

The Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C. THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1922.

SOUND VIEWS ON THE PARDONING BUSINESS

Every state has more or less complaints as to pardoning. It is a doubtful, whether made by one man as governor or a court of pardons composed of three or more judges. The power reposed in one man, and the ease with which it is abused, is too much for both as labor and influence.

When the courts have calmly reviewed the facts and the responsibility, and reached the conclusion that death should be the punishment, the power of justice should never be thwarted by the executive in grounds of sympathy, or mere doubt as to whether the courts are right.

That correctly states the case, we apprehend. The only just and righteous exercise of this anomalous power is when it is made plain that there is new evidence and additional reasons for executive inference that could not have appeared in the trial.

LITERARY GOSSIP. Mrs. Virginia Fraser Boyle's story of "Brooklyn" is flatteringly received. It is a southern story of the past by a really gifted southern woman of the present.

There are papers that will write of cotton as being a staple. But with prices falling as they have done for some time, it is more a name in name than in fact.

THE MEN IN CONGRESS. We were something interested in a Washington letter giving an account of some notables in the present congress. The article is too long for reproduction.

Barrel, of Massachusetts. The hand-son senator is Penrose, of Pennsylvania. The well-known is Lodge, of Massachusetts. Allison is the most distinguished looking senator, and is from Iowa.

known English critic, made an address on Browning lately in England. He thus referred to the poet who died eight years ago, and whose fame has steadily grown with this century.

There is a great difference of opinion in England among men of letters, and especially able critics as to the merits and rank of William Watson as a poet. His poem on Tennessee was thought very admirable and elevated.

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Captain Mahan's new famous work, "The Influence of Sea Power Upon the French Revolution and Empire," has been translated into German.

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