

Paris, Texas Man Who Is Grateful.

I feel I owe it to you to let you know what Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root has done for me. I was bothered for about twelve months with backache and kidney trouble, also annoying symptoms and was badly run down. After using Swamp-Root, I was restored to health. I am now in good health.

Very truly yours,
J. M. DODD,
Paris, Texas.
Sworn and subscribed to before me this 19th day of February, A. D. 1912.

CHAS. A. NORTHERY,
Justice of the Peace and Ex-Officio
Notary Public in and for Lamar
County, Texas.

Letter to
Dr. Kilmer & Co.,
Binghamton, N. Y.

What Swamp-Root Will Do For You.
Send to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle to convince any one. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling all about the kidneys and bladder. When writing be sure and mention The Commonwealth. Regular fifty-cent and one dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.

DR. A. C. LIVERMON,
DENTIST.

Office up stairs in White-head Building.
Office hours from 9 to 1 o'clock and 2 to 5 o'clock.

DR. MORGAN
Physician and Surgeon
Scotland Neck, N. C.
Office in the building formerly used by Dr. J. P. Wimberley.

ALBION DUNN
Lawyer
Practices here whenever his services shall be required.

CHAS. L. STATION,
Attorney-at-Law,
Scotland Neck, N. C.
Practices wherever his services are required.

ASHBY DUNN
Attorney and Counselor at Law
SCOTLAND NECK, N. C.
Practices wherever his services are required.
Money to loan on approved security.

DR. R. L. SAVAGE
OF ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.
Will be in Scotland Neck, N. C., on the third Wednesday of each month at the hotel to treat the diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat, and fit glasses.

DR. O. F. SMITH
Physician and Surgeon
Office in Planters & Commercial Bank Building
Scotland Neck, N. C.

Madam, Read McCall's
The Fashion Authority

McCALL'S is a large, artistic, handsomely illustrated 100-page monthly magazine that is adding to the happiness and efficiency of 1,100,000 women each month.

Read it to be informed of the latest fashions, to see the latest styles, to get the latest news of the world, to see the latest news of the world, to see the latest news of the world.

McCALL'S PATTERNS are famous for their simplicity and economy. Only one cent each. The subscribers to McCALL'S will send them to you in return for the name of the magazine and the name of the person to whom they are to be sent.

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PARKER'S
HAIR BALSAM
Promotes a luxuriant growth of the hair and keeps it from falling out. It is the only hair dressing that does so.

BULBS!

Now is the time to set out Flowering Bulbs to bloom next spring; also to pot or box some of them for forcing in the house. I have received a large collection of Imported Hyacinths, Daffodils, Narcissus and many other varieties at reasonable prices. Place your order for Roses, Carnations and other Choice Cut Flowers, Floral Designs, Palms and Ferns. Send for price list.

H. STEINMETZ
FLORIST
Raleigh, North Carolina.

WHEN WAS THE CHRIST CHILD BORN?

It is not generally known that there is a grave question as to the actual date of Christ's birth. For many centuries we have celebrated Christmas on Dec. 25, and have not troubled ourselves with chronological inquiries. That course is no doubt reasonable and proper, for the churches have sanctioned it.

As a matter of fact, few modern theologians and chronologists agree as to the date of the birth of the Saviour. What most of them agree on, however, is that it did not occur on Dec. 25.

A point on which there is still more unanimity is that Christ was not born in the year which we call A. D. He was born at least four years earlier.

The present method of counting the years was introduced by the Roman abbot Dionysius Exiguus in the sixth century and came into general use two centuries later, during the reign of Charlemagne. He placed the Nativity on Dec. 25, 754, A. U. C.—i. e., after the founding of Rome. Nearly all chronologists agree that he was wrong by about four years. Christ, according to them, was born 750 A. U. C., or 4 B. C., if not earlier.

Much evidence is offered in support of this. According to Matthew ii, 1, Christ was born in the days of King Herod I, or the Great, who died, according to Josephus, at Jericho A. U. C. 750, just before the Passover. This date has been verified by the astronomical calculations of the eclipse of the moon, which took place on March 13 in the year 750 A. U. C., a few days before Herod's death.

Allowing two months or more for the events between the birth of Christ and the murder of the innocents by Herod, the nativity must be put back at least to February or January, 751 A. U. C. or 4 B. C.

The star which guided the wise men has been brought into service in the attempt to fix the birth of Christ with scientific accuracy. Between 1603 and 1604 the great astronomer Kepler observed a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, which was made more luminous by the addition of Mars in the month of March, 1604. In the autumn of the same year he observed near the planets Saturn, Jupiter and Mars a new fixed star of uncommon brilliancy.

It was blazing and glittering "like the most beautiful and glorious torch ever seen when driven by a strong wind" and seemed to Kepler an "extraordinarily wonderful work of God."

He thought that this phenomenon might lead to the determination of the date of Christ's birth. By careful calculation he ascertained that a similar conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, with the later addition of Mars and probably some extraordinary star, took place repeatedly between the years 747 and 748 A. U. C.

The discovery of Kepler was almost forgotten until the nineteenth century, when it was independently confirmed by several eminent astronomers, among them Schubert of St. Petersburg, Ideler and Bencke of Berlin and Pritchard of London.

The majority of theologians agree that the date of Christ's birth cannot be fixed accurately from the New Testament or from any other source.



THE CHRIST CHILD.

Regulations Covering the System Are Made Public.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Regulations to cover workings of the new parcels post system, which is to go into operation January 1, next, were made public by Postmaster General Hitchcock today. The new system will be effective throughout the entire postal service at the same time and will affect every postoffice, city, rural and railway mail transportation route in the country. Every precaution will be taken by the post-office to have the mails moved with the usual despatch and all postmasters, superintendents and inspectors have been directed to thoroughly familiarize themselves and their subordinates with every phase of the new system.

The regulations provide that parcels of merchandise, including farm and factory products (but not books and printed matter) of almost every description up to 11 pounds in weight and measuring as much as six feet in length and girth combined except those calculated to do injury to the mails in transit, may be mailed at any postoffice for delivery to any address in the country. Delivery will be made to the homes of people living on rural and star routes as well as those living in cities and towns where there is delivery by carrier. Where there is at present no delivery by carrier the parcels will go to the postoffice as in the case with ordinary mail.

The postage rate for the zone—that is, within distances not exceeding 50 miles, will be five cents for the first pound and three cents for each additional pound. Rates increase for each successive one of the eight zones into which the country is divided. The maximum rate being 12 cents a pound, which will carry a parcel across the continent, or even to Alaska and the Philippines.

For a fee of 10 cents a parcel may be insured and if the parcel is lost in the mails an indemnity to the amount of its value not to exceed 50 dollars will be paid to the sender.

The law provides for the use of distinctive postage stamps and there is now being distributed to postmasters for use in the parcels post system a set of stamps of 12 denominations. Parcel post maps with accompanying guides, are to be sold to the public at their cost, 75 cents, through the chief clerk of the post-office department.

Narrow Escape.

A domestic servant at Market Drayton had a narrow escape during a recent thunderstorm. The girl had retired to bed leaving the window open and an alarm clock on a chair near the bedside. She was awakened by the smell of burning clothing, and found that the lightning had pierced a hole through the clock and ignited the chair-seating. The clothes of the bed in which she was sleeping were also smouldering.

The wonderful record of Scott's Emulsion as a body-builder has been proved for three generations. It strengthens the bones, muscles and sinews; builds the body, creates energy and vigor; prevents and relieves colds and fortifies the lungs.

Millions of delicate and undeveloped children have been made strong, sturdy and hearty by Scott's Emulsion.

Insist on having SCOTT'S.

Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J. 12-58

Christmas Morning



THE PARCELS POST.

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GROWING BOYS GIRLS

are under double strain—strength to live and learn and strength to grow—they must have nourishment—not over-loaded stomachs, but concentrated nutriment to aid nature during the growing period.

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Parables of 1912.

If you toot your little tooter
And lay aside your horn,
There's not a soul in ten short days
Will know that you were born.

The man who advertises
With a short and sudden jerk,
Is the one who blames the paper
Because it doesn't work.

But the man who gets the business,
And who the other fellow beats,
Is the advertiser with the adlet
That you read from week to week.

We can help you toot your trumpet,
We can bring the people in,
We can help you build your business,
Are you ready to begin?

Moral—He who toots his little trumpet
Can withstand a sudden shock,
For like the man in Scripture
He builds his business on a rock.

—Fourth Estate.

Dust to Dust.

B. J. Norcom passed from time on November 8th, near seven in the morning, at the age of about fifty-two. In early life he was greatly blessed with all the useful things of this life. I have known him over fifty years. In 1861, as a true soldier for Southern rights, he volunteered and left Plymouth with some of his fellow comrades. When the war was over he returned to his storm riddled home near Plymouth. His home between Sandy Creek and Plymouth was more shattered than many by the effects of a hard fight when Plymouth fell in the hands of Coke, and was one of those everlasting memories to all the survivors present on this occasion. About the date 1867 my friend, Ben Norcom, was united in marriage to Emie Ausbon. After living together about thirty years she was called home. He then went to Greenville and stayed some time. He then came to Halifax county and was married to Mrs. Della Watson. She preceded him some years ago.

T. E. AUSBON.

How to Keep Sick.

Keep the windows closed all the time, especially when you sleep—fresh air would keep you healthy.

Eat any kind of food regardless of its nutritive value—sawdust and excelsior are good "fillers."

Swallow your food without chewing it—your stomach has no teeth.

Keep the sunshine out of your home—germs don't like sunshine.

Eat irregularly—by all means keep your stomach disordered.

Never take a bath—Soap and water are enemies of disease.

Don't disturb the flies—you'll miss a lot of filth if you do.

What's the use of being healthy any how?

Harsh physics react, weaken the bowels, will lead to chronic constipation. Doan's Regulets operate easily. 25c a box at all drug stores.

FROZE A SOAP BUBBLE.

Then Broke It in Pieces and Floated Them on Liquid Air.

A frozen soap bubble broken in two and floating like an iridescent, transparent eggshell on the surface of a vessel of liquid air was one of the marvels exhibited by Professor Dewar in a lecture before the Royal Institute of Great Britain.

The lecture was upon the subject of atmosphere and the curious effects of intense cold, the liquid air and soap bubble being adjuncts introduced to facilitate some explanations.

A few spoonfuls of liquid air were poured into a vessel, and the intense cold caused by evaporation immediately brought on a miniature snowstorm in the atmosphere directly above the vessel. A soap bubble was then placed in the freezing stratum. Almost instantly there was a change in the color of the transparent globe, the bubble becoming much darker; the movements of the rainbows film grew slower; it contracted somewhat in size, and a little later it froze.

A slight but dexterous movement of the rod upon which the bubble was suspended broke the latter into two pieces, which fell upon the liquid air and there floated for an hour, gradually accumulating a tiny snowdrift from the almost imperceptible precipitation constantly going on in the freezing atmosphere above.

STEVENSON'S GRAVE.

Its Romantic Site, in Samoa, Atop the Forest Clad Vaila.

No English novelist rests in a more eccentric spot than that chosen by Robert Louis Stevenson, who is buried on the summit of the forest clad Vaila. In the island of Samoa, that genial spot in the south Pacific that the gifted writer loved so well.

The day after his death at Vailima, in 1894, his remains were carried to the top of this precipitous and picturesque peak by sixty sturdy Samoans, who had loved and now mourned their dead chief, Tautala.

A party of forty had previously cut a pathway through the thick, tangled wood with knives and axes, while another party had prepared the grave. With infinite care and trouble they bore him shoulder high over the rough ground to his last long home, and there, under the starry sky, they left him to sleep forever, with the Pacific at his feet.

On either side of his tombstone is a bronze plate. One bears the words "The Tomb of Tautala," while the other is inscribed with his own requiem, beginning:

Under the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie.

The Parrot Fish.

There are water parrots as well as land parrots. The parrot fish come from the tropics, are brilliantly colored and have beaks something like those of the parrot, for use in breaking off the coral shell in order to get at the living polyp. Not all of them, however, live on animal food, some species being herbivorous. One species is found in the Mediterranean sea, where it has been known for thousands of years. The Greeks and Romans regarded it for a time as the first of fishes, and Pliny tells us how it was introduced into the Italian sea in the course of the reign of Claudius. It was known as the "scarus" by the ancients, who told some wonderful stories about its love, its wisdom and its punishment. Some having a length of sixteen inches have been captured alive.

Doncaster Races.

Doncaster is one of the four places—the other three being Chester, Epsom and Lincoln—that claim to be the cradle of the British turf. In May, 1900, the minutes of the corporation record that "Hugh Wyrall bath caused a stoop," or post, "to be set on Doncaster More at the west end of the horse-race," which was ordered to be "cut down." A few years later "for the prevention of suits, quarrels, murders and bloods" it was agreed "that the race on Doncaster More be discontinued." Eventually the corporation, with the Yorkshire combined love of "it brass" and sport, took the horse racing under its patriarchal care and turned the meeting into a source of profit—London Standard.

The French.

The French were first mentioned as the Franks, a tribe of warlike Germans in the northwestern part of the region now known as Prussia. They came into notice about 240 A. D. and with other German tribes invaded the Roman empire in the fifth century and settled in the country now known as France. The word Frank, or Frankman, means freeman. After their conquest of Gaul they named the country Frankentek, or Frank's kingdom.

Getting Him Inured.

"What makes Bliggus compel his boy to practice standing bareheaded in inclement weather?" "He has an idea the boy will be president of the United States some day and wants to have him well rehearsed for inauguration."—Washington Star.

She Agreed.

Mr. Gnaggus—I want you to understand, Mrs. Gnaggus, that I am no fool. Mrs. Gnaggus—For once I agree with you. A fool and his money are soon parted, and I have never been able to get a dollar out of you.—Philadelphia Record.

He censures God who quarrels with the imperfections of men.—Burke.

Do you take The Commonwealth.

The only Baking Powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar. Absolutely Pure. No Alum. No Lime Phosphates.

U. S. Newspaper Laws.

Below is the law in regard to newspapers:

First—Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary are considered as wishing to continue their subscription.

Second—If the subscriber orders discontinuance of periodical the publisher may continue to send the same until arrears are paid.

Third—If a subscriber neglects or refuses to take the periodicals from the postoffice to which they have been directed he is held responsible until he has settled his bill and ordered the paper discontinued.

Fourth—If the subscriber moves to other places without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.

Fifth—The courts have decided that refusing or removing or leaving them uncalled for is a prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

Sixth—Any person who receives a newspaper and makes use of it, whether he has ordered it or not, is held in the law to be a subscriber.

Two Features of Modern Education.

Compulsory school attendance and medical inspection of all school children are two features of the modern educational plan which will no doubt in the near future be adopted by all progressive communities. The city schools of Raleigh have put these features into effect and the results are very satisfactory and beneficial.

A competent physician is employed to give adequate time to the work of medical inspection of all the children and there is compulsory attendance from 8 to 14 years of age. And we learn from The Progressive Farmer that "the enrollment at the present session has consequently climbed to 3,200 as compared with 2,500 on the same date last year—about 700 children brought into the schools who might otherwise have grown up in ignorance, idleness and commercial subjects have also been introduced into the curriculum, and the parententend tells us that the cooking classes, which were at first positively unpopular, have now become the most popular feature of the schools."—Lenoir Topics.

Live Australian Freaks.

A calf, somewhat of a freak of nature, was born on T. G. Ware's farm at Little Akarua, Australia, recently. It has five legs, the extra one working in a socket in the breastbone. The calf is thriving, and is strong and healthy. Another freak, a lamb, is reported to have been born at Plat Point Station. It has three ears and eight legs. It did not live.

Big Metal Shingle Business.

The Cortright Metal Roofing Company, of Philadelphia, Pa., whose advertisements of Cortright Metal Shingles have been running in The Commonwealth for nearly a year past, advise us that 1912 will show an immense volume of business in their line. It is gratifying to carry the advertising of so prosperous and successful a concern and to feel that The Commonwealth has had some part in creating such success. Any of our readers interested in roofing should write for literature and further particulars.

Why Have "Nerves?"

This is the reason why women have "nerves." When thoughts begin to grow cloudy and uncertain, impulses lag and the warnings of pain and distress are sent like flying messages throughout limbs and frame, straightway, nine times in ten, a woman will lay the cause of the trouble to some defect at the point where she first felt it. Is it a headache, a backache, a sensation of irritability or twitching and uncontrollable nervousness, something must be wrong with the head or back, or woman naturally says, but all the time the real trouble very often centers in the womanly organs. In nine cases out of ten the seat of the difficulty is here, and a woman should take rational treatment for its cure. The local disorder and inflammation of the delicate special organs of the sex should be treated steadily and systematically.

Dr. Pierce, during a long period of practice, found that a prescription made from medicinal extracts of native roots, without the use of alcohol, relieved over 90 per cent. of such cases. After using this remedy for many years in his private practice he put it up in form of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, that would make it easily procurable, and it can be had at any store where medicines are handled.

Mrs. Lila B. Hawkins, of Zions, Va., writes: "I had been falling in health for two years—most of the time was not able to attend to my household duties. Female weakness was my trouble and I was getting very bad but, thanks to Doctor Pierce's medicines, I am well and strong again. I took only three bottles of 'Favorite Prescription,' and used the 'Lotion Tablets.' I have nothing but praise for Doctor Pierce's wonderful medicine."

TAKE DR. PIERCE'S PLEASANT PELLETS FOR LIVER ILLS.