

The Commonwealth.

E. HILLIARD, Editor. Published Every Thursday.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1897.

THE CRIMINAL COURT.

There was the same unfavorable comment concerning the Criminal court in Halifax last week that followed the special term which Judge Sutton held in September.

There were few criminals punished with more than a payment of cost, and in many cases they were given pretty good time on that.

It goes without saying that the colored people, for the most part, make the Criminal court of this district, and so most of the criminals before the court were colored. And the remark was frequent and the opinion general that the sentence against the colored people was in most cases very light indeed.

The case of Reuben Smith, the colored man who killed another colored man named Lawrence Howell at Hobbgood was the only capital case before the court. And when he submitted to a verdict of manslaughter and was sentenced to only three and a half years in the State prison, many thought, and expressed the thought, that it was a very light punishment.

But the case which created most comment by the public generally was that of Mr. Joseph L. Shields, a good citizen of this community.

He was indicted for cruelty to an animal and the cruelty consisted in shooting Mr. A. A. White's bull. The animal had broken into Mr. Shields' field, had been run out and had returned. Mr. Shields had sent word repeatedly to the owner to take the bull away; had tried to drive him away or impound him, and all efforts had proved futile. Every reasonable means had been employed to get rid of the troublesome animal, which was admitted, as we understood it. At last, Mr. Shields thinking he was justifiable in using harsher means to protect his premises, shot the bull with small shot, number 4 or 6.

After being shot once the animal returned and broke into the yard and would not be driven out, when Mr. Shields shot him the second time. One stray shot hit the bull in the eye, which was the most serious damage.

Under the instruction of the Judge the jury rendered a verdict of guilty, on Mr Shields' own evidence, which verdict on the part of the jury no one criticized.

Mr. Shields' attorneys, Mess. Claude Kitchin and E. L. Travis, prepared to take an appeal upon the ground that Shields had a right to use sufficient force to drive the bull off his premises, and that upon the whole testimony the Judge should have instructed the jury for a verdict of not guilty.

Judge Sutton proposed that if they would settle it without appealing he would scale the cost, which was about \$125, down to \$40, and Shields could pay the \$40 cost, pay White \$10 for damages done to the bull, and the matter should thus be closed. But when Mr. Shields' counsel still proposed to appeal, Judge Sutton rendered the following written judgment, which was pronounced by almost every man who heard it an outrageous one.

"The judgment of the court is that defendant Joseph Shields be confined in the county jail for thirty days, with leave of the county commissioners to employ him at work upon the public roads of Halifax county.

And that he pay a fine of \$50 and cost of this action, upon doing which he will be discharged according to law.

The clerk will docket this judgment upon the judgment docket of Halifax county, or so much thereof as relates to the fine and costs.

"Sutton, J."

"REV." BABE'S STEWARDSHIP.

Ex-Rev. T. W. Babb has been appointed steward at the Halifax State farm near Weldon. He is hard to choke off. He seems to think that the present administration owes him a place and he is determined to have it.

Notice.

I shall close my business in Scotland Neck by Jan. 1898. Parties having watches and other articles in my care for repairs are hereby notified to call for same. All such articles remaining unclaimed will be sold at auction on Dec. 24, 1897.

ANOTHER COURT INCIDENT.

When the Criminal Court adjourned in Halifax last Friday, there was a furious crowd of witnesses outside of the court house, and they were heard to use strong language about the treatment they had received.

They were from the Aurelian Springs community and had attended two courts as witnesses in the same case. The case was finally submitted just before court closed Friday and the defendant was sentenced to pay cost. The cost was found to amount to nearly \$200. It was scaled down to \$37, which knocked most of the witnesses out of all their fees.

Some strong men were greatly excited over the matter, and tears come into one man's and rage swept over others. They said they had been forced to come to the court house, leave their work, their wives and children, refusing which they would have been committed to jail; and they regarded it outrageous to be turned away without a penny for two weeks' attendance at the court.

Some one of them asked if there was no remedy. Some one else replied "Yes, at the ballot box." And there were strong declarations about what kind of voting they would do in the future.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES.

The Wilmington Messenger refers to tobacco in a way that will interest the farmers of this section. It says:

"The Clinton Democrat reports a sale of 1,440 pounds of tobacco raised by Mr. S. H. Hobbs on one acre. It sold for \$16 per hundred—total \$218.16. Deducting cost of production he realized \$168.36 for the acre, which beats five cents cotton and \$1.50 corn if it costs to produce them as the Raleigh authorities published. A few years ago Mr. Hobbs would have received \$200 or more clear profit. But the fine cigarette trust, such a blessing to Christian civilization, has cut down farmers' profits from 25 to 40 per cent. In the years between 1870 and 1880, the fine North Carolina tobacco sold for \$50 to \$125 per hundred pounds, and many made per acre from \$400 to \$500, and the few \$600 or more. But times have changed and prices with them.

A GAY HAMILTON WEDDING.

[Correspondence to THE COMMONWEALTH.] HAMILTON, N. C., Dec. 11, '97.

A wedding which attracted a large assemblage of people to St. Martin's Episcopal church in Hamilton, took place on Wednesday evening, Dec. 8th, when Mr. John Davenport led to the hymeneal altar Miss Helen Martin. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. J. Smith of Scotland Neck. The bride wore white satin trimmed with point lace and orange blossoms made on treine, with full veil and carried a shower bouquet of white roses. She was attended by Miss Hattie E. Lawrence as maid of honor who was dressed in white cashmere and carried chrysanthemums. Mr. Dick Satterthwaite, of Washington was best man. The ushers were Dr. B. L. Long, Gordon Barnhill, Ed. Dayenport, Gus Cobern and Peyton Anthony. Four couples of small children acted as flower girls and pages, Henry Sherrod with Fannie Matthews, William Grimes with Reba Clark, Gladstone Anthony with Helen Edmondson, Irvin Clark with Bettie Lawrence. The following were bridesmaids and groomsmen:

Miss Mary Howell in white organdie diamond ornaments with Mr. Will Rhodes; Miss Cora Woraley, white organdie and diamonds, with Mr. E. P. Brock; Miss Hennie Waldo, white organdie and diamonds, with Mr. Robt. Gladstone; Miss Hattie Darden, white organdie and diamonds, with Mr. Andrew Moore, of Bethel; Miss Annie Barnhill, white organdie and pearls, with Mr. Harry Waldo; Miss Cornelia Manning, white silk and pearls, with Mr. Mayo Rives; Miss Hattie P. Lawrence, white organdie with Mr. Walter Davenport; Miss Belle Carstarphen, white satin and diamonds, with Mr. Pat Davenport. The organ was presided over by the gifted and accomplished Miss Sallie Saulsbury, who as is usual with her dispensed perfect music. She was dressed in cream Bedford cord, pearl trimmings and diamonds. After the ceremony a large crowd went a short distance in the country to the home of the groom, where his mother gave them an old-fashion wedding and all did justice to the elegant supper. The presents were many and beautiful, as both of the contracting parties are very popular and have many friends. May every blessing attend them on their way through life is the sincere wish of the writer.

Miss Martin of Virginia, Miss Belle Carstarphen and Miss Debbie Parker of Williamston, are visiting Mrs. D. C. Jones.

Miss Wilkinson of Washington is visiting Mrs. Jarvis.

Use Woman's Blood and Liver Pills

ANOTHER'S VIEWS.

GENTLE ARGUMENT BEST.

SAY, "DON'T YOU THINK?"

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted by Dawe & Tabor.)

Right ideas suffer more from wrong presentation than they do from active opposition. Given a man who is unwilling to be convinced and you have less of an opponent in him than you have in yourself in your careless method of approaching him. In fact, it sometimes seems as though many good people hold to most excellent ideas, more to gratify their sense of pride at having ideas at all, than to persuade others less enlightened. At any rate there are many who approach their fellows in such harsh, unsympathetic ways that they repel rather than win them. The impression a subject makes depends on the way it is presented; which is true whether the one who is striving to make a point is a moral teacher or an irate bull. Parleying is difficult when your victim is running away from you as fast as his legs will carry him.

It is told of Benjamin Franklin that he ascribed his extraordinary powers of persuasion to the fact that his manner always showed respect for the opinions of others. Having secured his listener, he would gradually lead up to the telling points by saying, "Don't you think?" rather than "I think." He thus won by leading his opponent's judgment onward to the point of convincing itself. Whatever truth there is in this—and I imagine there is a great deal—it is worthy of even more than partial imitation by every one who attempts to mould the thoughts of others. But the deference we show to the opinions of others must be really sincere—and there is no reason why it should not be, for not one of us absorbs one small brain all vast truth—or we shall fail to convince; for the snare is set in vain in the sight of any bird, and the pit along a line of argument is never to be digged in the sight of the victim.

Approach a man in a way that betokens a belief in your own superiority; or with a manner that seems patronizing, and he is almost sure to resent it. You have for the moment forgotten the veneration due to his individuality. With both of you, the whole universe is centered on the spot of ground that each occupies, and neither must forget the other's view. Respect the thought of others; believe in advance that every man has ideas,—or thinks he has, which comes to the same thing;—and you will find yourself moving steadily toward the winning of him, if he is less firm in his facts and thought and logic than you. It is true indeed that a successful attack on some one else's thought is not brought about merely by force of thought,—for force is too often met with force,—but by careful preparation beforehand suited to the person attacked, much as a general disposes of his troops differently at every separate fort assaulted. This ability to reinforce strength with skill is one of the secrets of power among leaders of men.

I remember reading somewhere of a misguided enthusiast who looked over a fence and hailed a young fellow in such an alarming tone of voice that the youth incontinently fled. What did the stranger then do but jump the fence and set off in pursuit! After a long chase he wended his frightened fugitive, and then gave him a tract, with some religious advice between breaths. History does not record the effect; presumably it is better imagined than described; but it is to be hoped that the recording angel used fitting leniency. Such a well-intentioned one—is he not common apart altogether from tracts?—such one needs to follow the Confucian advice which suggests that "In archery we have something like the way of the superior man. When the archer misses the center of the target, he turns round and seeks for the cause of his failure in himself."

In matters of religion and of politics it is especially true that many of us do more harm than good by arguing and persuading. In the first place we often forget that our opponent, however mistaken he may appear to us, has in all probability fully justified himself his own line of action or belief. This is true in relation to the fanatical followers of the oddest vagaries, as well as to devout believers in religion, pure and undefiled. But forgetfulness of this fact produces hates and distrusts and cruelties and miseries immeasurable. In a prolonged walking tour in Virginia I came across a peculiar sect on Chincoteague Island. Their membership was less than a hundred, yet they felt that they alone of all the myriads on earth would get to Heaven. Strangers as it may sound, they were quite sincere in their interpretation of the Bible, both on this point and another, to the effect that all marriages and all offspring, prior to the "sanctification" of the parents, were illegitimate. I

NO CURE—NO PAY

That is the way all druggists sell GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC for Chills, Fever and all forms of Malaria. It is simply Iron and Quinine in a palatable form. Children

often recall this experience to guard myself against narrowness of view, and for my readers' sakes I mention it here also.

And these poor people will serve to point another moral, to the effect that abuse is not argument, for they were driven from their homes with shot-guns and still cling desperately to their beliefs down in the swamps of the Carolinas. Abuse by tongue may not break bones, but it does not heal resentments; rankling sores bleed on unceasingly when the human mind stoops to abuse.

Finally, know what you do know, and know it thoroughly. Know what you do not know and hold your tongue thereon while you open your mind, and furthermore choose silence rather than speech, the living of truth rather than the proclaiming of it, the attitude of learning rather than the pose of prophet.

How to Look Good.

Good looks are really more than skin deep, depending entirely on a healthy condition of all the vital organs. If the liver be inactive, you have a bilious look; if your stomach be disordered, you have a dyspeptic look; if your kidneys be affected, you have a pinched look. Secure good health, and you will surely have good looks. "Electric Bitters" is a good Alternative and Tonic. Acts directly on the stomach, liver and kidneys. Purifies the blood, cures pimples, blotches and boils, and gives a good complexion. Every bottle guaranteed. Sold at E. T. Whitehead & Co.'s Drug Store. 50 cents per bottle.

Fine Things at the Drug Store.

In the new lot of Christmas goods at E. T. Whitehead & Co.'s you may find a most attractive display of Pictures, hand-somely framed, fine Dressing Cases, Hand-some Celuloid Cases, Glass-ware, China Ware, Toys of all kinds, Dolls almost innumerable, Ladies' Beautiful Desks, a large lot of Jewelry at cost, and a thousand other things that must be seen to be appreciated.

OLD NEWSPAPERS FOR SALE.

40 cents per hundred.

ONE OF TWO WAYS.

The bladder was created for one purpose, namely, a receptacle for the urine, and as such it is not liable to any form of disease except by one of two ways. The first way is from imperfect action of the kidneys. The second way is from careless local treatment of other diseases.

CHIEF CAUSE.

Unhealthy urine from unhealthy kidneys is the chief cause of bladder troubles. So the womb, like the bladder, was created for one purpose, and if not doctored too much is not liable to weakness or disease, except in rare cases. It is situated back of and very close to the bladder, therefore any pain disease or inconvenience manifested in the kidneys, back, bladder or urinary passage is often by mistake, attributed to female weakness or womb trouble of some sort. The error is easily made and may be as easily avoided. To find out correctly, set your urine for twenty four hours; a sediment or settling indicates kidney or bladder trouble. The mild and extraordinary effect of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root, the great kidney and bladder remedy is soon applied if you need a medicine you should have the best. At druggists fifty cents and one dollar. You may have a sample bottle and pamphlet, both sent by mail. Mention THE COMMONWEALTH and send your address to Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietor of this paper guarantees the genuineness of this offer.



W. L. DOUGLAS \$3 SHOE Best in the World. For 14 years this shoe, by itself, has displaced all competitors. It is the best shoe ever made. It is made in all the latest styles and of every variety. It is made in all the latest styles and of every variety. It is made in all the latest styles and of every variety.

NIMMO & HUBBARD, Commission Merchants and Dealers in COUNTRY PRODUCE AND SOUTHERN FRUITS. Quick Sales. Prompt Returns. Trial Shipments Solicited. No. 15 Roanoke Dock, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA.

The Perfect Pill. Perfect in preparation. Perfect in operation. Ayer's Cathartic Pills. Perfect post-prandial pill. Perfect for all purposes. THE PILL THAT WILL. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, N. C.

Savage, Son & Co., Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants, Norfolk, Va., Dec. 13, 1897.

Table with columns for Cotton Grades and Prices. Includes items like Good Middling, Strict Middling, Middling, etc.

5 Cent Cotton Brings Little Money, But it doesn't take much to buy a lot of nice things in My Millinery Store.

Naked. HE CAME INTO THE WORLD. But his relatives and neighbors will not permit him to remain so. We can't do much for him in his infancy—but for his youth and manhood the looms of Europe and America strive to make fabrics of all texture, innumerable in design, and all for his service and pleasure.

REINACH, ULLMAN & Co., Chicago. Makers of Fine Clothes to Measure. Most reasonable in Price. Most reliable in Work. Make Suits to order from \$13.00 to \$50.00.

CAMP & ANDREWS, SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. SALES AGENT.

Christmas Gift!! WAIT a month to buy your Christmas Gift. COME NOW and fit yourself out with one of my handsome and stylish HATS.

BELL, The Tarboro Jeweler's, 25th Annual Announcement of Holiday Goods for Old and Young, at Lowest Prices. We offer our beautiful stock, of suitable and appropriate GIFTS for all the people.

Send your orders for Job Printing to this office. First class work.

S. B. HARRELL, ESTABLISHED 1887. C. W. HARRELL. Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants. SPECIALTIES: COTTON AND PEANUTS.

COTTON. I. P. LEE & CO. Cotton Factors and Commission Merchants, 28 ROTHERY'S WHARF, NORFOLK, VA.

GO TO BOYD'S WAREHOUSE, ENFIELD, N. C. For the Highest Market Price. Which is still strong and active, especially good wrappers. We have ample floor space. No crowding and perfect light.

LUMBER! All kinds of Dress Lumber for sale. S. F. DUNN, Scotland Neck.

COOPER'S FOR 1897 NOW OPEN! Cooper's Warehouse, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA. Best of all Good Prices are the result of Sales every Day.

A NEW JEWELRY BUSINESS IN ENFIELD, N. C. W. H. ROBINSON having moved his entire Jewelry shop from Rocky Mount, is prepared to do first class work at a moderate price on Watches, Clocks, Sewing Machines, and in fact nearly every description of small wares, and machinery. Satisfaction guaranteed. Office near post-office. 11 18 6m.

GO TO ALLSBROOK'S FOR CHEAP GOODS. My stores are now filled with choice fresh goods received almost daily such as Meat, Fish, Lard, Butter, Cheese, Beans, Flour, Hominy, Rice, Grits, Peas, Pork Sausage, Onions, Hams, Fresh Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Spice, Pepper, Cloves, Macs, Ginger, Nutmegs, Cinnamon, Sausces, Flavoring Extracts, Fine Toilet Soaps, Fine Perfumery, Medicines, Chewing Gums, Paper and Envelopes, Tablets, Box paper, Cutlery, Cartridges, Pistols, Tinware, Glassware, Can goods, Soap Celluloid and Lump Starch, Bluing, Star Lye, Pearline, Gold Dust, Soda, Baking Powders, all kinds Snuff, Smoking and Chewing Tobacco, Cigars, Cheroots, Cakes, Crackers, Candies, Cocoanuts, Apples, Lemons, Bananas, New Raisins, Dates, Figs and many other things. Will sell cheap. Call and see us.