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THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1898.

NO. 22

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

The Commonwealth has been notified that blank paper will cost us 20 per cent. more than we have been paying for it; and our wholesale dealers have even written us that the figures they quote now are subject to change at any time.

If you owe this paper anything it is in order to pay up now; for there has never been a day since we first began business when we needed money due us more than we do now. Our expenses are growing all the time.

William E. Gladstone "The Grand Old Man," the greatest man of the century, perhaps, has passed from earth to his reward. The entire intelligent world mourns his death. No man has made a more positive impression on the world in this century than Gladstone. Truly his life has been one of service to humanity, and all the world is richer in the heritage of a good name and heroic endeavor for all that is truest and best, because the tall, central figure of the century has been the embodiment of all these.

Peace to his ashes!

The war with Spain does not now promise to be ended in a day. While we do not yet believe the Spanish fleets will come to Cuba to fight, still the war may be prolonged for months, or even a year. THE COMMONWEALTH may be mistaken in the forecast about Spanish fleets coming to Cuba; indeed there may be a great naval battle in Cuban waters before this reaches our readers, but we do not believe that such will be the case.

At any rate, all conservative people will be glad when the war shall be over and no more blood is shed. Let the time and day hasten on.

This is the season for commencements and many young men and young women will soon be at the home place to rest under the old home tree.

But is there not a growing disposition on the part of students to become restless at home during the dull vacation?

Even after a year away from home the old home becomes tiresome to some young men before vacation is over and they have to "take a trip" somewhere. It seems sometimes like the tender love for the old home place is not as strong and sweet in the young of the present as it was in the young of former days.

It is beautiful and hopeful to see young men and young women love the old home and its associations.

Perhaps the weekly newspaper is the subject of more criticism than any other institution or enterprise that serves the public at all. There are many more chances for such criticisms against the weekly than against the daily, and less chance to straighten up satisfactorily that for which the criticism is offered. For instance, if there occurs some little incident that is a matter of news, such as a party at Mrs. A's or a festival at some hall for the benefit of some church or society and the news gatherer happens to fall to make a note of it, if it is a daily, within the next twenty-four hours he can mention it and explain and the whole matter is satisfactorily arranged at once. But with the weekly it is quite different. The reporter must wait a whole week and those who take umbrage at the failure to mention the matter at first, say it will be too old to be news next week. And so do what he may, the weekly newspaper man finds himself at a great disadvantage in some things.

And there are many peculiar questions for the newspaper man to decide which other people can not appreciate and his seeming indifference to some things is simply a result of over-crowded work which no mortal on earth could do any better.

After all the weekly newspaper gives about the most accurate account of passing events.

THE GRAND OLD MAN.

GLADSTONE HAS PASSED AWAY.

Death of the Great Commoner.

From the Press. Harwarden, May 19.—Mr. Gladstone died at 5 o'clock this morning. He had been unconscious practically all day, though at times he seemed to recognize for a moment some of the watchers about him. Certainly he did recognize his wife, who was beside him all day, except when the physician prevailed upon her to rest. She tenderly clasped her husband's hand as she watched him. Apparently he slept a good deal; occasionally he uttered a few words in an incoherent, dreamy way, words which those who were watching him were unable to catch. Their only consolation was that he was not suffering pain. No narcotics were administered.

Though a national funeral will probably be accepted by the family, there is little doubt that the remains of Mr. Gladstone will be laid to rest in the peaceful graveyard at Harwarden, adjoining the church where he was married more than half a century ago. At Harwarden the happiest portion of his life was passed, and it is truly a retreat sweet enough for any laborer.

The late Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, M. P., P. C., was the fourth son of the late Sir John Gladstone, Bart., of Fasque County, Kincardine, N. B., a well-known merchant of Liverpool, and was born there, December 29, 1809. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, of which he was nominated a student in 1829, and graduated, taking a double first-class, in Michaelmas term, 1831. Having spent some time in a continental tour, he was returned at the general election, in December, 1832, in the Conservative interest, for Newark, and entered Parliament just as the struggle of parties was at its height.

He was spinning tops at 5 years, when Bismarck was the new baby at Schoenhausen. He was learning Greek at the age of 10, when Victoria put in an appearance. He was arranging for his marriage when Grover Cleveland came to delight the hearts of his parents, and a Chancellor of the Exchequer when a boy was born in Germany, who has since become Kaiser William.

His father was Sir John Gladstone, a wealthy merchant, who relinquished a small business in Glasgow, about 1785, and removed to Liverpool, where he acquired a large fortune in the East India trade, being created a baronet in 1846. This fourth son was sent to Eton, and while there gave promise of the splendid brilliancy which marked his course at Oxford, from which he graduated at Christ church in 1831 as double first-class, the highest honor and one rarely attained. Then he became a fellow of All Souls.

After travelling for a short period he entered Parliament in December, 1832, as a member for Newark, a nomination borough belonging to the Duke of Newcastle, which he continued to represent till 1846.

It is a mark of strong character when a man who finds he is headed in the wrong path turns completely around and leads in the other direction. Gladstone, when he was first elected to the House of Commons, just after the passage of the reform bill that made English representative government, previously a mockery, into something like a reality, was a Tory of the strictest, most old-fashioned sect. His maiden speech in the House was in the debate upon the measure abolishing slavery in the British Colonies, and was a defence of the slave-holders against attacks made by radical Abolitionists. For nearly twenty years he was one of the shining lights of the Conservative party and the foremost lieutenant of Sir Robert Peel, its great leader. Then he gradually drifted into Liberalism, and, after being for some time more or less "a free lance," he became a member of Lord Palmerston's Cabinet, in 1859.

At the death of that statesman he succeeded him as leader of the Liberals in the House of Commons, and when his party regained office in 1868, after Disraeli's first government, Gladstone attained the premiership. He held it for six years, and again from 1880 to 1885, when he declared himself in favor of the Irish demand for home rule, which up to that time he had strenuously opposed. The result was the secession of a large body of his supporters and his defeat at the polls in 1886—a defeat which the dauntless veteran afterward retrieved. Gladstone perfectly recognized the fact that his mental history was one of development rather than one of consistency. "I was educated," he is reported as saying in conversation, "to regard liberty as a evil. I have learned to regard it as a good.

That is a formula which sufficiently explains all the changes of my political convictions." A glance at the following chronology will show the principal events in Gladstone's career as a statesman and author:

- GLADSTONE CHRONOLOGY. 1809—December 29th, born at Liverpool. 1831—Graduated at Oxford. 1832—Entered Parliament. 1834—Junior Lord of the Treasury. 1835—Under Colonial Secretary. —Resigned. 1838—Married. 1839—"The State in Relation to the Church." 1840—"Church Principles Considered." 1841—Vice-President of the Board of Trade. 1842—Revised the tariff. 1843—President of the Board of Trade. 1845—Resigned. —Colonial Secretary. 1846—Resigned. 1847—Advocated freedom for Jews. 1852—Chancellor of the Exchequer. 1855—Resigned. 1858—Lord High Commissioner to the Ionian Isles. —"Studies of the Homeric Age." 1859—Chancellor of the Exchequer. 1865—Leader of the Commons. 1866—In opposition. 1868—Prime Minister. —"Eccle Homo." "A Chapter of Autobiography." 1869—Carried Irish disestablishment. —"Juventus Mundi." 1870—Carried Irish land bill. 1871—Unveiling of his statue by Adams Acton in his native city on September 11th. —Abolished purchase of army commissions. 1873—Irish university reform proposed. —Resigned, but resumed power. 1874—Dissolved Parliament. 1876—"Homer Synchronism." 1879—Mid Lothian triumph. —"Gleanings of Past Years." 1880—Prime Minister. 1885—Resigned. 1886—Prime Minister. —Irish home-rule proposed. —Resigned. 1892—Prime Minister. 1893—Irish home-rule passed Commons; defeated by Lords.

FRIENDSHIP FOR HALLAM.

But Gladstone, the Eton boy, was as interesting as "the Grand Old Man." His special and inseparable friend was Arthur Hallam, the subject of Tennyson's "In Memoriam." The friendship commenced when Gladstone was in his 13th year, and was never weakened until death came to loose the silver cord. Hallam was a delicate boy, and although his associate was much inclined to outdoor games of all kinds, he gave up the pleasures of play in order to keep company with his friend in their long walks across country, or their lengthened talks beneath the old oak tree around Windsor. Gladstone at this period was a fighter and an "arguer." In fact, argument ran in his family, and the father of the three young Gladstones at Eton always encouraged them to discuss the pros and cons of every subject, however insignificant.

William seldom lost an opportunity of improving the occasion. Once the head master called him to his desk to account for his not having marked down in his monitor's book the late arrival of one of his schoolfellows. "It is a violation of your trust sir," said the pedagogue, "and I'll have to flog you."

The boy replied: "Sir, if I had sought the position of monitor this might be called a violation of a trust, but since the position was thrust upon me I would most respectfully submit that I am innocent."

The old man—who was great on technicalities—was so delighted with his pupil's ingenuity that the whipping did not take place.

Mr. Gladstone, in later life, remarked that his reasoning was wrong, since sheriffs, juries, and others have to discharge duties which are thrust upon them and which they would be glad to avoid. "My defense," he said, "was more culpable than my fault, but then, you know, I had really only forgotten to put down the boy's name, and also I had to avoid the flogging which I saw clearly in my taskmaster's eye."

PIG-TAIL STORY.

During the Eton period it was customary on market days for some of the more tun-loving students to rush through the town with sharp knives, cutting off the tails of the young pigs and bearing them in triumph to their rooms. Gladstone either made a baraque or wrote a sarcastic screed in The Miscellany about the brutality of this. Enemies rose up against him.

One night he found three fresh pigtailed tied to the inside of his bedroom door, whereupon he panted upon his door, inside and out, a challenge calling upon the despoiler of the pigs "to come forth and take a receipt for their offering, which I will sign in good round hand upon their faces." But Gladstone, Jr., was regarded as a tough foe, and the kind invitation was never acknowledged or accepted.

In 1850 he was traveling in Southern Europe, when he heard rumors of the despotism of King Ferdinand—Bomba—of Naples, who without any form of trial, had imprisoned in filthy dungeons over 20,000 persons accused of political offences. At this time Mr. Gladstone had been nearly twenty years in Parliament, so that he had full understanding of the responsibility of meddling in the affairs of other countries. He went to Naples, made a personal investigation of the prisons, and found everything worse than had been told of the wretched despot. His "Letter to Lord Aberdeen" (1851) resulted in mild remonstrances from that nobleman, but Lord Palmerston's sympathies were later enlisted by a pamphlet that clearly pictured the sufferings of the Neapolitans, and the tempest of indignation that followed these disclosures engulfed Bomba and ended his kingly days.

AS A GREEKIAN.

As a Greek scholar Mr. Gladstone was not a Porsou or a Jebb, but he was capable of taking the same delight in a new Greek play that he did in "Middlemarch," "Robert Elsmere," or a drama by Daudet. He also considered "Esther Waters" and "The Year of Jubilee" "strong and able works, which ought to live when many of their contemporaries are forgotten." This would have been regarded by some as atrocious literary taste. His own published works are "The State in Its Relations with the Church" (two volumes, 1828); "Church Principles Considered," (1840); "Studies on Homer and the Homeric Age" (three volumes, Oxford, 1858); "Essays on Eccle Homo," and a pamphlet on the Irish church question entitled "A Chapter of Autobiography" (1868), and "Juventus Mundi, the Gods and Men of the Heroic Age" (1869), with translations, and other pamphlets. Some of his friends have discovered an ode he wrote for The Star Miscellany in his 19th year, which differs largely from the tone of his anti-reform speech. It is inscribed, "To the shade of Wat Tyler," and one stanza proceeds in this fashion:

I hymn the gallant and the good From Tyler down to mistlewood. My muse the trophies grateful sings The deeds of Miller and of Ings. She sings of all who soon or late Have sealed the bloody despot's fate Or cleft a peer or priest in twain!

This is not bad, considering that most of his intimate friends at Eton at the time were either sons of peers or priests. But the liberation of Greece was in the air, and Lord Byron's poems were the companions of every bright school-boy who had ever heard of Athens or Sparta. Gladstone was an enthusiastic Philhellene, and Wat Tyler was a far off enough point to break forth upon in revolutionary rhapsodies.

MRS. GLADSTONE.

In 1838 he married Miss Margaret Glynn, who was then an heiress, 25 years old. She aided and humored her husband from the first, and made it a family rule that he should never be contradicted.

The last years of his life were passed at Harwarden Castle, the property of his wife, which is practically in the gateway to Wales. This residence is on the hills overlooking the valley of the beautiful Dee, six miles east of Chester in a picturesque park of 700 acres. And there he lived, surrounded by four sons, three daughters, and seven grandchildren, who loved him with intense devotion. The seven children are not clever. At least, they are not considered clever. But what could you expect of sons whose greatness is so overshadowed?

William grew up to be lord of the manor of Harwarden; Stephen, the second son, was rector of Harwarden church; Henry, after service in India, was taught to be a country gentleman, and Herbert, the youngest one, was the only one encouraged to take up public life. Two of the daughters are married—little Dorothy Drew being the daughter of one—and the third, Miss Helen Gladstone, has long been an instructor in an English college.

Another Case of Rheumatism Cured by Chamberlain's Pain Balm.

My son was afflicted with rheumatism which contracted his right limb until he was unable to walk. After using one and a half bottles of Chamberlain's Pain Balm he was able to be about again. I can heartily recommend it to persons suffering from rheumatism. JOHN SMITH, Freed, Calhoun Co., W. Va. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

THE PHILIPPINES.

FACTS ABOUT THE ISLANDS.

Their Population and Commerce.

A mail report from Consul Williams to the State Department of a recent date from Manila gives a full description of the Philippine Islands, their resources, growth of American trade, etc., and will be incorporated in the next volume issued by the Bureau of Statistics of the State Department.

Local and European authorities estimate the area of the Philippine Islands at 150,000 square miles and their population at 15,000,000. The island of Luzon, on which the city of Manila is situated, is larger than New York and Massachusetts and has a population of 5,000,000, and the island of Mindanao is nearly, it not quite as large. There are scores of other islands. An idea of the extent of the population of the Philippines may be formed when it is stated that the six New England States and New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware have ten per cent less area and population.

Mr. Williams states that 22 consulates represented the leading commercial countries of the world are established at Manila. He adds the surprising statement: "The volume of the export trade coming under my official supervision, equals of my 21 consular colleagues combined."

He then shows in detail how the trade of the Philippines with the United States exceeds that of all the other countries combined and is growing at a remarkable rate. As indicating the extent of this trade he says: "To-day I have authenticated invoices for export to United States amounting to \$138,066."

He says the exports to this country average \$1,000,000 a month.

In a previous report, dated Feb. 10, Mr. Williams stated that Manila had just passed through a most devastating fire, the total loss being \$2,500,000. He said the city would have been totally destroyed had it not been for the splendid service of an American fire engine brought from Seneca Falls, N. Y.

In another report Mr. Williams gives the railroad and ocean steamship facilities of the Philippines. The main railroad from Manila is first class, having steel rails, stone culverts and English engines which make 45 miles an hour. There are four steamship lines to Hong Kong and a monthly line from Manila to Liverpool.

Besides these direct reports from the United States Consul, the State Department has a gazetteer published at Hong Kong which gives full account of conditions in the Philippines. It shows that by the last census the population of Manila was 160,000 natives, 61,000 Chinese, 4,100 Spaniards and 250 Europeans other than Spaniards. The town is made up of low buildings, as the people are in constant dread of earthquakes. One of these convulsions killed 300 people, and the last one, in 1880, wrecked most of the town. The city proper is within walls; here the government buildings are located. The residence and business portions are in the suburbs. There are six daily papers, three banks, a mint, a chamber of commerce and complete electric light and telephone plants. The Mexican dollar is in general use.

Cleaning the Poultry House.

Selected. During the summer months it is a serious matter to allow the droppings to accumulate, as they serve as a harboring place for the lice when dry. The proper mode is to sweep the poultry house every morning with a broom and then to scatter dry dirt on the floor and under the roosts. The dry dirt makes the sweeping an easier matter if the sweeping is done daily, but if postponed for two or three days some of the droppings will stick to the floor. It is but a few minutes' work if plenty of dirt is used. After sweeping the floor place the droppings in a barrel or throw them on the land. There will be sufficient dirt with them to preserve them. If the floor, after being swept, is well dusted with air-slacked lime once a week and dirt scattered over the lime, it will serve to assist in preventing lice; but the lime will injure the droppings some, though it matters not, provided the droppings are at once spread on the lands. When the droppings accumulate, the result is ammonia and odors in the poultry house which are disagreeable to the hens, often compelling them to roost outside.

Children like it, it saves their lives. We mean One Minute Cough Cure, the infallible remedy for coughs, colds, John Sledge, Freed, Calhoun Co., W. Va. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

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From FACTORY TO CONSUMER. \$1.39 buy a made-to-order-measure All-Wool Cheviot Suit, express prepaid to your station. Write for free catalogue and samples. Address (as per below) JULIUS HINES & SON, Dept. 909, BALTIMORE, MD.

Canada Seen in Mirage from Rochester.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. One of the most pronounced and pleasing mirages that was ever seen from Rochester was noticeable yesterday afternoon, and, through the peculiar powers of the strange freak of nature, Canada's shores could be plainly seen with the naked eye, as could also what appeared to be woods on the shore of the northern boundary of old Ontario.

Persons who had occasion to look toward the north yesterday late in the afternoon know that although the rain continued to make the inhabitants of Rochester miserable, in the north it was clear as the pink sky showed. Between the pink and the American shore of Lake Ontario could distinctly be seen the opposite shore of the great body of water. The lake is about sixty miles wide directly opposite Rochester, so that those who saw the mirage looked through about sixty-seven miles of space and saw land.

With the aid of a glass the trees on the opposite side could be seen to better advantage. The long strip of lead-colored shore and the water contrasted well with the pink sky beyond, the whole forming a pretty picture. No boats were to be seen on the lake, however. Lake Ontario seemed to be little wider than the Genesee above the city and it was difficult for some to believe that they really saw Canada.

Those who keep track of the strange things called mirages say that every year about this time one can be seen. They come just as the storms are disappearing. The one that was visible yesterday may be seen to better advantage this morning.

When The Mistress is "Lady."

In the May Ladies' Home Journal, Edward W. Bok notes that "the college year now nearing its close has a significant importance in the fact that during it the higher education of the young woman has shown a strong domestic trend. This has been true of nearly all the important women's colleges throughout the land. It is true that the field has only been entered. But the beginning has been made, and the domestic course has proven, in every instance heard from, the most popular innovation of recent years. * * * There is only one true solution of the servant-girl problem, and it must be shared, part and part each, by the servant and mistress. Before we have intelligent service in our homes we must have domestic training-schools, just as we have manual training-schools. Here and there in our country these schools are springing up, and they will multiply fast when their necessity and results are better understood and seen. Well-equipped training schools will produce well-equipped service, and domestic service will, through their influence, become an art and a profession. * * * But while the servant is undergoing her domestic training, it is equally necessary that the mistress should become better acquainted with the domestic arts so that she may intelligently direct, where the other intelligently works. These two must go together: the one without the other is not enough. If the girl of to-day expects, when she is a wife, that her servant shall do her work in a competent manner, she, as the mistress, must be competent to direct. She must herself understand the work she asks her maid to do."

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