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# THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.  
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## THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

**Points and Paragraphs of Things  
Present, Past and Future.**  
It is a little remarkable how some people cheekily ask any and everything of a newspaper, and then when an agent calls to collect a year or two subscription already due, they get pouty and say they don't believe the paper is worth much any way. Let such an individual build a hen coop with a notched roof and he will blaze like fury if the paper does not mention it, especially if said hen coop is white-washed—whether in the Tom Sawyer style or not.

In speaking with a man of considerable observation a few days ago, we were struck with a remark touching the interest which the boarding schools in this, as well as other towns, ought to take in temperance work. He said parents, other things being equal, greatly prefer to send their boys and girls to the schools that are freest and farthest from the influences of intemperance. School principals may stick a pin here, and they do well to encourage vigorously every possible influence for temperance.

The Winston Sentinel in giving notice of a competitive examination for a scholarship at the Peabody Normal College, Nashville, Tenn., says that the use of tobacco in any way is a disqualification for a scholarship. Mr. Stuart H. Smith, of Scotland Neck, who was a student in that institution three years, says that the strictest surveillance is maintained against the use of tobacco amongst the students. It has been stated that 90 per cent. of cigarette smokers are rejected from army service.

The college commencements have been very successful in this State this year. A few weeks ago when the war excitement was running so high it was feared that the general attention would be so diverted from schools that the commencements would be poor and not do justice to the institutions. It is gratifying to note that such has not been the case.

North Carolina needs nothing more than general intelligence, along with the common sense that makes a man understand that education does not unfit him for manual labor. Let our young men and young women learn to work as well as to read languages and write pretty essays.

Dealing in "futures" is considered by conservative people as a dangerous thing from a business standpoint; and by most earnest Christians, questionable from a moral standpoint. The Winston Sentinel prints the following pointed paragraph:

"A big Atlanta firm has gone to the wall because one of its members was a gambler in futures. Woe unto those who pin their faith to the alluring, but demoralizing and destructive bucket shops. Like strong drink, at the last they bite like a serpent and sting like an adder. Beware of them."

Mr. Washington Duke's princely gift of a hundred thousand dollars to Trinity College a few days ago, makes his gifts to that institution aggregate nearly half million dollars. The News & Observer gives a timely hint in the following paragraph:

"While everybody is congratulating Trinity college upon its recent good fortune, and deserved fortune, too, there are many citizens of Raleigh who are hoping that some generous Baptist will be moved to give enough to complete the Baptist University, and generous Episcopalians to give liberally to the purchase of St. Mary's school. Rich men cannot put their money to a better purpose than to invest in immortal mind."

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## WISE HANDS NEEDED.

**DIPLOMACY OF THE FUTURE DEMANDS THEM.**  
Present Day Thoughts.  
BY "NEMO."

(Copyrighted by Dawe & Tabor.)

Away from that which is known, onward to that which is unknown; away from the thing that has been and is, onward to the thing that is not but will be; this is life! It is stagnation, it is death to try to live any other way. The necessity is on us to be ever moving forward out of the bright light of that which is understood, into the partial darkness of the next open door that conceals undreamed-of happiness or disaster. Very naturally, there is a feeling of apprehension and shuddering and protest as Time, like a train, hurries us across plains decked with flowers and then rushes with terrifying roar past jagged and dangerous rocks and mayhap suddenly suspends us over chasms whose depths mean destruction to those who fall therein. Yet what is this but life? Viewed aright it is a joy never to stand still; viewed wrongly it is a thing to fear; and feared mostly by those who have gained least of that which is best from the hurrying events of life as they have whirled by.

Once again let us turn these individual analogies, whose truth everyone sees, into national teachings whose truths some of us are slow to see. Naturally one needs must in these stirring times take as a text for thought the present conflict. For truth's sake and because of the sacred honor that is the underlying current of our national life, no matter how contrarywise surface storms may be, we have contended that there is a quality of mercy and of great dignity in what we are doing. Yet who among us is wise enough to see fully in advance the new vistas of progress or temptation to which the rush of events is leading us? It is easy for the superficial ones to talk of a nation as though it were in a fixed and unchangeable state, like an Egyptian mummy wrapped in the pitch and cerements and preservatives of antiquity. But the nation that lives and moves and has a being instinct with progress, is least of all like a mummy and those who would swathe it with rigid bands may indeed distort it but they cannot repress it. There is a tendency to always hark back to our own remotest past, with the credulous feeling that the men of those days had been prophets who foresaw, as in a vision, all that would happen to us and made constitutional provision to meet it. Yet without detracting a particle from the value of their work we know that the articles of confederation of 1781, had to give place to the constitution of 1787, and that, in turn, has been amended fifteen times.

This evidence of change is no sign of indecision, but simply an evidence of growth. Our ancestors could not possibly have foreknown the great surging western wave of population nor could they know that the climate of the south and the development of the cotton-gin and the labor conditions that went with it would serve almost to tear apart every strand of union, nor could they have realized that the state jealousies of the early years would have so vanished by now that we scarcely have a remnant of state distrust left. These things are here set forth merely to accentuate the fact that vitality means change, and that change is simply readjustment to new conditions as they have appeared.

We already see as we advance in our charitable warfare that the one simple aim, to aid the Cubans, will be complicated by a number of new relations and responsibilities. We are going to be much in the condition of the country lad who is suddenly transported from the isolation of the farm to the crowded walks of the city. He has to keep on the right side of the way or upset himself and his fellows; he has to hold his elbows in and learn an entirely new set of social rules. So shall we; the end of the war is going to leave us utterly removed from the compact isolation of the past. We shall no longer be able to live for our selves or to ourselves. Whether we will it or not much more definite international relations

M. L. Yocum, Cameron, Pa., says: "I was a sufferer for ten years, trying most all kinds of pile remedies, but without success. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve was recommended to me. I used one box. It has affected a permanent cure." As a permanent cure for piles DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve has no equal.—E. T. Whitehead & Co.

friendship or of antagonism will be ours to confront. And we shall find that the diplomacy of the future will be much more sensitive than in the past because of our very apparent predilections for the English speaking in opposition to the Latin races.

We shall also find that our form of government, hitherto adjusted, with the exception of icy and darksome Alaska, to states that touch their fellow states on one or more sides, will have to be so extended or amended as to take in the administration, either permanently or otherwise, of remote colonies. Among these will certainly be the Philippines, unless Spain suddenly cedes them to another nation and that in itself would be a serious problem, with hostilities far more extended than they are at present with our seventh-rate opponent. Other territory in all likelihood will comprise Porto Rico, held for indemnification, and Cuba held for a time sufficient to permit the inauguration of a smooth running government of its own. Each of these departures will bring us into entirely new areas of international sensitiveness; we shall be part and parcel of the great Eastern question—the control of the brown Malay and the partition of the lands of the senile Chinaman,—and on the Atlantic coast the turmoil consequent upon the destruction of Spain will be ours to quiet.

Thus the open door of our latest duty shows us a broad horizon that we did not dream of before. Wise hands are needed, unswayed by party bias, uninfluenced by a desire for notoriety, but held as in a vise, to a determinate purpose to spend and to be spent in effort that shall still tend to perpetuate the growth in grandeur and leadership of this our dear country, carved at such an expense of effort, from the wilds of the western world. We shall go further with this line of thought.

## Sorry he Learned.

North Carolina Telegram.  
"Did you ever know the difference between a boy who has been brought up with girls and one who has not? The one whose acquaintance with girls of his own age has been slight is apt to be awkward and unobscuring; whereas, the boy who has breathed an atmosphere of feminine influence notices the occasions for the small politenesses of life.  
The speaker was a young woman who had had experiences, and she proceeded to unfold them.  
"I was thrown last summer," she went on, "with a college boy who had no sisters, nor cousins, nor aunts, to polish him off. At Yale he had studied hard, and had not 'wasted his time,' as he would have called it, on girls' affairs. He didn't know how to do the few thousand small services that women like, and as he was really clever and nice, I proceeded forthwith to polish him. I never went for anything I wanted. He had to go on all my errands. I dropped my scissors, or book, or parasol, fifty times a day to teach him to pick them up. At first I had to remind him, but after a while he did it quite naturally; and at the end of the season he thanked me sincerely.  
"The sequel came a few days ago, when I received a letter from him reproaching me ruefully for having made him ridiculous. 'I'm always jumping around to help people when I'd better let them alone,' he says. 'The fellows can't drop a pencil in class but I find myself sprawling on the floor after it before I stop to think. It will take years to undo the diabolical work of last summer.'"

## Was it Providential?

Norfolk Virginian and Pilot.  
On Monday a physician was called to see a widow lady who was sick and had three children depending on her for support, and had no means of ministering to their needs, nor to buy medicine. Soon after the doctor left the house and was in a deep study of her sad case, he met a gentleman who asked him if he knew of any one in distress, as he had promised his dying mother that he would never work on Sunday, and if he should have to do so he would donate it to some poor person, and that he had made \$15 by working on Sunday and wanted to carry out his promise. The doctor told him of the case he had just left and the gentleman immediately bought provisions and ministrations and sent them to the lady, but refused to allow his name to be used when they were delivered. It can truly be said in this case that the ways of Providence are mysterious.

A torpid liver robs you of ambition and ruins your health. DeWitt's Little Early Bile Beans cleanse the liver, cure constipation and all stomach and liver troubles.—E. T. Whitehead & Co.

## ARMY RATIONS.

**THE GOVERNMENT DRAWING HEAVILY ON THE COUNTRY'S FOOD SUPPLY.**

One of the Most Difficult Problems of the War is How to Feed Soldiers in the Field—What Constitutes a Ration.

New York Sun.  
One of the most difficult problems of war has always been the feeding of an army in the field. Various plans have been tried from time to time by the different countries of the world to supply the troops with a food that would nourish and sustain them through long marches and hard times and at the same time be as compact and light as possible, so that it could be easily carried. The Governments of the United States, France and Germany have experimented for many years for the purpose of finding out what constitutes such a food, but with no definite results.

Numberless beef tablets and extracts have been manufactured and offered as substitutes for what the soldier now eats, but all have been rejected on the ground that while they might do in an emergency they would not prove of much use in a prolonged campaign. The average soldier prefers his beef and pork to a tablet, no matter whether it is easily carried or not.

In our army to-day the soldiers generally carry from one to three days' rations in his knapsack. Very rarely does he carry more than enough for three days, unless the regiment is making a forced march or is far from its base of supplies. Under no circumstances does he carry more than ten days' rations, which is a very heavy load. A man's rations for a day consist of the following: Beef, 20 ounces; or mutton, 20 ounces; or pork, 12 ounces; or bacon, 22 ounces; flour, 20 ounces; or 1 pound of hardtack. Vegetables, such as beans, rice or peas, in small quantities, and coffee, sugar and potatoes.

The meat bill is sometimes varied, so that instead of beef or mutton the troops have dried, fresh or pickled fish. When in camp the men generally have fresh bread, but in the field the hardtack and salt beef takes the place of soft bread and fresh beef. The advantage of salt beef lies in the fact that it keeps much more readily than fresh. Fresh beef and pork are practically useless in a warm climate.

In each company there is a Commissary Sergeant, who attends to the rations of his company. He is next in command to the regimental Commissary Sergeant, who, in turn, is subject to the orders of the Commissary of the brigade. At meal time the Commissary Sergeants see that the rations of each man are turned over to the company cooks, who prepare them. A supply wagon-train usually follows the troops, but it sometimes happens that the army strikes off from its source of supplies and depends on the country throughout which it is passing to furnish sufficient food.

Often the soldiers economize, and by saving part of their rations sell what remains back to the Government. With the money thus procured they buy sugar, candles or other necessities.

Just now an enormous quantity of supplies is being shipped from the East and West to Chickamauga and other mustering points. Carloads of canned and fresh meats leave constantly from Chicago, Kansas City and Omaha. The Government has established supply depots at the most important and convenient points throughout the country and the stores are assembled there.

The big meat packing firms make a contract with the Government to furnish so much meat, and the great demand under these firms has resulted in raising the price of meat considerably. Since the beginning of the war pork, bacon and beef have continued to advance in price.

A prominent army officer who is now stationed in New York City, in speaking about the army said: "We have men come in here every day with samples of beef extracts and tablets, which they offer in the hope that the Government will buy from them. Here is something from a New York manufacturer," he continued, picking up a small vial holding about one ounce of liquid.

"This, its agent says, will take the place of half a pound of beef, but I doubt if it does. I don't think I should want to live on this stuff."

"You see, the principal thing in preparing food for the soldiers is to find something which is as free as possible from water. To compress the meat is the proper way to get the water out of it, and the canned beefs which are made by the Western firms are about the best thing yet offered for any army food which has the qualities of being both light and nourishing."

doubt if it does. I don't think I should want to live on this stuff.

"In the Franco-Prussian War the Germans thought they had discovered the correct thing in a sort of small usage. It was found to be of little use, however, when it came to the test. It has been the same way with everything else of the kind."

"What does it mean when we hear that a regiment of 1,000 men has ten days' rations?" was asked.

"It simply means," he answered, "that each man has rations for ten days, a very unusual thing by the way. It takes about 750 pounds of pork or bacon to supply 1,000 men, or 1,250 pounds of fresh beef. Mutton is sometimes used when it is no higher in price than beef, and a regiment of 1,000 men would need about 800 pounds of that. Beans, rice and peas are carried in small quantities, and we also allow a little salt, vegetables and sugar."

"The food list is slightly different when the regiment is traveling from what it is in camp. When a body of men is on a journey we generally give out what we call 'traveling rations' for so many days. After four days of traveling we allow each soldier one pound of canned tomatoes, but when the men get to camp they resume the regular diet. Here is a table of traveling rations. This will suffice for 100 men for one day: Soft bread, 112 pounds; or hardtack, 100 pounds; canned beef, 75 pounds; baked beans, 1-pound cans, 33 pounds; coffee (roasted), 8 pounds; sugar, 5 pounds, and coffee (raw), 10 pounds."

## The Sword for Dewey.

Washington Evening Star.  
The sword to be presented to Admiral Dewey, under the act of Congress providing for this special mark of distinction for his bravery at Manila, will be one of the most beautiful weapons ever made. Already the artistic ingenuity of the best swordmakers and jewelers of the country, and, indeed, of the entire world, has been excited, and the Navy Department has already more than fifty designs for the "Dewey sword." They are marked by great beauty of design, some of the blades being wrought with figures emblematic of the famous battle in Manila bay, while the hilt and scabbard of steel, gold, and silver, are studded with jewels and highly-wrought marine emblems, such as Neptunes, dolphins, mermaids, capstans, anchors, etc. Thus far the department has not taken up the matter of selecting a design. The board to select a design will probably consist of Acting-Secretary Allen, Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and one of the professors of the Annapolis Naval Academy. The same board will decide upon the designs for the medals which Congress has authorized as a mark of special distinction to all of the officers and crews of the ships taking part in the battle of Manila.

## How to Stop Coughing.

Selected.  
The following is from a doctor connected with an institution in this city where there are many children: "There is nothing more irritable to a cough than coughing. For some time I had been so fully assured of this that I determined for one minute at least, to lessen the number of coughs heard in a certain ward in a hospital of the institution. By the promise of rewards and punishments I succeeded in inducing them to simply hold their breath when tempted to cough, and in a little while I was myself surprised to see how some of the children entirely recovered from the disease. Constant coughing is precisely like scratching a wound on the outside of the body. So long as it is done the wound will not heal. Let a person when tempted to cough draw a long breath and hold it until it warms and soothes every air cell, and some benefit will soon be received from this process. The nitrogen which is thus refined acts as an anodyne to the mucous membrane, allaying the desire to cough and giving the throat and lungs a chance to heal. At the same time a suitable medicine will aid nature in her efforts to recuperate."

A little boy asked for a bottle of "get up in the morning as fast as you can," the druggist recognized a household name for "DeWitt's Little Early Bile Beans" and gave him a bottle of those famous little pills for constipation, sick headache, liver and stomach troubles.—E. T. Whitehead & Co.

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## Southern Hospitality.

Winston Sentinel.  
Southern hospitality has become proverbial. It manifests itself upon all proper occasions. It is not stiff and formal, nor is it a dress parade character. It is but the outward expression of gentility and warm heartedness—a desire to make everybody within our gates feel thoroughly at home. Such hospitality is a revelation to those who come from sections where it does not exist—where cold formality is the rule and the principle of every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost prevails—where it is business first, last and all the time, and where civilities are based largely upon the calculation as to how much can be made out of them—properties so frigid that they make a genial, big-hearted fellow feel as if he had been put on ice for safe keeping.

The hospitality of the South is not checked by war and the troops are to be congratulated that the points of mobilization are in the South. Wherever there is a camp it is the pleasure of the people to contribute to the comfort of the soldiers and from every point to the South from which volunteers have gone there has been tangible solicitude for the bodily welfare of the men, as well as wishes for their safe return, etc.

We noticed the statement some days ago that along the streets of Jacksonville had been placed barrels of ice water for the benefit of the troops stationed there and how much this thoughtfulness was appreciated by the boys. We thought that is but an expression of Southern hospitality.

The women of the South have always been noted for their great kindness and gentleness, as well as for their modesty and beauty, and the following tribute to the kindness of the women of Florida, by the Jacksonville Metropolis, is likewise applicable to the women of all parts of the South where the opportunity for such acts has been presented. The Metropolis says:

"The women all over this State are proving themselves just as patriotic as the men. Before the volunteer troops had been in camp a week the good women set about organizing plans to supply their wants and to make them as contented and as cheerful while away from the loved ones at home as possible. The Jacksonville boys are fortunate, indeed, in having such true friends as the women who stood by the Southern soldiers in the war of 1860-65 so nobly and proved their devotion by acts of heroic self sacrifice to a cause they believed just."

"Such kindly acts of the women as are now being manifested encourage men to do their whole duty. They feel that they have loved ones at home who have a pride in them and that it would be dishonorable to prove recreant to the sacred trust assumed. A brave man had rather die on the field than to bring dishonor on his people."

What we are in is much more to us than what we do.—George Herbert.

## Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that contain Mercury.

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and is made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonial: free.  
Sold by Druggists, price 75c. per bottle.