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MENTION THIS PAPER.

31 IV

THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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VOL. XV. New Series—Vol. 4.

SCOTLAND NECK, N. C. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1899.

NO. 48.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS

Points and Paragraphs of Things
Present, Past and Future.

The Wilmington Star makes some very pointed observations about the passing of the bicycle. It observes that the "bike" as a fad is passing out and that it will be retained only as a necessary means of rapid travel by persons who have to go long distances to places of labor and the like.

Carlyle long ago wrote: "Alas, nothing will continue;" and this seems to be coming true for the bicycle as for other things. Soon the automobile or some other fad will engage the attention of those who can afford it, "just for the fun of it."

The prevalence of fever in several parts of the State is something unusual for this season of the year; and it is commendable on the part of health authorities that they are making investigations for the purpose of finding out and removing the cause.

Small-pox is also scattered about over the State and late reports say that there is an epidemic of the latter disease at Bowling Green, Ky. Five hundred cases were reported from one district. The sensible remedy against the disease everywhere is vaccination. Wherever and whenever successful, vaccination is general small-pox can not thrive.

While the Speaker of the next House of Congress is already named in Col. Henderson, of Iowa, it is interesting to note some things concerning the Democratic who will be brought forward by their party. There are three men aspiring to this nomination. The leading candidate is James D. Richardson, of Tennessee. Being an active member of the House and thoroughly versed in all parliamentary law, he will be a strong man for the nomination by the Democrats.

David A. DeArmond, of Missouri, is also a candidate. He is the candidate of Richard P. Bland, the great silver leader, who before his death wrote the Democratic members of the House to support Mr. DeArmond, who has been in the House eight years.

John H. Bankhead, of Alabama, who has been in the House twelve years, is the third candidate for the leadership on the Democratic side, for that is what the nomination for Speaker by the minority means. It is an important matter. The man who shall be nominated by the Democrats, if he remain in Congress until the Democrats are again in the majority, will be the Speaker of the House then.

Dispensaries will no doubt be made almost general by the next General Assembly of North Carolina. Wherever they have been tried they have met with the approval of their first advocates and in some places by those who at first opposed them. We heard a gentleman who lives in a town which has no bar-rooms, and who was not too strongly in favor of running them out at first, say a few days ago that he did not want them in his town any more. Still another gentleman who lives in a town that has no bar-rooms said that some at first thought the moving of the saloons from the town would hurt the business of the place; but his observation, he said, was that business has been just as good since the saloons were moved out as it had been before. He said that he is convinced now that the only persons who are ever financially benefitted by saloons in a community is those who sell the liquor. As to other business the presence of saloons has nothing to do with it. And he is unquestionably right. The people of this State are learning this truth, and when the next General Assembly meets there will be a demand for more legislation against the liquor traffic than has been known in North Carolina before.

An Old Man.
Every day strengthens the belief of eminent physicians that impure blood is the cause of the majority of our diseases. Twenty-five years ago this theory was used as a basis for the formula of Brown's Iron Tonic. The many remarkable cures effected by this famous old household remedy are sufficient to prove that the theory is correct. Brown's Iron Tonic is sold by all dealers.

PRESENT DAY THOUGHTS

About the Father of His Country.

TWO KEY-NOTE ACTS.

BY "GROSVENOR."

Written For The Commonwealth.

Washington's Moral Courage—In less than two weeks the centennial of the death of George Washington will have been commemorated in hundreds of communities throughout the land, but more notably in the District of Columbia and at Mount Vernon. Much doubtless will be said regarding him that would seem extravagant if we could come in personal contact with this plain, unassuming leader of the revolution. But the extravagance of others need not deter us from adorning his memory with a few humble wreaths of appreciation.

Two phases of his character seem almost contradictory. Where public utterance was required, he was diffident—almost bashful. When he risked his estates and offered his sword in the service of his country, he said emphatically, "I do not declare with the utmost sincerity I do not think myself equal to the command that I am honored with."

When he wrote his farewell message he deterred to the judgment of others as to what it should contain. He was quick to recognize his own limitations and to lean on others. But this distrust of self was not always his.

Two acts evince beyond all refutation the lion-like courage and self-poise of George Washington. With whom had there been eight years of war? England. From whom had there been twenty years and more of abuse and all wrong? England. What country had sent bribing soldiers to the highways and the cities of America? England. Yet when it came to the point of settling a policy that should exist—not between the mother country and her colonies, but—between one sovereign nation and another, Washington dared; in the face of ten thousand threats, to approve the commercial treaty that resulted from the envoyship of Chief Justice Jay. His character was attacked with violence. Even impeachment was suggested. Hounds of defamation tried to drag him down. There is but one straight course—said he—and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily.

Again, What nation had given us of its blood and of its own hated foe? France. She had done for us—often ineffectually—the best she could, and throughout the country there was a feeling of intense gratitude towards her; for she had given Lafayette, Rochambeau, and De Grasse. Yet it was against France and with England that Washington dared to stand during his presidential occupancy. Even as there had been ten thousand threats against our treaty with England, there had been an equally intense feeling in favor of joining forces with France; but the anxious Washington, ever seeking for the good of his country—not the immediate good only, but the present and the future good—saw in the French Revolution and its leaders something very different from the American revolution, and he would not give support to what under the name of revolution was actually retrogression.

Without any others these two acts are and will never fall as signal proofs of the independence and far seeing character of his judgment.

HE FOOLED THE SURGEONS.
All doctors told Benek Hamilton, of West Jefferson, N. C., after suffering 18 months from Eczema Glutula, he would die unless a costly operation was performed, but he cured himself with five boxes of Buckle's Arnica Salve the surest cure on Earth, and the best Salve in the World. 25 cents a box Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co. Drug gist.

A Notable Difference: "A yacht is different from a bicycle," said Mr. Penn. "Yes! it is also different from a mule and a ball of popcorn," replied Mr. Pitt, sarcastically; "but what difference had you in mind?" "It can stand back on a tack without puncturing its tire."—Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

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A Double-Barrelled Joke.

Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Jonathan Edwards, of Asheville, is a very successful business man and an enthusiastic sportsman. He lately bought for himself a new gun, and while impatiently waiting for the season to open he would get out his new gun, handle with affection and discourse on its merits and its beauty until his wife and especially his fair daughter, Mary, became weary of even the subject of guns. And yet, after discovering that his gun was not as interesting to himself, he needed only an intimation to make him bring it out for exhibition with pleasure.

Miss Mary Edwards had a beau and she rather liked him, but held him somewhat at arm's length—on probation, as it were. Miss Mary had a loving heart, a sparkling eye and a keen sense of humor. Her beau, Mr. Richard Wildman, called to see her and they chatted pleasantly in the parlor while Mr. and Mrs. Edwards made themselves comfortable in the sitting room across the hall.

"I'm going to kiss you," said Mr. Wildman to Miss Mary.

"If you dare," said the young lady, "I'll certainly make you regret it."

"But I really am going to," said Mr. Wildman.

"If you do I'll go tell papa," said Miss Mary, with a twinkle in her eye and without the slightest attempt to get out of the way. Taking her nonchalant for a woman's consent, he grabbed and kissed her. She promptly whacked him on the cheek with her hand and then leaving the room and walking across the hall, said to her father, with the sweetest of sweet smiles: "Papa, I've been telling Mr. Wildman about your new gun and he asks if you won't show it to him."

"Certainly, with great pleasure," said Mr. Edwards, delighted to have some one take an interest in his new pet.

Picking up the gun he walked with expectant pleasure into the parlor.

Mr. Wildman was waiting somewhat doubtfully at the door.

When the man with the gun came in the door Mr. Wildman's doubts, accompanied by Mr. Edwards himself, went out of the window without even taking the precaution to raise the sash.

Mr. Edwards looked around at his daughter dumb-founded. She laughed till she could no longer stand. Holding her heart in her hands, she said: "Father, you must be careful how you go at people with that gun. Really, if I didn't know you well, I should have been sure several times you meant to shoot me with it. You must be more careful. How am I ever to get married if you run my beaux off like that? Take the horrid old gun away."

Miss Mary and her mother often talk, sotto voce, about guns, and laugh to Mr. Edwards' discomfiture.

Mr. Wildman is still missing.

Companion Stories for 1900.

The stories published in The Youth's Companion portray the manly and womanly virtues with no sacrifice of interest or vitality and they appeal to the sympathies of old and young alike. During 1900 The Companion will offer special series of stories—among them being stories of Former Political Campaigns and Adventures of Linemen.

Besides these there will be a score of stories for girls by such writers as Sarah Orne Jewett, Mary E. Wilkins, Margaret Deland, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Edith Wharton, Kate Chopin and Margaret Sangster. There will be four serial stories—"A Prairie Infanta," by Eva Wilder Broadhead; "Running a Merry-Go-Round," by Charles Adams; "The Schoolhouse Farthest West," by C. A. Stephens; and "Cueh Brothers," by Ray Stannard Baker. In addition there will be two hundred other short stories by the most gifted of American writers of fiction.

All new subscribers will receive The Companion for the remaining weeks of 1899 free from the time of subscription and then for a full year, fifty-two weeks, to January 1, 1901; also the Companion's new Calendar for 1900, suitable as an ornament for the prettiest room in the house.

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THE AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION.

(Hon. W. W. Kitchin, in Reidsville Review.)

Mr. Editor:—Recalling your request I offer some views on the proposed suffrage amendment to our constitution. Its main sections are:

Section 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the constitution in the English language; and, before he shall be entitled to vote he shall have paid, on or before the first day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax as prescribed by law, for the previous year. Poll taxes shall be a lien only on assessed property, and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property.

Sec. 5. No male person who was, on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States, wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person, shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications prescribed in section 4 of this article: Provided, He shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to December 1, 1909. The General Assembly shall provide for a permanent record of all persons who register under this section on or before November first, one thousand nine hundred and eight, and all such persons shall be entitled to register and vote in all elections by the people in this State, unless disqualified under section 2 of this article: Provided, Such persons shall have paid their poll tax as required by law.

Its adoption will stimulate education. With it peace and safety will prevail in the east as in the west. Many obstructions will be removed from the discussions of national questions. Honest believers in the principles of their national platform should be willing to leave their fate in this State to those who will vote under it.

Many negroes will not be, but it is estimated that 25,000 will be qualified to vote under it. Under it no man who or whose ancestor could vote prior to 1867 will fall to vote on account of not being able to read and write. A few foreign-born white men, unlettered in our language, will not be benefited by section 5. Section 5 will benefit a few unlettered negroes who or whose ancestors could vote in this State prior to our constitution of 1835, or in Wisconsin, Massachusetts and other States in 1866.

In my opinion the great majority of Populists realizing the importance of national issues, and desiring our campaigns to be more thoroughly on them, will follow wise and patriotic leaders in support of the amendment regardless of the position of those whose interests may lead them to oppose it. Some Populists have "sworn in their wrath" never to vote another Democratic ticket. These will probably ally themselves with the Republican party upon it.

Ordinary Republican politicians must oppose it, for they want to preserve their party strength and besides the unlettered negroes who have often helped them required their opposition, and they wish to retain the influence of the negroes who will continue to vote. But these considerations will not control white Republicans who do not aspire to office. Some of these, however, will oppose it for the sake of their political friends, some from prejudice against all things Democratic and some because they really think that ignorant negroes who will be disqualified under it, are as capable in governmental affairs as are the unlettered with men who will vote under it. But many white men in North Carolina homes to-day, hearing the laughter of their little children, and lovingly regardful of their future, while Republicans on other questions are Democrats on this. They will, with the approval of many staunch and able Republican leaders increase the majority by which the amendment will carry and their posterity will cherish their conduct.

For thirty years white Republican leaders have said with us that this was, because of his higher qualifications, a white man's State and that white men should rule it. You cannot recall one who announced a contrary proposition. Next August will present the first opportunity that the men of our State have had during this generation of showing in a substantial manner that they believe the duties and responsibilities of suffrage should be limited to those who can read and write.

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write and yet not on that account denied to those in whose veins flow the blood of generations of electors, and on whose character is the imprint of centuries of heroic performance in public affairs. I mistake their wisdom, temper and determination if they do not avail themselves of that glorious opportunity.

The conditions which prevailed in some parts of our State prior to the last election and which have always prevailed when the party with which the great mass of ignorance acts, was in complete control, are freed in our minds. The distracted public attention, excited fear and prejudice, threatened the peace of men and the safety of women, and in the opinion of our wisest men without hostility to the inferior race, rendered necessary important changes in our qualification for voters. These conditions arose from a mass of voters who after thirty years' experience were too ignorant to understand the issues, too irresponsible to consider them and too prejudiced to appreciate them. This mass with unwise and selfish leaders endangers good government.

The 15th amendment to the United States Constitution says:

"Section 1. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude."

When not in conflict with that the State has the sovereign right to say who shall and who shall not vote. It can and does deny suffrage to women, to persons under the age of 21 years, etc. The 15th amendment guaranteeing the privileges and immunities of the citizens of the United States and the equal protection of its laws to every person within the jurisdiction of a State does not and was not intended to affect or confer suffrage. If it did confer suffrage, then women, children and idiots could vote, for they are persons and citizens. The 15th amendment does not destroy the right of a State to prescribe the qualifications for its voters. These qualifications vary in different States. In some States both sexes may vote, in most States only men can vote. Some States require the voter to own a certain amount of property. All States require residence for a certain length of time. Many require some education, the payment of taxes and registration. The full meaning of the Federal Constitution on this subject is that if a citizen of the United States possesses the qualifications prescribed by a State, then his right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of his race, color, etc.

If Pennsylvania in which live thousands of foreign-born white men unable to write English, but which has few negroes, were to adopt our amendment, it is probable that no Republican would declare it unconstitutional. Clearly it is constitutional for Pennsylvania, it is constitutional for us. But here they say it is not constitutional, because under it more blacks than whites will be disqualified. But the constitution does not forbid that. If it did, Mississippi could not have the poll tax, education and the understanding clauses of her constitution which has been sustained by the Supreme Court, for they disqualify more negroes than whites, thus effecting their intended result. If it did, we could not disqualify for literacy, for many more negroes than whites become disqualified on that account. If it did, a property qualification which we do not have and do not want, would be unconstitutional, for it would disqualify more negroes than whites. Yet many States have it. The number disqualified of either race does not effect its constitutionality. A State can not disqualify one man of either race on account of color, race or previous condition of servitude, but if the people saw fit, it could disqualify every man of either race for other reasonable cause.

Since many negroes will not be qualified to vote under the proposed amendment, its enemies charge that it is aimed at the negro because of his color. A reading of it discloses no reference to race or color. The courts in construing it must presume that those who formulated it and those who adopt it knew what it said, and they are confined to its language in finding its meaning. Yet as its opponents so often discard the plain meaning of its words and charge other reasons

[Concluded on Second Page.]

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CONDENSED SCHEDULE.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.									
DATE	Nov. 19, 1899.	Nov. 20, 1899.	Nov. 21, 1899.	Nov. 22, 1899.	Nov. 23, 1899.	Nov. 24, 1899.	Nov. 25, 1899.	Nov. 26, 1899.	Nov. 27, 1899.
Leave Weldon	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.	11:50 a. m.
Arrive Rocky Mt.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.	12:55 p. m.
Leave Tarboro	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.	12:25 p. m.
Arrive Rocky Mt.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.
Leave Wilson	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.	1:50 p. m.
Arrive Fayetteville	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.	2:55 p. m.
Arrive Florence	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.	3:40 p. m.
Arrive Goldsboro	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.	4:30 p. m.
Arrive Raleigh	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.	5:30 p. m.
Arrive Washington	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.	6:30 p. m.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.									
	No. 1, Daily.	No. 2, Daily.	No. 3, Daily.	No. 4, Daily.	No. 5, Daily.	No. 6, Daily.	No. 7, Daily.	No. 8, Daily.	No. 9, Daily.
Leave Florence	A. M. 9 40	A. M. 10 40	P. M. 7 45	P. M. 8 45	P. M. 9 45	P. M. 10 45	P. M. 11 45	P. M. 12 45	P. M. 1 45
Arrive Fayetteville	1 50	2 50	7 55	8 55	9 55	10 55	11 55	12 55	1 55
Leave Seema	1 55	2 55	8 00	9 00	10 00	11 00	12 00	1 00	2 00
Arrive Wilson	2 25	3 25	11 32						
Leave W. Albion		A. M.					P. M.	A. M.	A. M.
Arrive Rocky Mt.		8 30					9 30	11 30	12 30
Leave Goldsboro		5 00					7 00	9 00	10 00
	P. M.								
Leave Wilson	2 35	5 43	11 33	10 33	10 33	11 33	12 33	1 33	2 33
Arrive Tarboro	3 30	6 15	12 43	11 43	11 43	12 43	1 43	2 43	3 43
Leave Tarboro	12 21	7 04							
Arrive Rocky Mt.									
Leave Weldon	4 32						12 00		