

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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NO. 25

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## EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

### OBSERVATIONS OF PASSING EVENTS.

**The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot** a few days ago told of the arrival of an agent from New England who had come South to gather up the colored people and colonize them in New England. **Boston Wants Them.** He promises all sorts of things and says several hundred around Boston are now doing well and are satisfied. Another like movement is at work by a Boston preacher who thinks that they can take care of two million of negroes from the South. They propose to go through the South and engage as many as they can. They promise many things but no doubt are silent on the lynchings which occur up there.

The saying that necessity is the mother of invention finds force in the rice fields about Houston, Texas. A man who learned how steam plows work up in Minnesota has introduced them in Texas, and notwithstanding the discouragements urged against his project he has pushed ahead and put it into practice. He is plowing forty acres a day, and the steam plow does the work of thirty mules and eight or ten negroes. It is uncertain what such a machine could do in cotton, corn and truck fields, but if it could be used it would greatly help in solving the labor problem. Almost every farmer, large and small, complains about the scarcity of labor.

**President Roosevelt** attended the commencement of the University of Virginia, and made a very pleasing impression by his bright speeches and pretty sayings. The News and Observer speaking of the occasion remarks facetiously as follows: "He said some time ago that the career of a president of a university was the highest to which a man can aspire. He made such a good impression in Virginia that the trustees might elect him president and postpone the time for entering upon duty until his defeat for President of the United States in 1904. He would have to promise not to invite Booker Washington or any Fifteenth Amendment to dinner. Would he do that?"

**The Virginian-Pilot**, of Norfolk, keeps track of the truck industry in that section. It makes the following observation about truck there this season: "Each truck has been hauled by the Norfolk and Southern railroad this season, and to accommodate the shippers the road has put on additional trains. Three extra freight trains have been put on the main line and one on the Virginia Beach division, and besides these there is another freight train that does hauling on both divisions whenever the occasion demands its service. More truck is being handled by this road than in any previous year. Most of it has been shipped to Baltimore, though Boston was the principal point last year.

It is not generally supposed that preachers get high salaries as compared to men in other professions with equal ability. Boston has broken the record in the offer of high salary to a preacher. **High Salary.** The following is taken from the Richmond News-Leader: "The Rev. Dr. George C. Lorimer has been offered the highest salary ever paid to an American preacher. Boston's Tremont Temple wants him so badly that the trustees are said to have offered the famous divine a salary of \$20,000 a year, with the use of a \$20,000 home and the privilege of a yearly three-months' vacation. Dr. Lorimer also figures in the news by his recent proposal to form a committee of 100 Americans to go to Russia and protest to the Czar regarding Kishineff."

**Prof. W. H. Ragsdale**, county superintendent of public schools for Pitt county, on returning from the Teachers' Assembly at Wrightsville some days ago, said he saw more men at that meeting looking for teachers than he had ever seen on a similar occasion. There is evidently a great change in the matter of school teaching in North Carolina. School boards and the people generally are becoming more particular about the teachers they employ. The qualifications of the teachers are more regarded than formerly and good teachers have no trouble in finding a place, if they are at all well known. The change in the demand for good and well equipped teachers leads to better salaries for such teachers. No longer can the best teachers be hired for a small salary, but the profession of teaching is taking its place with other things on its merit. A good teacher can now get a good salary but a poor teacher cannot hope to find a place that pays much. To be sure, there are exceptions to these observations, for instance where a new school is opened or established and teachers who are interested in the enterprise take positions at lower salaries with the view and understanding that salaries will be made better as the institution develops; but all things considered, the good and well equipped teacher can now name the salary and those who employ have to pay it in order to get the best work.

**The Charlotte Observer** thinks that the legislation in North Carolina on the temperance question will be fruitful of some good, whatever may be its failures. It speaks thus: "Our Washington correspondent says that the records in the office of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue show that there are 450 store-keepers and guagers in North Carolina and it is the belief that 400 of these will go out of business July 1st. It will be the better for them and for the State when they stop lifting the distillers' corn around the still house and go to raising corn on their own account; stop slopping the distillers' hogs and go to slopping their own. The effect of the new legislation in the promotion of temperance among the people is yet to be seen and to what extent it will encourage, as some claim it will, the establishment of illicit distilleries is altogether problematical. But this much is certain, that apart from the evil results that come of the drinking of the liquor that these little distilleries make, no one agency has done as much to debauch the morals of the people of North Carolina, in the fraud upon the government that must of necessity be practiced in order to make them profitable and in the system of false swearing without which they could not be run."

## A SEA OF LYRIC.

William Hamilton Hayne, in Atlantic Monthly. There is no music that man has heard Like the voice of the minstrel Sea, Whose major and minor chords are fraught With infinite melody. For the Sea is a harp, and the winds of God Play over his rhythmic breast, And bear on the sweep of their mighty wings The song of a vast unrest.

There is no passion that man has sung Like the love of the deep-souled Sea, Whose tide responds to the Moon's soft light. With marvelous melody. For the Sea is a harp, and the winds of God Play over his rhythmic breast, And bear on the sweep of their mighty wings The song of a vast unrest.

There is no sorrow that man has known Like the grief of the wordless Main, Whose Titan bosom forever throbs With an untranslatable pain. For the Sea is a harp, and the winds of God Play over his rhythmic breast, And bear on the sweep of their mighty wings The song of a vast unrest.

## Strawberry Fields After Fruiting.

The most successful strawberry growers plow up their fields as soon as the berries are all gathered and sow them in cowpeas thus putting the land in perfect tith to rest in strawberries the following fall, winter or spring as may be most convenient. But the vast majority of growers gather two and sometimes three crops of berries from the same field.

How to do this successfully is the object of this article. Bar off with a turning plow the strawberry rows, leaving unplowed a strip about a foot wide containing the plants. On this strip chop out the plants leaving them about eighteen inches apart. Always leave young (one year old) plants instead of old ones when possible. In this chopping out also kill all weeds and grass. A week or ten days later sow cotton seed meal at the rate of 800 to 1,000 pounds an acre in the furrow left on each side of the row. Then split out the middles, throwing the earth closely around the plants, but not on them or they will be smothered.

Whenever practicable, though with a large acreage it is not usually practicable, it pays to burn off the field or bed before barring off. To do this mow the foliage of the plants as closely as possible. Then loosen up the straw, used as a mulch and on a dry breezy day after the mowed foliage has got dry, set fire to the field along the border to windward. If there is a fair quantity of foliage or mulch the field will burn quickly over leaving the soil as clean as a floor. Weeds, seed, and any insect pest that may chance to be present will meet their judgment day, and to a novice the strawberry plants will seem to have done so too. But seeming will be all.

In a week, or earlier if it rains, in the fire blackened, Saharalike field a magic transformation will take place. Every strawberry plant will have put forth leaves of the most vivid and beautiful growth. The rows can then be barred off, chopped out, fertilized and treated just as above directed.

Subsequent cultivation should be the same as for young fields—shallow plowing with a small tooth cultivator and shallow hand hoeing frequent enough to kill all grass and weeds before they come and to keep the crust on the soil broken. This is all important, as in a dry time it greatly lessens evaporation and minimizes the effect of draught. C. W. BLACKNALL, V. P. N. C. Horticultural Ass'n.

## Meant Well.

Observing a prim, angular matron in the elevator, Col. Hankthunder removed his hat.

On reaching the tenth floor the elevator conductor, a dignified personage with wide whiskers, leaned over and whispered to the colonel: "Lady says will you please put your 'at on again, sir? Your bald head dazzles her eyes, sir."

"I have been troubled for some time with indigestion and sour stomach," says Mrs. Sarah W. Curtis of Lee, Mass. "I have been taking Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets which have helped me very much so that now I can eat many things that before I could not." If you have any trouble with your stomach, try Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's Drug Store, Woburn.

## ABOUT SERBIA.

### THE RECORD OF KING ALEXANDER.

#### A Bit of Servian History.

Kingston Free Press. Servia has had a bloody history. The country is a small one, about the size of North Carolina, and has a population of some 2,000,000 people. The ancient Thracians who inhabit the country were conquered by Slav coming down from Russian territory beyond the Carpathian mountains. These new comers called themselves Servians. They were ruled by chieftain until about 1440, when one of their number became king.

The Servians were conquered by the Turks, and for nearly two centuries Servia remained more or less under Turkish rule. Finally, during the last quarter of the 18th century, Kara (Black) George came upon the scene. He rallied the Servians, and strove valiantly for national independence against the Turk, but in vain.

About 1813 Milosh Obrenovitch, son of a poor farmer laborer, and himself a dealer in hogs, became a prominent man in his community, led the Servians against the Turks, and freed them entirely from Constantinople. Intrigue followed intrigue, and assassinations were not uncommon.

On August 14, 1876, was born Alexander, who was recently assassinated in the palace. Succeeding to the throne at a tender age an uneventful career awaited the young man.

In the last ten years the chief interest that the world has had in Alexander has been in following the rumors of his love affairs—unrequited though they were in every case but one. These rumors at one time or another connected his name with every eligible Princess in Europe. Directly and indirectly he paid his court—now through his father, now through the Russian representative in Belgrade, now by personal correspondence.

It seems that in 1895 Alexander paid a visit to his mother. There he had seen Mme. Draga and had become enamored of her. She was sixteen years his senior and his mother's traveling companion. When Alexander returned to Belgrade, Mme. Draga followed him. While it was now admitted in all quarters that this episode forever precluded Alexander from seeking a matrimonial alliance with any respectable continental royal house, it was not supposed at the time that his intentions in regard to Mme. Draga, who was the divorced wife of a German physician, were serious. They proved to be so, however. On August 5, 1900, he married her.

This alliance proved so thoroughly distasteful to the Servian people that opposition sprang up on every hand. There being no heir to the throne, Draga endeavored to secure the succession for a brother, and this, added to the atrocities of the queen, incited the populace to fury.

The world knows the outcome of that fury, when the army took it upon itself to rid the nation of a worthless king and worse than worthless queen.

## Church Officers.

Robesonian.

There is a class of people that are gross wrong doers and great corruptors among men who escape all too lightly as the bar of public opinion. We refer to church members, who have assumed as solemn church vows as it is possible for man to make when admitted to the church as members, and then openly and grossly violate them. It sometimes turns out that it rings through the land how monstrous iniquity is perpetrated by an official in the church who is indulging unblushingly in practices from which he had vowed he would carefully abstain. It is as gross a wrong as the offence of perjury, yet he does it and popular opinion does not lash him as it does the thief or false sweaver. That it does not is the occasion of pity. If the tone of public sentiment was higher and purer the result would be different. It requires more keener than we possess to see how such folks can be at heart religious. We would be glad to see in ignorance an extenuation, but this cannot be pleaded in their behalf. How careful ought all church members, but especially church officers, to be lest they even appear to violate their vows.

## GOUTS, BRUISES AND BURNS QUICKLY CURED.

Chamberlain's Pain Balm is an anti-rheumatic, and when applied to cuts, bruises and burns, causes them to heal without inflammation and much more quickly than by the usual treatment. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's Drug Store, Woburn.

## Joys of Journalism.

Atlanta Constitution. A few days ago Colonel Alexander K. McClure, the veteran editor and Nestor of the Philadelphia press, said that the happiest days of his journalistic career were those in which he was "the editor of a country weekly paper in western Pennsylvania!"

There are thousands of the older men in the profession to day who can heartily say "amen!" to Colonel McClure's experience. They remember three joyous old days in some ramshackle print shop in a country town; the old Washington press; the roller-boy; the roller mould; and the casting of a new roller; the sitting up at night to mail the edition of six hundred—that six hundred more formidable over public affairs and world interests than the charge made at Balaklava by that other six hundred of old England! The country editor—who is his peer? He writes and the people hardly contain their patience a week to know "what he has written" on the burning issues of the day! He gets invitations to all functions, free passes to all shows, appointed on all sorts of commissions where there is no pay, gets cake from the wedding, cord wood on subscriptions, and, occasionally, "gets it in the neck" from a contemporary.

The country press is an inseparable factor from the forces that make up our civilization. It is on and of the soil. It is the mirror of the human problems of its environment. It is more nearly the organ of public opinion than the mammoth journals whose strongest purposes are commercial. Any historian who would write knowingly and truthfully the history of these times must get the bulk of his material from the country newspapers. They are the busy bees who gather the pollen of all the indigenous blossoms of their habitat and compress these into the columns from which the honey of true human history is extracted.

Every community owes the prime duty of support to its local press. If a man can afford to take only one paper he should take his home paper. If he can go further and take a daily, let that be but the supplement to his county paper. The old Greek adage, "know thyself," should be expanded into "know thy neighbor" and the way to do that is to support your home paper. There is no better or more helpful asset to any county than a good newspaper, filled with neighborhood news, and dealings with all issues of common interest as the weekly press usually does—fairly and honestly.

## To Conquer Worrying.

Consider what must be involved in the truth that God is infinite and that you are a part of His plan. Memorize some of the Scripture promises and recall them when the temptation to worry returns. Cultivate a spirit of gratitude for daily mercies. Realize that worrying is an enemy which destroys your happiness. Realize that it can be cured by persistent effort. Attack it definitely as something to be overcome. Realize that it has never done, and never can do, the least good. It wastes vitality and impairs the mental faculties. Help and comfort your neighbor. Forgive your enemies and conquer your aversions. The world is what we make it. Forward, then! Forward in the power of faith, forward in the power of truth, forward in the power of friendship, forward in the power of freedom, forward in the power of hope, forward in the power of God!—Bishop Vincent.

## THAT TROBBING HEADACHE

Would quickly leave you, if you used Dr. King's New Life Pills. Thousands of sufferers have proved their matchless merit for Sick and Nervous Headaches. They make pure blood and build up your health. Only 25 cents, money back if not cured. Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Druggists.

## WORST OF ALL EXPERIENCES.

Can anything be worse than to feel that every minute will be your last? Such was the experience of Mrs. B. H. Newson, Decatur, Ala. "For three years," she writes, "I endured insufferable pain from indigestion, stomach and bowel trouble. Death seemed inevitable when doctors and all remedies failed. At length I was induced to try Electric Bitters and the result was miraculous. I improved at once and now I'm completely recovered. For Liver, Stomach, Bowel and Bowel troubles, Electric Bitters is the best remedy known."—Mrs. B. H. Newson.

## CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA AND DIARRHOEA CURE

Is everywhere recognized as the one remedy that can always be depended upon and that is pleasant to take. It is especially valuable for summer diarrhoea in children and is undoubtedly the means of saving the lives of a great many children each year. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

## FOR FREE ADVICE

Every Woman Should Write Dr. S. B. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium.



Mrs. Joseph Lacelle, Ottawa, East, Ont. Canada, writes: "Peruna is better by far than any other medicine sold in the Dominion for the troubles peculiar to the sex. I suffered with backache, headache and dragging down pains for over nine months, and nothing relieved me a particle until I took Peruna. A few bottles relieved me of my miserable half-dead, half-alive condition. I am now in good health and have neither ache or pain, nor have I had any for the past year. If every suffering woman would take Peruna they would soon know its value and never be without it."—Mrs. Joseph Lacelle.

## Art of Stump Speaking.

Lieutenant-Governor Curtis Gould, Jr. The part that the public speaker plays in our National life is familiar enough, but the manner and method of it have changed in late years almost as much as the methods of the stage. The old-fashioned stumper would carry little weight to-day, though in that select class that still regards politics as "low" a political speaker is still supposed to deal largely in personalities varied with comic stories more or less reflecting upon the methods and morals of the opposite party.

## Art of Stump Speaking.

It is a hopeful sign of the future that though abuse of men in public life unhappily still exists, it is no longer effective. The speaker who fails to recognize the honest intentions of honest men who disagree with him carries no conviction. Neither are audiences who assemble at political meetings satisfied with smooth generalities phrased in gracious language or even with the sarcasm, wit and buffoonery which may and does provoke their amusement and applause. The speaker who wishes to attract votes to his party to-day must have something more than a pleasing personality and a smooth tongue. He must state specific facts and present specific evidence in support of his argument. Mingling with a crowd in North Dakota during the speech of a noted orator on a certain National issue, I heard his general statement as to the attitudes of the respective parties in Congress received with utter incredulity and disbelief. A few weeks afterward I heard a Massachusetts Congressman present the same issue in Massachusetts. He did not indulge in elegant generalities. He produced a copy of the Congressional Record, read the essential part of the bill in question, read the vote and invited the audience to examine the official record. That speech counted.

## Art of Stump Speaking.

The man with convictions who talks to his audience and tells them what he knows and believes, has taken the place of the gentleman who left his audience amused, but not instructed. The preparation of a political speech that is to be effective involves much hard study and investigation. Even then it is likely to fail utterly in its purpose if, in the excitement of delivery, the speaker overstates his case or forgets the rules of courtesy, which happily for our political future, are now more and more observed by all parties.—Selected

## Art of Stump Speaking.

It is everywhere recognized as the one remedy that can always be depended upon and that is pleasant to take. It is especially valuable for summer diarrhoea in children and is undoubtedly the means of saving the lives of a great many children each year. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

## To Cure a Cold in One Day

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best remedy for colds, coughs, and bronchitis. It is a powerful expectorant and soothes the inflamed membrane of the throat and lungs. It is especially valuable for children and the elderly. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's Drug Store, Woburn.