919.

#### NORTH CAROLINIAN IN FRANCE SUGGESTS WIDER FIELD FOR "Y"

W. Rea Parker Thinks It Should Be Made To Answer In American Life To the Social Cafe In French Life-Would Have It A Place Much More Sought After Than It Is and For Human Reasons

Observing ways of living in France cafe to apend the better part of the and Germany, W. Rea Parker, of Golds- evening over a bottle of beer or wine boro, who is still with the colors in the nentral records office at Bourges, France, writes home an interesting letter in which he takes the view that certain changes in the conduct of the Young central records office at Bourges, France, changes in the conduct of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Amer-ica should be made to make them more tards and a newspaper quite a pleasant responsive to the social needs of the time, times. Mr. Parker thinks the Y. M. C. A. should be made to correspond somewhat to the French cafe, that it ica be denied that valuef (Now do not should be a place naturally attractive understand me to desire to convey the impression that the French never im-those will go who are expressly seeking bibs too freely. I know that they do. those will go who are expressly seeking physical, intellectual and spiritual im-that I speak, in which they are to be provement. His letter, which is written provement. His letter, which is written to his father, Mr. W. K. Parker, also of Goldsboro, follows:

You know, father, there is much beauty in the French life, despite the oft-repeated and shallow criticism to the contrary. There is markedly absent from it the hurry and buffle so prevalent among our own people., The French enjoy life in a way unknown to the American, generally speaking. This fact becomes more clear to me every day I stay in France. I have studied them in their daily life, both in the country and in the city. And I have seen real beauty there.

I have observed them, too, at their drinking and admired them for 'ne moderation that they display. I have noticed with appreciation what a source of conviviality it affords them, and it reminds me of the symposium of the ancient Greeks, or of the tea-houses of early England, at one time the fountain of her national thought. All the world recognizes the healthful contribution to English life that was to be found in the tea-houses of that country In the days of Ben Jonson, of Addison Beott, MaCaulay and Pitt. At other public drinking places where stronge frink than ten is served, as is the case in France and in Germany, very much the same result is obtained.

During my stay in Germany I fre-quently visited after supper a quiet afe here and there over the city and observed the men and women who would drop in for a quiet hour or so over a glass of beer, a game of cards the sociability that the occasion forded. In these meetings the daily news had its share and I often though that were I able to understand German it would have afforded me an opporfunity of feeling the pulse of the people in a way which was tantalizingly denied me as it was. There is offered in the French and German cafe an opportunity of meeting in sober and appreciative intercourse the people about opinions, of learning from what the "know and of showing in turn your -knowledge with him. There is offered

here a keen realization of the sense of TOBACCO HABIT found here a source of constructive citizenship.

In America no such benefits as these emanate from our public drinking places; but, instead, just the reverse. It may all be attributed to the impet-uosity and nervous temperament of the In America no such benefits as these

apiece, engaged in a conversation of mutual interest or in a game of cards.

serve its opportunity fullest? That is the question. Even though we go one step further in our Y. M. C. A.'s than the French do in their cafes and stid religions programs, periodicals, amusements and indoor athletics to those cetablished places of lesines, we, nevertheless, sub-stitute an artificial bid for the time and interest of our young men in place of the natural appression of tempera-ment found in the French manner of life. Furthermore, our Y. M. C. A.'s enter primarily to the youngor set of men, instead of being of popular ap-peal, as they must be if they are to have abounding success. They must be appealing in and of themselves to in-sure a large and steady attendance or use, instead of being merely quiet, staid places to which only those re-tire who have nothing else to do, or those who desire to make good use of an hour or more in exercise, in read-ing or in writing. They must be places If sociable, sober drinking places have a value all their own, a value constructive and worth while, why should Amer-It is only for their relative sobriety

The absence of sobor, constructive, public drinking places in America, for the strictly commercial soda fountain does not fill the need, is a prime inhe chooses without their having to feel

centive for the establishment of Y. M. C. A.'s throughout our land. This institution seeks to make beneficial the leisure hours of the young men of America. And it is a well known fact that the way a man spends his leisure hours is a true index of the man. If these hours are, or can be made, constructive, this fact is certain to find reflection in his daily life and work. It is this positive expression that the "Y" then, aims to promote.

But, instead of springing into life naturally, as is the case with the French or German cafe, or the British tea-house, the "Y" must be fostered and promoted by sacrifice and appeal. The question is, can we not by slightly modifying it, make a more extensive use of this institution to our national interest? If we have in the Y. M. C. A. meeting places in embryo of the nature which we seek, can we not assure to it a fuller measure of development if we try? To do so, first of all, it must become less artificial and decidedly more expressive of our desires and needs. The "Y" today is behind the most advanced thought. It is serving the nar-rower of two ideas when it continues to lay stress on the individual purity idea, and the salvation of one's sou es of so great a consequence that the ides of service and of thought for human kind, even to the extent of for-getfulness of self, is left in the background. Forgetfulness of self was the cornerstone of the teaching of Christ and to Him the saving of his soul was a result, not a cause of His work and love. But I think it has been the contribution of this war to cut deep this idea into the tablet of human thought in general. Our churches have got to rcalize this sooner or later, or else lag behind the thought of their congrega-tions. It necessarily follows, then, that "Y" has got to direct its efforts the towards the objective more, towards the

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something different, and it was "some-thing different that his norrous tem-perament desired." Then isn't it evi-dent how blank the appeal of the "Y" must be to the American under its present condition? It does not afford sufficient natural interest to a sufficient number of people. If it did, if 't rea-lized the situation and proved equal to the occasion, there would lie hefore it, as I have said, the whole broad field for the development of constructive eitimenhip. I believe it possible to make of it as institution that will coast vitally in one mational life. While the moving picture show in citizenship, to which I should like to see it apply itself more. Citizenthip is a bigger, fuller, richer wurd today than ever before in the world's history. The opportunity is offered the Y. M. C. A. to lead in this work, ok else to be

While the moving picture show in America enjoys in enormous patronage, such patronage leads to effects that are as detrimental as they are beneare as detrimental as they are bene-ficial, if enjoyed too constantly They draw their paironage at the expense of the family crick. They change the would-be quiet, reflective moments into moments of suspense and excitement. If the Y. M. C. A. were more inviting, it would appent to men in their more thoughtful moods, in the first place, and it would substitute for the home atmosphere as atmosphere next best to atmosphere an atmosphere next best to it. Its patronage would also be at the expense of the corner drug store and the streets.

Drinks of some sort might be served Drinks of some sort might be served as a means of inducing patronage. If so, they should not be sorred free, but rather at the populas prices, no that no one meed feel any restraint in pat-ronizing the Y. M. C. A. Where one first drops in for his after-supper drink, there he is apt to loiter, if accommo-dations are afforded. In the case of a drinking place of this kind the loiter-ing will be changed from negative to mositive. from an hoar wasted to an positive, from an hour wasted, to an bour worth while. Furthermore, where those accommodations are, there the men will make it a point to drink. It is so in our clube and fraternal or-ders. Then let the "Y" profit by this

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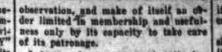
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I know of no communal gathering places in history that did not have their drink of one kind or another. There is something decidedly sociable shout drinking with one or more others. The drink need not be of an intexiesting nature, as with the Greek symposium of the French cafe, (for it serves not heer, or coffee alone), and, due to the absence of tomperance in anything in the Amerof temperance in anything in the American temperament, should not be so with us. Instead, we might very well follow the early English manuer of drinking, substituting for tee, soda fountain drinks, which have a universal domand in America. If America is not yet to go entirely dry, personally I can see no objection to the serving of beer in the Y. M. C. A.'s in those States which show Y. M. C. A.'s in those States which show clearly their desire to retain this form of drink. Perhaps, however, the public judgment will not bear me out in this idea of permitting the sale of beer is the Y. M. C. A., for however harmless beer of a very low per cant of algohol-micht be, this said beverage has always kept such bad company that it has lost the ability of being judged on its own merits only. If the public would not be too dogmatic on the subject, this question might properly be left to the

be too dogmatic on the subject, this question might properly be left to the desire of each community in those states, as I have intimated, which do not prohibit sale of beer. Eventually, as soon a shipping faeilities are avail-

if even beer takes the count, soft drin's able. " The orders for th

if even beer takes the count, soft drin'us an readily substitute for same. Granted, then, that our Y. M. C. A.'s should be of just such a nature as I have intimated they should be, you would find added to their present limited at-tractions, one of a universal, positive nature. You would find drinks, and of these drinks, in a few instances, beer. You would have in this fast an appeal of a universal nature, for drinks have always been the sucleus of social gather-ings of the nature of which I appah. The conviviality, accompanying It, the sober and appreciative intercourse, the The conviviality accompanying it, the motor and appreciative intercourse, the interchange of ideas, the airing of opin-ions, the general positive and heneficial atmosphere would become a automal as-set. There is nothing that I should so much desire as to see our Y. M. C. A's become the power houses of our national life. If it can utilizy and earich the idle moments of the non of America with an append that is general, desirable with an appeal that is general, desirable and constructive, it will have accom-pliabed the major portion of its task, in starting, it might well afford to take a cue from France, following such a cue only so far as adaptability to our own peculiar circumstances require.

sted as soon as the rmany was lifted.

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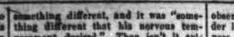
ing or in writing. They must be places to which a fellow can take his sister, his girl of his mother at any time that

ill at ease. A wholesome, free, cordial atmosphere must pervade the place. Anything that is merely quiet and staid has no appeal for the American. His attention can only be claimed by something that interests him. This is admirably illustrated in the mushroon like growth of moving pictures in the States. The American responded to the moving picture show spontaneously. It was something new, interesting, thrilling. Each program offered him

you, of exchanging views, of siring subjective less. This thought and work will lead it naturally into the whole other fellow knows much that you don't broad field of constructive, Christian







led; is which latter esse it will have failed to measure up to its possibilities an l opportunities. How best might it verve its opportunity fullest? That is



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