

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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TUESDAY, MAY 27, 1902.

WASHINGTON'S RELIGION.

The "Faith of the Father of His Country" or "Washington's Religious Belief," is the subject of four communications in Monday's New York Tribune, which take up some five columns of that paper.

The question as we have indicated, is divided or divides itself into two parts. First, was Washington a believer in the Christian religion? Second, was he a communicant? And again the first is subdivided into two others: (a) Was Washington a communicant at one time? (b) If so did he cease to commune after he entered political life?

As to the answer to the first division of the general question we think that the correspondents produce indubitable evidence to prove that Washington was a believer. In truth, we have never been able to see how any one familiar with Washingtoniana could entertain any other conviction.

AT WESTHAMPTON.
Westhampton Park, though not yet opened formally, but soon to be, has not yet become an attraction for those who have vehicles in which to drive, as well as for the multitudes who are perfectly content to ride in street cars of the first class.

The road is solid and substantial and runs past beautiful fields, orchards and woods, giving glimpses of many suburban residences and farmhouses. The park itself covers many acres, including much woodland, a large lake and a waterfall through a picturesque glen.

The largest of the buildings erected by the company is a spacious and airy casino, which stands upon an eminence near the end of the car line. From it to the lake the ground falls in terraces, upon which turf has been laid.

As a scene of rural beauty and for boating, walking and driving, Westhampton Park has no superior hereabout, while in provision for the amusement of the young folks, it is scarcely excelled by Reservoir Park. The country clubhouse, when completed, will also be a noble feature of the place.

Such improvements as these are of vast benefit to city people, but not to them alone. All the property along the line of the new road has been enhanced in value and the country folk in that section of the county now have conveniences for reaching Richmond which makes their neighborhood like a suburb. It may be reasonably expected that this park will grow in loveliness with age, and that for unnumbered years to come the people will bless those whose public spirit and good taste made it a possibility.

Now that we have all come to think of it, there is pretty general agreement that Baron Steuben, the drillmaster of the Revolution, did much more for this country than did Frederick the Great.

Bishop Potter is the latest victim of the "New Louisiana Road." The company is supposed to have its office in a big building on Broadway, New York, and in order to keep within the law, it keeps locked up a small office on Main street, in Richmond.

JEFFERSON'S BIBLE, SO-CALLED.
According to the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun the joint resolution of Congress authorizing the publication of what has been called the "Jefferson Bible" has aroused strong opposition.

On account of the sickness and suffering which prevailed in the army, the Presbyterian and Baptist churches were used as hospitals, which rendered necessary the holding of religious services elsewhere.

This is said to be the only time Washington was known to partake of the Lord's Supper after the commencement of his public career.

In the quotation from the history of Dr. Johns' pastorate we have the distinct statement of Washington himself that he was a "member" of the Episcopal church, and the assertion by implication that he was a communicant.

As contravening the contention that Washington's communion at Morristown was his last, both Mr. Lodge and Dr. McKim give the words of "eye-witnesses," who affirmed that they saw him partake of the sacrament in Episcopal churches their backs upon the celebration of the Lord's Supper. I acknowledged the remark was intended for the President, as such, he received it. A few days after, in conversation with I believe, a Senator of the United States, he told me he had dined the day before with the President, who in the course of the conversation at the table said that on the preceding Sunday he had received a very just reproof from the pulpit, for always leaving the church before the administration of the sacrament; that he honored the preacher for his integrity and candor; that he had never considered the influence of his example; that he would never again give cause for the repetition of the reproof, and that, as he never had been a communicant, he would not become one then, it would be heaped to an ostentatious display of religious zeal arising altogether from his elevated station.

Not a bit of it. In an article on the "Color Line in Athletics" the Boston Herald says that as a rule the British are liberal on this point, but the same cannot be said of the colonies.

President Loubet, of France, says that under no circumstances will he consent to re-election, or to any prolongation of his term of office, and that he is looking forward to retirement to private life. President Loubet is wise in his day and generation.

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(Washington Star.) "No, sub," said Mr. Pinksy, "I nether sold my vote to nobody."

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(Chicago Daily News.) "What do you do with a man that steals a horse out here?" asked the tourist on the coach.

Current Comment.
We could wish to see the most liberal response to the appeal for help of the enterprising little town of Clover, which suffered severely from fire the other day.

At Brunswick, N. J., Sunday a feat of engineering was accomplished which is calculated to make the shades of the engineers of the Pyramids roost a little lower in the future.

Did the Judge Know POKER?
Well, Yes, as Well as the Value of Testimony on a Good Hand.
A stern judge was on the bench when a young man was brought before him on the charge of gambling. The evidence was conclusive, and the judge imposed a fine, which was paid on the spot.

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Columbia, Va., May 20, 1902.
I notice a slight mistake made by your Cartersville correspondent in reporting the municipal election held here Thursday.

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The people in the vicinity of Old Church, Hanover county, were much disturbed on Sunday by rumors of serious injury sustained by Mrs. Marion Duval.

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best showed the Saviour's character and teachings, rejecting what he thought not essential to the story of His life, as told by the four apostles, and omitting the supernatural. In some places he chooses the words of Mark, in others those of Luke.

Exactly, but as we understand the case Jefferson in making his extracts rejected all paragraphs that recognize the divinity of Christ and all that give credence to miracles. That the publication will have an immense circulation; that it will be often preached against; that Congress will be sharply criticized for having it printed we have no doubt.

If Congress had the matter to go over again we don't believe it would vote the appropriation. As it is, the demand for the book is extraordinary. Nine thousand copies were ordered, but ten times that number will be needed—if it are to be given away, as we suppose they will be. Each congressman will have a limited number for his friends, we understand.

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Mr. Ferguson and the Messenger.
To the Editor of the Dispatch:
In your notice on Sunday last of Mr. John W. Ferguson, in connection with the "Haunts of Poe," you stated that he was one of the owners of the Southern Literary Messenger, "while it was edited by our beloved friend, Dr. George W. Bagby." But he was owner long before that time.

When Dr. E. B. Minor purchased the Messenger in 1843, from the estate of Mr. Thomas W. White, he became the owner, not only of the magazine, but of a large printing office, which, besides publishing the Messenger, did other work. He retained all Mr. White's force, two of whom were William Macfarlane (not McFarland), and John W. Ferguson. He was therefor editor, proprietor, and publisher.

Afterward, Dr. Minor sold (acting and selling) to Macfarlane and Ferguson, as partners, and contracted with them to publish the Messenger for him. So that when in 1847, Dr. Minor sold the Messenger to Mr. John R. Thompson, he (Mr. Thompson) engaged Macfarlane and Ferguson to edit it for him. After several years, he sold the magazine to them, but continued to edit it for them.

After a few years ago, a Mrs. Trueheart did try to revive the Messenger in Washington, and gave it the form and appearance to which Thompson and Macfarlane & Ferguson had changed it, but greatly reduced its contents. I think she was able to issue only three, or four, numbers.

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The Little Ills of To-Day.
The Use of PAINE'S CELERY COMPOUND
Will Eradicate from the Blood and System the Seeds of Disease.

As grains of sand make our lofty mountains, drops of water the mighty ocean, and as our massive buildings are made of one brick piled upon another, so do the little ills of life contribute to the building up of deadly diseases in our bodies.

When Dr. E. B. Minor purchased the Messenger in 1843, from the estate of Mr. Thomas W. White, he became the owner, not only of the magazine, but of a large printing office, which, besides publishing the Messenger, did other work.

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BOULDIN FOR PROCLAMATION.
Halifax Member Argues That Authority to Proclaim is Inherent in the Constitution—Sovereignty of the People Defined by Speaker.

The Constitutional Convention yesterday held two sessions, both combined lasting less than four hours. There were two speakers—Mr. Wise, of Richmond city, speaking for submission of the Constitution to the present electorate, and Mr. Bouldin, of Halifax, for proclamation.

When the session had been opened of noon, Mr. Wise was recognized, and spoke for nearly two hours, making an earnest appeal for submission of the work of the Convention to the people for ratification, as the party calling the Convention had pledged to do. Mr. Wise in his speech called special attention to the action of the recent meeting at Halifax, where he recalled the mass meeting held at the same hall a year ago at which a resolution had been adopted pledging the Richmond members to advocate the submission of the work to the people, so far as the matter could be concerned. He cited the action of the Norfolk Convention, and announced that he would be guided by the action of the Convention and not by the recent proclamation meeting. Mr. Wise stated that in his advocacy of submission it was with no desire to see the Constitution rejected, but to see it ratified in the proper way and to fulfill the party pledges on the subject. He commended the Constitution, and expressed the view that it would be ratified if submitted. In the course of his address, Mr. Wise strongly attacked the rights of the Convention to proclaim, and cited many authorities on the subject.

The Second Session.
At the latter session the Convention was called to order a few moments after four by the great Godeaux, and a fairly large attendance of the members.

Mr. Bouldin, of Halifax, was recognized and made an able legal argument for proclamation of the Constitution. He called attention to the fact that the people of Halifax had not constructed their representatives, but had left them untrammelled, so that they might vote as their judgment directed. Mr. Bouldin declared that he would gladly vote for submission if he felt that the Constitution permitted it. He defined sovereignty as a power retained by the people, and for all practical purposes limited to the voters. The Constitution itself prescribed the mode of amending, and it was not necessary to go outside of that instrument for authority to proclaim.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW.
The speaker stated that constitutional law in some detail, declaring that there were but three methods of amending and revising the Constitution. One was by the mode prescribed by the Constitution; another by the statutory plan; and the third by the method of the framers, inasmuch as the Constitution itself prescribed the method of amending or revising that authority was higher and preferable to either of the other modes. Mr. Bouldin quoted many of the leading legal authorities, and reviewed the action of the States whose constitutions had been amended. He was often interrupted with questions from members, among those putting queries were Mr. Wise, Mr. Blair, Mr. Pedigo, Mr. Thom, and others.

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Among the other members who are expected to speak are Mr. Wyszor, Mr. Flood, Mr. Daniel, and others. The Convention adjourned until 10 A. M. to-day.

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An entertainment is to be given at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall Thursday evening, which gives promise of being an artistic, as well as financial, success.

Picket Camp Veterans.
At the meeting of Picket Camp last night the committee of Dr. T. E. Stratton, an esteemed comrade, was reported as unimproved. Sympathy was expressed, and applications for membership were received from James F. Thurston, Company A, Seventh North Carolina Regiment; W. J. Baker, Company A, Fifteenth Virginia; and W. R. Blankenship, Company H, Fifteenth Virginia.

Comrades Bass, Talley, Sullivan, Johnson, and Gibbs were appointed a committee to make arrangements for the annual rally at the Soldiers' Home, Va., on June 15.

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