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Marion, N. C.

The Messenger.

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WITH THE LAW-MAKERS.

Bills General, Local, But All of Some Importance.

THE LEASE ANNULLMENT

Of the North Carolina Railroad Falls by a Vote of 26 to 24--Tax Rate Fixed.

SENATE.

MONDAY.—Senate met at 12 o'clock. Bills were introduced as follows: Bill of the public interest, Ward; to amend the charter of the Commercial Bank of Rutherfordton; to repeal the act requiring all persons who sell seed potatoes in Avon county to go before a magistrate and have it registered, so as to prevent theft; to establish a dispensary for Rutherfordton; to permit the establishment of public libraries; to establish a dispensary for Bladen county. Lewis, jr., To provide a dispensary for Lillington. To regulate fees of sheriffs and tax collectors in Gowan; to create public roads in Caswell; to permit the practice of osteopathy.

SATURDAY. Senate met at 12 o'clock. Among the many new measures introduced were:

Allen—To provide for a code commission to codify the laws of North Carolina. Anthony—Bill to place Mrs. R. Lucinda Boyle, of Gaston county, on the pension roll. Ramsey—To amend the charter of the town of Salisbury; also to amend chapter 274 of the code; also to expedite and hasten proceedings in court. Mitchell—To regulate the pay of mechanics, laborers and other hired help. Scales—To change the name of the Normal and Industrial School to the Normal and Industrial College. Alexander—To establish the normal school for the colored race, near Charlotte.

The bill to allow free passes to State officials and to regulate passenger rates failed to pass. Ayes 22, Noes 22. The President voted no, breaking the tie.

At the afternoon session the following were among the bills to pass:

To authorize the town of Concord to issue bonds. To authorize Monroe to construct waterworks. To amend the charters of Mount Airy, of Winston, of Concord, and of Salisbury. For the relief of sheriffs and tax collectors. (This is not a general law, but applies only to a few counties.) To amend and recodify the law relating to the Marion & Asheville turnpike. To change the name of the Normal and Industrial School at Greensboro to "College." To incorporate the Lumber River Railroad company. To regulate the sale of liquor in Cumberland and to establish a dispensary.

HOUSE.

MONDAY.—The House met at 10 o'clock. Only a few bills were introduced, and the following were among them:

Wilson—To allow the people of Gaston county to vote on the removal of the court house from Dallas to Gastonia.

Bills passed: To allow Concord to issue bonds upon a vote of the majority of the people. (Resolution by Crisp) that the House adjourn at 2 p. m. in memory of George Washington; to incorporate the town of Redmond, Madison county; to allow the city of Charlotte to issue $30,000 in bonds to pay for water-works; to allow Robeson county to levy an income tax; to forbid ex-Confederate soldiers who are inmates of the Soldiers' Home from receiving pensions while therein, and giving them the option as between remaining in the Home or receiving pension; to amend the road laws in Caldwell and to provide that Watauga roads be kept up as they were prior to the adoption of the Mecklenburg road law in 1885; to allow Rutherford to employ convicts on the public roads or on the streets; to allow Caldwell county to levy special tax to pay debt; to allow Monroe to issue $30,000 in bonds for water-works. Among the above bills there were a large batch to allow different counties to levy special taxes, etc.

TUESDAY. House met at 10 o'clock. Among the new bills were:

Green—To establish a criminal circuit composed of Mitchell, Yancey, McDowell, Caldwell and Watauga counties, to have all the jurisdiction vested in the Superior Courts so far as crimes are concerned, the judge to be elected by the people, salary $1,000 and $200 for expenses; the solicitor to be similarly elected and receive the usual fees. Mr. Lusk introduced resolution that after March 1 no bills or resolutions be introduced. Green—To submit to the popular vote at the next general election the question of State aid to higher education.

Mr. Nelson—To preserve and protect deer in Caldwell, Yancey, Burke, McDowell and Mitchell counties. Mr. Hancock—To reduce bonds of sheriffs to per cent of the assessed taxes. Chandler—To prevent destruction of fish in Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford and Transylvania, allowing them to be caught with hook only. Cathey—To promote public education, by providing that if the courts annul the 99-year lease of the North Carolina Railroad and it be leased for a greater sum than the present one, the excess shall be appropriated to the State Board of Education among the various counties among the school children, on a per capita basis.

Bills passed: To amend the charter of Lexington; to amend the act creating the Western Criminal Circuit Court by providing that whenever the commissioners of any county in the district shall request the judge to call an extra term he shall call it and receive the compensation of a Superior court judge from the county, also to provide that the Governor may order the judge to hold a special term whenever it is, in his judgment, necessary; to embrace Hollowell county in the Western Criminal circuit; to charter the Snow Hill Railroad, with $100,000 capital.

The bill to change the charter of Wilmington was defeated amid the most intense excitement. The bill was Russell's own measure, and its defeat is taken as a direct slap at the Governor. A number of Western Republicans voted against the bill.

The anti-gold contract bill was defeated. Governor Russell sent a message to the Legislature announcing thirty vacancies in the Board of Trustees of the State University.

The House by a vote of 63 to 38 puts New Berne in the hands of the negroes.

WEDNESDAY.—House met at 10 o'clock. Among the new bills were: Ward—To reduce the pay of legislators to $3 a day. Brower—To allow Mt. Airy to levy special license taxes. Young—To make $3,000 appropriation (additional) out of the general fund for the seven colored State normal schools. Dockery—To allow Clerk Long, of Richmond Superior Court, to be absent from his office on certain days. Currie—To protect Lumberton's artesian wells. Blackburn—To change the time of holding courts in the tenth district.

Bills passed: For the relief of Z. I. Long, clerk of Richmond county; to provide that Pasquotank, Columbus and Leach counties "may instead of "shall" publish the county finances; statements; to change the court house from Dallas to Gastonia; to allow the sheriff of Surry to collect taxes before March 15th; to authorize the Governor or the penitentiary directors to have the streets around the Capitol Square paved by convict labor; to incorporate Central Institute at Columbus, Polk county; to amend the charter of Laurinburg; to allow Laurinburg to issue $20,000 in bonds for water works, street improvements, etc.; to prohibit taking of clams from the waters of Brunswick county between April 15th and November 15th; resolutions: that no bills be introduced on or after March 15; To amend the law regarding issues of fact in trials; to protect fish in Newbegun creek, Pasquotank county; to amend the road law in Ashe and Watauga; to incorporate the Bank of Randolph; to amend the charter of Mt. Airy; to provide for the inspection of coal mines and the safety of miners therein; to change the time of holding courts in the tenth district; to repeal the charter of Mars Hill, Madison county.

By leave Cook introduced a bill to require the constitutions of North Carolina and the United States to be read in all the public schools.

At the night session the bill to charter the Winston-Salem Southbound railroad came up, but was laid over until Thursday.

Bills passed: To allow Forest City, Rutherford county, to issue $4,000 in bonds for improvements, and to levy a tax; to repeal the Cabarrus road law so far as it applies to townships 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 12; that provisions of chapter 142, acts of 1895 are not to be in any way affected; to allow the people of Forsyth to vote on the question of a special tax for a court house, not over 2 cents on $100; to prohibit the taking of fish in Buncombe, Rutherford, Transylvania and Henderson counties, save with hooks; to prohibit fast riding or driving across any bridges in Buncombe; to require all public school teachers to read aloud to their pupils twice during each session the constitution of the United States and of North Carolina; to amend the charter of the Elizabeth College Company, of Charlotte; to allow the commissioners of Maxton to increase tax levy from 50 cents to $1.

By leave, Person, of Wayne, introduced a bill to amend chapter 81, acts of 1895, fixing the maximum schedule of charges for selling leaf tobacco by all warehousemen in the State, as follows: "In section 1, line 1, strike out 5 and insert 3; in line 2 strike out 10 and insert 6; in line 6 strike out 10 and insert 6, and in line 7 strike out 5 and insert 3."

THURSDAY. House met at 10 o'clock. Among the bills introduced were: Wilson—To allow Gastonia to vote a donation to Gaston county to erect a court house and jail at Gastonia. Hanger—To provide for election of railroad commissioners by the people, and give them commission the right to prevent the reduction of wages of any railroad employee whose annual wages are less than $600, the penalty being $250 or imprisonment and also providing that no railroad shall charge over 2½ cents per mile for first-class and 2 cents for second-class fare between any two points in this State, under penalty of $100; this to apply to roads classed as "standard" by the commission. Duffy—To protect turpentine workers by fining any person $50 who adulterates spirits of turpentine with kerosene oil (or 30 days' imprisonment, or both). Bryan—To protect land owners in Chatham, by forbidding people in stock law territory to graze stock outside.

Bills passed: To amend the charter of the North Carolina Dairymen's Association so as to allow it to offer premiums, the State to give it $800 annually; to amend the charter of Wilkesboro so as to allow annual elections on liquor licenses to be held; to change the time of holding Superior Courts of Craven; to amend the law regarding registration of citizenship, so that the petitioner can file his petition in the county in which he was convicted, or the one in which he resides; to amend the charter of Mt. Airy; to make it a misdemeanor for any person not duly licensed to perform the marriage ceremony; the $3,000 appropriation to the University; to appropriate $2,000 additional for the State Normal and Industrial School.

The bill to charter the Winston-Salem South-bound Railroad was taken up. McCurry's amendment to force it to go through the town of Lexington was overwhelmingly voted down and the bill passed second reading.

At the night session the House passed the following bills: To fix "Newbern" as the proper way of spelling the name of that city; to make properly verified statements of account prima facie evidence of its correctness; to work Union county's public roads by taxation; to allow Lumberton to issue bonds; to submit to the voters of Anson the question of the road tax; to allow Charlotte to issue bonds; to provide for the erection of a school building for the North Carolina School for Deaf and Dumb, carrying $20,000 appropriation, passed second reading and was recommitted to the finance committee; to allow Gastonia to vote a donation to Gaston county, not to exceed $15,000, to aid in building a court house and jail; to incorporate the trustees of St. Mary's School at Raleigh; to incorporate the Carolina, Chimney Rock & Tennessee Railroad Company to be operated by steam or electricity from Rutherfordton via Hendersonville to the Tennessee line.

FRIDAY.—House met at 10 o'clock. There were only a few new bills introduced. Among them were: To establish graded school at Washington; James, to provide for the purchase of the battle ground of Moore's Creek for $500; Murphy, to amend the charter of Salisbury by allowing a special tax of 25 cents on the $100; McCrary, for the relief of the town of Lexington and Cotton Grove, in Davidson county; Green, to establish an independent school district composed of parts of Burke, Mitchell and McDowell; Allen, to incorporate Diamond State Lodge, I. O. O. F., at Asheboro; Hancock, to create the office of prosecuting attorney for the Eastern Criminal Circuit Court, to get same pay as solicitors, to be appointed by the Governor and to serve four years; Lusk, to allow county commissioners to elect an auditor.

The House went into committee of the whole on the revenue and machinery act. The rate of taxes was fixed as follows: Poll, $1.35; general tax, 21 2-3; pension tax, 3 1-3; schools, 20.

There was a lively debate on the question of taxing the sale of horses and mules. Finally it was agreed to tax all persons or firms who keep either private or auction stables a tax of $25 to the State and $10 to the county.

At the night session bills passed to incorporate the Carolina, Chimney Rock & Tennessee Railroad Company; to amend the carter of the Moore county & Western Railroad; to incorporate the North Carolina Land and Timber Company; to incorporate the grand lodge, Knights of Pythias; to prevent minors from entering and loafing in barrooms, bowling alleys and billiard rooms passed. The owners of such places are made guilty of a misdemeanor, with $50 penalty, if they allow minors to enter such places after notice from parents or guardians. The bill to incorporate the American Trust and Savings Bank at Charlotte passed.

SATURDAY.—House met at 10 o'clock. Among the new bills: Wilson—To extend corporate limits of Gastonia. Chilcutt—To repeal the special tax on physicians. To allow the State Medical Board of Examiners to grant license to physicians who have practiced ten years. Lusk—To prevent carrying concealed weapons by detective agencies. To adjourn sine die March 6th. Cunningham—To regulate fire insurance companies. White, of Randolph—To incorporate Asheboro Lodge, K. of P. Person—To allow Wilson county to issue bonds. White, of Randolph—To exempt the Golden Chain, order of Damon and Heptasophs, from insurance tax. Lusk—To provide for election of superintendent of health by the people.

Bills passed: To incorporate the Wake County Live Stock and Poultry Association, giving it the right to have cock fights at any place they please; this being done by a provision in the bill, which suspends the provisions of chapter 12, vol. 2 of the Code, so far as it prevents cruelty to animals; to make it discretionary with the State Treasurer as to making deposits in certain banks; to require all bankers or officers and directors of railroads and State banks or other corporations owned or chartered by the Legislature to take an official oath; to make the stockholders of any bank chartered by the State individually responsible, equally and ratably and not one for another for all contracts, debts and agreements of such association to the extent of the amount of their stock therein at the par value thereof, in addition to the amount invested in such share and all exceptions in any bank charter are repealed, and to forever any bank from lending any one person over one tenth of its capital; to give factory employees in Charlotte and elsewhere the right to cash their checks wherever they wish.

The supplemental Halifax county force law bill was taken up and discussed, but finally tabled, thereby allowing stock to run at large. By a vote of 56 to 53 the House allows Buncombe county to vote on fastening a dispensary on Asheville.

At the afternoon session the following bills passed: To provide that the collection of arrears of taxes shall cease June 1st next. To locate the line between the State and Tennessee. To declare null and void the bonds voted by Lexington town and township and Cotton Grove township, Davidson county, to the Roanoke Southern Railroad. To change the line between Henderson and Buncombe. To forever bar any fire insurance companies incorporated under the laws of this State to write policies in North Carolina save through regularly appointed and licensed agents.

In Cow Island, La., where the alligator abounds, the tame village hen of a lady residing there has just hatched out several of the reptiles along with her own brood. The most curious thing about the incident is that the young saurians discern nothing irregular in their parentage and follow the mother hen around in company with her chicks apparently in entire contentment with their lot. The indifference of the placid domestic fowl as to what the eggs beneath it bring forth has long engaged the attention of naturalists, who finally ascribe it to the natural composure of the creature, which is more concerned for its own tranquility and peace of mind than for the official regularity of its posterity. It brings up a brood of turkeydets or muscovy ducklings with the same care that it bestows on the fluffy chicks of its own breed, which it is natural to suppose that it contracted for. How it may be with the nursing saurians of Cow Island is another matter, but there is no reason to suppose that the hen will fall in any reasonable point of duty toward them. Cow Island now ought to produce the tale of an alligator hatching out and nursing to maturity a brood of buff cochins or Plymouth Rocks. It would be equally interesting and almost as plausible.

Contrary to the customs of most monarchs, Emperor William II. of Germany has never allowed his effigy to be engraved upon a postage stamp and philatelists and the world in general have wondered at the modesty in this respect of the young Kaiser, who usually is not averse to having his features displayed before the eyes of his admiring subjects. No direct and authentic reason has been given why the Prussian black eagle has not been long ago replaced by the Kaiser's effigy, but perhaps an explanation may be found in the strain of superstition which more than once has influenced the action of the Hohenzollerns. The Prussian stamps issued from 1850 to 1858 bore the image of Frederick William IV. But the year before he became legally insane he had it replaced with the black eagle, for he could not bear to see his countenance soiled and mutilated by the postoffice employes. A few years ago an enterprising Berlin manufacturer had lead pencils made upon which was stamped a bass-relief head of William II. The minister of education at once ordered school teachers not to allow their pupils to use these particular pencils "since the children might disfigure the face of their sovereign by biting the pencils with their teeth."

The telegraph brings the distressing information that a New Jersey man has been blown up by the explosion of a barrel of sweet cider in his cellar. Jersey lightning evidently resents the introduction of alien mixtures for internal irrigation.

Anyone who believes that "music hath charms to soothe the savage breast" should drop a note in confidence to Col. Mapleson, inclosing stamp for reply.

DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON.

The Noted Washington Divine's Sunday Subject,

"WINGS OF SERAPHIM."

TEXT: "With twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly."—Isaiah vi., 2.

In a hospital of leprosy good King Uzziah had died, and the whole land was shadowed with solemnity, and the elogical and prophetic Isaiah was thinking about religious things, as one is apt to do in time of great national bereavement, and forgetting the presence of his wife and two sons, who made up his family, he has a dream and like the dreams of ordinary character, which generally come from indigestion, but a vision most impressive, and under the touch of the hand of the Almighty.

The place, the ancient temple—building grand, awful, majestic. Within that temple a throne higher and grander than that occupied by any czar or sultan or emperor. On that throne, the eternal Christ. In lines surrounding that throne, the bright-est celestials, not the cherubim, but higher than they, the most exquisite and in tint of the heavenly inhabitants—the seraphim. They are called burners because they look like dredges of fire, eyes of fire, feet of fire. In addition to the features and the limbs, which suggest a human being, there are pinions which suggest the lightest, the swiftest, the most buoyant and the most aspiring of all animated creation—birds. Each seraph had six wings, each two of the wings for a different purpose. Isaiah's dream quivers and flashes with these pinions, now folded, now spread, now beaten in locomotion. "With twain he covered his feet, with twain he covered his face, and with twain he did fly."

The probability is that these wings were not all used at once. The seraph standing there near the throne, overwhelmed at the mere thought of the paths his feet had trod but as compared with the paths trodden by the feet of God, and with the lameness of his locomotion amounting almost to decrepitude as compared with the divine velocity, with leathery veil of angelic modesty hides the feet. "With twain he did cover the feet."

Standing there, overpowered by the overmatching splendors of God's glory and unable longer with the eyes to look upon them and wishing these eyes shaded from the unbearable glory, the pinions gather over the countenance. "With twain he did cover the face." Then, as God tells this seraph to go to the farthest outpost of immensity on message of light and love and joy and get back before the first anthem, it does not take the seraph a great while to spread himself upon the air with unmitigated celerity, one sweep of the wing equal to 10,000 leagues of air. "With twain he did fly."

The most practical and useful lesson for you and me, when we see the seraph spreading his wings over the feet, is the lesson of humility at imperfection. The brightest angels of God are so far beneath God that He charges them with folly, the seraph so far beneath God and we so far beneath the seraph in service we ought to be plunged in humility, utter and complete. Our feet, how laggard they have been in the divine service! Our feet, how many miles they have taken! Our feet, in how many paths of worldliness and folly have they walked!

Look at the grace of the human foot. With that we kick or climb or march. It is the foundation of the physical fabric. It is the base of a God-reared column. With it the warrior brings himself for battle. With it the orator plants himself for eulogium. With it the toiler recommends his work. With it the outrage stamps his indignation, its loss an irreparable disaster, its health an invaluable equipment. If you want to know its value, ask the man whose foot paralysis has shriveled, or machinery with crushed, or serpent's snife bath amputated. The Bible honors it. Especial care, "Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." "He will not suffer thy foot to be moved." "Thy feet shall not stumble." Especial charge, "Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God." Especial peril, "Their feet shall slide in due time." Connected with the world's dissolution, "Here a foot one foot on the sea and the other on the earth."

Give me the history of your foot, and I will give you the history of your lifetime. Tell me up what steps it hath gone, down what declivities and in what roads and in what directions, and I will know more about you than I want to know. Note of it will endure the scrutiny. Our feet not always in paths of God, sometimes in paths of worldliness. Our feet, a divine and glorious machinery for usefulness and work, so often making mistakes, so often going in the wrong direction. God knowing every step, the patriarch saying, "Thou seest a print on the heels of my feet." Crimes of the hand, crimes of the tongue, crimes of the eye, crimes of the ear not worse than crimes of the foot. Oh, we need the wings of humility to cover the feet! Ought we not to go into self abnegation before the all searching, all scrutinizing and trying eye of God? The seraphs do. How much more we? "With twain he covered his feet."

All this talk about the dignity of human nature is braggadocio and sin. Our nature started at the hand of God royal, but it has been pauper ever since. There is a well in Indian which once had very pure water, and it was stoutly assaulted with stone and brick, but that well afterward became the center of the battle of Waterloo. At the opening of the battle the soldiers with their sabers compelled the surgeon, William von Eyssen, to draw water out of the well for them, and it was very pure water. But the battle raged, and 200 dead and half dead were flung into the well for quick and easy burial, so that the well of relief became the well of death, and some silly people looked down into the well and they saw the bleaching skulls, but no water. So the human soul was a well of good, but the armies of sin have fought around it and fought across it and been slain, and it has become a well of skeletons. Dead hopes, sad resolutions, dead upon unities, dead ambitions. An abandoned well unless Christ shall reopen and purify and fill it as the well of Bethlehem never was. Unclean, unclean.

Another seraphic posture in the text, "With twain he covered the face." Great means reverence Godward. Never so much irreverence abroad in the world as to-day. You see it in the defaced statuary, in the cutting out of figures from the paintings, in the hipping of monuments for a memento, in the fact that military guard must stand at the grave of Lincoln and Garfield, and that old shoulder-to-shoulder veteran, Sherman, with ash flag George H. Thomas, keep the worthless men to spare the tree, and the rails a corpse a cadaver, and that as aks of death as going over to the majority, and substitutes for the reverent terms father and mother "the old man" and "the old woman," as I find nothing impressive in the ruins of Baalbec or the columns of Karnac, so I see no difference in the Sabbath from other days except it allows more idle paths, and reads the Bible in what is called higher criticism, to know if not the word of God, but a good book with some fine things in it.

Irreverence never so much abroad. How many take the name of God in vain, how many trivial things call about the Almighty! Not all hard to have God in the world, they put up an idea of sentimentality and humanitarianism and impudence and infidelity and call it God. No wings of reverence overshadow him, no taking off of shoes on holy ground. Not a few of those who say they talk about God have made a better word than that, and that the God of the Bible shows very scant of politeness. They talk of the Lord God in a way that shows you they believe does not know any difference how he comes or where he will come in at the door or window. The talk of the love of God in a way which leaves you to think it is a good-natured indulgency for all the abandoned and all the profane rest of the universe. No punishment hereafter for any wrong done here.

Reverence for place, reverence for the old meeting-house it is, reverence for England, why however learned, reverence for incapacity however finely inaugurated? I have none. But we want more reverence for God, more reverence for the sacraments, more reverence for the Bible, more reverence for the pure, more reverence for the good. Reverence a characteristic of all great natures. You hear it in the roll of the master oratorios. You see it in the Raphaels and Titians and Ghirlandajos. You see it in the architecture of the Angelos and Christopher Wrens. Do not be flippant about God. Do not joke about death. Do not make fun about the Bible. Do not deride the Eternal. The brightest and mightiest seraph cannot look unclothed upon Him. Involuntarily the wings come up. "With twain he covered his face."

Who is this God before whom the arrogant and intractable relize reverence? He was an engineer by the name of Stradivarius, who was in the employ of Alexander the Great, and he offered to hew a mountain in the shape of his master, the emperor, the enormous figure to hold in the left hand a city of 10,000 inhabitants, while in the right hand it was to hold a basin large enough to collect all the mountain torrents. Alexander applauded him for his ingenuity, but forbade the enterprise because of its greatness. Yet I have to tell you that our King holds in one hand all the cities of the earth, and all the oceans, while he has the stars of heaven for his tiara.

Earthly power goes from hand to hand from Henry I to Henry II and Henry III, from Charles I to Charles II, from Louis I to Louis II and Louis III, but from everlasting to everlasting is God, God the first, God the last, God the only. He has omnoscience, with which he sees everything—his omniscience. He has one bridge, with which he crosses everything—his omnipresence. He has one hammer, with which he builds everything—his omnipotence. Put two tablespoonfuls of water in the palm of your hand, and it will overflow, but Isaiah indicates that God puts the Atlantic, and the Pacific, and the Arctic, and the Antarctic, and the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea, and all the waters of the earth in the hollow of His hand. The fingers the beach on one side, the wrist the beach on the other. "He holdeth the water in the hollow of His hand."

As you take a pinch of salt or powder between your thumb and two fingers, so Isaiah indicates God takes up the earth. He measures the dust of the earth, the original measure in stating that God takes all the dust of all the continents between the thumb and two fingers. You wrap around your hand a blue ribbon five times, ten times. You say it is five hand breadths or it is ten hand breadths. So indicates the prophet God winds the blue ribbon of the sky around His hand. "He stretch out the heavens with a span." You know that bulances are made of a beam suspended in the middle with two basins at the extremity of equal heft. In that way what vast heft has been weighed! But what are all the balances of earthly manipulation compared with the balances that Isaiah saw suspended when he saw God putting into the scales the Alps and the Apennines and Mount Washington and the Sierra Nevadas? You say the earth had to be ballasted. It would not do to have too much weight in Europe, or too much weight in Asia, or too much weight in Africa or in America, so when God made the mountains He weighed them. The Bible distinctly say so. God knows the weight of the great ranges that cross the continents, the tons, the pounds avoirdupois, the ounces, the grains, the millegrams—just how much they weighed them and just how much they weigh now. "He weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance." Oh, what a God to run against! Oh, what a God to disobey! Oh, what a God to dishonor! Oh, what a God to defy! The Original, the mighty angel takes no familiarity with God. The wings of reverence are lifted. "With twain he covered the face."

Another seraphic posture in the text. The seraph must not always stand still. He must move, and it must be without clumsiness. There must be celerity and beauty in the movement. "With twain he did fly." Correction, exhibaration. Correction at our sorrow, for we only crawl in the service when we ought to fly at the divine bidding. Exhibaration in the fact that the soul has wings as the seraphs have wings. What is a wing? An instrument of locomotion. They may not be like seraphs' wings, they may not be like birds' wings, but the soul has wings. God says so. "He sail mount up on wings as eagles." We are made in the divine image, and God has wings. The Bible says so. "Beating in His wings." "Under the shadow of His wings." "Under Whose wings hast thou come to trust?" The soul with folded wing now, wounded wing, broken wing, bleeding wing, caged wing. Aye, I have it now! Caged within bars of bone and under curtains of flesh, but one day to be free. I hear the rustle of pinions in Seagrave's poem which we sometimes sing:

Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings,
I hear the rustle of pinions in Alexander Pope's stanza, where he says:
I mount, I fly.
O death, where is thy victory?

Oh, people of God, let us stop playing the fool and prepare for rapturous flight. When your soul stands on the verge of this life, and there are vast precipices beneath and sapphire domes above, which way will you fly? Will you swoop, or will you soar? Will you fly downward, or will you fly upward? Everything on the wing this day bidding us aspire. Holy Spirit on the wing. Angel of the New Covenant on the wing. Time on the wing, flying away from us. Eternity on the wing, flying toward us. Wings, wings, wings!

Live so near to Christ that when you are dead people standing by your lifeless body will not soliloquize, saying: "What a disappointment life was to him! How averse he was to departure! What a pity it was he had to die! What a awful calamity!" Rather standing there as they see a sign more vivid on your still face than the vestiges of pain, something that will indicate that it was a happy exit, the clearance from oppressive quarantine, the cast-off carcass, the molting of the jaded and the used so, and the ascent from malarial valleys to bright, shining mountain tops, and be led to say, as they stand there contemplating your humility and your reverence in life and your happiness in death, "With twain he covered his feet, with twain he covered his face, with twain he did fly." Wings, wings, wings!

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

Ambassador Bayard has received thousands of invitations to dine before he leaves England.

Six months' fishing and six months' writing is the annual programme of William Black, the novelist.

William Waldorf Astor is said to own 1500 houses in New York City, and his estimated yearly income is $5,000,000.

It is said that Dr. Nansen, the Norwegian explorer, is much annoyed when he sees himself referred to as a Swede.

Garret A. Hobart announced that he would give up, March 4, all leaves of office held by him while might hamper him in his public duties as Vice-President.

When a man has a very active mind he is obliged to do something with it, and Mr. Gladstone is now as hard at work on his "Olympian Religions" as if the destiny of empires depended on it.

The will of George B. Roberts, late President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, disposing of an estate estimated at $6,000,000, was admitted to probate. All but $70,000 is left to the widow and children of Mr. Roberts.

Speaker Reed will bear the title of "Father of the House" in the next Congress. He has served without interruption since 1877, a period of six less years. He succeeds in the shoes of Judge Culberson, of Texas, who holds the time-honored title in the present Congress.

Lord Nelson is the only peer living who was a peer at the time of the Queen's accession. The great Admiral, who was created Viscount, received a pension of £17,500 a year, but that was superseded by a pension of $25,000 a year, payable to all holders of the Earldom.

The new Liberal Member of the British Parliament, Samuel Woods, is a son and grandson of coal miners and the husband of a coal miner's daughter. He was a worker in the pits when but seven years old, and grew up to be a miner himself, gaining his education under more than ordinary difficulties.

Dr. Giuseppe Sanarelli, who discovered the bacillus of yellow fever, is not yet thirty years old. He took his degree at the University of Siena in 1889, and won prizes in many competitions abroad after his graduation. He is now in charge of an institute of experimental hygiene founded by the University of Montevideo.

Ernest T. Hooley, of the Derbyshire District, in England, recently came into possession of a vast fortune. He at once determined to set aside $75,000 a year to be expended in charity. To towns in his district of $10,000 inhabitants he allots $2000 a year, to a village of 3000 inhabitants $1500 a year, and so on in proportion.

The demonstration of managerial failures emphasizes the fact, recognized by men who have given the subject consideration, that the artists are overpaid in proportion to their earning power. They must either accept a true valuation and share the chances of gain or loss or they will kill the goose that lays the golden egg.

BILL ARP'S WEEKLY LETTER.

BARTOW SAGE AGREES WITH REED IN DEFENSE OF POE.

A DISCUSSION OF POEMS AND POETS.

Dr. Chivers, According to Best Authority, Did Not Inspire "The Raven"—Letter From Mr. J. P. Graves.

If my good friend Wallace Reed had not come forward as Poe's defender, I should have refrained from further mention of Dr. Thomas Holley Chivers. It seemed to me that enough had been written by outside parties to provoke a clearer exposé from kindred or more intimate friends.

There is still a shadow over his relations to Edgar A. Poe. That they were personal friends is proven, but as to who preceded in that peculiar style of lyric poetry is not proven.

I have an interesting letter from a author of old gentleman of College Park, Mr. James P. Graves, father of John Temple Graves, who says that while a college boy on his return home to Washington, Wilkes county, he visited Dr. Chivers and had a conversation with him. He says:

"This conversation awakened in me the liveliest interest. He spoke of an essay or criticism he had just written for the Southern Literary Messenger, of Richmond, instituting a comparison of the literary merits of the poets, Byron and Shelley. The impression made on me was that it was a masterly production. He spoke of his 'Lost Pleiades' and other poems, said he had just received a letter from Poe, and I think he read it to me, and he mentioned correspondence with other distinguished men of the north.

"The picture given of him in the Constitution is most accurate. His complexion was dark especially so under the eyes.

"The idea that Dr. Chivers inspired 'The Raven' or any way aided in its production was not in that day entertained by any one so far as I knew.

"Dr. Chivers' style of talking was very ornate, and he appeared familiar with the arts and sciences and to be a very erudite scholar. I used to wonder why he was not more recognized by the learned of both sexes, but supposed it was because he was something of a recluse, and preferred to revel in his own dreamy and poetical thoughts. There was no show of wealth about him, nor did he seem to care for any. Long after that he removed to Decatur, where he died and was buried. Mrs. Chivers was a cultured and most estimable lady. For further information, I refer you to Dr. F. T. Willis, of Richmond, Va., who was a half brother to the late Samuel Barnett, of Washington, Ga., and also to Judge William Reese and Rev. F. T. Simpson, of Washington."

So it seems that if Dr. Chivers did not himself bring charges of plagiarism against Poe, but remained his friend and correspondent, the bill should be "not proved." More especially is this so since Mr. Graves, himself then a young man of classical culture and a contemporary, never heard of such a charge, and Poe's biographer in Appleton makes mention of a life of Poe yet to be published that was written by Dr. Chivers.

When I last wrote on this subject it was my impression that Dr. Chivers was Mr. Poe's senior not only in years, but in poetical work, and as they were bosom friends in New York, that Poe drew his inspiration from the doctor; but more mature reflection satisfies me that Wallace Reed is right.

My wife says he is. She has but little patience with people who seek to rob the dead, or who destroy the idols of her youth. Ever since she used to recite "William Tell," the hero of the lakes, as her Friday evening speech at school she has been mad with the man who first discovered that there was no such hero, or if there was he never shot an apple from off his boy's head.

Poe was certainly a gifted genius, for his prose is as marvelous as his poetry. Both are artistic, ingenious, dreamy and of the borders of fairy land. But they live in the admiration more than in the heart. For poems that charm our human nature and linger in the cell of memory I would rather read Goldsmith, Gray, Cooper, Coleridge, Burns and Tom Hood than any others. Byron's are grand and stately in their beauty, but do not melt down within us and make us better, kinder and more loving.

The most beautiful lyric poem ever written is, I think, Coleridge's "Genevieve." When I was a young man I read it with supreme delight and it has not yet lost its charm. My sympathy for love and lovers is still alive and glowing and my soul is thrilled with ecstacy when I read how he won his "bright and beauteous bride." That poem and Goldsmith's "Hermit" I committed to memory more than half a century ago and I dearly love to recall them.

For solemn, serious meditation on the vanity of earthly things there is no poem equal to Gray's "Elegy."

For home and heart Burns leads all in tenderness.

For exquisite pathos that appeals to our charity and our pity there is nothing in the English language so affecting as Hood's "Song of the Shirt."

On this side of the water we have some few poets whose works have stood and will continue to stand the test of time. Marco Bozzaris is sublimity itself. In thought and execution as a single poem it stands alone and unrivaled. I would rather have composed it than to have been Wellington at Waterloo.

Somehow I have no taste for poetry that has to strain for language or that has to hunt the dictionary for unusual or uncommon words, such as aldyn, gloaming, sheen, etc. Nor for poetry that has to strain for rhymes. It reminds me of the freshman's first efforts:

"Daddy built a well sweep,
The wind blew it down—cheep."

The rhyme should be as natural as the sentiment.

All of our best hymns have been handed down to us from famous English authors. With but a few exceptions there have been none written within the century. Did these old authors exhaust the field or has the spirit of sacred poetry departed? Who writes a hymn now? But even some of these old popular English hymns are quite faulty or unfortunate in expression. When I was a boy I used to hear "Come thou fount of every blessing" sung very often in our church and I got the idea into my head that angels' tongues were made of fire, for the hymn says, "Sing by flaming tongues above." I did not like that nor do I think it yet. That kind of music is a little too hot for mortals to appreciate and adds nothing to the attractiveness of heaven.

I reckon I am hypercritical about such things, but I can't help it. When the smiles in verse are unnatural they distress me. As much as I admire Longfellow I have never been reconciled to the line:

"As a feather is wafted downward
From an eagle in his flight."

There is nothing like the falling of darkness in that to me. It is a strain of thought might as well have said, "From a buzzard in his flight," and that would have been horrid. The coming of darkness is a little thing and shrouds the earth from horizon to horizon, but the falling of a stray feather from a bird is a very little thing—too little for a comparison. For I reckon it is easy to find fault with a poet who wrote so many beautiful poems. I was only running for a moment a charge of expression being run down suddenly from the sublime to the ridiculous. Webster's last words were whispered, "I still live," but a young man I knew undertook to repeat them and said, "Boys, I'm not dead yet," and all the redemption disappeared.—BILL ARP, in Atlanta Constitution.

Not to Be Thought Of

Miss Marion Peck, niece of Developer Peck, of Chicago, two years ago began sitting for a full length portrait by James McNeil Whistler. In all there were ninety sittings, extending over a period of two years, in London and Paris. The portrait was finished last spring, and the price, a big sum, was tendered the artist. He refused to part with the portrait, however. "What!" said he, "send this masterpiece to Chicago? No, indeed!" He has steadily refused to part with it.

Race Track Veterans.

When the racing career of a horse is over he is seldom, if ever, heard from again. The stallions, if of good breeding, go to the stud and often become famous through their posterity, and the mares of every class go to the stock farms. Very few of the geldings are killed outright, yet a broken-down thoroughbred is about of as much use as a last year's sunbeam.

Jay Eye See may be seen nearly every day on the streets of the city where J. I. Case makes his reapers. Parole, the winner of eighty-seven races in this country and in England, is on Pierre Lorillard's place at Jobstown, N. Y.

Patrick, the property of Pat Dunne, Chicago's famous horseman, has been turned out to end his days in peace and plenty of grass on Eugene Leigh's farm.

Old Barnum, who ran until he was 16 years old, earned the title of the Iron Horse long before "Pa" Bradley's Blizzen was foaled. Barnum's last appearance in a race was at East St. Louis, where he was beaten by a lot of cheap skates, a sad end to the racing career of the conqueror of Hanover.

Lexington, Longfellow, Glenco, Bonnie Scotland and Leamington died on the farms they helped to make famous.

But to old Sunday belongs the honor of dying under saddle in the field of battle. Sunday, by Sun Dance, was a big, handsome bay horse. He was a terror in the ring for several years, until at last he outlived his usefulness and died from poison administered in an apple. In the inclosure, just at the head of the home-stretch, the old sprinter lies buried. A marble slab marks the spot, which is fenced with iron as a result of a contribution from many admirers of the old campaigner who had profited by his gameness and speed.—Boston Standard.

The Colorado Desert.

The most famous of waste places in America, the Colorado Desert, is popularly regarded as an empire of hopeless sterility, the silence of which will never be broken by the voices of men. But the great desert is the life work of the