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"Your Imperial Majesty may God grant that the present war will end soon. Above all, may God grant that the angelic message of peace sink deeper and deeper into the hearts of men, and that strife may soon end forever on earth."

In a leading editorial yesterday the Russ, while maintaining that the war must go on, says:

But the fullest success is only achievable if the nation is united, and declared that after all "the question of peace or war abroad is a minor matter. What Russia wants is peace at home."

A dispatch from Paris says that the declaration was made by Vice Admiral Douabassoff, the Russian member of the international commission, to inquire into the North Sea incident, in an interview to the effect that an honorable peace between Russia and Japan is likely to be made, is considered highly significant.

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"I am convinced," said Admiral Douabassoff, "of the immediate necessity for the reconstruction of our fleet at all the Russian and foreign shipyards for the purpose of securing strength sufficient to command supremacy at sea. This is absolutely indispensable if we are to expect victory from the next war with Japan. The remnant of our fleet is hardly more than debris, and entirely unequal to Japan's naval strength."

The Admiral further said it was necessary to recognize these conditions, however painful they might be to national self-love. "Therefore," he added, "I do not hesitate to say that we tend toward not far off peace. We will leave the Japanese Port Arthur and the territory they now occupy in Manchuria. We will set ourselves resolutely at work to prepare a powerful, invincible navy as this peace will be but temporary, and the next time we shall be amply prepared."

The official view is that Admiral Douabassoff's statement is expressive of the growing sentiment within Russia favorable to peace.

The fall of Port Arthur has produced a profound sensation in the near East, especially in the Slavonic states of the Balkan peninsula. The belief in Russian invincibility, which had become an article of faith, has received a severe shock and even the Russophile press of Serbia and Bulgaria seems to admit that the issue of the conflict in the far East is uncertain. The result is an evident increase in the somewhat exaggerated fears of Austrian encroachment on Macedonia, which have always existed in Belgrade, and which the Serbian policy has been to propagate in Bulgaria.

Virginia News.

Fire damaged the wholesale grocery of A. S. White & Co., at Lynchburg, to the extent of \$8,000, last night.

The friends of Mr. J. T. Ellison, in Richmond, are urging him to become a candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

Corporation Commissioner Henry Fairfax, of Loudoun, has been called to Prince William county to attend the bedside of his father, Mr. John Fairfax, who is ill at his home.

Lieut. Gov. Joseph E. Willard and Mrs. Willard are in Ottawa, the guests of the Right Hon. Sir William Laurier, premier of the Dominion of Canada, for the opening of Parliament today.

A jury at Farmville last night acquitted E. C. Woolridge, who was tried for burning the houses of the late John S. Forbes, of Buckingham. He was released on \$8,000 bond, being eight other indictments against him.

Mrs. Mary Yancey died at her home in McGaheysville, Rockingham county, Tuesday morning. She was in her 90th year, and had been in good health till a short time before her death. Mrs. Yancey was the second wife of the late Col. William B. Yancey.

The death of Col. William B. Pettit occurred last night, near Palmyra, Fluvanna county, where he had made his home for many years. He was past 70 years old, and was a member of the last Constitutional Convention, and once president of the State Bar Association.

Rev. William A. McKeefry, for the past nine years pastor of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Winchester, has been transferred to St. Patrick's Church, Richmond, as assistant pastor. Bishop Van de Vyver has designated Rev. John McVeery as the successor of Father McKeefry at Winchester.

A Norfolk jury yesterday acquitted alleged gambling-house proprietors who were fined \$2,000 and sentenced to jail by a police justice. It was admitted that the defendants conducted poker rooms, but it was contended that the proprietors at all times regulating who should and should not enter the place.

Under the verdict of a jury in the Hastings Court, of Richmond, yesterday, no tickets can be sold to any performance at the theatres there except for regular seats. This sustains the position taken by Mayor McCarthy, who reported the theatre management for allowing persons to stand in the foyer and in the aisles. They were fined in the Police Court and took an appeal.

The cases argued in the Court of Appeals during the week have been of no special interest to people in this section of the State. The next cases to be called are: Johnston, trustee, vs. George D. Witt Shoe Company; Virginia Passenger and Power Company vs. Patterson and Richmond Passenger and Power Company vs. Allen, both Nos. 25, 26 and 27 on argument docket.

Major John M. Orr, Confederate veteran and a prominent attorney of Leesburg, died at his home there yesterday of general debility, aged about 85 years. Major Orr served in the quartermaster's department of the Confederate army. He was the oldest member of the Loudoun bar. He was mayor of Leesburg, and for several terms Commonwealth's Attorney for Loudoun county. He was twice married. His first wife was Miss Orra Lee, daughter of Dr. George Lee, of Leesburg; his second wife who survives him, Miss Orra V. Preston, of Loudoun county. The deceased was a member of St. James' Episcopal Church, Leesburg.

No Pity Shown. "For years fate was after me continuously," writes F. A. Guldberg, Verdena, Ala. I had a terrible case of Piles caused 24 tumors. When all failed Barkley's America Salve cured me. Equally good for Burns and all such and Pains. Only 25c at E. S. Leadbeater & Sons' drug store.

Speedy Relief. A salve that heals without a scar is DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. No remedy effects such speedy relief. It draws out inflammation, soothes, cools and heals all cuts, burns and rashes. A sure cure for Piles and skin diseases. DeWitt's is the only genuine. Beware of cheap imitations. They are dangerous. Sold by all druggists.

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Wife Murder and Suicide.

John E. Penner, a Baltimore and Ohio Railroad extra freight conductor, orsed by drink, returned to his home, 37 Oak street, South Comberland, Md., yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock, which he had left on Friday last, and when reproached by his indignant wife, who asked him to go away from her, he drew his revolver and shot her through the forehead, killing her instantly. Penner then turned the weapon on himself and fired, the bullet entering his left temple causing his death a short time afterward. The crime was committed in the presence of four of the couple's young children, two others being away at school at the time. In breathless silence they huddled together on a couch, frightened and grief-stricken. Finally, the eldest girl, about 10 years old, realized what had happened, and sometime later ran out of the house to the Manhattan restaurant, about half a mile away, where her aunt, a sister of her mother, was employed, and in her childish manner told what had occurred.

R. T. Kaufman accompanied the child and her aunt to the scene of the tragedy. There, in two large pools of blood and with their brains scattered on the carpet, lay the two dead bodies.

Penner was about 37 years old. He was a native of Indian Springs, Md., about 10 miles east of Hancock. Both his father and mother are living, as are three brothers and a sister. He entered the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad service several years ago, and before coming to Comberland was yardmaster at Cherry Run. The murdered woman was born in the mountains near Cherry Run. She was about 36 years of age. Penner had threatened before, while drunk, to kill his wife, and once thrust a revolver in her face. Mrs. Penner yesterday morning sent for W. L. Crutchley, an old friend of the family, and told him her husband had told her sister, on Thursday last that he intended to kill his wife. Crutchley advised that Penner be arrested, but Mrs. Penner would not consent to it.

Upripping in the Congo Free State. According to private advices received by the Berlin Tagliche Grunschau from missionary sources, an uprising of natives has occurred in the Congo Free State. The focus of the trouble is in the upper reaches of the Congo river, where it is reported all the whites have been murdered. Catholic missionaries and missions are said to have suffered especially. A dispatch to the Rundschau from Brussels says that the news of the uprising in the Congo Free State is not confirmed officially, but that unofficial reports affirm in the most positive manner that a revolt has broken out in the Mongalla district. The A-Babua native troops are said to have mutinied and killed their officers, the American mission has been stormed, and the posts of the Kasal Company destroyed.

Found a Cure for Indigestion. I use Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets for indigestion and find that they suit my case better than any dyspepsia remedy I have ever tried and I have used many different remedies. I am nearly fifty-one years of age and have suffered a great deal from indigestion. I can eat almost anything I want now.—Geo. W. Emory, Rock Mills, Ala. For sale by Gibson & Timberman and W. F. Craighton & Co.

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New York Stock Market. New York, Jan. 12.—There were few developments to influence speculation sentiment this morning, but the Washington reports that Mr. Roosevelt was determined to secure railroad rate legislation tended to create some bearish feeling in the early dealings and prices as a rule sold off fractionally. United States Steel stocks, after opening strong, began to lose ground. The reactionary movement in the market failed to bring out any selling pressure and the under-tone of speculation was firm.

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Letter to T. V. Rishell, Alexandria, Virginia.

Dear Sir: Mr. President of a cotton mill at Union, S. C.—he don't want to see his name in print—had two orders of 500 gallons of paint: one \$1.20 and \$1.25. Took the \$1.25 and got skinned. He'd have got three-quarters skinned if he'd taken the other.

The \$1.20 was full-gallon; the \$1.25 was 18 per cent. short. The full-measure paint was adulterated 40 per cent; the short-measure paint, adulterated 45 per cent., besides benzine in the oil, don't know how much.

Devote lead-and-zinc was sold in the town then.

It don't pay to monkey with paint. Devote cost less than any paint. By the gallon, of course; by the house and year. That's how to reckon it. Go by the name.

Yours truly, F. W. DEVOTE & Co. New York

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F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Letter to T. V. Rishell, Alexandria, Virginia.

Dear Sir: Mr. President of a cotton mill at Union, S. C.—he don't want to see his name in print—had two orders of 500 gallons of paint: one \$1.20 and \$1.25. Took the \$1.25 and got skinned. He'd have got three-quarters skinned if he'd taken the other.

The \$1.20 was full-gallon; the \$1.25 was 18 per cent. short. The full-measure paint was adulterated 40 per cent; the short-measure paint, adulterated 45 per cent., besides benzine in the oil, don't know how much.

Devote lead-and-zinc was sold in the town then.

It don't pay to monkey with paint. Devote cost less than any paint. By the gallon, of course; by the house and year. That's how to reckon it. Go by the name.

Yours truly, F. W. DEVOTE & Co. New York

Run on a Bank. New York, Jan. 12.—A score of policemen surrounded the State Bank,