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THE COMMONWEALTH

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor. "EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00. VOL. XIII. New Series--Vol. 1. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1897. NO. 7

THE LEGISLATURE. A CONDENSED REPORT OF What the Law-makers are Doing. NINETEENTH DAY, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27. SENATE.—The members of the Senate went to Chapel Hill in a body to attend the inauguration of President Alderman...

HOUSE.—Upon returning from the University the house met in session at 8 o'clock, p. m. A bill was introduced by Mr. Lusk to authorize the governor to appoint female notaries public.

HOUSE.—Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Drew to punish wife beaters, providing that justices of the peace who try such persons shall summon a jury of six taxpayers and that if convicted the offender shall receive thirty-nine lashes for the first offense...

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one person in Wayne county. Senator Butler offered a substitute to repeal the entire law. Senator Abell took ground in favor of the amendment, saying there was no danger of North Carolina becoming a Dakota or Oklahoma as no foreigner had come to this state seeking divorce since the law had been in effect.

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THE GOLDEN AGE. IT IS SURELY COMING. Some Rambling Thoughts. BY "NEMO." (Copyrighted.) (These "Thoughts," by a layman, are read in five hundred thousand homes, scattered in every State of the Union. In this country they will be found week by week in the columns of this paper only, as we have made arrangements with the author for their exclusive publication.)

A sub-soil plow, a harrow, a roller, and a cultivator are all good things in their proper place and time; but there are soils in which the deeper you go the more you impoverish your farm, and there are stages in plant growth when the use of a roller or any other implement is agricultural suicide.

Humanity has from time immemorial been likened to a field, a vineyard, &c., wherein laborers need to plow and to harrow, to reap and to garner. And the call to thrust in as the field is white unto harvest has always found increasing response since the moment when man first began to understand that the claims of his neighbor are urgent upon him the moment his own absolute needs have been attended to.

But enthusiasm in relation to good work has to be combined with common sense; it certainly must not be ahead of it; or we shall find ourselves embarked in another fateful Children's Crusade, like that of the middle ages. Enthusiasm alone will sink into helplessness, just as with the rearing and straining of a mired horse. To make amply clear my meaning I will go a little further.

So while our voices should undoubtedly be raised in strength these closing years of the century, for freedom for all to work as they will, Wisdom being justified of her children; there is equal need for securing a certain unity of effort, so as to economize the moral strength of a neighborhood. Eagerness to work is not alone sufficient, else we would praise the child that pulls up corn to see it grow, or that tears open a drum to see where the sound comes from.

What then shall be said to your heart this week? You need in deep humility to acknowledge to yourself that the stone age has passed, when every man's enemy was the very next man he happened to meet; that the iron age is passing, when men learn the power of combination but use it for oppression; that the Golden Age is coming, when the co-operation of those who love, for the benefit of those who suffer must be the rule.

Would it not be of advantage to form in your town--what shall I name it?--a "Get-Together" society: Its membership to be made up of those who in divers ways are working for the uplift of the race: Its function to be a sort

of clearing-house of ideas, where those who work give to others the benefits of their experience, thus economizing the strength that is now wasted and the damage that is done by those who laboriously work out plans for themselves that others have already effectually learned. You will say perhaps, that this is not feasible, because each worker will be on the watch against giving advantage to any one else. You may be right, but if you are, you are voicing the deepest protest that fallen humanity can raise against the workers for good.

But I am persuaded better things. It is not for nothing that we are passing through our little day on earth. All nature is vocal of the value of combination; and of growth by combination; all history proclaims it; and all heights of moral power and accomplishment are possible by means of it.

Self-Reliance in Industrial Development. Greensboro Record. There are many public spirited men who magnify so much importance of inducing capital from abroad to come and settle among us that they forget that there are any other means of industrial progress.

A study of the progress of the State will show that in almost every case, with perhaps one exception, the growth has been gradual, from small beginnings, and the result of the application of native talent and native capital to native materials.

It would be difficult to find more striking examples of industrial development than are furnished by our own State. In a neighboring county on one of its smaller water courses, there stands an insignificant frame cotton mill which has perhaps as interesting a history as any building in North Carolina.

Who was to blame for this bloody sacrifice to the monster, Appetite; for the quick frightful pangs of dissolution; for the slow and awful waiting for death that lingered; for the agony of hearts that broke in homes made ready for joyful meetings?

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AN ILLUSTRATION. RUNNING WILD. Taste not, Touch not, Handle not. Elizabeth E. Robb in Ram's Horn.

The following is published by request of the superintendent of press work, W. C. T. U., of Weldon: A locomotive engine stood upon the railroad track, with every part of its giant frame prepared for work. How like a thing of life it seemed, with its nerves and sinews of quivering steel ready to vibrate in response to the touch of a master hand.

The two men quickly crossed the track opened the door of the saloon, and it closed behind them. But as it shut the back door opened, and another man went out—a poor miserable bloated old dot, whose bleary eyes looked out from beneath a mass of tangled, uncombed gray hair.

What a fearful thing it was when "running wild!" This smooth, slinking beautiful creature, which but a moment before stood quietly waiting for its legitimate work was now like a fiend unchained, as it spurred the track with wild noisy feet.

Shall I tell how the frightened on-lookers gazed after the "wild engine" in speechless horror? How strong men grew pale and women wept and wrung their hands.

Down, down, down the grade, sped the messenger of destruction; faster on its errand of death! Like a meteor shot through space, leaving a shower of burning sparks in its path, on it sped ever gaining fresh impetus as it rushed down the steep hillside and across the peaceful valley.

The wild engine had done its work, and the turbid waters of the river opened their floodgates and swallowed up a score of victims; while as many more, crushed and mangled and bleeding, moaned their lives away before another night came.

Who was to blame for this bloody sacrifice to the monster, Appetite; for the quick frightful pangs of dissolution; for the slow and awful waiting for death that lingered; for the agony of hearts that broke in homes made ready for joyful meetings?

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