

THE COMMONWEALTH
Afternoon Daily

The Commonwealth, Inc.
Scotland Neck Bank Bldg.
Scotland Neck, N. C.

Entered at the Postoffice at
Scotland Neck, N. C., as second-
class matter under Act of Con-
gress, March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
(In Advance)
Through the Mail
Daily Issue

One Year \$3.00
Six Months 1.50
Three Months75
One Month25
By Carrier 19c per week

All articles submitted for
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in

Tuesday — December 16, 1919

MEDITATIONS OF A MAN.

The book of life is never so
bright but that a man may turn
over a new leaf, with advantage to
others as well as to himself.

It is so with me.
I have reformed my ways with
regard to my wife, and she is a
happier and more contented wo-
man today—and her happiness
means our home brighter for me.

But I have still my children to
consider, for in my determina-
tion to chase the shadows from
the life of my wife I neglected to
include them. It seems that al-
ways I forgot something.

But it is never too late to add
another link in the chain of re-
formation.

I will forge it today.
I am responsible for the pres-
ence of my children in this world.
Their tomorrow is my legitimate
care of today, and by my acts
they will judge me.

Do I remember that in their
infancy they have neither
thought nor care of the future—
that to them it is a void, the
meaning of which has not pene-
trated their infantile brains?

Do I remember that even the
slightest of impressions are
often indelibly stamped upon
their budding memories, to ac-
company them through life and
into the shadows beyond.

Do I remember that many of
those impressions must neces-
sarily be formed from the man-
ner of my actions in their presence,
and of the treatment I accord to
them?

Do I remember that as they be-
come older their conceptions of
right and wrong will be gauged
mainly by the teachings they
receive in their own home?

Do I remember that while their
destinies must be carved out by
their own hands, yet their fu-
ture will be principally deter-
mined by the paths into which I
lead them today.

Do I make of myself a beacon
light which they may follow in
confidence and in the knowledge
that it will lead them through the
intricate perils of youth and in-
to the safe harbor of maturity?

Am I to them at all times and
in all things the kind and loving
parent, whom little children de-
light to fondle and to caress?

Do I give to them such tender
thought and care, that they may
grow and think in always the sun-
shine of their home?

Is my daily treatment of them
such that they long each night
for the hour when daddy comes
home again?

And as the years lead them
slowly from infancy to youth
and from youth to maturity
shall I be of them a companion,
a comrade, a loyal friend as well
as a parent?

Alas! My shortcomings have
been many and great. Always I

have forgotten—and to forget is
to neglect.

The burden of their care has
fallen principally upon the frail
shoulders of my wife—that lov-
ing companion whose burdens I
should also bear, as well as
theirs.

But I will make amends!

I will remember all of these
things and I will do all of these
things, for as I am to them today
so will they be to theirs in their
own time—for heredity is strong
and may not easily be cast aside.

And when their own heads
have become silvered by the
lapse of time, and I have passed
on to my reward, I would that
they might some day think back
over the years that have flown
and write of me that epitaph
which is more lasting than gran-
ite more precious than gold:

"My father was a good man."

CLARKSVILLE LITERARY CLUB.

The Clarksville Literary Club met
at the home of Mrs. Dickinson on
Friday afternoon, December 12.

The program was most interesting
and highly enjoyed by all.

"England as Received by Henry
V." by Mrs. Purrington.

"The Battle of Agincourt and its
Results," by Mrs. Butterworth.

Act II, Chorus and Scene II read by
the club.

The hostess served delightful re-
freshments.

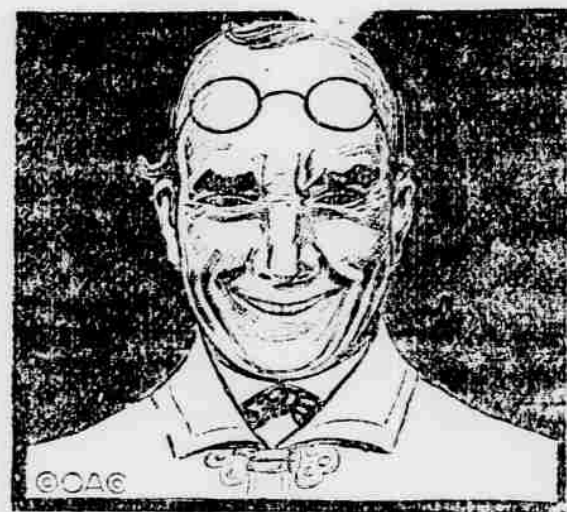
Those present were: Mesdames C.
W. Albertson, W. R. Albertson, But-
terworth, Dickinson, Dunn, Ever-
ett, Egan, Herzing, W. H. McDow-
ell, W. A. McDowell, Purrington, Rus-
sell, S. H. Smith and W. E. Smith.

MEASURING PARTY.

You are cordially invited to attend
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Ashby Dunn on Thursday evening, De-
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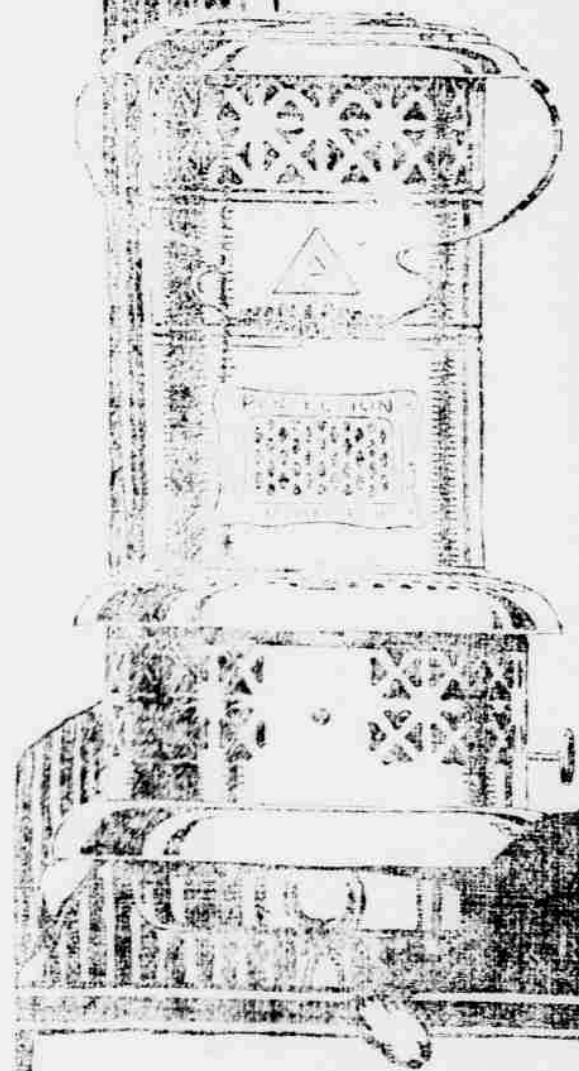
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