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# THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor. "EXCELSIOR" IS OUR MOTTO. SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$1.00.  
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## THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

**Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.**  
The Virginia Legislature now in session must be a good body of avoirdupois. The Richmond Dispatch recently mentioned four members whose aggregate weight is nearly one thousand pounds. The heaviest man in the House is George G. Gelleher. He stands six feet in his stockings and weighs 269 pounds. The desk room assigned to these heavy weight representatives is too small.

The lovers of fashion may or may not be glad to learn that the bustle will be in order again the coming season, but fashion authorities say it will. Paris is starting the wave and it will strike shore at New York before long, and that will settle it with American women. And the trouble is the bustle is to be "much more than it has been before."

A fashion writer says: "The bustle of 1898 will assume proportions never anticipated by the devotees of 1878. It will be made of every material by which human ingenuity can mould it to conformity with the idea of the bustle ideal."

The total length of the telegraph systems of the world is said to be 4,908,823 miles. Besides this there are 181,400 miles of submarine cables.

The New York Herald gives the length of the telegraph in the various countries, and comments as follows: "Europe, 1,764,790 miles; Asia, 310,655 miles; Africa, 99,419 miles; Australia, 217,479 miles; America, 2,516,548 miles. It will therefore be seen from the above that notwithstanding the steady increase in the building of telegraph lines all over Europe, America leads and has almost double the mileage of Europe."

Much is said in various ways about who should be admitted to the jury box. Certainly no man ought to be trusted to decide the interests of other men who can not and does not properly guard his own. But it often happens that the most "noddle headed," soft-brained fellows are retained on a jury to pass upon grave questions of crime or important personal interests.

One thing is certain: In North Carolina where the races are mixed in the jury box, no man ought to be kept on a jury, black or white, who will be swayed by prejudice, race prejudice or any other kind, so that he can not render a verdict according to the merit of the evidence.

No people in the world ought to be more particular about their business than milk dealers and dairymen. One of the hardest jobs the housewife on any farm has to do is to "keep her milk things clean." It is correspondingly more difficult to one who handles a great deal of milk. Dairymen and milk dealers, by a little carelessness, can set a-going some disease that will perhaps prostrate a whole community. A gentleman who was handling milk shakes in season told us that he thought he was as careful as possible with his "milk cans; but smelling of them one day to his surprise their scent was almost like that of carrion. Let all who sell milk be careful about its cleanliness.

Americans are great people for inventing; but in some cases their improvements on old inventions almost equal invention itself. The following item about the typewriter, which we clip from general reading is a case in point. The New York Dispatch says: "The first typewriter was a machine with raised letters, invented by Henry Mill of England, in 1714, for the use of the blind; but beyond marking the era of mechanical writing machines it was of no value, and for nearly 140 years no step forward was made. Nearly all the improvements, and certainly the credit for the general introduction of the typewriter, belong to America. Today there is one firm in this country which manufactures more than fifty styles of machines, in all languages and even in business ciphers. In these last the keyboard is lettered as usual, but the characters printed are in cipher."

## SERVING EACH OTHER.

**FIRST BE CAPABLE.**  
**THEN SERVE AND DO GOOD.**

**Some Rambling Thoughts.**  
BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted by Dawe & Tabor.)  
**STRENGTH THROUGH CONFLICT.**  
Out in the sunny valley a leafy elm-tree grew,  
Its branches spreading gaily to every breeze that blew.  
The mountains high  
A shield supply,  
And it laughed when the sounding storm swept by.

Staunch and stiff  
On a rugged cliff,  
A pine-tree bold faced the bitter cold,  
Holding its post on the shelving crust  
'Gainst the wanton winds in their cruel lust,  
And when the blast  
Was over-passed,  
Deeper and deeper its roots were thrust.  
There came a day when the earthquake shocks  
Tortured the valley and rent the rocks,  
And the elm-tree fell at Fortune's frown,  
With its tender twigs and its sunny crown,  
But the pine-tree, safe in its deep-set bed,  
Still reared high its oft-scarred head.

Look to the bicycle and learn, thou striving and panting one! The swifter the progress, the greater the resistance; the rider makes his own breeze, holding him back in a measure but fanning his brow meanwhile. Rejoice in the pressure ahead, you who exert yourselves; it means that you are moving, progressing, forcing some real resistance to one side. Lie down and rest in your tracks supinely, and all resistance will vanish; no one will find in you then cause for fear, and therefore no one will oppose you. Look again at the bicycle and be wise! Descent is ever easier and swifter than ascent. Years may be given to character-building or to fortune-hunting—a moment may undo it all. Never mind though your progress be slow; let it be upward and upward only. That is the way man ought to go if he is to be true to the history of his whole race, which has had an ascent of toilsome length and blood-stained steps. To love the easy, slothful, backward ways to violence and vice, is to be a traitor to our record.

The nerveless soul, soft-steeped in sensual sloth—  
Whose idle humors, with their fungus growth,  
Have ever rusted since the world began,  
The iron case that makes a man a man—  
Looks longing from his lounge with half-closed eyes  
To where some dazzling El Dorado lies;  
And "Oh!" he sighs, "for some celestial car—  
Some magic charm to waft me thus afar—  
So might I gather gems and garner gold  
To deck my youth in semblance as of old!"

And, dreaming, longing thus he waits and grieves  
While Indolence fresh cobweb-letters weaves:  
Till, like poor Gulliver, his strength is bound  
With light and trivial chains so thickly wound  
That in their welded strength he may not fight,  
But yields him to his myriad conquerors' might.

Yet had he but aroused himself at first,  
And from his gath'ring trammels bravely burst,  
Taking whatever ship might help his quest,  
Pointing its prow towards the golden West,  
Still faring forward spite of wayward blast,  
Columbus-like he might have won at last  
And, with his trembling banner never furled,  
Seeking an El Dorado, found a world!

Seek no hurried distinction. Never wiser words were uttered than those  
**OUR GRANDMOTHERS' REMEDY.**  
Cough medicine will not cure consumption, but Dr. David's Cough Syrup will cure the cough which, if neglected, will end in consumption. Pure pine tar, hoar-bound and wild cherry—Our grandmothers' remedy.

concerning the man who took a humble seat at a feast and then was called higher. Be a doer of great things rather than a blower of a personal trumpet. Be capable first, be the servant of all second, and having done all, be content to have served rather than to have demanded service. The man whom his fellows extol in their hearts is the one who lives broadly and grandly and yet walks humbly. Bear in mind that good work done out of sight is none the less good work. It is, to some of us, like the miser's gold, a thing to rejoice over with supreme satisfaction, where there is neither eye to see or ear to listen. By all the standards of universal righteousness, call up your doings to the judgment bar of your own heart, get there the approval of the one who dwelleth in the highest, and then the vanishing, rapid question of doing your works where men can see you, sinks into its right proportions. The beautiful figure-head on the prow of a ship is fair to look upon, and gets many a word of praise; but far more important is the sweat-begrimed coal-trimmer down in the stoke-hole. Shoveling coal and carrying ashes are essentials; to be seen of men is a non-essential. Be a stoker and a good one; there is honor in it.

Everything is vocal of our social obligations—there would be no cheap travel were there not many who wanted to travel—no gas in your house or oil in your lamp were there not others to use it—no easy means of getting anywhere along well-built highways unless there were people enough to demand and to make them. Unless we seek some remote spot, "far from the madding crowd," it is impossible for us to live to ourselves alone. All our neighbors are helpful to us—some of them certainly without intending to be; and we in turn are helpful to them, cross and uncharitable though some of us are. Every article we buy, every product we sell, brings us in touch with our fellows; keeps looms at work; shares in the whirl of the factory; holds the weary miner to his task; keeps the captain on the bridge of his vessel, hastening from a distant clime. Just as a shout is said to disturb the ether as far as the remotest star, your little wants and mine "move the world." While we live our fellows from every zone serve us; while we live our service and our thought must be towards them.

## A Jury's Verdict.

*N. C. Baptist.*  
The verdict of a jury has come to mean in many instances only "the beginning" of litigation. This is especially true in capital cases, in cases involving large sums of money and cases involving the title to public offices. In capital cases, if the convicted man can command money he can prolong his life long after it has been forfeited by a jury verdict and judicial sentence. It is true that in many cases murderers by means of court technicalities go scot free after being condemned to death and in some cases, like that of Theodore Durrant, the murderer lives several years after his victim and that through the power of influence and money. Of course an accused man should be given the benefit of every doubt, yet the quibbling and delays and commutations and respites are serving to increase crime and multiply the instances of Lynch law. They create distrust in the public mind and lead to open rebellion against courts and judges and juries. The more the necessity for having juries properly and carefully selected, men of good sense, reliable and intelligent, sober and just. And then a jury verdict would mean far more than it does now.

Ayer's Hair Vigor is certainly a remarkable preparation and nothing like it has ever been produced. No matter how wiry and unmanageable the hair may be, under the influence of this incomparable dressing, it becomes soft, silky, and pliable to the comb and brush. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

## A BLACK NAPOLEON.

**SINGULAR COINCIDENCES WHICH UNITE THE HOUSES OF BONAPARTE AND CHAKA.**

**Story of The Rise of The Zulu Chief.**  
*Norfolk Virginian.*

In the island of St. Helena, where the white Napoleon ended his days a prisoner to the English, a black Napoleon is living now also a prisoner. It is a singular chapter of coincidences which seems to unite the fortunes of the house of Bonaparte and the house of Chaka. Early in the century, when Napoleon was overrunning Europe with his armies and dazzling the minds of men with his genius, an English sailor was wrecked on the African coast and wandered into Zululand. He was taken before the young chief, Chaka, and to him he told of the wonderful outside world, of which the chief had heard rumors, and as all the world was then filled with the name of Napoleon, he told of the rise of the Corsican and how he had conquered nations and built up for himself a great empire. The story of Napoleon captured the fancy of Chaka, and he resolved to be an African Napoleon.

Then began the rise of the great Zulu power in South Africa, and Chaka spread his conquests over great territories and subjugated neighboring tribes and built for himself an empire. It flourished until it broke itself to pieces against the English, just as the empire of the man whose name had inspired its building did before it. The empire established by Chaka stretched along the whole southeast seaboard of Africa, from Limpopo to Cape Colony, and extended far inland.

When the English landed in Natal in 1824 the empire of the Amazulu was the most powerful in Africa. Chaka made a treaty with the English, allowing them to live in Natal, and for this he was killed by his brother, Dingaan, in 1828. Then began the struggle between the white man and the black man which was to end in the destruction of the empire founded by Chaka. Peace and war alternated, and all the time the Zulus lost ground.

Finally in 1834 the British felt bound to blot out the Zulu power. Then it was that Cetewayo, the heir of Chaka, summoned forth his whole force and hurled his "impis" or regiments on the British. At Isandulu the Zulus broke the British squares and routed the redcoats, but the end was the capture of the chief and the breaking of the Zulu power.

In this war the house of Bonaparte again became mixed up with the fortunes of the house of Chaka. The Prince Imperial, grand-nephew of the man whose example had inspired the building of the empire of the Amazulu, went out to fight in the ranks of the English and was killed by a Zulu spear. In 1884 Cetewayo died, and the quarrel was continued by his son, Dinizulu.

Dinizulu was conquered, and now he has been sent to St. Helena to end his days on the spot where the man whose example caused the building up of the black king's empire died.

As becomes the head of a great and warlike line, Dinizulu is accompanied in his exile by a numerous retinue. His two uncles, several chiefs, a physician and a clergyman, with their wives and children, make up a household as numerous as was that of the great Napoleon when at St. Helena.

The chaplain of the royal exiles is Paul Hitimkula, a "catechist," from Cape Town, who was invited many years ago by Cetewayo to come to Zululand and teach the people. He is called by the Zulus Doctor Paul. He accompanied the exiles to St. Helena of his own accord. Dr. Wilby, an

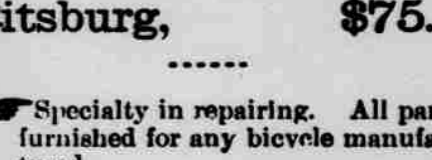


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Englishman, is the physician to the exiled household. All the Zulu attendants who wait on the exiles went to St. Helena of their own accord. Dinizulu speaks and writes English fluently, and is a man of more than ordinary intelligence. An effort is now being made to procure the release of Dinizulu. It is argued that his return to his own people would convince them that the English intend to deal fairly with them. But the British Government would hardly dare to place again in the heart of the valiant nation of the Zululand a man of the ability and the bravery of Dinizulu.

## Food, Work and Sleep.

*New York Ledger.*

What a great mistake it is to contend that time taken from toil for sleep and recreation is time lost! There is no greater fallacy, for sleep and recreation form, as it were, the cement put in to fill up the joints in order to keep out the weather and preserve the edifice. A man does not necessarily require riches, honors or office—although the majority of us naturally have an ambition to attain one of these desiderata—but he does need food, work and sleep. It follows, therefore, that he should use every means to promote life, and among these there are three things to be kept in mind. When a man denies himself sleep, food and the exercise work gives both to brain and body, he is robbing his life of its full term. Let him be cheerful also, for the body is like an engine—it will run well and long if it is well oiled. Contentment and cheerfulness are the oil which keeps the nerves from wearing out.

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