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NO. 22

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THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

North Carolina is a good State for religious bodies to meet in; and generally such bodies do not miss a good opportunity to come. Here they find a welcome by all, for the moral tone of the people of "The Old North State" is mostly good.

The arrangement for a Summer Chautauqua at Norfolk from June 15th to July 15th, is a good move for the people of The Old Dominion. The programme prepared and published some days ago promises a treat for those who avail themselves of the opportunity of the occasion.

The New Jersey Legislature has been called to meet in extra session on May 28th, for the first time in the history of that State. In an act passed concerning gambling the word "provided" was engrossed for "prohibited," and this makes it necessary to call the lawmakers together in extra session.

The people of North Carolina do not feel that there is any special duty on the Government to give colored men office; but if they are to be given places of peculiar trust ex-Congressman Cheatham from Halifax county is as good a colored man as could be found. He is to be Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia.

The season of commencements is drawing nigh, and the question whether there shall still be commencements or whether they shall cease, seems to be agitating the public mind a little. There is no question about the fact that many occasions are called commencements which ought not to be so called; and in some cases too much time is spent in preparation for them.

In articles to several leading journals of the country Judge Walter Clark of Raleigh has shown that the postal service of this country, through maladministration of the Postoffice Department, is very corrupt and costs entirely too much. We read Judge Clark's article in "The Coming Nation" of April 3, published in Rusk, Tenn. He puts it very strongly, showing that the Government could afford to buy postal cars instead of paying such enormous rents for them. If his statements are true, and we suppose they are, Congress ought to take hold of the matter and purify the mail service if possible.

While no such spirit of State pride was thought of in the great Southern Baptist Convention at Wilmington, it was a source of gratification to the people of the State generally that North Carolina was not left out when places of distinction were named. Rev. R. H. Marsh, D. D., of Oxford, who has spent most of his life with country churches, was elected as one of the vice-presidents of the body. He is president of the Baptist State Convention, and is a parliamentarian of ability. Besides Dr. Marsh other North Carolinians figured prominently before the Convention, viz. Mr. John Pullen of Raleigh in the Young People's meeting, and Rev. John E. White and N. B. Broughton, of Raleigh, before the Convention proper.

The Charlotte Observer recently made the following observation concerning the proposed battle abbey of the South:

"The location of the Confederate battle abbey is again the subject of a somewhat lively discussion. Richmond, New Orleans, Atlanta and Nashville all want it. It is natural that the people of those cities should wish to capture the prize, and natural that they should have the sympathy of their immediate neighbors, but Richmond, by reason of its having been the capital of the Confederacy, by reason of the fact that it already has an exceedingly creditable museum, and for various other reasons, is so naturally the place for this battle abbey that it is perhaps not over-stating the case to say that it is the choice of ninety-nine out of every one hundred Southern people who are not influenced by some local consideration in favor of some other locality."

WHO ARE TRAITORS?

MATN A BENEDICT ARNOLD NOW.

PLAIN TALK TO AMERICANS.

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted.)

TO VOTERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM:—Just when there is comparative political quiet, let us have a little talk together about traitors. That sad failure, Major-General Benedict Arnold, with his passionate temperament, his extravagant habits, his fashionable wife, his delayed rank, and finally his foolish attempt to humiliate his hated peers, is known to every child as the traitor. Unhappy man, his name is buried beneath mountains of the most awful obloquy, and his career is made to give point to many a speech; as if a man were able to prove his own patriotism by pointing out some one else's lack of it. Now, patriotism is not a negative thing like that; it is Pharisism which prompts a man to cry out to a witnessing world and a recording heaven, "I thank God that I am not as this poor traitor. Before high heaven I swear that I would never betray my country." There is the everlasting rebuke to meet, that the first to cast a stone should be a sinless one.

Bear in mind that in Arnold's time the principles of democracy were being tested, but also bear in mind that they have also been tested in no less degree at any moment since. Great dangers are not always noisy and battle-like; they may be silent as the work of kingfishers, crawfish and musk-rats along the levees of the Mississippi, and the more dangerous because of their silence. It seems clear to me that a nation that lives and grows is never out of the experimental stage; it never can, until it dies, take a definite, unchanging place in history, and be spoken of as having a sure and certain glory or shame. A nation sunk deep down in unprogressive ways, like Denmark a quarter of a century ago, may pick up and show enterprise, and a nation like France lifted to the very heavens by its privileges, may be so untrue, in its individual life, to the things that are good and pure and loyal to nature, that its future becomes a dubious one.

Thus we Americans must never lose sight of the fact that our vast area is merely a great stage, on which an experiment in government by the people is being tried on the grandest scale in the history of the world. So because the outcome has just the element of uncertainty about it that all other experiments have, it is ours to work and watch and wait to remove every possible hindrance to a progressive proof that "government of the people by the people and for the people," is such a success that it need never "perish off the earth" as a thing that has been tested and thrown aside.

But as in a field the contest is with weeds, so in our government the battle is with traitors, and they exist, not merely in the pages of a school history to be held up and execrated as things that have been—I say they exist, not there and then only, but here and now, as perennial as weeds, as stubborn as disease, as dangerous as powder. They do not prowl around with guns and cannon, they sign and seal no unholy agreements, they cannot be found lurking near explosives with torches. "Where are they then? Let us away with them!" you say. But go gently, lest perhaps your mother's son be found among them.

Traitors are those who occupy positions of trust and forget that they are public servants: traitors are the voters who condemn house servants for their inefficiency and discharge them, yet cringe and crawl before public officials as though they were of superior flesh, forgetting the while that every such official would be as naught save for the people who placed him there; traitors are legislators who promise to obey the will of the people, and straightway do the opposite, bringing shame and public doubt upon the very home of good laws, without which no nation can live; traitors are the selfish men who buy the bodies and souls of law-makers and have their will with them for a price; traitors are they who, forgetting the

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blood shed for their welfare and their privileges, hold up their votes to be bartered over and purchased, so that great questions asking for unbiased judgment are looked upon through the alluring glass of monetary gain; traitors are those who, lying under a free and thrilling government whose strength is its reliance on the hearty co-operation of the people, take no more share in its active support than a Bushman or a Hottentot or a Russian serf. Every indolent voter, unappreciative of a condition of life and liberty and individual influence that down-trodden nations gaze at with longing eyes; every unjust judge bringing his high and essential office down to the dust of personal considerations; every one who never looks at a question except from a point of gain or loss to himself—all these, I say, are making us tremble at the cup of wrath, which by the immutable laws of outraged opportunity, gradually fills up to be held to the lips of a nation fond worshipping an ideal of sloth or wealth or conscienceless selfishness.

Search them out and see how near your own door step you will come! Then ply yourself with the question as to how to better conditions—not in a distant state, but—right where you live. It can be done in part and by very simple means, if you will but undertake it. Fasten on your own mind beyond all chance of escape, the lack of appreciation that is shown when a man tacitly accepts, like a hungry animal, all the blessings of a quiet country, free from war's alarm, all the protection in his rights, and then feels no call to make even the slightest return unless it be of still further personal gain to him. Then remember as a clinching fact in the self-lecturing you have been enduring, that a man is responsible as far as his influence reaches, and that that influence begins at home. Jerusalem was kept clean by every man sweeping before his own door, and the cleaning and bettering of our political conditions is to be effected by the same simple method.

I would not dare to thus write to you unless, in my own small corner, an honest endeavor were being made to practice some of this preaching.

She Did Right.

N. C. Baptist.

[A prominent educator in North Carolina writes us the following:]
A few days ago, a young lady who had gone to school to me, came to me and told me that a young man who passed for a nice, respectable young man, had asked for the privilege to call on her at her father's house. After she had told me the circumstances as it she expected to ask my advice about some question, she said: "But the last time I saw him I smelt whiskey and he looked like he was drinking." She stopped and looked at me as though she thought I would say something. I did not speak, wishing to hear what she would say. She said: "I don't want to see him." Then I told her that I was glad she didn't, and that she would never regret not seeing him. I felt that the advice of her parents and myself had accomplished something.

We need more young ladies who don't want to receive calls from young men who get drunk. It is not necessary that woman should stain her hands with the ballot for us to have prohibition if she will use the power that she has. If every young lady would refuse boldly to associate with any one who drinks, those who are girls now would have sober husbands and the devil would be compelled to close business in our cities and where bar rooms and gambling dens now send forth their damning influence, churches would be built and dedicated to God.

Young lady, how can you receive into your father's parlor, that young man who has, within the last week or month, made himself equal with the hog that lies down in the filthy gutter? How can you allow that young man to make love to you who has not yet fully recovered from a drunken spree, during which he was associated with the meanest and most degraded characters? Will you remember that from those lips that while in your presence utter such beautiful words, came when drunk the vilest oaths?

Free Pills.

Send your address to H. E. Bucklen & Co., Chicago, and get a free sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. A trial will convince you of their merits. These pills are easy in action and are particularly effective in the cure of Constipation and Sick Headache. For Malaria and Liver troubles they have been proved invaluable. They do not weaken by their action, but by giving tone to the stomach and bowels greatly invigorate the system. Regular size 25c. per box. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Druggists.

GOOD LESSONS.

CHILDHOOD'S TRAITS.

They Teach Us Some Things.

Harriet L. Shoemaker in S. S. Times.

A child is such a curious and complex piece of humanity that comment on general traits will not always apply to each individual. A few of the prominent characteristics of most children may, perhaps, be considered with profit despite the number necessarily passed over.

We adults are sometimes impatient at the faculty for endless questioning displayed by every child. When we stop to think what an odd and interesting place this world is, and how fascinating in its beauty, its plant and animal life, its rocks and flowers, besides all the other bewitching fields where curiosity can revel, is it any wonder that a child overflows with keen desire to find out everything and anything? What better way has he to learn than by inquiring? Shall we be a help, not a hindrance, to the eager learner? and, instead of putting him aside with an impatient "I don't know," or "Run away, dear, I'm busy," shall we spend a few minutes explaining that which to him is strange? Often an explanation reveals new beauty in the oldest of tales, and the child is not the only one benefited by his question. It would be to our credit if we ourselves were as alert for knowledge as the average child is, and did we discover oftener our need of appealing to our superiors.

It is also noticeable that children always expect truth from others until they have been deceived many times. How much we need to learn to be absolutely true with them, to keep promises, to guard acts as well as lips,—in fact, to cultivate being upright!

A third trait carries its lesson with it; most children are instinctively entertaining. Notice how quickly the three-year-old brings her doll to show father when he comes in, and how the boy craves company in the joy of his newest treasure. Indeed, it is not unlikely that many a child who displays some article of dress for admiration is not showing vanity alone, but the social and generous trait of sharing his pleasure with some one else.

Little people are often accused of being selfish. So they are, but so are we too! Since we recognize a common fault, let us examine the example set before them. It is example that carries weight at home, and some of it will not bear too close imitation on the line of selfishness!

And, lastly, almost every small child responds so readily to training in reverence, and respect for God and sacred things, that one may venture to include those characteristics, in spite of the irreverence of some older children. Alas, how often a thoughtless speech or joke of ours shocks the listener we overlook!

We cannot be too careful in our manner of talking about God, or of addressing him. The smallest child will recognize a reverent tone, though he does not understand the words of the prayer. The minister and church services, also, should always be mentioned with respect before children, no matter how they may disagree with our standards. Personal prejudice has absolutely nothing to do with this point. Reverence is too delicate a plant, too easily uprooted and destroyed, to be left uncultivated.

The traits of little people are well worth study, for the lessons they teach are those we all need to sweeten and broaden our characters, to help us become more Christlike.

James Whitcomb Riley voices this sentiment;

"The goodest man as ever was
Is worse 'an baddest child."

The First Rail Road in America.

May Ladies Home Journal.
Gridley Bryant, a civil engineer, in 1826, projected the first railroad in the United States. It was built for the purpose of carrying granite from the quarries of Quincy, Massachusetts, to the nearest tide water. Its length was four miles including branches, and its first cost \$50,000. The sleepers were of stone and were laid across the track eight feet apart. Upon rails of wood six inches thick, wrought-iron plates, three inches wide and a quarter of an inch thick, were spiked. At the crossings stone rails were used, and as the wooden rails became unserviceable they were replaced by others of stone.

Whatever may be the cause to blanching, the hair may be restored of its original color by the use of that potent remedy Hall's Vegetable Sulfur Hair Renewer. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, N. C.

HOW SLEEP THE BRAVE!

How sleep the brave who sink to rest
By all their country's wishes blessed!
When Spring, with dewy fingers cold,
Returns to deck their hallowed mold
She there shall dress a sweeter sod
Than Fancy's feet have ever trod.

By fairy hands their knell is rung,
By forms unseen their dirge is sung.
Then Honor comes, a pilgrim gray,
To bless the turf that wraps their clay
And Freedom shall awhile repair
To dwell a weeping hermit there!

Two Famous Log Cabins.

Nashville Banner.

At the Tennessee Centennial Exposition are to be exhibited the old cabin birthplace of two famous American citizens. These cabins are genuine, as certified by affidavits in the possession of the owner and exhibitor. The Rev. W. G. Bingham, a Methodist minister, while travelling a circuit which embraced parts of Todd and Hardin counties, Ky., bought the two log cabins and the land on which they stood. One of the cabins was built by Tom Lankhorn, and in it he lived with his wife, Nancy Hanks. In this cabin, without a floor, Abe Lincoln was born in the year 1809. Every log except a few that did not withstand the ravages of time and weather, is preserved.

The other cabin is one in which the President of the late Confederacy was born. It came from near Fairview, Todd county, Ky. Mr. Davis was born here in 1808, and when 66 years old was given a banquet by old citizens of Fairview in the same cabin. In responding to a toast he referred to the fact that he had stood in the hall of Montezumas, in the halls of Congress, and in other historic places in America and other countries, but none of these had stirred his emotions as much as when once again standing in the old cabin in which he was born.

Minutes are Precious.

Durham Sun.
A good business man said to us today, "I'll see you in a minute." We have not seen him yet, and that has been several hours ago. Minutes are precious things, when you come to consider them seriously. Did you ever stop a minute to think what may happen in a minute?

In a minute we shall be whirled around on the outside of the earth by its diurnal motion a distance of 13 miles. At the same time we shall have gone along with the earth, in its grand journey around the sun 1,080 miles. Pretty quick traveling, you say? Why, that is slow work compared with the rate of travel of that ray of light which just now, reflected from that mirror, made you wink. A minute ago that ray was 11,160,000 miles away.

In a minute, over all the world, about 80 new born infants have each raised a wail of protest at the fates for thrusting existence upon them, while as many more human beings, weary with the struggle of life, have opened their lips to utter their last sigh.

In a minute the lowest sound your ear can catch has been made by 900 vibrations, while the highest tone reached you after making 2,228,000 vibrations.

A minute means a great deal, notwithstanding the fact that many people hold it of no consequence. Look after the minutes and the hours will take care of themselves.

Drunk But Gave Good Advice.

Concord Standard.

A middle aged man was around town last week, a stranger whom nobody seemed to know. He was pretty drunk most of the time and indulged in a lot of loud talk attracting the attention of those near every time.

One morning he met two or three young men who were also a little groggy and the party got into a conversation. Soon one or two of the young men commenced cursing and using very unseemly language, when the stranger, perhaps the drunkest man in the crowd, turned to them and said with great earnestness:

"Young man, don't curse; don't use vulgarity; it isn't decent and is wrong, but what is worse, it shows your raising—that you came from low-down stock. If your parentage happened to be respectable and tried to raise you correctly, it only makes matters worse for it shows that you acquired the habit when you had a better chance to be decent."

With this he staggered off, while the aforesaid young men looked like they had been shot at.

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