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THE COMMONWEALTH

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We are sure you do not. Nobody wants it. But it comes to many thousands every year. It comes to those who have had coughs and colds until the throat is raw, and the lining membranes of the lungs are inflamed. Stop your cough when it first appears, and you remove the great danger of future trouble.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

stops coughs of all kinds. It does so because it is a soothing and healing remedy of great power. This makes it the greatest preventive to consumption.

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 Business Phones, \$2.00 per month.
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 Two of either for 3.00 " "

It is our purpose to give good service, and to this end we ask all subscribers to report promptly any irregularities in the service.

Our signed contracts prohibit the use of phones except by subscribers, and we request that this rule be rigidly enforced.

CURE the grippe with Roberts' Tasteless Chill Tonic. 25c. Delightful to take. Try it.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS

Points and Paragraphs of Things Present, Past and Future.

The passing of Roberts from Washington back to his plurality of wives by the order of the Congress of which he was elected a member, emphasizes the attitude of the American mind towards the sacred vow of matrimony.

As we have the altar vow it is that the husband shall love and cherish one woman only as his wife, and that is the teaching of God in his Holy Book on the subject of marriage.

Are the young men of the present showing as much concern about real mind training as did the young men of former times? Has not the spirit of money-making, together with the disposition for a "good time," as they call it, turned the minds of the young men of to-day from a deep-seated desire for knowledge? "Knowledge is power," is as true now as ever it has been, but it is to be feared that too few of our young people desire that kind of power.

It has already been realized that lumber is getting scarce in this region, and it is time our people were paying more attention to the protection of the forests. High prices in the lumber market have a tendency to cause the forests more and more to be devastated. With the present rapid consumption of timber in certain quarters, the lumber with which to build houses will soon have to be shipped from one community to another. The forests ought to be protected, and instead of clearing them for fresh agricultural lands, worn out lands ought to be reclaimed.

Senators Pritchard and Butler have shown themselves good and worthy yoke-fellows of late. Pritchard's resolution in Congress and Butler's declaration before the Populist committee in Raleigh breathe the same hatred to whatever does not make for their personal advantage. Politicians for what there is in it is what they are proving themselves to be. The "gang" to which Butler referred will prove too strong for their resistance, and he might as well turn to use as soon as possible what he has been able to get out of his recent law course.

The cotton milling interest is growing faster in North Carolina than in any other State in the Union, perhaps. Some over-cautions persons, when asked to lend their aid in a substantial way to the establishing of a cotton mill, express their fears that the business will be over-done. But let it be set down for good that the cotton milling business will not again flourish in the North as it has in times past. The climate and other things in the South make it possible for this particular industry to flourish here more than in the North; and there is no reason to fear that the milling business will be over done here.

What American poet has written a poem that will make immortal the destruction of the Spanish fleet at Santiago? Lynn Roby Meekins writes for the Saturday Evening Post: "How many would recall to-day the charge of the Light Brigade—magnificently heroic as it was—if Tennyson had not written his undying lines?" He further writes that the British have done some wonderful things since the Six Hundred stormed the hills at Balaklava, but nothing of it all is so fresh in the minds of the people of to-day as the charge of the Light Brigade.

Perhaps the destruction of the Spanish fleet has already been made immortal by some of our poets, but if so we have not seen it. And if it has not been done THE COMMONWEALTH calls upon Frank Stanton or some other poet to give the world a poem on the great naval feat.

"SERVICE," THE TOUCHSTONE.

Better Fail Striving Than Not To Strive.

PRESENT DAY THOUGHTS.

BY "GROSVENOR."

Written for The Commonwealth.
 Be not of the tribe that sit back and find fault; be of those who set forth and strive. "Just doing things" may not gain for you so great a reputation for wisdom, as lazily telling how to do; yet you have chosen the better part even though the harder. Wise head-wagglers are nothing compared with one clear-visioned purpose worked out seriously. It does not take a particularly wise man to discover defects in the sun; it does take a very wise man to understand its full glory and power, notwithstanding the spots. Any short-sighted creature who thinks that he himself rises higher by discovering defects in others, can find out slimy things and bugs in the grandest tree that ever did its forest duty; but it takes a man with a feeling soul to stand far enough away to see no defects and to admire the symmetry of the leafy giant.

It is better to strive and fail, than not to strive at all. Neither criticism nor eye-needle of our own shortcomings should deter us from working out as best we can the purposes within us. In all probability we are here only once, and after that so far as the world is concerned, only the working of the thread of our doings into the tapestry of the world's wide life. Then why not do our little fearlessly? The man who works knows something of the lust of battle; the man who finds fault has no such joy. It takes the strength of manhood to produce any noticeable result in the world; how less than nothing, therefore, is the total value of scoffing at effort. The tarty fruits of long endeavor are sweeter to look at than the skeletons of the destroyed efforts of others.

The only one who has the right to criticize is he who has earned his right by the blood and the sweat of his endeavor; yet even then not a right to criticize methods and means, but only inaction. The crime of doing nothing, hoping nothing, expecting nothing, foreseeing nothing, prophesying nothing is one that does have the right to denounce. Stress and strain free the wings; inaction keeps us slothful worms.

The world does not clamor for advice but it demands service—service that is our own and not dissections of our neighbors. The test-stone of all striving ones is "Service." No man who is spending and being spent for his day and the days to come, can be wrong, no matter how much his methods may differ from ours. His working makes all things well; just as the motion of the waters in the well of Scripture carried healing in their turmoil. The worker beside us may be out of touch with us; even out of sympathy; possibly quite wrong from our point of view—but none of us is ALL right—but the immutable laws of the good universe will bring his dross to naught, while the silver and the gold of him will endure. More hands across chasms of misunderstanding will be a fittingly progressive and humane ushering in of the century.

DR. BULL'S COUGH SYRUP is a remarkable medicine. A dry, tickling, hacking cough, the warning that consumption lurks near, needs no other doctor but Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. It positively cures throat and lung troubles.

Tilling of soil is the most healthful, delightful, and independent pursuit of man.

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We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, Ohio.
 We the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.
 West & Traub Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
 Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Testimonials free.
 Hall's Family Pills are the best.

Fowls without grit are like old people without teeth, unable to digest their food properly.

CASTORIA.
 The Kind You Have Always Bought
 Bears the Signature of
 J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

The Amendment.

The following is the amendment to article 6 of the State constitution, adopted by the General Assembly of 1899, and to be submitted to the voters for ratification next August:

Section 1. That article VI of the constitution of North Carolina be, and the same is hereby abrogated, and in lieu thereof shall be substituted the following article of said constitution:

ARTICLE VI.

SUFFRAGE AND ELIGIBILITY TO OFFICE—QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR.

Section 1. Every male person born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, twenty-one years of age, and possessing the qualifications set out in this article, shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people in the State, except as herein otherwise provided.

Sec. 2. He shall have resided in the State of North Carolina for two years, in the county six months, and in the precinct, ward or other election district in which he offers to vote, four months next preceding the election; provided, That removal from one precinct, ward or other election district to another in the same county, shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in the precinct, ward or other election district from which he has removed, until four months after such removal. No person who has been convicted, or who has confessed his guilt in open court upon indictment of any crime the punishment of which is, or may hereafter be, imprisonment in the State prison, shall be permitted to vote, unless the said person shall be first restored to citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 3. Every person offering to vote shall be at the time a legally registered voter as herein prescribed and in the manner hereinafter prescribed by law, and the General Assembly of North Carolina shall enact general registration laws to carry into effect the provisions of this article.

Sec. 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the constitution in the English language; and, before he shall be entitled to vote, have paid on or before the first day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax as prescribed by law, for the previous year. Poll taxes shall be a lien only on assessed property, and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property.

Sec. 5. No male person who was, on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person, shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications prescribed in section 4 of this article: Provided, he shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to December 1, 1908. The General Assembly shall provide for a permanent record of all persons who register under this section on or before November 1, 1908, and all such persons shall be entitled to register and vote at all elections by the people in this State, unless disqualified under section 2 of this article: Provided, such persons shall have paid their poll tax as required by law.

Sec. 6. All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by the General Assembly shall be viva voce.

Sec. 7. Every voter in North Carolina, except as in this article disqualified, shall be eligible to office, but before entering upon the duties of the office he shall take and subscribe the following oath: "I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of the United States, and the constitution and laws of North Carolina not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as _____ So help me, God."

Sec. 8. The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, all persons who shall deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted or confessed their guilt on indictment pending, and whether sentenced or not, under judgment suspended, of any treason or felony, or any other crime for which the punishment may be imprisonment in the penitentiary, since becoming citizens of the United States, of corruption and malpractice in office, unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 9. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

THE SLUMS OF NEW YORK.

BUSINESS AND CONVERSATION.

The People And The Lives They Live.

Written for The Commonwealth.

The "Slums" are known by many different names, among which are the "Ghetto," the "East Side" and the "Tenement District." They are inhabited mainly by Polish and Russian Jews and Italians.

To the stranger this section of the city seems more like the old world than of the foremost city of America. The business signs are mostly in Hebrew; conversation is carried on in the Yiddish jargon, a mixture of Hebrew, German and English; the men all wear long beards; the whole aspect of the place bring to one's mind some city of the holy land.

Everywhere filth reigns supreme. Though the streets have been asphalted, as a sanitary measure, they continually reek with filth. Receptacles for all kinds of garbage, fruit skins and refuse, they give rise to an ever-present odor, nauseating in the extreme. It is a common occurrence for the pedestrian to hear a wurdow raised above his head, and looking up, to receive the contents of a dish-pan in his face, if he is not nimble on his feet.

It is in the Ghetto that the "push-cart" man holds high sway. He is an important factor in East Side life. On Fridays, the Hebrew market day, may be seen a continuous succession of "push-carts," extending the whole length of many of the thoroughfares, filled with every conceivable commodity. Here a long-bearded, solemn man stands guard over a load of dried fish; his neighbor jealously watches his pile of half-decayed fruit diminish; while the next man proudly displays his gaudy assortment of hosiery and underwear. To attempt to name the different articles in the long line would be folly. Fruits of all kinds, cheap dry goods, old clothes, hardware, poultry and "hokey-pokey," a kind of ice-cream, are but a few of the varied assortment.

The "pretzel" man, another feature of tenement life, is a rather amusing spectacle. With a rod about five feet long filled with the crisp, ring-like delicacies (?) he solemnly walks the streets, making an occasional sale. How he manages to make a living by this means is a mystery.

The stores are mostly very small. The more humble grocer and butcher shops are in the basement. Their dark windows are decorated with such delicacies as chickens, neatly carved into slices, partly pickled ducks, black bread and little pear-shaped cheeses, mysterious looking affairs. The more pretentious stores are on Grand street, the main thoroughfare of the district.

In summer the streets are filled with crowds of half-naked, dirty children, "guttersnipes," who spend most of their time out of doors trying to escape from the terrible heat of the tenements. Little they know of the joys of childhood. Born and brought up in the tenements, with but a glimpse of the blue sky between the high walls and with but an occasional breath of pure air, they drag out a miserable existence, many of them spending the greater part of their lives in the squalid surroundings of the "slums," with little knowledge of the outside world. Their amusements are few and simple. The happiest days of their lives are when they are compelled to attend the public schools which are scattered throughout the district.

During the hot weather the exterior of the tenements looks as if the whole population had suddenly become possessed of a violent notion to clean

houses. Piled high on all the fire-escapes, gaily decorating the high, bare wall, are huge stacks of beds and bed-clothing. They are placed there partly to get the benefit of the fresh air and partly because about one-half of the people sleep on the roof in hot weather and find the fire escape the most convenient place to store their beds in the daytime.

Once inside the tenements one is oppressed with the damp, stifling odor that pervades the dark halls. The rooms are small and badly ventilated and the people are huddled in them like so many sheep. In some instances the whole of a large family occupies but one or two small rooms. More than a hundred families live in some of the big "double-decker" tenements. This is one of the most thickly populated sections on the globe. Should all the inhabitants of the tenements be suddenly thrown into the street they could not possibly find standing room, so great is their number.

The cold weather brings to these poor people untold suffering. With insufficient clothing to venture upon the frozen street numbers of them must huddle over their little stoves and nurse the spark that is unable to beat back the cold draughts that pour in through the many crevices of the poorly constructed houses. Coal is a luxury to them. When they do buy it, they get such quantities that they are compelled to pay exorbitant prices—twenty-five cents a scuttle. Their food is of the poorest quality, consisting mainly of black-bread and garlic. Lack of proper food, cold, and neglect annually cause the death of thousands of them.

The Italian quarters, Mulberry street and "Little Italy," though a part of the slums, deserve special mention. Nearly all of the foreign race live in colonies and each have their own peculiarities.

In front of about every third door on Mulberry street are tiers of long poles strung with macaroni and spaghetti to dry in the sun. Exposed to the dust and grime of the street they gain several ounces in weight and increase in commercial value by the operation. But your "Dago" never minds dirt. He grows fat on it, taken externally or internally. Should a prize be offered for the dirtiest people on earth the Italians of this neighborhood would have a "walkover." They subsist mainly on macaroni, spaghetti, and garlic, spending but a few cents a day for food. They allow themselves barely enough to live on in this country, but hoard up their money so as to go back to Italy and live comfortably the rest of their days. A dog in America—a lord in Italy.

Much has been done to lessen the sufferings of the dwellers in the slums, and charitably inclined people find in them a broad field for their labors. Numerous parks have been laid out and serve their purpose as "lungs" and several recreation piers have been built along the water front. Some philanthropists have recently fitted up an outdoor free gymnasium in one of the smaller parks and it has proved a great blessing to the boys and young men of the neighborhood. From morning until night may be seen crowds of youths and small boys industriously pounding the punching bag and gaining strength and skill on the trapeze.

Many such charities are combining to steadily improve the condition of the poor, and some day not far distant will probably see the foul dens that abound everywhere wiped out.

RELAX.
 The true way to produce high price is to produce something a little better than can be found elsewhere.

The One Day Cold Cure.
 Cold in head and sore throat cured by Kermet's Chocolate Laxative Quinine. As easy to take as candy. "Children cry for them."

The dairyman who applies his energies faithfully to his business has the least to say about hard times.

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QUART BOTTLES. JUST SEEN IN TIME.

Slight Skin Eruptions are a Warning of Something More Serious to Come. The Only Safe Way to Head the Warning, Johnston's Sarsaparilla is the Most Powerful Blood Purifier Known.

Nature, in her efforts to correct mistakes, which mistakes have come from careless living, or it may be from ancestors, shoots out pimples, blotches and other imperfections on the skin, as a warning that more serious troubles (perhaps tumors, cancers, erysipelas or pulmonary diseases) are certain to follow if you neglect to heed the warning and correct the mistakes.

Many a lingering, painful disease and many an early death has been avoided simply because these notes of warning have been heeded and the blood kept pure by a right use of JOHNSTON'S SARSAPARILLA.

Miss Abbie J. Bende, of Marshall, Mich., writes: "I was cured of a bad humor after suffering with it for five years. The doctors and my friends said it was salt rheum. It came out on my head, neck and ears, and then on my whole body. I was perfectly raw with it. What I suffered during those five years, is no use telling. Nobody would believe me if I did. I tried every medicine that was advertised to cure it. I spent money enough to buy a house. I heard JOHNSTON'S SARSAPARILLA highly praised. I tried a bottle of it. I began to improve right away, and when I had finished the third bottle I was completely cured. I have never had a touch of it since. I never got any thing to do me the least good till I tried JOHNSTON'S SARSAPARILLA. I would heartily advise all who are suffering from humors or skin disease of any kind to try it at once. I had also a good deal of stomach trouble, and was run-down and miserable, but JOHNSTON'S SARSAPARILLA made me all right."

The blood is your life and if you keep it pure and strong you can positively resist disease or face contagion fearlessly. JOHNSTON'S SARSAPARILLA never fails. It is for sale by all druggists, in full quart bottles at only one dollar each made me all right."
MICHIGAN DRUG COMPANY, DETROIT, MICH.
 E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO., Scotland Neck, N. C.

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 AND BRANCHES.
 AND ATLANTIC COAST LINE
 RAILROAD COMPANY OF
 SOUTH CAROLINA.
 CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

DATED	Jan. 14, 1900.	No. 10	No. 11	No. 12	No. 13	No. 14	No. 15
Leave	Weldon	Ar. Rocky Mt.	Leave	Tarboro	Ar. Rocky Mt.	Leave	Weldon
	11:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	12:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	1:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	2:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	3:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	4:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	5:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	6:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	7:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	8:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	9:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	10:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15
	11:55	9:52	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

DATED	Jan. 14, 1900.	No. 16	No. 17	No. 18	No. 19	No. 20	No. 21
Leave	Weldon	Ar. Rocky Mt.	Leave	Tarboro	Ar. Rocky Mt.	Leave	Weldon
	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	1:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	2:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	3:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	4:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	5:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	6:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	7:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	8:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	9:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	10:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	11:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00
	12:21	6:00	1:00	10:25	7:15	12:21	6:00

Trains on the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, Yadkin Division Main Line—Train leaves Wilmington, 9:00 a. m., arrives Fayetteville 12:05 p. m., leaves Fayetteville 12:55 p. m., arrives Sanford 1:43 p. m., returning leaves Sanford 2:30 p. m., arrives Fayetteville 3:41 p. m., leaves Fayetteville 3:46 p. m., arrives Wilmington 6:40 p. m.

Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, Bennettsville Branch—Train leaves Bennettsville 8:15 a. m., Maxton 9:20 a. m., Red Springs 9:53 a. m., Hope Mills 10:42 a. m., arrives Fayetteville 10:55 a. m., returning leaves Fayetteville 4:40 p. m., Hope Mills 4:55 p. m., Red Springs 5:35 p. m., Maxton 6:15 p. m., arrives Bennettsville 7:15 p. m. Connections at Fayetteville with train No. 78, at Maxton with the Carolina Central Railroad, at Red Springs with the Red Springs and Bowmore Railroad, at Sanford with the Seaboard Air Line and Southern Railway, at Gulf with the Durham and Charlotte Railroad.

Train on the Scotland Neck Branch Road leaves Weldon 3:35 p. m., Halifax 4:15 p. m., arrives Scotland Neck at 5:08 p. m., Greenville 6:57 p. m., Kinston 7:55 p. m., returning leaves Kinston 7:50 a. m., Greenville 8:52 a. m., arriving Halifax at 11:18 a. m., Weldon 11:33 a. m., daily except Sunday.

Trains on Washington Branch leave Washington 8:10 a. m. and 2:30 p. m., arrive Pamlico 9:10 a. m. and 4:00 p. m., returning leave Pamlico 9