

A SERIOUS MISTAKE.

Newspapers, we know, are held responsible for many things with which they have little or nothing to do; but it occurs to us that if a paper cannot help a good cause it would do well to keep silent.

So far as we have seen only two newspapers in the State have said anything editorially against the great crusade now being waged by the temperance people against the evils of the liquor traffic. These papers are the Littleton News Reporter and the Charlotte Observer. The News Reporter last week made a gratuitous fling at the petitions that have been sent to the Legislature, intimating that those who took names to petitions were indifferent as to whether those who signed were voters, women, children or lunatics.

The editor of THE COMMONWEALTH carried such petition but took names of none but voters, although young men who are not old enough to vote wished to sign, but we declined to allow them. We took no names of children or lunatics, but would not have objected to the names of women, for they are vitally concerned in the liquor question.

The Charlotte Observer has referred to the whiskey people as the "Morally Stunted" and to the temperance people as the "Pure in Heart," and has intimated that the latter class, through the very legislation they propose, may be deprived of getting "sow paw" themselves.

While this paper does not pose as the special mentor to the News Reporter, the Charlotte Observer, or any other paper, we think that they might have done a good cause more so by filling the space we have referred to with something else; or might have used phraseology that would have been more appreciated by those who do not agree with them in their attitude towards the temperance question.

REALLY, WHO DOES KNOW?

A man asked me the other day if I knew where he could get a book setting forth what the General Assembly had done. He could learn nothing from the papers and less by looking on. "There are speeches, reports, readings, votes, motions, committees; but when do they get a thing done and how can I know it?"—Peter Plain in Biblical Recorder.

"Peter Plain's" friend is not the only man who wishes to know where he can learn what the Legislature has done. It is easy enough to learn every day from the newspapers many things that the Legislature is "doing"; but who can tell what has been done? The time when a certain thing is finished and just what it was when it was finished is one of the hardest things to learn about the Legislature. Truly who can say that Peter Plain's man did not speak the truth when he said: "There are speeches, reports, readings, votes, motions and committees." He might have added that there are bills, discussions, amendments, more discussions, passing first, second and third readings, then the sending of the bill to the "other branch of the body," where it is discussed, amended, re-discussed and sent back to the starting place for a new round.

Yes, indeed, it is a hard question to answer. Now and then the daily papers print a batch of laws which rather relieve the strain of the uncertainty as to what has been done for a day or two; and then the same string of perplexities befuddle one again.

But when it is all over, thanks to types and printers, we can see it all in a book.

ANY CHURCH or parsonage or institution supported by voluntary contribution will be given a liberal quantity of Longman & Martinez Pure Paints whenever they paint. NOTE: Have done so for twenty-seven years. Sales: Tens of millions of gallons; painted nearly two million houses under guarantee to repaint if not satisfactory. The paint wears for periods up to eighteen years. Linseed Oil must be added to the paint (done in two minutes). Actual cost then about \$1.25 a gallon. Samples free. Sold by our Agents, E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

Early Risers

Rheumacide advertisement. Thoroughly eradicates the excess of Uric and Lactic Acids from the system, starts the kidneys into healthy action, cures constipation and indigestion. THIS DONE, YOU ARE WELL OF RHEUMATISM, AND ANY OTHER DISEASE CAUSED BY IMPURE BLOOD.

THE TEMPERANCE SITUATION.

The Watts bill was favorably reported on some days ago by the Committee, but to most of the temperance people this bill is not satisfactory. It practically leaves the liquor traffic as it is in the State. Its main feature is the restriction of the sale and manufacture of liquor to incorporated towns, without specifying the number of inhabitants.

The London bill, or something similar, is what the people want. An effort is being made to blend the main features of the two bills into one.

Two other bills have been introduced known as the Smith and Murphey bills, but thus far nothing definite has been settled upon.

The State is ready for some advanced steps in temperance legislation, and no make-shifts will meet the demands.

There is little danger to the Democratic party, as a party, temperance legislation or no temperance legislation.

The Democratic party will still be dominant in North Carolina; but as Mr. J. W. Bailey well expressed in a communication in last Sunday's News and Observer, there is no good temperance legislation by the present Legislature those who are Legislators now may not be Legislators next time.

DOES NOT HURT BOYS.

It has been one of the main purposes of this paper for fifteen years, under the present management, to print nothing that would be hurtful to any one. We have been especially desirous to print such things as will be helpful to the young. It follows without saying, therefore, that we highly appreciate the following from Charity and Children, the paper of the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville: "The Scotland Neck COMMONWEALTH modestly claims that during the last fifteen years it has printed more temperance literature than any other secular paper in the State, daily or weekly. We dare say this claim is entirely true, and we may add, the columns of no other secular paper, daily or weekly, contain cleaner or more wholesome matter on any subject than this same COMMONWEALTH. We are grateful to Editor Hilliard for supplying the Orphanage houses with a copy of his high-toned paper, which he has kindly done for years. No boy has ever been injured by reading THE COMMONWEALTH."

SAVED HER CHILD'S LIFE.

"In three weeks our chubby little boy was changed by Pneumonia almost to a skeleton," writes Mrs. W. Watkins, of Pleasant City, O. "A terrible cough set in, that, in spite of a good doctor's treatment for several weeks, grew worse every day. We then used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling was soon sound and well. We are sure this good medicine saved his life." Millions know it's the only sure cure for Coughs, Colds and all Lung diseases. E. T. Whitehead & Co. guarantee satisfaction. 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

ALSO USES THE BLUE BACK.

Since THE COMMONWEALTH has brought to notice that Vine Hill Female Academy has adopted the "blue back," Prof. Bethea, of the Vine Hill Male Academy, has informed us that the great and good old book is used in his school also.

One by one, no doubt, the schools generally will fall into line.

MOTHER GRAY'S SWEET POWDERS FOR CHILDREN.

Successfully used by Mother Gray, nurse in the Children's Home in New York, Cure Feverishness, Bad Stomach, Teething Disorders, move and regulate the Bowels and Destroy Worms. Over 30,000 testimonials. They never fail. At all druggists, 25c. Sample FREE. Address Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

OUR LEGISLATURE.

THE WORK OF THE LAW-MAKERS FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

Following next after last week's report of the Legislature was a bill introduced in the Senate to prohibit the wearing of high hats in theatres.

In the House Representative Drewry introduced a bill for the incorporation of a railroad to run from Raleigh to Washington, N. C., by way of Wilson and Greenville.

Wednesday, 25th day.

SENATE.—In the Senate two bills were introduced of some importance. Senator Godwin, of Harnett, introduced a bill to abolish the custom of kissing the Bible in courts on the ground that the Bibles used are dirty and tend to the communication of disease from one person to another.

Senator Hoey, of Cleveland county, introduced a bill that will change some things with regard to municipal elections. It provides that registrars and judges of elections be appointed by county commissioners.

Senator Webb introduced a bill providing that when a person has taught seven years in the public schools and has a first grade certificate, he shall have a first grade certificate to teach as long as he wishes.

HOUSE.—The House passed the fire cracker bill which prohibits the sale of fire crackers over three inches long, toy pistols, spring and air guns and sky rockets.

A bill to prevent the spreading of contagious diseases among hogs passed third reading.

Thursday, 26th day.

SENATE.—Senator Durham introduced a "Child Labor Bill." This makes it unlawful for manufacturing establishments to hire any child under twelve years of age during the public school term of the district; no minor after the public school term of 1903 who can not read and write unless he has a certificate of two weeks attendance on school, and in 1904 increases this to four weeks. After 1905 no child under fourteen who cannot read and write is to be employed unless he has a certificate of at least an attendance of 75 per cent. on the public school, or has a certificate that non-attendance was caused by sickness. The bill also makes it unlawful for any child under twelve to work between the hours of 7 at night and 6 in the morning, except such as have been regularly employed during the working hours of the day preceding. Violation of this to be a misdemeanor with \$100 fine, imprisonment thirty days, or both.

HOUSE.—The bill regarding the Tarboro dispensary was disposed of. It was Senator Gilliam's bill providing for an election in Tarboro on the question of continuing the dispensary. The bill provides that the question be settled by a majority of the votes cast, but the Representatives from Edgecombe, Meigs, Daughtridge and Shelton, amended it so that the question of continuing the dispensary shall be determined by a majority of the qualified voters. It was passed with the amendment.

Friday, 27th day.

SENATE.—A bill was introduced to compel railroad engineers to give warning of danger to persons seen on a railroad track in front of an engine. The bill was discussed at length and then referred to the judiciary committee.

HOUSE.—Perhaps the most important feature in the House was the introduction by Mr. Blount of a joint resolution authorizing and requesting the Governor to appoint a commissioner to investigate the unlawful discrimination in freight rates; to secure and tabulate full information and report to the Governor, who shall then take such steps as he may deem necessary for the redress of any grievances. The commission is to be paid \$125 a month and an allowance not exceeding \$75.00 a month for incidental expenses for as

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE

Taking when you take Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic because the formula is plainly printed on every bottle showing that it is simply Iron and Quinine in tasteless form. No Cure, No Pay. 50c.

THEY CALL US "THE PRICE SMASHERS" In the Hardware line, and we reckon we deserve the name, judging from the prices now and three years ago, but we are satisfied with our profits and don't believe you will get mad with us because we cut exorbitant profits half in two. We are still up-to-date and Leading the Procession with the best display of Farming Implements, including Acme Harrows, Disc Harrows, Disc Plows, Disc Cultivators, Wagons, Buggies, Etc., Etc. We have just bought Four Books of New Building Designs, with houses costing from \$500 to \$5,000, from which you can select any style of house you may want, which is FREE to all our customers. Futrell-Hardy Hardware Company, "The Hardware Hustlers," Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

long as the Governor may consider his services necessary.

Saturday, 28th day.

SENATE.—A message was received from the Governor that thirty trustees of the State University are to be elected by the General Assembly, because of expiring terms, resignations, etc.

Senator Glenn introduced a bill to abolish Board of Examiners of State Institutions.

HOUSE.—A bill introduced by Mr. Newland, of Caldwell, provides, "That it shall be unlawful for any railroad company operating in this State to allow any freight they may receive to remain unshipped for more than five days or to fail to furnish cars within five days for any freight tendered said road for shipment unless otherwise agreed between said company and the shipper, and any company violating this section shall forfeit and pay the sum of \$20.00 for each day said freight remains unshipped to the party aggrieved."

Mr. King, of Pitt, introduced a bill making it a misdemeanor to use boisterous or indecent language on the public roads.

Mr. Parker, of Halifax, introduced a bill to allow Enfield's Graded School to issue bonds to pay indebtedness.

Monday, 29th day.

SENATE.—Senator Justice introduced a bill with the following important features:

1. It imposes a semi-annual tax of six thousand dollars per year on the franchise and business of every railroad doing business between points within the State in addition to all the other taxes, and expressly provides that the tax shall not be imposed on inter-State business or that done for the United States.

2. It provides that the Corporation Commission shall report to the State Treasurer any act of discrimination by any railroad against any point within the State and in favor of any point within or without the State.

3. That when a railroad is not reported guilty of any discrimination the Treasurer shall return or not collect the tax imposed.

4. If the railroad is reported guilty of the discrimination and pays the tax, and contends that it was not guilty of such discrimination it may sue and recover it back.

5. Every person discriminated against may sue any railroad which has, by such discrimination, violated the Inter-State Commerce law of the United States, and recover from the road damages he has sustained and penalty of two thousand dollars. These cases can be brought in the State courts by the bill, but can be removed to the United States courts under the Federal law.

HOUSE.—A bill requiring all public school children to be vaccinated was introduced by Judge Graham. It provides that no child or person not vaccinated shall be admitted into any of the public schools of the State. The school committee may adopt a resolution excluding children not vaccinated until they are vaccinated, and post copies of the notice at least ten days beforehand. Within two weeks after

such announcement, it shall be the duty of the county superintendent of health to visit the school and vaccinate all children not previously vaccinated. The teacher of the school shall furnish to the vaccinator a list of the children enrolled, and within ten days he shall report on vaccinal status of the school to the county superintendent of instruction, the county sanitary committee and the secretary of the State board of health.

THE VALUE OF EXPERT TREATMENT.

Everyone who is afflicted with a chronic disease experiences great difficulty in having their case intelligently treated by the average physician. These diseases can only be cured by a specialist who understands them thoroughly. Dr. J. Newton Hathaway of Atlanta, Ga., is acknowledged the most skillful and successful specialist in the United States. Write him for his expert opinion of your case, for which he makes no charge.

IS YELLOW POISON

in your blood? Physicians call it fatal germ. It can be seen changing red blood yellow under microscope. It works day and night. First, it turns your complexion yellow. Chills, aching sensations creep down your backbone. You feel weak and worthless.

ROBERTS' CHILL TONIC

will stop the trouble now. It enters the blood at once and drives out the yellow poison. If neglected and when Chills, Fevers, Night-Sweats and a general break-down come later on, Roberts' Tonic will cure you then—but why wait? Prevent future sickness. The manufacturers know all about this yellow poison and have perfected Roberts' Tonic to drive it out, nourish your system, restore appetite, purify the blood, prevent and cure Chills, Fevers and Malaria. It has cured thousands.—It will cure you, or your money back. This is fair. Try it. Price, 25 cents. J. E. T. WHITEHEAD & CO.

Notice.

Lula Staten) Halifax County, vs. Joe Staten.) North Carolina. Action for Divorce in Superior Court. Joe Staten, the defendant above named, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court for Halifax county to dissolve the bonds of matrimony now existing between the plaintiff and defendant, and said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the April term of the Superior court of said county to be held at the court house in Halifax on the fifth Monday after the first Monday in March, 1903, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said complaint. S. M. GARY, Clerk Superior Court.

DeWitt's Witch Salve For Piles, Burns, Sores.

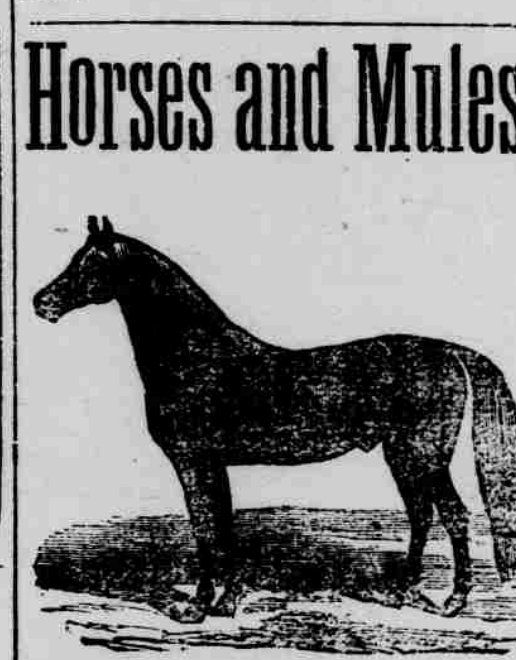
The best physio. "Once tried and you will always use Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets," says William A Girard, Pease, Vt. These Tablets are the most prompt, most pleasant and most reliable cathartic in use. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, N. C., and Leggett's Drug Store, Hobgood, N. C.

J. W. Perry Co., COTTON FACTORS.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 10, 1903 Cotton—Steady. Strict Middling 9 1-2 Middling 9 3-8 Strict Low Middling 9 1-4 Low Middling 9 1-8 Tinges Stains Blues

Peanuts—Quiet Fancy Strictly Prime 2 7-8 Prime 2 1/2 Low Grades 2 Machine Picked 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 Spanish 70 per bushel. B. E. Peas \$2.75 per bag. Black and Speckle Peas \$1.10 Clay and Red Peas 1 00 Peanut Bags, in bales—68 in-7 4-10c. Bagging, Ties and Peanut Bags for Sale.

Horses and Mules



We shall keep on hand for the season a full supply of Horses and Mules! We buy in The Best Markets and can give our customers The Best of Bargains. Give us a call before purchasing elsewhere. Biggs & Johnson, Scotland Neck, N. C.

Syrup & Molasses

We have just received a fine lot of

—SYRUP—

In quart cans, half gallon and gallon buckets. Also another lot of fine BON TON

MOLASSES

Which we are selling at 40c per gallon, and a barrel of Porto Rican Molasses at 60c per gallon.

WE WILL HAVE

To arrive next week a big line of Spring and Summer Shirts which we are going to sell low down.

WILSON ALLSBOOK,

Scotland Neck, N. C. Give us your orders for Tobacco Flues now. The Josey Hdw. Co.

TAYLOR,

—THE— PIONEER GROCER

Having been the first one to open a FIRST CLASS Grocery Store in Scotland Neck, and having for eight years studied the wants of the trade, we feel that we should be in a position to know better than anyone with less experience, just the kind of goods the people want. GIVE US A CALL. Satisfaction GUARANTEED. Headquarters FOR FIRST CLASS GROCERIES. O. K. TAYLOR. Scotland Neck, N. C.

The Formula tells the story: Grove's Chronic Chill Cure Not a patent medicine: a thin spirituous liquid, of a pleasant bitter taste, made of Fluid Extract PERUVIAN BARK Fluid Extract POPLAR BARK Fluid Extract BLACK ROOT Fluid Extract PRICKLY ASH BARK Fluid Extract DOG WOOD BARK Fluid Extract SARSAPARELLA It Cures the Chills that other Chill Tonics Don't Cure. No Cure, No Pay. Price, 50c.