

# THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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## EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

### OBSERVATIONS OF PASSING EVENTS.

IT HAS gone out through the press recently that there has been trouble between the white people and the colored people at Henrietta, N. C. The real reason has been given that some rude white boys kept troubling the negroes until their conduct became well nigh intolerable when the colored boys returned the abuse. This instance ought to be a warning to bad white boys to behave themselves and especially towards the negroes, for race troubles are sometimes the very worst kind.

THE number of railway wrecks seems to be on the increase, and there is reason to conclude in many instances that the wrecks are the result of carelessness on the part of railroad employes. The improper placing of a switch, the careless reading of an order or the heedless handling of a signboard may lead to disastrous wrecks. No people on the earth ought to be more careful in their work than railroad employes, for the destiny and safety of every passenger who boards a railroad train depend entirely upon the care and faithfulness with which employes do their duty. And this means much when we remember how many people are on railroad trains every moment of time every year from the first day of January to the thirty-first day of December.

THE LANGLEY air ship was tried from Widewater, Va., last Saturday. The machine made a trip of from four to six hundred yards. By deflection of one wing its course was turned and it struck the waters of the Potomac with full force and went down. It was going at the rate of 40 miles an hour, and the experiment was entirely successful. Chief assistant Mauly, of the Langley exposition, made the following statement: "The experiment was entirely successful. All the data which this machine was designed to furnish was obtained. The equilibrium was perfect, the power adequate and the supporting surface ample. No accident occurred. Some of the wood work of the wings and rudder was slightly damaged by the grappling hooks used in taking the aerodrome from the water, but no essential parts were injured. Were another test desired this afternoon the same machine could be used. I have nothing further to say at present. I shall make a full report of the test to Secretary Langley."

CHARITY AND CHILDREN was moved last week to defend our good old State against some insinuations that have been cast against our people. Among other things it well says the following: "Good in North Carolina. And there is plenty that is good to be said about North Carolina without looking for the bad. She cannot equal Massachusetts in the matter of general education. But her people are better people than those of Massachusetts, and North Carolina is by far the better State to live in. This is one reason: Her people are native and to the manner born. They accept and believe the Bible and bring up their children to fear the Lord. Not all of them do, but we are speaking broadly of the two. Her climate is better than that of Massachusetts and it her industrial development continues she will in ten years' time leave New England limping along behind her in the great cotton manufacturing business which has enriched that leak and sterile section. North Carolina has no Boston, which is another great point in her favor. The population of the State is yet living in the country, and plain country folks are the bone and sinew still."

SMALL-POX has been more or less prevalent in North Carolina for the past four years, and the people generally have heard so much of it and in some places have seen so much of it they now regard it as a common thing. Nothing like the fear of the disease prevails now that prevailed say twenty years ago. Then whenever small-pox broke out the people of the entire region were thrown into confusion and consternation, and great fear and uneasiness prevailed throughout the State. Dr. R. H. Lewis, secretary of the State board of health, says that during the past four years two hundred persons have died of small-pox in North Carolina, and he predicts that with the return of cold weather the disease may spread and become more general. It has been of a mild type in the State, so much so that in many places there has been considerable question as to whether or not it was really small-pox. In view of the probable spread of the disease the coming winter and also the probability that it may be more flagrant, it is a timely suggestion that the people take precaution against it by submitting to vaccination; for it seems to be well settled by the highest and best scientific authority that vaccination does effectually prevent the dread disease.

REFORMS sometimes take such turns that they lose their point of interest and fall to appeal to intelligent people with any degree of good result. Such instances depend upon the spirit that actuates the reformal agitation. Every reform carries with it more or less agitation, and some classes of agitators have always proved a blessing to the world. The agitators who agitate with no personal or selfish motive, but from the earnest, deep set purpose of doing good, generally do good, and their agitation is effective. So with the temperance reform that is now sweeping over North Carolina and the country generally--the agitation is not from selfish motives, but the hope of doing good stimulates the agitators. Those who are working so hard for temperance reform in this land to-day are the most unselfish people in their fight against the liquor traffic that can be found at all. They know that there is no reward for them but the resultant good to others. They sacrifice time and money and labor diligently that they may lessen the evils and lighten the burdens that fall upon those who suffer from the results of the liquor habit. And persons who have not made some careful observation have no real idea what proportions temperance reform has already assumed. It is stirring the people of many States, and in no State in the Union, perhaps, is the question claiming more attention than in North Carolina. The temperance forces are at work and the liquor traffic in this State is doomed to be greatly curtailed if not entirely suppressed.

## Fight in Mid-Ocean.

When the British ship Afrida, forty-seven days out from Singapore, tied up at her pier at New York a few days ago, Captain Golding and his crew told as hair-raising a snake yarn as ever came off the high seas, where live snakes, as a rule, do not abound. Captain Golding is an enthusiastic zoologist and is on the staff of Director Hornaday, of the Bronx zoo. Therefore, when the Afrida left Singapore the captain had stowed away in cages here and there, in odd places from poop to galley, one of the finest collections that he had ever yet brought over to enrich the zoo; and on the sailing list was a twenty-foot python. This huge ophidian was one of the largest the captain had ever seen.

On a dark, still night soon after the ship left Singapore a terrific hubbub broke out among the animals on deck. Captain Golding went to investigate. The python's cage was empty, but there was the python winding its sinuous length about the starboard companion ladder. Instantly there was pandemonium among officers and crew, all of whom rushed to quarters of safety. The captain was the first to get his nerves back, and, advancing cautiously, tried to get the bight of a rope around the snake. But the python was alert, and no matter from what source the captain advanced, he coiled for a throw at the brave mariner. So the captain retired a minute in favor of the mate.

"The mate was the only one who had the nerve to stay on deck," said the captain. "He went to his bunk and got a bull's-eye lantern. Then I armed myself with a broad axe and we began to skirmish. The lantern sort of blinded the snake. "In about half an hour we got a crack at him. The axe took him just in the middle as he hung from the bridge and cut him clean in two. "And then, by gum! we had two snakes to fight instead of one. They hung on to the bridge and waded and wriggled madder than the one of them had been. It took me thirty minutes, watching chances, while the mate flashed the bull's-eye into the piece that had the head, before I got another whack. This time I cut off another piece. They weren't so lively now, and we dodged and backed until I got in a good blow about three feet from the head. That did the business, and when we were through with the rest of the thing there were twelve pieces of him lying around the bridge. "It was another half hour before the crew came out of their holes. They wouldn't believe at first the thing was dead. And then we held a post-mortem and had the deck washed down."

## No Longer Crisp.

The vandal hand of progress has been laid upon the crisp currency of the country. Its currency qualities will not be affected; it will be no harder to get or harder to give, but its crispness will be a thing of the past. This is a more serious matter than the loss of an adjective, it is a loss of personality. The krinkle of a fresh greenback has often served to stiffen the backbone of the despondent and to stiffen yet more the self-satisfaction of opulence. The crispness of the bill has been the source of the feeling of sprightliness of many a man. But now all that is over, and the bill of the future is to be as limp as most men's credit. Soft, sinister and silken will be the mercerized thing which the government is to foist upon the public as its IOU's.

The only consolation to be derived from the sad change is that the money can be made quicker. The country has been treated to all sorts of money, but quick money will prove to be a prime favorite. The assurance is given that what now takes sixty days to make will soon be made in a few days. But alas! this process of money-making is to be a government monopoly. The road to wealth is not yet to be a cross country cut. However, comfort can be found in the assurance that the new money will not shrink in the making. What a boon to humanity! Especially the large element of it who are kept in a state of bewilderment at the diminishing faculty of their assets.

When you want a phlegm that is mild and gentle, easy to take and certain to act, always use Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's drug store, Hobgood.

## THOUSANDS OF FAIR WOMEN HERALD PRAISES FOR PE-RU-NA.

[Catarrhal Dyspepsia and Nervous Prostration Makes Invalids of More Women Than All Other Diseases Combined.]



Systemic catarrh causes nervousness, poor appetite, tired feelings. Peruna cures catarrh wherever located.

### LETTERS FROM WOMEN.

Miss Anna Prescott's Letter. Miss Anna Prescott, in a letter from 216 South Seventh street, Minneapolis, Minn., writes: "I was completely used up last fall, my appetite had failed and I felt weak and tired all the time. My druggist advised me to try Peruna and the relief I experienced after taking one bottle was truly wonderful. "I continued its use for five weeks, and am glad to say that my complete restoration to health was a happy surprise to myself as well as to my friends."--Anna Prescott.

### Peruna as a True Friend to Women.

Miss Florence Allan, a beautiful Chicago girl, writes the following from 75 Walton Place: "As a tonic for a worn out system, Peruna stands at the head in my estimation. Its effects are truly wonderful in rejuvenating the entire system. I keep it on hand all the time, and never have that 'tired feeling,' as a few doses always makes me feel like a different woman."--Florence Allan. Peruna will be found to effect an immediate and lasting cure in all cases of systemic catarrh. It acts quickly and beneficially on the diseased mucous membranes, and with healthy mucous membranes the catarrh can no longer exist.

### Peruna Makes You Feel Like a New Person.

Miss Marie Coats, a popular young woman of Appleton, Wis., and President of the Appleton Young Ladies' Club, writes: "When that languid, tired feeling comes over you, and your food no longer tastes good, and small annoyances irritate you, Peruna will make you feel like another person inside of a week. "I have now used it for three seasons, and find it very valuable and efficacious."--Miss Marie Coats. If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case, and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis. Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

## HEAT OF THE EARTH.

Scientists Trying to Make Practical Use of It.

If we consider the amount of energy brought to the surface in the form of hot water from all the hot springs, we should certainly reach very large figures, and this energy, although not available for operating an engine which uses some liquid like ether, alcohol or carbonic acid gas, boiling at a temperature considerably below the temperature of the water in the hot springs. The suggestion for utilizing the heat below the surface of the earth is a very popular one, and has reappeared at every occurrence of interest in underground temperatures.

It is comparatively easy to compute the depth to which it would be necessary to penetrate in order to find temperatures that would be suitable for the operations with the ordinary steam engines; but in some localities the depth would be so considerable as to appear prohibitory, for the present at least. Still nothing seems to be impossible to modern engineering, and perhaps the next ten years will make a hole in the ground 15,000 feet deep as simple a matter as one 5,000 feet at the present time. Moreover, we are not compelled to select such disadvantageous localities for our enterprise. If, for example, we choose a place where the remnants of volcanic energy are near the surface, it would, undoubtedly, be possible at the present time to put down a hole deep enough to reach a temperature of 300 degrees.

The problem, it appears to the writer, is not so much concerned with the putting down of a hole or holes as with the obtaining of a continued and sufficient amount of energy from the rocks beneath, because the moment operations are commenced, the water or any other liquid is introduced into the bottom of the well the surrounding rocks will be immediately cooled, and must rely upon the outlying areas for a supply of heat by conduction.

### EVERY LADY AND GENTLEMAN

Who are troubled with Pimples or Facial Blemishes are requested to call at their druggist's and get a trial bottle of Hancock's Liquid Sulphur. If used as directed, it will soon destroy the germ, heal the disease, and make the skin white and soft. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

## Cleaning Up the Farms.

Col. J. B. Killebrew in Southern Farm Magazine of Baltimore for August.

In every portion of the South, except in the tobacco districts, August offers the most favorable opportunities for cleaning up and beautifying the farm. Briars, bushes, brambles and noxious weeds should be cut at this period, for, as vegetable life is at its lowest ebb, the chances of destroying such growth are much increased. It is a source of regret, not to say humiliation, to all well-wishers of the South that so little attention is given to the beautifying of Southern homes. The cultivation of a taste for rural embellishments is greatly to be desired. The elegant improvements of a country place appeal to every lover of the beautiful and the true, and form one of the most agreeable and profitable recreations that can engage an intelligent mind. Such improvements add much to the value of an estate. All houses should be painted or whitewashed as well as the fences.

Every one has not good taste, but every one may, by utilizing his spare moments, increase the attractions of his home and add to its pleasantness and beauty and make it an abode of intelligence and virtue. Where one expects to spend all his days, to rear his family and to mould their moral and intellectual natures, nothing will pay so largely as a tasteful dwelling, embellished in shrubbery, enlivened by flowers and green turf, a little wood lot near, with fine old shade trees, and a herd of well bred cattle or a flock of well bred sheep running thereon to give animation to the scene, thus exciting a deep interest in the breeding of domestic animals and a genuine love for the duties of the farm. It does not require great wealth to secure these things, but they give a charm to the home and add grace, beauty and activity, furnishing as much satisfaction and happiness as the most splendid mansion, with its expensive greenhouses and flower gardens.

### THE DEATH PENALTY.

A little thing sometimes results in death. Thus a mere scratch, insignificant cuts or puny boils have paid the death penalty. It is wise to have Buckle's Arnica Salve ever handy. It's the best Salve on earth and will prevent fatality, when Burns, Sores, Ulcers and Piles threaten. Only 25c. at E. T. Whitehead & Co.'s drug store.

## Rubb r Tree Story.

Raleigh Post.

A little knot of Confederate veterans gathered about State Auditor Dixon and Mr. A. B. Stronach the other day and very naturally began relating thrilling incidents of the civil war. The stories grew more and more marvelous until Mr. Tom Medlin, a farmer near the Wake-Harnett line, told his story and effectually put all the others out of the business. Major Dixon had started the ball to rolling by relating how he had to place a guard on both sides of a small stream, exposed to the enemy's fire, because members of his company insisted on seeing how many times they could run across the plank spanning the branch without getting shot.

"Well, boys," said one gray-haired listener, "I joined the army in May, 1861, and was right by General Lee at Appomattox when he was sitting on a horse under an apple tree and handed General Grant his sword." "I tell you all what I did," said another. "A whole regiment of yankees was pursuing a few of us through a broom straw field. We were trying to get away but they were getting mighty close. Well, I happened to feel in my pockets and found just one match. I struck it and set that field afire and you ought to have seen that whole regiment turn back and fly."

"There won't none of you all in the Mexican war, was there?" inquired Tom Medlin, one of the breathless listeners. "Well, if you all was't, I was," he continued, "and one day a squad of Mexican cavalry got after me. I ran as hard as I could but they were galloping right on. Presently I ran right up against an India-rubber tree. I never stopped but I just reached up and took hold of one of the branches and kept right on. I reckon I ran a quarter of a mile holding that limb, then I stopped and turned the limb loose. That branch whizzed through the air like a cyclone and it popped every one of those blooming Mexicans right under the chin and knocked them off their horses in every direction."

Nobody dared follow Mr. Medlin and that ended the stories.

### TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

## To Cure a Cold in One Day

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