

Entered as second-class matter December 31, 1906, at the Post office at Lincoln, N. C., under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription Price—1 year \$2.00, six months \$1.00, 3 months 75c. Take it by the year.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1921.

The American Banker's Association in meeting in Los Angeles thinks prosperity is gradually returning and it is hoped that they are right in their conclusion.

Gaston County Fair is on this week, beginning Tuesday and continuing through Saturday. Lincoln folks have a habit of taking in the Gaston Fair, and this year as usual, our folks will help swell the crowd. Gaston County folks will have a chance to return the compliment when Lincoln's Fair is held in November. Lincoln folks who go to Gaston Fair this week could do their County Fair a service by inviting personally their Gaston friends to visit Lincoln Fair.

STRANGERS ARE SOMETIMES DANGEROUS.

Monroe Journal. Numerous reports have been going the rounds to the effect that drivers of automobiles have been robbed by persons whom they picked up on the road at the request of a "lift". So much so is this true that warnings have been given from time to time against the practice of taking up strangers on the roadside, or even stopping to talk with them unless the circumstances were devoid of all suspicion. But the most daring exploit of this kind took place in a few miles of Raleigh on the Newbern road, one of the main highways leading out of the city last Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Fab Lewis, a farmer and business man of Middlesex, a small town some distance from Raleigh, left Raleigh in a car for home, alone. Soon after leaving the city limits he saw one negro man carrying another, who appeared to be very sick. Before he reached them, the sick negro lay down beside the road, and he other was fanning him with his hat. Mr. Lewis disarmed completely by the distress of the negro, stopped at a signal from the one doing the fanning. He wanted to be carried as far as the Neuse river, and thrust a dollar upon Mr. Lewis as payment.

The sick one was helped into the back seat of the car, and the journey begun. Mr. Lewis was alone in the front seat, and took no further notice of the pair behind him. He had put the dollar in his watch pocket. Two miles further one of the negroes told him to stop a minute. He pulled up beside the road and turned around in the seat. He found himself staring into a pistol barrel. The sick negro had recovered completely, and it was he who wielded the pistol. "Get out, and get out easy," the negro directed, and the other slid over into the driver's seat when Mr. Lewis vacated it.

"Gimme your money," the sick one next directed. Mr. Lewis told him that he had no money. The negro ordered him to turn his pockets wrong side out. The turning netted eighty-one dollars in bills and some small change, which Mr. Lewis threw on the ground. The negro, still covering the owner of the money, picked it up, and then ordered Mr. Lewis to walk up the road. He had nothing left but the dollar they paid for the ride.

Reaching for a pair of pliers, the negro cut the license tag off the rear of the car and tossed it into the back seat. The pair drove off, leaving Mr. Lewis to walk back to Raleigh. It is almost incredible that a thing of this kind should happen but it seems that they do. Better be careful!

PREDICTS 30 CENT COTTON

Gastonia Gazette. That cotton will go to 30 cents a pound is the opinion expressed by one Gaston county farmer with whom The Gazette was talking today. "We who have planted and cultivated this year's crop, who have watched its progress throughout the summer and are now gathering and ginning it know that the crop is exceedingly short. As soon as the first Fall rush to the markets is over, there will not be an abundant supply of cotton left in the country."

This view coincides exactly with that expressed by the Charlotte News, which insists that "should industrial conditions come to a better turn any time soon, the present crop of cotton will be worth pretty much anything the producer might ask for it; and this for the simple reason that the law of supply and demand would send the price booming. The reason that the present price is 21 cents and not 41 is because there is yet a laxity in the movement of the crop. It is not being consumed either in this country or abroad and will not be absorbed by the markets freely until there is a general revival of business."

"But when business gets better, as it is rapidly beginning to do now, and with the cotton mills running on full time to supply the needs of the markets, a crop of cotton no larger than is being produced this year ought to

be worth twice as much as it is now commanding, and worth it because of the economic fact that more is needed than has been supplied for the markets."

Asheville, Oct. 7.—City of Asheville 6 per cent municipal bonds totalling \$306,500 were sold late yesterday to the American Trust company, of Charlotte, at a premium of \$6,215.55. There were six bidders.

TO CORRECT A MISTAKE

Charleston News and Courier. The Washington conference is really an attempt to correct the colossal mistake made when the prescriptions of the Paris conference were rejected. It is an attempt to regulate the affairs of the world in such a way as not to allow these war-breeding combinations to come about. This can be accomplished only by the formation of one big co-operative combination, which of course is exactly what President Wilson tried to achieve. Unless it succeeds the current European prophecies of new alliances and balances of power, far from being fanciful, are pretty certain to come true in the main.

CHURCH NOTICE

There will be preaching and conference meeting at Salem Baptist church Sunday Oct. 16th. All members are urged and expected to be present. Jno. R. Avery, A. G. McGinnis, W. L. Garrison, Committee

BOX SUPPER

There will be a box supper Saturday night, Oct 15 at Union High School, at Reepsville. Proceeds to go for purchasing a heater for auditorium. All the ladies are cordially invited to bring boxes and everybody come.

HUMAN NATURE

Dr. William E. Barton. It is very popular to abuse human nature. When a man does a contemptibly mean thing we say, "Well, it's human nature." We assume that it is human nature to be dishonest, selfish, unkind. That is true. It is human nature to do and be all that ever has been charged against it. But human nature is the very best nature we know anything about on this earth. It is better than the nature of worms or snakes or wolves or tigers.

If there is any hope for the world, it is not in turning human nature out, and giving the planet over to the owls and bats; it is in making human nature better. I knew a man who was by nature selfish and mean. I will not pretend that he ever wholly overcame a nature that was what it was by inheritance and long training. But he became a better man, and he lived kindly and generously. To be sure there was always an element of stinginess in his goodness; a savor of meanness in his goodness; but there was a great transformation.

The wonder was not that he was not perfect, but that being so imperfect he did so well.

Human nature is not fixed and unalterable. It has changed since the day of the cave man. It has not changed as much as it ought to have changed, but some of the changes have not improved it much. But after all it has changed.

The human jaw has shortened, and the forehead has risen; the kinder passions have a larger place in the mind of the individual and the spirit of the race.

I have read history too much and too carefully to suppose that in my own generation I am going to witness any miraculous transformation of human life. But I do expect to die seeing the world a little farther along toward the goal, and human nature a little more human than when I began. That hope gives me great courage, and I should like you to share it with me.

LATIN AND LOVE

WON'T MIX IN SCHOOL

G. G. Page, editor of the Kings Mountain Herald, gives some pretty good advice from practical experience and observation to high school students that might be well worth pondering by all high school students. Says last week's Herald:

"School has started and so has courting. It makes me feel rather uneasy about progress of children in school when I see them so careful of the opposite sex. When I was in high school and devoting a portion of my time to the art of shooting with the bow of Dan Cupid, a visiting minister drew as a lesson which ran about like this: 'Suppose' he said you have a barrel which you wish to fill with apples and water and you first fill it with water. It will not hold a single apple with out sloshing over. But suppose you first fill it with apples. Then you can pour in lots of water until the barrel is full and it will contain both apples and water. The good man who had already had his matrimonial fight and had passed all the way up Fool Hill, made the application as follows: 'The apples represent learning; the water love etc. Now if you first fill your heads with puppy love, there will be no room for learning. But if you first fill your head with learning there will be ample room for love, and you will be a sight nearer ready for it well how does it strike you anyhow I taught school long enough to know the visiting parson had more truth than poetry for the lads and lassies

that cold morning School children who spend their time courting and smoking, need not be surprised when they go to college if they fail to stand the entrance examination. Or if they slip by on certificates to fall and have to come home when they get down to a real test. I know that this will be a very unpopular number for the fool column and some of you will say that it is none of my business. Well, it is printed now and I shall make no effort to unprint it. You will realize the truth of it some day."

ENEMY HOPES ON THE RISE

(From The Statesville Daily.) The women who essay the role of leadership for their sex in National politics, have changed their minds about asking for another amendment to the Federal Constitution. They will appeal to State Legislatures to remove the common law disabilities of the women, which would seem to be more sensible course. Other and further information from the women who essay National leadership is that they will form a woman's party, a distinct organization from the Democrats and the Republicans. That is about what their worst enemies hoped they would do.

THE RIDE IN THE DARK

Lessons Drawn From Hallman Case; Plea for Sheltering Mother Wing Charlotte Observer.

The concern for the sanctity of the home and its protection which has been growing throughout the country since the birth of which is generally referred to as "the aftermath of the war," must have been intensified in the minds of those who had followed the disclosures in the courtroom at Monroe as the trial of the young man Hallman, charged with criminal assault upon a young woman of good reputation and of excellent family connection, progressed. But the concern was relieved in measure by the outcome of the trial. The presiding judge must have been fearful that the moral carried in the verdict of the jury might have lost some of its force on that element of society it was desirable should be the more directly impressed by it, because of the significant fact that he felt called upon to clear away the circumstances that the jury had held the matter in its hands for a period of nine hours. Judge Finley—his name is worthy to be written into the case and its disposition—when importuned for mercy toward the convicted man, countered to the extent of reminding the counsel and the public that the defendant had cause for giving thanks that the verdict was not a sterner sort, because the jury had not been halting in its opinion. It had merely devoted time to discussion of the important point as to whether it should send the defendant to the electric chair or to the penitentiary. The jury at last voted to save his life, while the judge publicly maintained that it might well have rendered a verdict "according to the evidence," which is to say that in the mind of the presiding judge, the evidence produced was of a nature that would have warranted a verdict of guilty of criminal assault, which is punishable, under the laws of this State, by death.

It had been remarked in the papers during the progress of the trial that some of the evidence was of a "revolting" character, and The Observer is minded here to establish a distinction which is due the unfortunate young woman who was involved in the case. Her side was clear and clean. The revolting details brought out were in revelation of some conditions—among them the plottings of the evil-minded—existing among the new generation of libertines that proves the menace of the day to our young people. It was rather a hard fate that a young woman, reared in respectable surroundings, of excellent family connections and who had never associated with any but people of unassailable character, and who was herself above suspicion, should have been made the agency for development of details having to do with the evil conditions that seem abroad in the land.

The disturbing thought may have arisen in the minds of the people who have followed the deaths as to who the young woman of today may trust. How may she identify the young man who is yet true to the chivalrous traditions of the past and who could be depended upon to protect her, instead of plotting for her destruction? At the same time, the development carry a lesson which all young women and the mothers of young women may take well to heart. It is the exercise of caution in choosing one's associates. The respect which young women were taught to maintain for the chaperone should be restored, and the going on a lonely automobile ride should become recognized as an act which the people have come to regard a risky adventure and one which, under the now generally recognized conditions menacing young womanhood, with instantly do harm to her reputation. The victim of the affair for which a young man finds himself under penitentiary sentence, was of a trusting, confiding nature common to young people brought up under the influences of a rugged honesty to which suspicion and distrust are strangers, and that harm was to come to her at the hands of her "escort" and supposed friend, was a thought that had never occurred to her until forced with the terror of sudden realization. The story of the tribulations into which this young school teacher found herself precipitated contains a moral which the motherhood of the country might well burn into the mind, thought and heart of the

young charges for whose sanctity and happiness motherhood is responsible and too often neglected. The hawk is ever hovering at some unsuspected point ready to pounce down on the brood that has strayed away from the shelter of the mother wing.

UNLIMITED ABILITY

The town band had been royally entertained in a neighboring village where a concert had been given. On the train home the conductor had some trouble getting the ticket of one of the musicians. After several futile attempts to get his fingers into his vest pocket, the musician gave it up and announced:

"I've loht th' dang thing." "Come, come," ejaculated the conductor encouragingly. "You couldn't lost a thing like a railroad ticket." "Oh, I couldn't hey?" retorted the other with indignation, "Y' don't know me. I just loht the bass drum, thass what I did."

And Solomon Was A Wise Man Solomon, who was reputed to be a very wise man before he accumulated a thousand wives, said something like this, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider his guide, overseer or ruler, consider her ways and be wise; which, having no guide, overseer or ruler prepareth her meat in summer." America should take this admonition of Solomon's seriously, to her profit.

MORNING TONIC

(Henry Ward Beecher.) Many men are mere warehouses full of merchandise—the head, the heart were once tenanted by taste, and



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love, and joy and worship, but they are all deserted now, and the rooms are filled with earthly and material things.
THE TOLL OF CARELESSNESS
(From The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot)
Twelve thousand fatalities and one and a half million non-fatal injuries—this is the record of automobile casualties in America for 1920. Practically all of these deaths and injuries could have been avoided by the exercise of proper care. To point the moral that drivers of motor cars should exercise greater prudence is not enough. The average person at the wheel of an automobile already knows this, for the dangers incident to automobiling are self-evident. It is for the authorities everywhere to impose traffic regulations devised for the protection of all who use the highways, and to enforce them drastically. If fines and jail sentences as at present imposed fail to curb carelessness, then let us make them heavier.
Every time Hoover takes his eye off it, the cost of living goes up again.—New York World.

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