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E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1898.

NO. 9

SEND YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN NOW.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

The fact has crept from hiding where it has been sometime concealed, that England dreads the competition that American manufacture lays down. This country is so rapidly growing in manufacturing industries that Germany does not trouble England as much in the matter of competition as we do. And the South is destined to become a most inviting and remunerative field for this work.

Some time ago it was thought that the running of electric cars and telephone lines into the rural districts would have a tendency to stop the flocking of young men from the country to the cities. The young men in rural districts frequently get a notion that the city has many more advantages than it really has; and they leave certainties in the country for uncertainties in the cities and towns. But the electric car lines and telephone lines into these districts, it is said, where these have been tried, do not lessen the desire of the young to go the cities.

Country life may be simple and plain, but many a young man has died a wreck through city dissipation who might have lived to be a grand old gentleman had he remained in the country.

The following bit of news by the Associated Press from Shanghai, China, indicates that the missionary there has a hard fight for the immediate future, at least: "In view of the fact that treaties are soon to throw sections of Japan open to foreigners, there are interesting reports of Buddhist and Shinto priests assembled in one of the principal provinces to discuss the situation. They have promulgated the following four resolutions, and request all Japanese to be governed by them.

"1. To cultivate feeling of abhorrence of foreigners, and to refuse on principle to sell or buy of them anything whatsoever.

"2. To refuse absolutely to rent their houses or lands to foreigners.

"3. To refrain entirely from using foreign terms in speaking and writing.

"4. To positively decline to listen to Christianity."

In a choice of vocation for life many things are to be considered. Among the most important is the matter of personal independence which one will have an opportunity to enjoy in his chosen vocation. A gentleman said to us a few days ago he was glad that when he cast about for a vocation for life he chose the farm. He says he enjoys a freedom and an independence there that he could not possibly enjoy anywhere else. He was not speaking about the privilege of lying down and taking a nap when he pleases or resting a day as it suits his convenience. He was speaking of personal independence in a higher sense—that he was not bound to any one's views or whims, as a matter of policy on which depends his meat and bread. He can plant what he chooses, trade where he pleases, espouse whatever good cause that enlists his sympathies and refuse to link himself with whatever does not seem to him good and worthy, and no one can coerce him. His sustenance comes from the earth and he works it himself independently. And there is much in it.

What a Boston Lady Did.

Our Dumb Animals.

A lady dressed with excellent taste was passing up Washington street recently on a very cold day, when she noticed a horse whose blanket had fallen off. Many other ladies and gentlemen were passing and it required some moral courage (as the world goes) for her to stop, take up the blanket, spread it over the horse and tuck it under the harness. But she did it, and did it well. Her mercy was thrice blessed, for it blessed not only the giver and the receiver, but the stranger who witnessed the act.

Dandruff is an exudation from the pores of the skin that spreads and dries, forming scurf and causing the hair to fall out. Hall's Hair Renewer cures it. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

THE GREAT WASHINGTON

GREATER AS THE CENTURY CLOSES.

THE LIVING AGAIN OF THE DEAD.

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted by Dawe & Tabor.)

As to Washington—Speaking with a certain amount of reserve, it is generally true that our understanding of an event in its relation to other events is increased by distance. For instance, let me suggest that we understand the voyage of the "Mayflower," the settlement of Massachusetts, the expulsion of Roger Williams, the migrations westward from Virginia and New England—all these things, in their relations to other events and in their effects, much better than did the actual participants. So also of men: In the case of really great ones it needs a century almost to measure their works and to strip them of any false glamour of praise or gloom of blame. As with a general in the hands of his valet, those in constant association with the great feel too often that clothes and chance make the hero; or if they do see greatness in their admired one, they fail to see any detractions from his loftiness, for both love and friendship are blind—(many of us can thank Fortune for that, or else we had been reckoned as naught long ago).

By reason of the investigations of the later students of Washington, we are now ready to concede that many of the violent assaults upon his character and purpose—made during his lifetime and shortly thereafter—were ungenerous and unfounded. Thanks also to the candor of modern historians, we can now see further that he was by no means a demi-god striding along on lofty mountain tops, but a humble, unassuming, ordinary citizen, whose devotion to his cause made up full often for the scamping, runaway fighting that he was obliged to resort to. We see that few of the startling victories of the Revolution were gained by him. We also see that his Fabian policy; here one day and away the next; but scarcely ever venturing on a pitched battle, wore out the enemy by ignominious floundering rather than by armed resistance. His greatness was more in his noble courage in clinging to an endangered cause, in the face of the mutterings and discontent of many of the influential people, who, like the loyalists of Cuba at the present moment, were a most serious influence to combat.

Washington, the Reconstructor, is far greater to the mind of a man of peace like myself, than Washington, the Revolutionist. Then his calm mind, freed from the blood and bustle of the battle field, rose to its highest. Made a commander of men by the trumpet-call of patriotic duty; he remained a commander of men after the turmoil was over. His genius was in the selection of advisers, in the judicial cast of mind that weighed the *pro* and *con* most carefully, in the power—shared by many of his contemporaries—of seeing into the future, so that we who are now almost ready to turn the corner of another century, are forced to marvel at the foresight of a group of men, who so admirably laid the foundations of a Western Empire that the strain of unexampled expansion has never yet succeeded in rending asunder the work they cemented with their wounds, their lives, and their sacred honor.

More glorious than war are the victories of peace. The sweeping out or wearing out of enemies, remarkable though it appears when we look back at the miserable equipments and the inner dissensions to be contended with; these would have availed us no more than a successful revolution seems to avail a Central American republic, had the garnering of the fruits of victory been left unattended to. These patriotic statesmen planted our glorious tree of freedom. It was planted once and once only (please God, never to be uprooted!) but its fruits are perennial and are still ours to gather. We are not called on to nourish that tree with our dead bodies, but our living ones must be devoted to its service. To a jealous regard for all that it represents, we are summoned—each one of us that names the name as "American." They

A few months ago, Mr. Bryon Every, of Woodstock, Mich., was badly afflicted with rheumatism. His right leg was swollen the full length, causing him great suffering. He was advised to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. The first bottle of it helped him considerably and the second bottle effected a cure. The 25 and 50 cent sizes are for sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

who gather from every tribe and nation under Heaven; joining hands with us in devotion to freedom,—all, from the least to the greatest—may serve the cause that Washington and the Revolutionists brought into our history. Forsaking the straining of our necks, looking backward to the beginnings, let us look around and forward. Let us grapple with evil, wherever we find either the designs of wealth or the worse crime of indifference threatening our heritage; and let us furthermore understand that sincere watchfulness is the only way to insure for our children's children, and theirs after them, a government that is in a decided measure based upon the will of the people.

The lives of great men, when they fail to stir us ordinary ones, are waste and unprofitable, so far as we are concerned. But in every noble resolve that a great life inspires in a lesser life, there is the living again of the dead. May the dogged devotion of Washington be resurrected by each of us in these perilous times, when men would seek to confuse us by loud warlike noises that almost drown the gentle pings of peace.

The widening river that towards the sea Resistless runs, still swelling constantly, Does not derive its force and fullest flow From any sudden sweep of storm or snow; But draws its certain strength from constant wells, Cradled on stainless heights where stillness awells.

So doth Columbia's eye-swelling tide Of lusty life and freedom, spreading wide, Take inspiration from that noble force, George Washington, and stoop its steady course From him whose tireless soul stood firm for peace, And planned and fought only that war might cease.

Let us then rightly judge our great ideal, And love his tender thought for public weal; Leaving the mighty warrior to inspire Only when threatened hearths our spirits fire; Mindful that floods, though they may purify, Leave in their wasting train dark dregs of misery.

A Cucumber in a bottle.

Selected. When I was a little boy, remarked an old gentleman, somebody gave me a cucumber in a bottle. The neck of the bottle was small, and the cucumber so large that it wasn't possible for it to pass through it, and I was greatly puzzled to know how it got there. But out in the garden, one day, I came upon a bottle slipped over a little green fellow that was still on the vines, and then I understood it all. The cucumber had grown in the bottle. I often see men with habits that I wonder any strong, sensible man could form, and then I think that very likely they grew into them when they were young and cannot slip out of them now; they are like the cucumber. Look out for such bottles, boys!

Wisdom From a Prisoner.

Selected. The Connecticut state prison has a monthly paper edited by a convict. A recent issue is very readable. It contains one article giving rules of conduct which if universally adopted would be a benediction to people both outside and inside prisons: "1. If possible, be well and have a good appetite. If these conditions are yours the battle of life is already half won. Many soul and heart troubles arise really in the stomach, though it may seem strange to you. "2. Be busy. Fill the hours so full of useful and interesting work that there shall be no time for dwelling on your troubles; that the day shall dawn full of expectation, the night full of repose. "3. Forget yourself. You never will be happy if your thoughts constantly dwell upon yourself, your own short-comings, what people think of you, and so on. "4. Expect little. Expect little of life, but not too much of your friends. "5. Trust in God. Believe that God is; that he really knows what is best for you. Believe this truly, and the bitterness is gone from life."

Mr. Ward L. Smith, of Fredericks-town, Mo., was troubled with chronic diarrhoea for over thirty years. He had become fully satisfied that it was only a question of a short time until he would have to give up. He had been treated by some of the best physicians in Europe and America but got no permanent relief. One day he picked up a newspaper and chanced to read an advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. He got a bottle of it, the first dose helped him and its continued use cured him. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

OSTENTATION'S FOLLIES

A GLIMPSE AT ANCIENT EXCESSES.

Some Wise Suggestions.

BY LADY COOK (NEE TENNESSEE C. CLAFLIN.)

Communicated to THE COMMONWEALTH.

Ostentation is older than civilization; ancient as the primeval savage. The desire to appear braver, handsomer, richer, stronger, better or worse, and so on, than others, or than we really are, has been a universal failing from remote times, and ever attended with unhappy consequences. However, we shall not here attempt to attack all forms of vanity, but would draw attention to that particular one of vain show or display which is the more general mode of ostentation. The Latin "Ostentare" means to show often in a boasting manner. Anything, therefore which is done from vulgar pride to dazzle others, is of this character. And it would seem as if all changes of fashion prompted by vanity are so many marks of this failing, for these are at first adopted by the rich, and by them forsaken as soon as they become common. An old French moralist, de-claiming in 1586 against the prevailing fashions, and especially that of adorning carrying mirrors so that they might constantly view themselves, notices this course of human frailty. "Alas!" he said, "in what an age do we live: to see such depravity which we see; that induces them even to bring into church those scandalous mirrors hanging about their waist. Let all histories, divine, human, and profane, be consulted; never will it be found that these objects of vanity were ever thus brought into public by the most meretricious of the sex. It is true, at present none but the ladies of the court venture to wear them; but long it will not be before every citizen's daughter, and every female servant, will have them!"

Nothing is more ludicrous than the origin of these extravagances. In Edward VI.'s time, a lady with a wen on her neck covered it by a patch. From that time patches became the mode. A hundred years later they were cut into all kinds of fantastic figures: owls, rings, suns, moons, and even a coach and horses. A daughter of France had a high shoulder. This gave rise to "full bottomed" wig. Long coats were invented to hide the "ill-made" legs of Charles the Seventh of France, and pointed shoes a yard long to conceal an excrescence on the foot of Henry Plantagenet of Anjou. When the Archduchess Isabella wore the same dirty linnen for three years because she had vowed not to change it until Ostend was taken, its colour at the end of that time became fashionable as "L'Isabelle," a dingy-whitish-yellow. Another Isabella, she of Bavaria, noted for fair complexion and her frail conduct, introduced the fashion of having the shoulders and neck uncovered. The whims of fashion are shown by a print of Henry VIII.'s time, representing a nude Englishman holding a piece of cloth on his right arm and a pair of shears in his left hand, and bears this inscription: "I am an Englishman, and I stand here. Musing in my mind what raiment I shall wear; For now I will wear this and now I will wear that, And now I will wear I cannot tell what."

Down to the reign of William and Mary, little children of the upper classes wore wigs, but barbers had not then become hair dressers. These were women. Verily "there is no new thing under the sun."

Comfit boxes were great signs of ostentation, and were the rage in France before snuff-boxes took their place. All carried them on all occasions, and when the Duke of Guise was shot at Blois his comfit box was found in his hand. Chaucer's "Persones Tale," in the chapter "De Superbia," tells, as we dare not, to what lengths pride and impropriety in dress were carried in his day; particularly by the men. In France it was bad enough. "A modest Italian could not travel there in the 15th century," said an Italian author, "without being shocked by the dresses of the men." But in England it was afterwards worse, and our countrymen gloried in their shame.

A "buck" of about ninety years ago is thus described by a satirical writer: "A coat of light green with sleeves too small for the arms, and buttons too big

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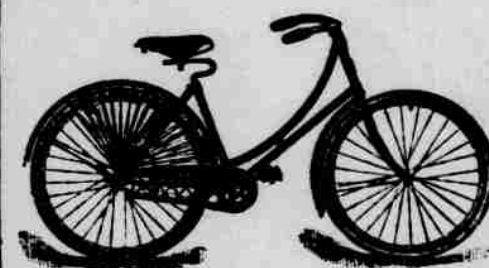
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Good Seeds

for the sleeves; a pair of Manchester fine stuff breeches, without money in the pockets; clouded silk stockings, but no legs; a club of hair behind, larger than the head that carries it; a hat of the size of sixpence on a block not worth a farthing.

Milk and wine have each been used for the bath of beauty. Poppea bathed in asses' milk. Modern young ladies have had to be satisfied with that of cows. But when the wrinkles begin to appear they have bathed in wine, white wine by preference, because its astringency reduces these tell-tales. Lord Shrewsbury demanded an increased allowance from the Government when he guarded Mary Queen of Scots, because of the great expense to which that royal lady's wine baths came.

In vain, from age to age, have sumptuary laws been levelled against ostentation and luxury in food and clothing. The love of liberty has proved stronger than the love of monopoly. "It is no one's business how I spend my money," say the persons who own it. This is quite true if we make one exception. The moralist has the right to criticise their method if it should appear to be against good taste and public morality. Liberty allows us to do many things that are not for the common good. And it is from the lash of the satirist and the increasing good sense of the community, and not from legislation, that moral improvements are brought about. Vices are killed by scorn and ridicule and public disapprobation, and not by Act of Parliament.

It is competent, therefore, for any one who can afford it to spend a thousand guineas on orchids to adorn a single banquet, but it is also within the right of the moralist or political economist to require if extravagance such as this is for the public good or evil.

One of the many proclamations of Queen Elizabeth against "the excess of apparel" mentioned "the wasting and undoing of a great number of young gentlemen, otherwise serviceable; and that others, seeking by show of apparel to be esteemed as gentlemen, and allured by the vain show of these things, not only consume their goods and lands, but also run into such debts and shifts, as they cannot live out of danger of laws without attempting unlawful acts." And so she threatened to have them rated in the subsidy books according to the costliness of their dress. Yet while Elizabeth bade everyone else to set a good example, she had in her wardrobe three thousand dresses that had only been worn once. We read in Stuart times of five hundred pounds for a knight's cloak; of embroidery for a lady's gown at fifty pounds a yard; of one lady wearing over a hundred thousand pounds' worth of jewels at a time; of gentlemen in "crimson velvet and beaten gold;" of a duke one blaze of diamonds from head to foot, and these he often shook from him to see

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T. W. WOOD & SONS, SEEDSMEN, - - RICHMOND, VA. THE LARGEST SEED HOUSE IN THE SOUTH.

the maids of honour scramble for them; and of the great and wise Sir Walter Raleigh wearing on court days seven thousand pounds' worth of precious stones on his shoes, having his armour of solid silver, and his sword.

Thus the ostentation of former times was far in excess of ours. Nevertheless there is still vast room for improvement. From the highest to the lowest the practice is much too prevalent of living beyond one's means; of making a grander show than one's position warrants; of dwelling in houses out of proportion to income; and, generally, of aping those who are superior in wealth and rank. It is not the rich alone who are thus guilty. The middle classes and the poor are equally, and often much more, ostentatious in their way. We are told that costermongers wear the most gorgeous and most expensive silk handkerchiefs that can be obtained to adorn their many necks. He who has the costliest is the most "killing" in the eyes of his fair ones. The poor prefer showy furniture, cheap and fragile, to the humble but more substantial articles. They had rather a sham veneer than a solid reality. It is the same in dress. Good woollen material is the cheapest, most comfortable, and most healthy in summer and winter. Yet showy, flimsy, unhealthy fabrics take its place. The stomach is often starved that the back may bear finery. Education and parental training are made subsidiary to appearances. The young are early taught the important lesson that "to seem" is of more value than "to be."

This sordid and paltry hypocrisy permeates society from end to end, and is the source of much ignorance and crime, folly, and all sorts of prostitution. People are afraid to acknowledge their position, and ashamed to be thought poor in these days when any clever rogue may become rich. Is it any wonder that speculation of all kinds is so common as it is; that among thousands of the honest there are hundreds of the dishonest; that boys in their teens gamble like hoary sinners; and that madens sell their virtue for a paltry jewel or a showy article of dress.

Notwithstanding all these things ours is a splendid race, full of energy and ambition, but the latter should be tempered always by modesty and straightforwardness. We do not need to appear greater than we are. In this, as in all things, honesty is not only the best, but is the best policy, and ostentation proves itself an insidious vice which degrades whatsoever and whomsoever it touches. An excellent motto for all of us is "Essee quam videri."

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