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ISAAC EVANS, GENERAL CARPENTER. A specialty of Bracket and Scroll work of all kinds. Work done cheap and every piece guaranteed. 7 ly

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THE COMMONWEALTH

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor. "EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO. VOL. XIII. New Series--Vol. 1. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1897. NO. 5. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

Bread is used as a daily article of food by only about one-third the population of the earth.

A correspondent from Hertford to the Norfolk Virginian Saturday said that a gentleman who is making a trip around the world on a wheel, stopped there and said nice things for North Carolinians.

It has been asserted that fair-haired people are becoming less numerous than formerly. The ancient Jews were a fair-haired race; but now, with some exceptions, their hair is mostly dark.

It is stated that there are fifty-two penitentiaries in the United States and one thousand seven hundred jails. It cost five hundred million dollars to build them, and nearly a million persons have been imprisoned in one year.

Between trying to keep up with the Legislature now in session in Raleigh and the Congress in session at Washington, the people of North Carolina who are inclined to study public affairs will be kept busy along that line for the next few weeks.

There is great depression in the country and many failures in banking and other businesses have been reported during the last two months. A travelling man of considerable observation said in Scotland Neck a few days ago, that if Bryan had been elected President and as many business failures had been reported as have been it would all have been "laid to Bryan."

We do not know about that, but we do know that the promised prosperity has not come with the election of McKinley.

There are many ways of getting profit out of fun, but the latest is given in the following: "W. J. Green, a Pittsburg grocer, having had his supply of city water shut off as the result of a dispute with the rate assessor; betought himself of a well in his yard and a tank on his roof. To fill the one from the other seemed to necessitate a lot of work, done either by Mr. Green or by his coal heap, but, after prolonged study of the situation he rigged up a swing over the well, connected it in some subtle manner with the pump handle and then invited the children of the neighborhood to come and have lots of fun. They came and had it, and the tank keeps full all the time."

THE COMMONWEALTH would not lay any severe strictures upon any United States Senator or Representative in Congress for leaving Washington a day or so to run down to Raleigh and look in upon the Legislature and offer some suggestions to their party friends. That would be natural. Of course they were interested in the senatorial fight; but for Senators Butler and Fritchard, and all the Populist and Republican Representatives in Congress to come down to Raleigh and remain ten days out of their seats in Congress, is more than can be excused. They have no right to leave their duties in Washington so long for purely partisan purposes. This paper said two or three years ago that whenever a member absents himself from Congress for his own personal interest his salary ought to stop while he is away, and we stick to it.

THE LEGISLATURE.

INAUGURAL CEREMONIES. What the Law-makers are Doing.

SIXTH DAY—TUESDAY, JAN. 12TH. The most of the day was spent in joint session between the Senate and House for the inaugural ceremonies. A few general bills were introduced in both branches.

The following State officers were sworn in by Chief Justice Faircloth: Hal. W. Ayer, State Auditor. Cyrus Thompson, Secretary of State. Wm. H. Worth, State Treasurer. Zeb. V. Walsler, Attorney-General. Chas. Reynolds, Lieutenant-Governor. Daniel L. Russell, Governor.

Governor Russell then delivered his inaugural address, which is too long to print in full.

At the close of the Governor's address members of the Senate repaired to the Senate chamber, where Senator Smathers introduced Lieutenant-Governor Reynolds. He spoke briefly and sensibly as follows: Senators—In assuming the duties of presiding officer over your distinguished body, I do so with the single purpose in view, to know your wishes and serve you to that end to the best of my ability and I shall hope always for your kindly assistance in making the duties of the office as light as possible.

For my predecessor I will say that if I can avoid criticism and retain the esteem of this body and my fellow citizens as he has always done, I shall consider myself more than fortunate. I do not know that it would be coming in me to call your attention to any special line of legislation, but I may be permitted to hope that the course of this Legislature will be such as to encourage immigration and invite capital into our State.

When we think of the boundless wealth hidden in the storehouse of our Western mountains, the wasting energy of a thousand streams, our unrivaled woods, the splendid possibilities of our Eastern gardens, our fisheries wonderful, though undeveloped, our magnificent climate and matchless scenery, what an opportunity is ours!

Let us forget all party lines and remember that we are sons of North Carolina. If we do this we can give such a feeling of security to all kinds of investments, such hope and encouragement to labor, such an impetus to new enterprises that will insure the opening of mines, the development of our water powers, the improvement of our public roads, the building of railroads and turnpikes, and in fact will secure every kind and character of development that is possible in our State. Blessed as we are by heaven with such possibilities it is your province, and I feel it will be your pleasure, to make North Carolina a most inviting field to capital and the paradise of the workingman.

A part of this great work must be the encouragement and improvement in our free school system, until it reaches that point when the humblest citizen can secure an education that will fit him for any calling in the State.

I will not detain you longer except to assure you that, if wisdom prevails in your councils, you will see the beginning of such an era of prosperity as our people have never dreamed of, and for which your children's children will rise up and call you blessed and your constituents will greet you on your return home with the plaudits of "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Senator Smathers introduced the following resolution which was adopted by a rising vote: Resolved, That the Senate extend to the retiring Lieutenant-Governor Doughton a vote of thanks for his impartial ruling as the presiding officer of the Senate, and extend to him the best wishes of the body.

SEVENTH DAY—WEDNESDAY JAN. 13TH. HOUSE.—L. A. Abernethy introduced the following resolution: "Resolved, By the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that a committee of five be appointed, three from the House and two from the Senate, whose duty it shall be to investigate and ascertain the salaries now received by all the state officers and all the salaries of officers of State institutions, with a view of reducing the same, so as to conform to the existing prices of farm products."

There was a lively debate as to how many copies of Governor Russell's inaugural address should be printed. Some wanted 10,000 and others wanted 250. The News & Observer said of the debate: Mr. Sutton, of New Hanover, offered a resolution ordering 10,000 copies of the Governor's inaugural address. Mr. Schulken amended with 2,500, and Mr. Nelson with 500; Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, 5,000, withdrawn in favor of Brown of Jones, who had the same

LIFE'S REALITIES.

MADE UP OF LITTLE THINGS. CHAT WITH BOYS AND GIRLS. Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO." (Copyrighted.)

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Why not strive to make this the most satisfactory year of life? "Yes," you say, "but failure is found in many that have gone before." Well, let us talk it over, for I know too well what it is to mourn over had execution after good intention, trifling results after great purposes, and ignoble acts after high ideals. Two things are holding you back: you regret the wasted past and lose heart because of it: you are careless in the present because you and its duties seem insignificant to yourself.

As with the slow boy in class, whose chance to spell has passed him before he knows it has reached him, so it is with us. The hurrying years tarry for nothing. We are not afflicted with a feeling uncommon to men, when we rub our eyes to see if it is a fact that a whole year has passed since the blare of horns frightened off the ghost of 1895. All the generations before us have felt the same alarm. Yet the past and the present are filled with lives that have accomplished much, though subject to the same onrush. Bear in mind then for your encouragement, that what has been done can be done again.

They accomplish most, who spend no time repenting at circumstances. Seeing things around them to be done, they take hold and do them well, just because they come next to hand. I verily believe the secret of all true greatness is found in faithfulness to the present duty no matter how small and insignificant. Peter Cooper made good glue and from small beginnings grew great, used his greatness well; and the glue-maker ranks high among the world's philanthropists. Even as the caterpillar in a physical sense comes to the wider, freer sphere by doing the things necessary to growth day by day, so shall we in a moral sense. To be faithless and complaining over little duties is certainly no guarantee that greater duties will be better done. While it is not fair to say that all faithful ones become prominent, it is fair to say that patient, out-of-sight work, must be done to ensure prominence of a lasting character. Humanity itself is our teacher; twenty-five years of body-building pass before we are mature enough to stand the strain of real life.

We must try to take a saner view of life. Then can we understand that the little acts make up in large part the world's progress. Thus will our own work take its proper dignity. A few great deeds show forth in history here and there; but built of them only the world's total gain would stand up like the naked frame work of a lofty building. As a matter of fact, clustered around every monumental deed are innumerable small ones that have been well done and that have made the greater deed possible. No general ever wins with an army of disaffected soldiery. No wide stretching bridge is built merely by the mind of the engineer: to his aid is brought the sullen strength of stone and iron that winter, in and out, will steadily do its work. No great onward step is taken in any country unless there is an upheaval of public-opinion. You and I, obscure ones, are public opinion. We are in all great progress if the spirit of progress is in us; just as the boiler is a thing of power because of the steam within and the steam is a thing of power because of the boiler without.

Pray mourn no more over your hidden state. Do your "little" and do it well. Then whether you come to greatness or not, you can not be robbed of one great thing, the real usefulness of your life. It needs but a few words to remind you that our great nation is like a huge body, with interdependent parts. Let me emphasize your possible importance from your own bodies. A drop of blood, moving hither and thither in your veins is a small thing. Yet your health as a whole is closely related to its duty-doing. It carries oxygen from the lungs, or non-nutrient from the stomach and the intestines; then gives that up somewhere—brightens the eye, perhaps, or strengthens the brain. Once more it loads itself; this time with the poisons that come from wasted muscles

SENATE.—Mr. Clark introduced a bill for the relief of the people by establishing reasonable passenger, telegraph and telephone rates and to establish a uniform standard of time for this State. The other bills and resolutions were of a local nature, and would hardly interest THE COMMONWEALTH'S general readers.

EIGHTH DAY—THURSDAY, JAN. 14TH. SENATE.—Bills were introduced by Senator Sharp, to abolish the office of cotton weigher in Edgecombe. By Senator Butler, to license foreign associations and other corporations. The bill passed its third reading to incorporate the town of Millbank, Wilson county.

The following were appointed on the senatorial bribery investigation: Senators Atwater and Smathers. The following Cuban resolution, as modified by the committee on federal relations, was adopted: Resolved by the senate, the house concurring, That we are in sympathy with the people of Cuba who are struggling for liberty against such overwhelming odds, and we assure our senators and representatives in congress that any action they may take looking to the independence of Cuba will meet our hearty approval.

HOUSE.—Among the bills introduced were the following: By Mr. Sutton, of Cumberland, to carry out the true intent of grantors and testators and to abolish the rule in Shelley's case by providing that whenever an estate in land is conveyed to one for life it shall not be construed to confer a fee simple estate upon the life tenant. By Mr. Sutton, of New Hanover, to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among live stock in North Carolina. It provides for three commissioners forming the North Carolina live stock sanitary board.

Mr. Dixon of Cleveland, filed the papers and notice of contest by A. J. Field of Granville, for the seat now held by W. J. Crews. Mr. Cunningham filed the papers and notice of contest by N. B. Broughton for the seat from Wake now held by James H. Young.

The bill passed making the unlawful taking of a legislative bill or other paper a felony. The bill passed in regard to suits or actions of quo warranto, providing that in trial for title to any county office or other local office it shall be sufficient for the person desiring to bring such action to give bond to save the state from costs, and such suits shall be placed by the clerk at the head of the docket or calendar.

The bill to fix the term of Justices of the Peace elected in 1896—the term to end on first Monday in 1898, and to qualify within 30 days from notice. All acts by said Justices of the Peace performed are valid, if qualified before

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Caught on Quick. "What is your name?" asked a teacher of a boy. "My name is Jule," was the reply; whereupon the teacher impressively said: "You should have said Julius, sir." "And now, my lad," turning to another boy, "what is your name?" "Billious, sir."

Great Offer. THE COLUMBIA BUSINESS COLLEGE, OF NORFOLK, VA., offers a full course in Stenography or Book-keeping and Penmanship for only \$25 (Time Unlimited.) Just think of gaining such an education for so small an amount. This offer is good only until Jan. 10, '97. Write for particulars to COLUMBIA BUSINESS COLLEGE, 11 26 3m Norfolk, Va.

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THE NEW HOOK SPOON FREE TO ALL. I read in the Christian Standard that Miss A. M. Fritz, Station A, St. Louis, Mo., would give an elegant plated hook spoon to anyone sending her ten 2-cent stamps. I send for one and found it as useful that I showed it to my friends, and made \$13.00 in two hours taking orders for the spoon. The hook spoon is a household necessity. It cannot slip into the dish or cooking vessel being held in the place by a hook on the back. The spoon is something housekeepers have needed ever since spoons were first invented. Anyone can get a sample spoon by sending ten 2-cent stamps to Miss Fritz. This is a splendid way to make money around home. Very truly, Jeanette S.

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS AN OLD AND WELL-TRIED REMEDY Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup has been used for over fifty years by millions of mothers for their children while teething, with perfect success. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain caused by wind colic, and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea. Is pleasant to the taste. Sold by Druggists in every part of the World. Twenty five cents a bottle. Its value is incalculable. Be sure and ask for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, and take no other kind. (R) 9 25 1y

A DANDY THING TO SELL. I have been doing so well this summer selling combination dippers that I think it is my duty to tell others about it. I have not made as much money as some I read about, but I never make less than \$3, and \$5 a day; the dipper can be used as a fruit jar filler; a plain dipper; a fine strainer; a funnel; a strainer funnel; a sick room warming pan, and a pint measure. These eight different uses makes the dipper such a necessary article that it sells at nearly every house, as it is so cheap. You can get a sample by sending, as I did, 18 two-cent stamps to pay postage, etc., to W. H. Baird & Co., Station A, Pittsburg, Pa., and they will mail you a dipper, and you can go right to work. Anyone can make \$3 or \$4 a day anywhere. A READER.

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Distressing Kidney and Bladder diseases relieved in six hours by the "NEW GREAT SOUTH AMERICAN KIDNEY CURE." This new remedy is a great surprise on account of its exceeding promptness in relieving pain in the bladder, kidneys, back and every part of the urinary passages in male or female. It relieves retention of water and pain in passing it almost immediately. If you want quick relief and cure this is your remedy. Sold by E. T. Whitehead and Co., Druggists, Scotland Neck, N. C.

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Designs sent to any address FREE. In writing for them please give age of deceased and some limit as to price. All work warranted strictly first-class and entirely satisfactory. 3 1 1y Work Delivered at Any Depot. MENTION THIS PAPER. S. R. ALLEY, Tarboro, N. C.

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