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THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.
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VOL. XIII. New Series--Vol. 2. SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1897. NO. 48
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

Some one has figured that there will be a tremendous rush in the spring towards the Alaskan gold fields. One line of vessels from San Francisco has already engaged 80,000 prospective passengers.

Mayor Van Wyck, of "Greater New York," has a vast deal of power centred in his administration. It is the most important municipal office in this country; and there are few, if any, in the world of more significance, taken in all its bearings. The whole world will watch with interest the administration of the first Mayor of "Greater New York."

Among the many problems that present themselves to the people of the South for solution, is the land problem. Too much of the land in the South is dragged over with poor cultivation with as much expense as if it were highly improved and well cultivated. The small farms well cultivated pay a much greater profit than the larger farms, whether well or poorly cultivated. One reason for this is that when small farms are well cultivated it is generally done with less hired labor.

A milk trust has been organized which proposes to control all the milk sold within 300 miles of New York City. It makes stipulations with the milk dealers for a period of twenty years. This will have considerable effect on the milk interests in the radius mentioned, perhaps; but it is quite sure that it can not affect the farmers of North Carolina. This is one trust at which we of the "Old North State" can trip our fingers and attend to our own cows and calves just as if no such trust had been formed.

The Winston Sentinel and the Wilson Advance have recently printed creditable illustrated editions, showing the business interests of those towns in a very attractive way.

We like illustrated editions of local newspapers, and they are an evidence of the prosperity of the towns in which they are published and also of the papers themselves as a valued medium through which the business men choose to make known their progress. If more money were spent through the local papers for such work the towns so spending it would stand a better showing for attracting outside capital.

In the South there prevails a false idea about education, which is working great harm to the cause. That idea is that an education is a life-long exemption from labor. And this idea prevails amongst both white and colored. There is no reason or sense in it. The fact that a young man goes to college and learns something about mathematics, the figures in geometry and trigonometry, learns Latin and Greek, the sciences, &c., ought not to unfit him for labor. The truth is, if he would look at the matter in its proper light he is all the better prepared for labor—manual labor at that. To his strength of body and muscle he can add the strength of a trained mind, which enables him to do certain things—yes, almost all things—at a great advantage over the man with no training. The average young man who by any means obtains a collegiate education thinks it a rare sight to see the sun rise. Indeed we have heard young men say as much. It was said half in fun, perhaps, but there was more truth in it than they intended.

To desire education simply for the soft and easy place it will give, is the lowest plane on which to reckon its value. This world needs men and women who are willing to work with hands and head and heart together.

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AFTER THE BATTLE.

THE NEW YORK CONTEST REVIEWED.

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

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The hero's last despairing cry. Falling for faith and liberty, Re-echoes round the world; And, in dark dens where failure mopes Among the wrecks of ruined hopes, Fresh banners are unfurled!

This "Thought" is for myself, written a few hours after the close of the historic "Citizens' Union" campaign in New York City. Though wearied with out-door speaking; heart-burdened because a self-evident public need has been waived aside by party greed; distraught by the backward step of a municipality to the fiercest form of fierce partisanship, yet only hopeful notes will be sounded in this column.

Since the "Citizens' Union" movement was never called into existence to perish in one campaign, it is perhaps wise to enlist the interest of the open-minded of all parties the country over, so that its future career may be hopelessly watched. A few words concerning its purpose are also needed because partisan papers have here and there striven to show that it was merely a heartless conspiracy to destroy the old parties. This new organization, less than a year old, and yet honored with the votes of 150,000 men who could neither be driven nor led, set out to maintain and will continue to maintain this self-evident truth—that a large city—or a small one, for that matter—is a business concern. Its details of light, cleaning, paving, ventilating (with parks etc.) and general sanitation are, in effect, "municipal housekeeping." Just as with a business man seeking an assistant, or a housekeeper seeking a servant, the inquiries are not as to the color of the hair, nor as to views on theology, but rather as to past experience; so the test-questions in selecting a Mayor are—or ought to be—exclusively confined to those relating to the welfare of the city. The "Citizens' Union" was further encouraged to its non-partisan stand by the fact that the new constitution of the State of New York recognized the mayoralty as a national office, and expressly provided that cities of the first class should forever hereafter have their domestic elections on "off" years, when there was neither a State Senator nor a President to elect. Furthermore the "Citizens' Union" expressly disavowed any designs on national parties by showing clearly that the line of cleavage in a local contest must necessarily be different from that in a national one, whence it follows that in local affairs a black Republican (whatever that may be) could safely have dealings with a dyed-in-the-wool Democrat (also a dubious expression!) when the health, welfare and education of his family were tottering in the balance of an election, and beyond all this, the statement was clearly made—so clearly that a wayfarer, though a goose, need not have erred therein—that a national party did not lose its existence whenever its legitimate field was empty. It simply lay quiescent until national questions aroused it again.

We therefore called on the open-minded of all parties to sink national differences in the presence of a mutual local need, and 150,000 or more responded, both Democrats and Republicans.

Here I approach a danger point with your readers, according to their political leanings, for I must show how our defeat came about. Yet I do not hesitate, for I know there are thousands of Republican patriots who understand the difference between a machine and a party, and an equal number of whole-souled Democrats who have no sympathy with our local Democratic organization, called "Tammany Hall." Senator Thomas C. Platt, on the Republican side, insisted that Bryanism was the issue, his candidate, General Tracy, re-affirmed this in his speech of acceptance, and upon that non-existent issue in a purely municipal election they stubbornly went to defeat themselves, defeated Seth Low, and precipitated for their party the conflict of 1900.

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On the other hand, after Tammany Hall had passed by the Chicago platform as not bearing upon our campaign (which in its way was a logically correct as the citizens' attitude) the Independent Democrats forced by their own beliefs and the declarations of the Republicans, also made Bryanism an issue. Thus instead of there being but two hostile camps, made up on one side of those who wished the highest good of the city, and on the other of those who wished its vast patronage for selfish ends, there were four; and in the conflict the best organized body won.

For four years a patronage of \$30,000,000 a year in salaries, distributed among 30,000 office-holders will rest with Tammany Hall, whose history has always been unsavory. After three years of great change and progress in many city departments, got all that the city has gained will be lost, for each year sees stronger and firmer development of the civic spirit, that is the hope of our country—Civ righteousness is aroused in this metropolis of America and 150,000 watchful faces and warning voices will attempt to keep the new administration in the ways that it ought to follow. But we tremble as to the result, since the Mayor elect has at once declared that "none but Democrats shall hold office," meaning thereby only those who belong to the Tammany Hall organization. This is one backward step and time alone will show how many more are to be taken.

And the Citizens' Union? The evening of the day on which this article is written will be spent maturing plans for more perfect and more ramified organization, so that 1901 will prove us more worthy and better prepared for men of all that is evil in city affairs. With some of us, the thought has come that the whole organization should at present be, as it were, a complete set of nerves to the body corporate so that any abuse or dereliction in any portion of our vast municipality may at once become known at headquarters and given due publicity. We hope thereby to stir up a retrogressive administration to good works—if not to love. Out of this first campaign we come defeated but not dishonored. From the field of battle we have withdrawn not to scatter but to reform. About us on every side are the anxious faces of those who tremble as to the outcome of universal suffrage. For their sakes and the sake of the sacred honor that holds our love for this blood-soaked land, we gird ourselves for another conflict. I close with a few strong lines from *The Outlook*:

"If self-government finally fails in New York City, it will not finally succeed in any American city; and if it fails in the American cities, it fails in America. If, on the other hand, it succeeds in New York City, success there will set an example to be followed in every city, and as go the cities, so goes the Union."

An Old Paper.

Warrenton Record.
A good lady of our town handed the editor last Saturday a copy of the Tarboro Press, printed at Tarboro, Edgecombe county, N. C., dated Saturday March 14, 1840. It is quite an interesting paper, well printed and full of politics. It was in the days of President M. Van Buren. Among the articles it contains, there is an extract from the Warrenton Republican, and a notice of the completion of the W. & W. R. R. Among the advertisements we notice that the jailer of Edgecombe county gives notice that he has a negro man in jail and after describing him, demands that the owner shall come forward, prove his property and pay charges. Cotton yarns are extensively advertised showing that people in that day did most of their weaving at home. This paper strongly advocates the election of Hon. Romulus M. Saunders for Governor of North Carolina, and Hon. Martin Van Buren for President of the United States. Its editor was George Howard and the price of this weekly was \$2.50 cash in advance, or \$3.00 on time.

The Coming Woman

Who goes to the club while her husband tends the baby as well as the good old fashioned woman who looks after her home will both at times get run down in health. They will be troubled with loss of appetite, headaches, sleeplessness, fainting or dizzy spells. The most wonderful remedy for these women is Electric Bitters. Thousands of sufferers from Lame Back and Weak Kidneys rise up and call it blessed. It is the medicine for women. Female complaints and Nervous troubles of all kinds are soon relieved by the use of Electric Bitters. Delicate women should keep this remedy on hand to build up the system. Only 50c per bottle. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

"SCHOLAR IN POLITICS."

MANY IN OUR COUNTRY.

Mostly by Appointment.

Philadelphia Record.

Henry Cabot Lodge, Senator from Massachusetts, is credited with the phrase the "Scholar in Politics." In the United States there are not many scholars in legislative life, though they have been well represented in our diplomatic history. By the scholar in politics one naturally understands a man whose public station has come as a recognition of his work in science or literature, rather than the man who took to writing after he had achieved fame. Of the latter type are T. H. Benton, J. G. Blaine, General Grant and John Sherman, whose published recollections are largely autobiographical and find their interest less in their literary execution than in the great scenes through which the reminiscences move. Lodge himself is an example of the former type; for he was a lecturer on history in Harvard University, an editor of reviews and a recognized biographer of merit before he planted his political ladder. Another example was the late Rev. Dr. Julius H. Seelye, President of Amherst College, who served in the Forty-fourth Congress as an influential independent, until which time he was known simply as a teacher of philosophy. Of kindred character is Mr. Wilson, Postmaster General in Cleveland's second administration. He went from the Presidency of West Virginia University to Congress, and to Washington and Lee University on retiring from office. He was a potent man in Congress from the day he took his seat.

In a general way our literary men have received their best public recognition at the hands of some Administration appointing them to office. The diplomatic department has been most generous to them, as with three generations of the Adamsons, of Quincy, the brothers Alexander H. and Edward Everett, Washington Irving, Motley, Lowell, Bancroft, Whitelaw Reid, W. W. Astor at Rome, John Hay and Rasmus Anderson at Copenhagen. If there is added the Consulates that have given to literary men, as Liverpool to Hawthorne and Venice to Howells, or the administrative positions in the Departments at Washington, recalling such names as Benjamin Pierce, Joseph Henry, Simon Newcomb, Langley, Eliot Cones, Frances Wharton and hundreds of others, it will be seen that the public rewards of literature and science are very considerable in the United States. Indeed, one might well conceive that superiority in these lines opens to men in this country almost any diplomatic or departmental position to which a scholar might aspire.

Yet in this respect our practice differs somewhat from that of Southern Europe although it is not unlike that of Great Britain. Thus when Verdi is made an Italian Senator for life it is using public office in a purely complimentary way. Victor Hugo's appointment to a like position in France can hardly be seen in any other light. Spain also has been kind to her literary men; Canovas won his place by virtue of his leadership of his party, but he was an historian first. Castelar is more the scholar than the statesman. When one considers the eminence won in France by her students one reaches quite a revelation of the confidence given to them—a trust often justified by their administrative ability. What a sequence of names it is! Guizot, Thiers, Carnot the physicist, Jules Simon, the Philosopher, and Berthelot the chemist. And now comes D'Annunzio, the naturalistic novelist, who aspires to a seat in the Italian Parliament on the ground of two or three uncommendable books.

In Great Britain literary men receive ample recognition in Parliament and diplomacy; but here these positions are not complimentary. For nearly thirty years each of her Prime Ministers in succession has been a maker of books—the Earl of Derby with his *Hiad*, Disraeli with his novels, Gladstone with his Homeric studies and religious treatises and Roseberry with his biography of William Pitt, the younger. Even Lord Salisbury might be added were his remarkable address before the British Science Association in 1894 on scientific limitations to be reckoned rather by its matter than by its size. There are now twenty-seven journalists holding seats in the House of Commons, best known of whom is Labouchere.

You may eat cheap food and not be seriously hurt by it; but you cannot take cheap medicines without positive injury. If you use any substitute for Ayer's Sarsaparilla, you do so at the peril of your health, perhaps of your life. Insist on having Ayer's, and not E. T. Whitehead & Co's drug store. Regular size 50c. and \$1.00.

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of Truth. The staff of the London Times is represented there. But Ireland furnishes more than her share of editors; for there are ten of them including Tim Harrington, Tom Healy, Justin McCarthy, W. O'Brien, T. P. O'Connor and T. D. Sullivan. There is no lack of university professors in Parliament; but of writers of books—either of substantial historic or scientific value, or of travels or of literature—there are over thirty authors of recognized authority or ability. Among them are the brilliant Arthur Ballour, Sir G. F. Chesney, whose "Battle of Dorking" was a military sensation in its time; G. N. Curzon, the Oriental scholar; Sir Charles Dilke, with his "Greater Britain;" R. C. Jebb, Greek professor in Cambridge; Sir John Lubbock, naturalist; historian Justin McCarthy; John Morley, essayist and editor of Macmillan's Magazine; Jas. Bryce, historian, and Roscoe, the chemist. These names all indicate men of affairs as well as students.

The array of literary men and scholars is, perhaps, no more impressive than it has been in former years; nor does it include the greatest names in the world of books. Those who become highly distinguished there usually achieve it by a concentration of work incompatible with public office-holding.

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