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## Fandim Rumbum Rature

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## The Commonwealth

|  |  |  |  | 1898. NO. 39 |
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| TEE FDITOB'S LMSURE HOURS. <br> Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future. <br> Some one remarks that one of the results of the war with Spain will be cheapor coffee. The best coffee in the world comes, it is said, from Porto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines. This being true the quickening of American enterprise at those points will bring results to the coffee consumers in this country which have not yet been calculated. $\qquad$ <br> From conversation with ministers and others who have been engaged and interested in special meetings, this seems a bad season for religious revivals. We heard one minister of the gospel say recently that the people whom he has seen seem callous at heart and cold and indifferent to the elaims of the gospel. <br> Perhaps it comes from the extremely high political pressure in North Carolina now. But the faithful ministers will work on casting their bread upon the waters hoping to see it "atter many days." They are amongst our truest patriots. <br> Col. J. W. St. Claire, of Georgia, who is here in Scotland Neck to conduet a school of the single branch system, says that he taught schoul in Onslow county for Cy Thompson's father just after the war. He says Cy was a bright boy and gave promise of better things than he seems to be trying to bring to pass now, namely, turn North Carolina over to Republican rule for good and all. <br> No doubt Cy had good training but he is like the boy's goat, he has got in bad company. Those who loved him then might, like the boy to his goat, say "Bilhe, I love you, but I must part from you for the company you keep." <br> The Commonwealti has from time to time catled the attention of its farm- | PRINCIPLES AND HABITS OF <br> YOUTH THE KEY TO AFTER <br> Life. <br> BY REV. JAMES G. K. MCCLURE, D. D., IN <br> SATURDAY EVENING POST. <br> I. <br> In her gymnasium Yale has a tro-phy-room. Many a graduate feels his blood stifred as he enters it. The emblems of contest, flag and cup, oar and all, arouse the memory. Scenes of the past become vivid-the surging crowd, the excited faces, the shouts of yictory. Other days are lived over again, and there is joy and inspiration in recalling them. <br> The setting up ot trophies is a custom as old as history ; all ancient peoples did it. The Greeks put shields and helmets on a tree of the battle-ground if it were a land victory, and beaks of conquered vessels on the nearest coast it it were a sea yictory. The Romans did differently. They carried their trophies to some prominent spot in Rome itself. Still differently did the Egyptians and the Israelities, who deposited their trophles in their temples. <br> Youth-time trophies! It is Southey who says: "Live as long as you may, the first twenty years form the greater part of your life. They appear so when they are passing; they seem to have been so when we look back to them; and they take up more room in our memory than all the years which succeed them." Victories won then mean more than victories won later. Never is a man so conscious of the sweets of triumph and so elated by the joys of success as in his earlier years. The shout that greeted David when he conquered Goliath sank deeper into his heart and memory than any shout he ever heard afterward. To succeed in the contests of youth, whatever their sphere, social, literary, political, athletic, is to have an experience of pleasure that is scarcely surpassed in all one's life. <br> Besides, youth is like the Nile's | ed norse take the bit in his teeth to run as he will, can expect to escape peril. A man's body is God's temple, and God never allows sacrilege to his temple to go unchallenged and uncondemned. But if with earnest desire to conserve its sacredness a man stores away all possible physical vigor, he will find, in after-years, as David found with Goliath's sword, that the purity and self-control of his youth stand him in good stead in the hours of exposure. <br> Intellectual discipline is another trophy to be won in youth. Let the distinction between discipline and knowledge be kept clear. What an educated youth needs is capability to apply his mind-investigating, comparing, combining, drawing deductions -and then to put the full force of that mind into the work undertaken. Better than uniyersal knowledge is power to use limited knowledge. Too much knowledge there cannot be, but knowledge without the ability to use it is an impediment, not a help. He who fails in youth to learn how to ponder facts and arrange them is at a great disadvantage when caught in the hurry and competition of after-years. Neither merchants nor engineers, generals nor scholars, can do their work successfully with minds undisciplined. As much solid, penetrating thought may be required in railroading as in teaching, in banking as in editing. The, success of a college youth in the industry to which he gives himselt will depend largely on his power to think. It be acquires that, then he may go withersoever Providence calls him and he need not be afraid to attempt his work. The man who can use aight two facts will always be stronger than the man who has a hundred faets, but who cannot use them. <br> And now for moral trophies. One such is habits. In youth we form them, and then in age they form us. At first they are our metbod of life, and at last they are our life itself. Once they involved conscious effiort, later they seem automatic. Care entered into the first writing of our signature, but now we write that signature almost as unconcernedly as a machine prints. <br> Habits of good can thas become the protection of our maturity. They are the chief dependence on which a man | mastery that will give him a victor's sense of power. He will be too highsouled to mind low and dishonorable things. They may throng about him, but they cannot appeal to him. <br> This matter of reveronce; what a safeguard it is when it is reverence for God and for what manifests God! Certainly no one may expect youth to estimate all objects as manhood does. Youth is not asked to be as sedate as age. Its very nature is sprightly. But if youth, whatever its sprightliness, will continually hold itself to a reverenttal use of God's name, of God's house, of God's worship, ot God's Bible, yes, and of every fact that in nature, in the soul, and in history reveals God, youth will have laid up a condition of mind that will be its salvation when doubt contemptuously asks, "What is truth ?" For if there is reverence for the real and an earnest purpose to exalt highest the best things of life, ycuth has a panoply that all the hosts of mental and moral confusion cannot pierce. But if there is no anch reverence failure is sure. Once I saw my own class-mate, urged to a stronger, better life, throw himself on a sofa and with tears in his eyes hopelessly answer: "It is no use. I cannot do it. I have yielded to wrong so often that I have no will power left. I cannot resolve to do right." It was a pitiful scene ; a charming, popular young man looking for an instant beneath the surface of things, and heiplessly declaring himself the slave of a powerless will! And all because throughout his youth he had habitualiy vielded to the poorer elements of his nature and had allowed an impotent will to become his lasting characteristic. <br> But there is one more sphere for youth-time trophies, and that a great one-memories. <br> All youth is filling itself up with memories, but no youth seems to have such happy opportunities for memories as college youth. Memories 1 They are almost the largest, if not, in fact, the very largest, part of what a man keops with him when long years have passed since he was a college youth. Why shotid those memories ever shame our liearts or tinjure our power in manhood? What a mistake | STRANGEST OF <br> ALL TOWBRR $\qquad$ <br> A Unique Monument for the Paris Exposition. $\qquad$ <br> THE BUILDNG WILL R\&VOLVE. $\qquad$ <br> A Huge Structure, Covered With Electric Lights, Which Will Turn by Means of hydraulic Apparatus. $\qquad$ <br> Philadelphin Record. <br> "One step further than than the Ferris Wheel of Chicago and two further than our own Eiffel Tower." That is the promise made by the promoters of the "Revolving Tower" which is to ke built for the Paris Exposition of 1900. This monument was designed by M. |


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