THE COMMONWEALTH.

Published Every Thursday

BY

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Publisher's Announcement.

It is a settled point in newspaper ethics that editors and publishers are not responsible for the views of correspondents, and the publication of a communication does not mean that the editor or publisher endorses the communication. THE COMMONWEALTH adheres to these general pricipies.

DOES HE WISH TO OWN IT?

Ex-Judge W. A. Montgomery now wants the News and Observer to pay him $50,000.00 because it published Tom Dixon's reply to the "Jege's" denunciation of himself and his play "The Traitor". He is also trying to sue Tom Dixon for 50,000.00 for writing the letter and "calling him names."

The case will no doubt be an interesting one and will be watched with interest all over the State.

It looks like the "Jege" would like to own the "Old Reliable," and also that he places a high estimate on its value, since its capital stock, we think, is only about $25,000. The "Jege" will never get into the newspaper business so easily in North Carolina, and when a "jury of his peers" pass on the merits of his case we "specks" he will be less able to own a newspaper than he is now.

HOW ABOUT IT?

The opera house again? Well, yes. This suggestion has been offered: That the "young blood" of the town organize a business and social club. Then set about to formulate plans to build a club room, opera house and lodge room, and stores on the ground floor. The stores should pay well, the lodge room would pay well, the opera house well managed and well advertised would pay, and the club rooms are a necessity for any town of any progress at all. On the whole it is a fine proposition, and if the people will co-operate it will be easy to realize. The editor of this paper would like to hear from any citizen. This proposition realized will mean much for the business interests of Scotland Neck. Let us hear from the brethren. Don't be afraid to speak out in meeting.

FARMERS.

In this issue we print the call of the county chairman of the Southern Cotton Association, for the farmers of Halifax county to meet at Halifax on Monday Nov. 30th. It should meet with hearty response, and every township in the county should see to it that its secion is largely represented. It means much to the farmers. The Southern Cotton Association has done great things for the tillers of the soil and they should not let up in their fight for better markets and fairer prices for their products. Cotton is not bringing what it should bring. The farmers have the power, if they will only co-operate with each other, to make the prices what they should be. Farmers: Don't neglect your own interests—if you do you do it to your hurt. Meet together, discuss the situation and solve the problems that confront you like business men. You can do it—There is strength in union. Let there be a great mass meeting of the farmers at Halifax on Monday next, Nov. 30th.

Straining at Gnats.

(News and Observer.)

The Republican way of improving agricultural conditions is to let the trusts tax farmers so that they pay double for all they buy while selling in the open markets of the world and let the money trust regulate the volume of money so that they help to fix the prices of what a farmer sells. When these operations of bleeding the farmers are protested against, then they appoint a Commission to Improve Farm Conditions and send the farmers some seed. But THE big foe of the farmer is not molested.

The days of the "gobbler" are surely numbered.

PURITY THE STANDARD.

It is of no importance what position a man or woman holds in life, so they live up to the position claimed for themselves and be pure, true and clean. People often think their hearts and lives are not read and known, but they deceive no one so much as themselves. The man who holds himself out to the world as being great, pure and true must have these virtues or he will be the object of contempt, redicule and condemnation.

The man who holds out to the world that he is honest and clean suffers the greater in his own conscience by having succeeded in keeping the world ignorant of his real character. What is the immediate success in life attained by living the life of falsity and strained sensitive conscience compared with a long life of battle, with a clean conscience and purity of thought with a more moderate succes from living the genuine life?

Much is being written and said that is regarded as "Muck Raking," the substance of which is that our press and speakers and the people themselves are speaking openly in their condemnation of men and measures that are not pure, simple and true. Where people talk openly the crime seems the greater, but it is only the greater light. There has been suspicion and whisper with the corruption beneath the surface. In this time of strong insight—investigation—a mans' record and manner can not long hide his guilt. He may receive the world's applause for the time being but the judgment of the people is alway sure and correct.

The motto of the day is "Purity and Simplicity." Purity is a real thing without any glow, glimmour or gloss. Simplicity is living the real life, reaching back to purity. The pure life and the simple life as they are understood to-day are synonymous. Science with its achievements and exactness enables us to have purity of foods, medicines and goods. Our laws enforce the laws of science in regard to food and medicine. The public conscience of to-day demands pure hearts and the conscince demands that men's lives be unadulterated. Our press and speakers bring the light to bear so strongly on men's lives that if they be not true and pure, they are sure to fall, and how readily does a man come to lose his position in life when he is known to be impure and unclean. We have marked cases in our strongest men to-day.

It then behooves all men to keep their lives pure in the smaller things which will enable them to be pure in the greater. The man guilty of smaller deceptions, of falsity, will be guilty of great deceptions from growth and development in that phase of his life. Purity of character and of heart requires men to keep their thoughts clean. The thought is the father of the act and acts repeated make habit and character.

The country is judged and made great by the people at the head of its affairs. The men in the more humble positions of life take their character and thoughts from the men in the more exalted positions. It then behooves all men if for no other reason than a making of character of their more humble cititizen to put men of pure character, strong, clean hearts in exalted positions.

The time and condition demand purity in life, simplicity in manner and trueness of purpose.

Purity is the standard. Whatever our position that should be our aim.

The establishing of a public library by the noble women of our town is another evidence of the fact that the women lead in every good movement. They are greatly to be commended and should receive the hearty co-operation of every one.

Every one today can be truly thankful that he is not a turkey.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

A great change has taken place in the streets and sidewalks of Scotland Neck since our last issue.

Mr. C. W. Dunn has recently been placed in charge of this department of our city's affairs and he has had a force of hands at work putting things in order. The trashy filled up gutters have been cleaned out, the sidewalks are being made over and new and better bridges are taking the place of the old ones.

Mr. Dunn is an officer of the right type. He believes that an officer is employed for other purposes than merely to draw his salary, and he is rendering valuable services.

He has not only had the streets to "arouse and shake off the dirty crusts" but the merchants and business men have been "put busy" having their back lots put in clean condition. Let every business man and every citizen do his duty and lets make OUR town the prettiest and best in the State.

Keep up the good work, Mr. Officer, and the good citizens will stand by you.

IMPORTANT MEETING.

To The Farmers of Halifax County.

By appointment of the Halifax County Branch of the North Carolina Division of the Southern Cotton Association at its last meeting in Halifax, there will be a meeting of the Association in the town of Halifax on next Monday, November 30th.

It is highly important that every township in the county be fully represented in the meeting. The Southern Cotton Association has been worth millions of dollars to the South, and it is suicidal on the part of the farmers to neglect its interests. Cotton is not bringing its true value and it is with the farmers to say whether they will maintain their organization for better prices or neglect their organization and suffer the consequences. Let at least six or eight true and loyal supporters of the Southern Cotton Association from each township attend the meeting in Halifax next Monday.

The meeting will be held in the court house during the dinner hour when court takes recess.

E. E. HILLIARD,
Pres. Halifax Co. S. C. A.

Halifax News.

(Cor. to The Commonwealth.)

Halifax, N. C., Nov. 24, 1908.

Mr. J. Bowers, of Scotland Neck, was here Monday on business.

Dr. A. Donaldson Smith, of Scotland Neck, was a visitor here a day or so ago.

Mr. Norwood Simmons, of Washington, N. C., spent Sunday here with friends.

Mr. H. C. Harper went to Nashville a few days ago to remain two weeks.

Mr. J. S. Mann, of Raleigh, spent a day here recently.

Mr. I. J. Hartly, of Petersburg, was in town a few days ago looking for the famous Spanish nut.

Mr. E. L. Vinson who is taking the finishing course in pharmacy and chemistry at Greensboro, spent Sunday and Monday here.

Mrs. George Cole, and little daughter, of Shelmerdine, are visitors at Mrs. Ousby's this week.

Mr. Harry Gowan came home a few days ago from a business trip through the Sunny Southern States and Porto Rica.

The children of the Halifax High School gave an entertainment last Friday evening at the Court House. The program of recitations, dialogues, etc., was very well rendered. "The Sewing Society," by Misses Margaret Stephenson, Mary Webb, Alice Hale, Leona Shaw, Lizzie Hale and Maggie Batts, was especially good. "The Negro Night School", by Masters Travis, Bass, Webb, Stephenson and Jenkins, was well rendered and received well rounded applause. The teachers, Misses Rebe Ousby and Helen Daniel, deserve much recognition in demonstrating their ability in training the children so well that have been entrusted to them.

Foolish to Hope.

(Statesville Landmark.)

During the campaign Judge Taft promised that he would call immediately after his inaguration, a special session of Congress to revise the tariff. This promise was repeated Sunday when, after a conference with President Roosevelt, Judge Taft again announced that he would call the special session of Congress as soon after the 4th of March as possible, to take up the question of tariff revision. We may expect, therefore, that the special session will be held, but it would be unwise to base any special hope of relief on a Republican revision of the tariff.

FIRE AT PARMELE.

Large Dwelling of Mr. S. T. Glisson Almost Completely Destroyed.

There was quite a dangerous fire at Parmele Thursday morning between two and three o'clock when the large dwelling house occupied by Mr. S. T. Clisson and family was almost completely destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown, and it is said that Mr. and Mrs. Glisson had a narrow escape from burning. Hardly any of the household good were saved.

The property is owned by Mr. Ed. Roberson, of Robersonville, and it is said to have been insured. The bursting flames soon had a large crowd on the scene, but they were powerless to check their fury.

Williams-Hearn.

(Cor. to The Commonwealth.)

Burgaw, N. C., November 17.—At the home of Mr. W. M. Dixon, was the scene Tuesday at 5 p. m., of an unusually pretty wedding. Miss Maud Lillian Hearn, daughter of the late Mr. H. R. Hearn, and Mrs. Marina C. Hearn, became the bride of Mr. Noah Hodges Williams, a prominent young farmer of Wharton, Beaufort county.

The home was beautifully decorated with white and yellow chrysanthemums intertwined with ever green. The bride entered the parlor leaning on the arm of the groom and they were happily united in marriage, Hon. J. C. Lathem performing the ceremony.

Immediately after the ceremony a reception was tendered the bride and groom who were the recipients of many good wishes. Many sensible wedding gifts attested the popularity of the couple.

The bride wore a handsome blue silk dress with hat and gloves to match. They left on the 6 o'clock train for Kinston where they will attend the Christian Convention, after which the will go to Whorton, N. C., their future home.

The bride is a young woman of charming personality and a former resident of Scotland Neck. The groom is a highly esteemed citizen of Beaufort county.

Manning-Dempsy.

The following account of the marriage of Mr. J. T. Manning, formerly of this place, taken from the Gainsville (Fla.) Elevator, will be of interest to Mr. Manning's friends here:

The marriage of Mr. J. T. Manning and Miss Pattie H. Dempsy on Wednesday morning of this week, united two most popular young people in this city.

While the event was not known until a few hours previous to the ceremony, and the fact of the marriage being a strictly home and family gathering prevented their numerous friends from demonstrating the esteem in which they are both held. The groom was formerly an employee of the Seaboard Air Line at this point, but is now located as agent and telegraph operator of the Atlantic Coast Line road at Clark, also conducting a mercantile business at the same place. During his residence here he was a general favorite.

The bride, Miss Pattie H. Dempsey, counts her dear friends by the number of inhabitants in the city and as book-keeper for years in the office of the Gainsville Gas and Electric Power Co., showed her ability as a business woman.

The marriage took place at 8 o'clock in the morning, the ceremony being performed by Rev. T. N. Nixon of the Methodist church in the presence of the immediate family. The newly wedded couple left on the first train for Clark, Fla., their future home, taking with them the best wishes of every one.

In Honor of Bride and Groom.

Tillery, N. C., Nov. 19.—Mr. and Mrs. James O. Applewhite entertained a number of their friends Friday night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Applewhite, who had just returned from their bridal trip. The house was beautifully decorated with autumn leaves and southern smilax. The guests were received in the hall by Miss Julia Curtis Rhem, in the west room by Mrs. John Fenner, and in the parlor by Mr. and Mrs. James Applewhite and the bride and groom. Miss Elizabeth Fenner served pucnh during the evening. From ten-thirty to eleven-thirty a delicious supper was served, the dinning room being artistically decorated in autumn leaves and chrysanthemums. The guests were Mr. and Mrs. John H. Applewhite, Miss Susan Pope, Misses Cherry, Barkley, Pope, and Sewell, Mr. Pope, Messrs. E. Applewhite, Charles F. Marks, G. C. Howell, R. L. Applewhite, and J. B. Flangher.