The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1906.

Mr. Hearst's Defeat Not a Republican Victory.

This year, if ever, the Democrats should have elected the Governor of New York. All that was needed was a candidate whose public and personal character was unassailable. But with a disregard of the wishes of those whom he should have represented, that was as amazing as it was vain, Charles F. Murphy, leader of Tammany Hall, and thereby the trustee for the largest Democratic organization in America, deliberately betrayed his trust and went into a corrupt combination to nominate William Randolph Hearst. When Hearst and Murphy launched the Buffalo campaign, it seemed a simple thing to unseat anti-Hearst delegates, and to pack the convention, so that the nomination of Mr. Hearst might be forced on the Democratic party and the election thereby assured. It was all simple enough except the election, and even that seemed not difficult, for the people of New York were sick of Republican misrule.

The brutal Chessman of Odell had been succeeded in the self-satisfied insolent person of Higgins. Under Republican administration, and in the very eyes of the Republican Committee of Resources, and to add a disgraceful President to the company, the great insurance companies of New York had been robbed the savings of the poor for the benefitting of a political ring. In the city of New York the people groaned under the yoke of a band of public service corporations who were fined up with Croesus immensity. One thousand and eighty-one people were killed and wounded in the Brooklyn Bridge Traction Company from January 1st to November 1st, and no person was to blame! The street railway kings, Ryan and Whitney, Fish and Chauncey M. Depew, whose very name was a byword to respect corporations and social effects were acting only for interests that were for getting the people were frightened, and the sudden and great indignation was strong in the public mind.

On every side, were unmistakable evidences that the people had departed from the people, that the government of New York State was of, for and by the corporations. It needed no political or prophetic genius to call upon the people to rise and reassert their rights, and had that battle cry been given and the same earnest fight been made by an honest Democrat and responsible man, the result would have been a Democratic landslide. The Democratic nomination, however, did not do this case necessarily imply Democratic principles, though the people were exact and anxious to place power into the Democratic party, which historically and primarily does believe and trust the people.

It needed the straight guarantee from Mr. Hearst to fan the smouldering popular discontent into the Republican fire, a further requirement, but the actor was not thought of the chief vote desired. Lastly, it was the Republican interests, it was first of all essential that the Democratic party should be placed and bound.

As the campaign was on and the time for Odell and Higgins approached, it became evident that a very extraordinary campaign was complicated very largely by the presence on the ticket of the name of Mr. Hearst. It was said that Mr. Hearst was a candidate of his own nomination.

The speeches and public declarations were sound and unexceptionable, and the Democrats and their allied allies said and acted as if the principles were in the Democratic platform. In Chicago he gave to Parker and

[illegible]

Mr. Hearst with Murphy sitting and [illegible]

The Republican nominations could not stand scrutiny.

The slates of [illegible] Republican, including that of Governor, became a mockery when the men named as a tax and corporation dodger, and incidentally of every local crime and [illegible] known to any that lawyer in the state was brought [illegible]

The disappointed party leaders from the [illegible] and the great public [illegible] Hearst name.

The Republican leaders had seized the wind. And they would have supported anything as a Republican candidate, but not Mr. Hearst.

The success of the work of the Democratic [illegible] was certainly the people [illegible] administration, and the failure of its efforts to gain the election is directly attributable to its own personal [illegible]. There are other Democrats in America, however, who believe and trust the people, far more than Mr. Hearst. Though they was defeated for a time, and the Democratic party will and will achieve the position and [illegible] which it deserves when it entrusts its destinies to such hands. Democracy is not Democracy. Vitality alone is not argument. Torrents of abuse will not supply absence of facts. Personal character is of more importance than political professions, and because Mr. Hearst did not understand this he is not Governor of New York State.

The Election at Large.

In the election at large Democrats made notable gains in the number of Congressmen chosen, the extent of which is not yet known, but it is sufficient materially to reduce the Republican majority in Congress. We confess to surprise, however, that the Republicans gave such a good account of themselves in Pennsylvania, in view of the recent political scandals in that State. The Capitol job alone was enough to have driven the party out of power.

In Virginia we have held our own, and we come near redeeming the Ninth District. Stemps's majority over Bruce is only about 1,200, a Democratic gain of 2,100 over the last congressional election. Bruce made a gallant fight. He deserved to win, and we believe that he would have won if all Democrats in the district had paid their poll taxes.

Judge Saunders is elected from the Fifth District by a safe majority, and will make one of the ablest Representatives Virginia has ever had.

In the Third District the opposition was not worthy of the name, and Captain Lamb is returned by a majority of 4,000.

The Old North State has done even better than Virginia, and all the Southern States are still safely in the Democratic column.

In the country at large, however, the people were too busy to take much interest in the election, and there is nothing in the result to disturb the unprecedented prosperity which the nation is enjoying.

Convicts and Good Roads.

Railroads are fully as much interested as farmers in good roads. The Chesapeake and Ohio appreciates this, and does what it can to help the cause by offering to transport without charge all machinery to be used for road purposes. This is a step in the right direction, but it will require more than free transportation of machinery to radically better the road conditions in this State. One of the most workable solutions that has yet been offered is the suggestion that the State purchase quarries, and instead of working the convicts on the road, put them in the quarries under proper guard, and require them to crush rock to be used in future road-building. By keeping the convicts in one compact body, and by avoiding the expense and danger of putting them from place to place, great saving will be made in cost, and the risk of loss of life will be proportionately lessened. Also a system of routing can be developed in quarries similar to that in coal mines, which would greatly increase the output of rock. When the rock has once been crushed, it could be distributed to those counties which would place it on the roads at their own expense, under the direction of the State Highway Commissioner. This would insure a uniform and scientific construction, and would do away with the present patchwork, which has heretofore marred our county roadbuilding. Next to the cost of preparing the rock, the chief item of expense would be transportation, and this would be arranged for on a very satisfactory basis by paying the railroads in ballast for the cost of service rendered in transportation.

The widespread interest in Virginia farms and the steady immigration to this State from the colder and more forbidding climates of the Northwest indicate what a future Virginia farms have before them, if they will only offer proper facilities for educating the farmers' children and for transporting the crops. In the last six years we have witnessed in this State a most extraordinary revival in education. If for the next six years anything like the same effort were expended in good roads, it would be well within the range of reason to prophesy that the value of farm lands generally throughout the State would be trebled. Will work for the State of Virginia buy one of the quarries adjacent to Richmond and begin the preparation of rock for road purposes?

The University's Endowment.

The congratulations and thanks of the students of the University of Virginia, the alumni and the citizens of the State of Virginia are due President Alderman for the happy completion of his efforts to raise an endowment fund of $1,000,000 for the University. In every respect the achievement is notable. Through the efforts of President Alderman $500,000 was subscribed contingently by Mr. Andrew Carnegie and Mr. John D. Rockefeller, and though these subscriptions were from men of enormous wealth, yet it must be remembered that the donors were followed by innumerable other citizens, and that the subscriptions made in this way were a distinct personal tribute for the cause of the University, presented by President Alderman. In addition to these large subscriptions, others that meant far more in the amount decided were cheerfully and liberally given by the alumni and other friends whose love and belief in the University could not be measured by the mere size of their benefactions. At the last came the unexpected and munificent bequest of the late Edward James, which, particularly towards the University, has sailed beyond a paradventure the completion of the million-dollar endowment fund. While the effort to raise the fund has been in progress equally noteworthy advances have been made at the University in the teaching, equipment and attendance. Had this endeavor failed for any reason, had the University been restricted to such help as could be given by its alumni and its state, though the achievement of its purposes would have been less rapid, it would none the less have been sure and great, for the University definitely turned its face and its energies toward larger things when Dr. Alderman became president. The spirit was there, and the capacity to carry it, that it was Dr. Alderman who focused and directed these energies. As one result we have the desired endowment and with it, not only unimpaired, but strengthened and enlarged, the old ideal of the University—to lift and educate and enrich its State and its country.

"Vulgarisms" That Were Once Good.

A correspondent of the London Times makes the interesting point that, in the matter of spelling and pronunciation, "the masses of the poor and ignorant are the aristocratic conservatives, while the cultured and educated are the radical innovators." The growth of language involves the discarding of old forms as well as the acquisition of new, and the rejected pass inevitably into the category of despised "vulgarisms." In reality, they are often the purest of classical English. Demonstrating his theory, the Times writer offers a paragraph which reads like the colloquial efforts of the ignorant and illiterate, but is, in reality, English of the original and undefiled brand. Here is some of it:

We had such a sight of rain, that the water in the river rle to a great hight, and being afeared an accident might happen, I went to Squire Wilkins, and says I to the maids in the kitchen, "Will you plaise keep them childer from wrastling and lepping near the river's edge? I towld you that afore, and I'd be obleeged to you if you'd mind what I say, for if any of them gets drownded, it won't be my faut." "Whilst with your noise," says the cook.

For all of the so-called vulgarisms appearing in this passage, there is excellent authority. Tyndale, in his translation of the New Testament, uses the phrase "a sight of angels." Archbishop Trench stands back of the assertion that "rle" is in one sense quite as good English as "rose." Milton used "hegath," and Chaucer "afeared." Earle's "Philology of the English Tongue" vouches for "plaise" as the original pronunciation of "please." "Them," as a demonstrative adjective, is described by Trench as "not bad, but only antiquated English." "childer" has the sanction of Beaumont and Fletcher, and Morris says of this word that "the oldest plural was 'cildru,' which became 'childre,' 'childer,' 'children' and 'childern.'" Chaucer, Milton and Ben Jonson saw no objection to "wrastle." "Lep" is common in old English. "Towld" and "faut" occur in Latimer's "Sermons Before Edward VI." "Drownded" has Bunyan's authority; "obleege" has Pope's, and "afore" has that of the authorized version of the New Testament.

Time's whirligig brings strange changes to the spoken and written tongue. Many words once regarded as impossible slang now pass unchallenged in the most select circles. "Sandwich," "blizzard," "tramway," "mob," "hurly-burly" and countless others were not very long ago esteemed outlandish parvenus. This is an often noted feature of the growth of language—a despised word winning its way to good usage. The Times writer notes exactly the reverse process, that, namely, by which a good word is slowly brought into disrepute and ultimate rejection. The words used in the paragraph above, and many others, are, he says, nothing else than "the cast-off garments once used at the headquarters of culture, authorship and royalty."

Bar-Room Regulation Elsewhere.

Including hotels and clubs, there are in Richmond two hundred and fifty-five places in which ardent spirits can be bought. This refers only to the actual limits of the city of Richmond, and as there are only 50,000 people within these limits, it is apparent that there is one drinking place for approximately every three hundred and fifty inhabitants. In Montgomery, Ala., with a population of only 30,000 people, there are no less than one hundred and thirty-two bar-rooms, that is, one for every two hundred and thirty people. It is not, however, the number of bar-rooms that is so much a source of danger to a community as the character of the low and most disreputable dives which flourish in both Montgomery and Richmond. It is becoming increasingly clear that a large part of the disgraceful occurrence in Atlanta was directly traceable to the all-night dives, frequented by vicious negroes and depraved whites. Montgomery is not to be caught napping, and is already preparing to protect itself from any such terrible calamity as that which overtook Atlanta, by putting its disreputable drinking places under proper police control at once, and Richmond will not be far behind.

It would seem that one bar-room for three hundred and fifty people, which is the ratio we have in Richmond, would be more than enough under any conditions, but The Times-Dispatch is not urging the reduction of the bar-rooms. What we desire is their regulation. All who want whiskey could, if it were necessary, get just as much as they desired or needed from a far more restricted number of licensed drinking places, but, whether the number is restricted or not, the hours for the sale of liquor and the character of the person to whom the license is granted should certainly be very much more carefully observed than heretofore.

Chicago has had an interesting experience in this line. In 1905 the total number of bar-rooms in that city was 7,583. That year a $1,000 saloon ordinance was passed, despite the fact that the opponents of that measure predicted that it would ruin a large proportion of the saloonkeepers, their estimate being that fully 25 per cent. of the saloons would go out of business. From the returns received this year, it is seen that there are only 224 saloons less than there were in 1905, while the income from the license has been $7,292,000, as against $1,729,000 last year. This means that the city of Chicago has received an extra $2,500,000 a year from the sale of licenses to bar-rooms.

At present Richmond is receiving approximately $64,000 a year from its sale of licenses to bar-rooms, the charge for each license being only $250. Suppose Richmond were to charge $1,000 for each license, and suppose half of the bar-rooms were to go out of business, we would then have one bar-room for every seven hundred people, and we would increase our revenue from this source $60,000 per annum. If it were thought advisable, the whole of this sum might be spent on our police department, and the most prolific source of lawlessness would be made to bear the burden of its own creation. But, whether this money is spent on the police force or not, why should not the bar-rooms be made to pay for the franchise to sell liquor just as much as the franchise is worth? If Chicago can get $1,000 apiece from 7,000 bar-rooms, it is clear that Richmond is not getting its proportionate share when it only receives $250 apiece from 255 licensed rooms.

Resignation of Judge Leake.

The Times-Dispatch records with great regret the news that Judge Leake has resigned the presidency of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. That railroad is one of the few heritages left Virginia from her earlier career in the field of internal development. Its management has always been efficient, ready to serve, and conspicuously honest. The best traditions of the past have been preserved by Judge Leake's administration, and we hope that his resignation will not be accepted.

MONEY NO OBJECT.—I have one small Count to dispose of at once to quick bidder. Not small need and practically as good as new. Will trade on cash for him, but offer this item with handsome bonus, to any man, woman or child willing to take him off my hands. No references required. Address at once, ANNA GOC, Paris.

Banker Jacob Schiff, of New York, has just joined the Stenographers' Union. It is thought that circumventing at the advanced rate per hour will attract a large number of other bankers away from the less profitable profession.

According to Mrs. Lucinda B. Smith, there are probably 10,000 girls in Chicago working for $1 a week. An even more serious matter, however, is that there are probably 9,000 more waiting eagerly to step into their places when those luckier ones get a raise to $1.25.

If Count Bonin's visible assets include a solar plexus, it would give many persons pleasure to see some lucky-minded son of the Gridiron drop around and land on the stuff arm there.

Undoubtedly the exploits of the distinguished Columbia professor now in Germany deserve to be chronicled in the next issue of the Journal of the House of Burgesses.

None the less, the unexpected and irremediable loss of suspender buttons has driven more men into matrimony than the poets are willing to admit.

Now that the election is all over it is to be hoped that Mr. Roosevelt's Cabinet can find a little time to put in at their regular duties.

Post-election investigations prove beyond a doubt that the candidates' smile is the line that will come off, all right, all right.

Oyster Bay also got a brief interlude of limelight yesterday by reason of the President's holding up there to drop a little something in the ballot box.

Nova Scotia reports a terrible storm, but can hardly expect the Hearst papers to take much notice of it under the circumstances.

Three men died as the result of the Canadian fall, and probably a good many more fell next morning that they might as well have.

You can't vote if you don't register. Remember that it is only 30 days to election day.

Many political seers are wondering this morning if they hadn't better drop around and consult the oculist.

It is better to lose an election than to lose one's character, and very bad indeed to lose both.

The weather man gave no ground for dissatisfaction, anyway.

It was, too, a day when lemons were handed with the utmost freedom.

"Sleigh Loads Dead" says a headline. A good deal?

Did you vote early and often?

The True Humorist.

In this country, where the sense of humor is not only developed, but refined, sarcasm and satire long ago ceased to be regarded with favor; even wit must be harmless, and mere smartness in evasion of a serious pledge would be considered intolerable. The true humorist is patterned after the real lady, who, we are informed, always remembers others and never forgets herself.—George Harvey in The North American Review.

Customers Carefully Washed.

The following is the advertisement of a Japanese who takes in washing: "Contrary to any opposite company, we will hand cleanly and carefully wash our customers with possible cheap prices as follows: Dollars, two dollars per hundred; gentlemen, one and a half dollars per hundred. Laundry.

"This business piles a crafty art,
The man on him we call,
First has to take our part,
Then has to take our all."

—A. Lang, in The Catholic Standard and Times.

Dr. Lyon's
PERFECT
Tooth Powder
Cleanses and beautifies the teeth and purifies the breath.
Used by people of refinement for over a quarter of a century.
Convenient for tourists.
PREPARED BY
P. W. Lyon, D.D.S.

Rhymes for To-Day

Lonesome Reflections.

IT'S pretty hard to be a bard upon Election Day,
When every one is having fun in some vacation play,
And everybody's shut his desk (but you) and gone away.

It's hard to sit and dig for wit and keep a smiling face,
When only you have work to do—to wit, to fill your space—
And other folks are cracking jokes around the polling place.

All, all have fled (I think I've said) to take their merry glee;
The rooms this morn look blamed forlorn and lonesome-like to see.
And in the silent offices remains but one—viz.: Me.

There is the sport to leap, cavort, and spring with joy aloft,
And there the chance to sing and dance on glad potations quaffed,
And golden opportunity to vote both soon and oft.

I have no time for aught but rhyme and fatile madrigal;
I may not seek the merry clique to raise the glad, gay call.
And fating sreed, I may, indeed, not get to vote at all.

The poor bard is thy starred: be gentle of his lot!
What though his stuff is vapid guff? It's just to boil the pot—
For he must write from morn till night when bard far rather not.

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

The Explanation.

Mr. Somerset: "Does your husband drink regularly?" Mrs. Hoxton: "No; mainly on week end jags."—Judge.

He Was a Stay-Late.

Mr. Dowe: "I am so tired that my friends say I should throw it at a tree." Miss Vert: "Yes; they do resemblance trees, don't they?"—Town Topics.

Just Curious.

Girl (at public library): "What are you reading, Willie?" Nine-year-old: "Oh, was just looking I guess. He asked if we had any books on elastic currency."—Chicago Tribune.

Johnnie's Kindness.

Johnnie: "Ma, I want a quarter for a poor fellow." Ma: "Here's a dime; that's a lot of money to the poor people." Johnnie: "He's selling extra tickets."—Judge.

Her Excuse.

Mrs. Spendthrift was telling us a story today about that mouse Nora, calling, beam Mr. Bright, "you have interrupted her business." I doubt very much if it was that. "Why, what I mean," said the lady, "I don't hate it. Sometimes I don't know what I do."—Philadelphia Press.

Government Reports.

"Here are some machines about the real state of affairs in Russia," said the Bee man, as he opened another carton. "I want to know everyone of all about it," replied the man impatiently. "We don't want to read your machines. Give us the official."—Philadelphia Press.

Horrible.

"One of Brooklyn's smart young matrons was married a year ago to a prominent surgeon, was a college girl and consulting her husband, who happened to be in attendance, to one of the best undertakers for chaps. She commenced, and was horrified at the reply: "Oh, yes. Mr. Jones, you have all you want at half price. Instead, the doctor gives us as many laughs."—Life.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.

BRANDY and water are furnished free to all members of the Belgian Congress who deliver long speeches. We shudder to think of the size of the Congressional Record if anything of that kind were provided in this country.—Washington Herald.

* * *

Railroad managers insist that they are not getting rich quick. What they need is a method of passing their loot in dies for rebating.—Washington Post.

* * *

It costs as much these days to keep up a war as an automobile, China's little fracas has already "overspent" over $100,000, and that doesn't count gatling-gun, bana and gin-rickey for Secretary Taft.—Detroit Journal.

* * *

It will be pretty hard to get any kind of a report about the stalled Off Cheyenne that will mean it more than half a minute's work.—Washington Star.

* * *

Senator Scott, of West Virginia, believes that the campaign speeches of Secretary Root are the best in sight. The opinion is worth recording as a curiosity.—Springfield Republican.

* * *

Judging from the way he talks on various government features the speaker of the next Congress is going to have his hands full of Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson.—Roosevelt Herald.

* * *

The New York Republicans are under the mistaken impression that they are campaigning against the Utes.—Charleston News and Courier.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

A Russian court recently sentenced to prison for two months a man who had failed to cheer the Kaiser during the military manoeuvres.

Captain W. H. Collins and other tennis leaders in England indicate the idea that Beals C. Wright should be disqualified as an amateur because of his business connection.

The newspaper files of the British Museum have been moved to a special depository at Hendon, seven miles from London, where they occupy six miles and a half of shelving.

James J. Hill, the railway magnate, is engaged in reading prize essays on farming, having offered rewards aggregating $4,000 to owners of stock who could write the best essays.

The Court of Appeals at Ghent has just declared invalid an election that took place twenty-five years ago, the illegal instrument, who is a lawyer, by the way, will now, it is expected, vacate.

The famous sycamore tree at Heliopolis, in the suburbs of Cairo, beneath whose shades the Holy Family is said to have found shelter after the flight into Egypt, has fallen, but trees descended from it remain.

Lord Charles Beresford is a stanch teetotaller. "I am now sixty years old," he said recently, "and since I have entirely given up wine, spirits and beer I find I can do as much work, both physically and mentally, as when I was thirty, if not more."

Henry M. Alden, editor of Harper's Magazine, is to celebrate his seventieth birthday next Saturday, and Colonel Harvey will give him a party. Thomas Bailey Aldrich, who was born on the same day as Alden, will be one of the guests.

Senator Merton E. Lewis, Republican candidate for Comptroller of New York, has been in politics chiefly because of his success as a fighter for reforms. His first big battle was with the prize fighters, and although he had to combat all weights, and was almost knocked down and counted out in the first round, yet he finally triumphed.

Amerika Esperantisto, the first Esperanto journal published in America, has commenced publication at Oklahoma City. Over four hundred such journals are published in Europe, where the late Geneva conference created widespread interest in the subject.

The proposal to extend employment in the British civil service to ex-soldiers and sailors is bitterly opposed by labor leaders. The fear is that such men will be disposed to accept small pay in addition to any pension they may have, and thus reduce wages.

J. Pierpont Morgan has imported $200,000 worth of the manuscripts and relics of the poet Robert Burns. For twenty years he has been fighting to outdo British collectors of the poet. A number of unpublished poems are included in the purchase.

Maurer's Rat-and Roach-Paste
attracts these vermin by its odor; they eat it and die instantly.
MAURER'S INSECT POWDER is sure death to bedbugs, ants, fleas, moths. Sold only in bottles. At all druggists' or D. MAURER & SON, PHILADELPHIA.

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Voice of the People.

On the V. P. I. Presidency.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

SIR—The news expressed from Blacksburg during the past two weeks seem to indicate that the present authorities of the Polytechnic Institute are planning to elect one of their own number to the presidency to succeed Dr. McIlwaine, who is about to retire. Whether such a plan is "on foot," as the politicians say, or not, the idea prevails among many of the Richmond alumni of the Institute that the visitors are about to proceed to the election of a new president without a due estimate of the situation, and that a number of them have communicated their views to the chairman of the board of visitors, chairman for this most important position.

For my own part, I cannot believe that these trustees of the public have entered into any such arrangement, though the reports in the newspapers are against me. How could self-respecting men, who know the state of education in the South, take steps to choose any but the best [illegible] There are teachers at the Institute of fine ability, good sense and ample experience who ought to be considered; there are leaders in our educational campaign in Virginia who ought be taken into account, and if in neither class a suitable man be found, the whole United States is free to the visitors. And with such a range there surely is no reflection of the president of the University of Virginia and the governor of the Commonwealth, this position ought not to go "begging." The visitors would also lay themselves open to such public criticism if they chose one of their own members to this position without first requiring him to resign, and without opening the canvass to all available competitors. "Fair play" is as popular in Virginia as it is in other parts of the country, and such a choice as has been reported to be on the boards would certainly violate this principle.

If Mr. J. Thompson Brown desires to succeed President McIlwaine, it would be his duty to resign from his position when he announces his candidacy. Then no censor could charge unfairness in case of his choice by his former colleagues.

Aside from these considerations, every member of the alumni with whom I have talked is desirous to see a man of wide experience, of sound ability as a teacher, and well acquainted with educational conditions in this State, and a man not past the prime of life, at the head of the institute. Such a man would wield great power for good in our campaign for higher standards, for better high schools, for longer terms in the common schools, and for friendly co-operation among all the colleges of Virginia. Again, this great technical school, of which we are all proud, will have to undergo changes in the coming decade. New courses of study, a change of emphasis among those already offered, a curbing of the rampant athletic spirit, will be subjects for the new president's consideration. To meet these grave emergencies, the alumni of the school feel that a man of ripe culture, of thorough acquaintance with educational precedents in the country, as well as with the actual needs of technical training, is required. The visitors have it in their power to procure such a president, and such must be their first desire. If they succeed, they will make yet a new day for the school entrusted to their care, and contribute nobly to the cause of general education in Virginia.

ALUMNUS.

Ashland, Va.

Improve Jamestown Island.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

SIR—While the Jamestown Exposition and the events it commemorates are fresh in the minds of the people, will you permit a suggestion through your paper as to the permanent improvement of Jamestown Island? It is: "That the United States government be urged to make an appropriation sufficiently large to purchase the original site of the Jamestown settlement and to reproduce there the colonial village as it was in its palmiest days."

I have not stopped to consider whether the scheme is practicable. I am aware that there will be difficulties because of scant historical information; but I have taken it for granted that careful search of the records, supplemented by what tradition has to reveal, will result in securing sufficient data to make a reasonably faithful reproduction. It may involve a considerable outlay on the part of the national government. But in recent years Congress has spent vast sums of money in reclaiming battlefields and converting them into great national parks and museums. No one would oppose these expenditures to commemorate the deeds of valor of the American soldier; but surely it would be just as legitimate and praiseworthy to make an appropriation to memorialize conquests of peace.

If the ancient village of Jamestown is reproduced it will be a perpetual reminder of the heroic deeds of the early settlers and a fitting monument to their courage and faith. It will stand forever as an object lesson in history. The site will be a Mecca for the patriotic sons and daughters of America toward which they will continually turn. Historians and students of history will find there an unfailing source of inspiration and information.

It was a great event in the history of the world, one of far-reaching influence—this building of an English town and beginning the establishment of an English civilization in the wilds of a new world. It was, after the discovery of America by Columbus, the most important in the history of the continent.

It was more important than the building of forts and planting of settlements by the Spanish, or the establishment of trading posts by the Dutch some years before. Because English ideals and customs have predominated in the settlement of the best parts of America and it is essentially an English civilization that has been established there. It was more important than the landing of Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock a few years later, because the essentials of English civilization had been transplanted to America and had taken permanent root there years before the Pilgrims had set sail from their forefathers' homes. The greatest contribution which England has made to the science of government is the idea of representation, and even this, in the institution of the House of Burgesses by the Jamestown colonists, had taken hold in America at least a year before the Pilgrims set foot ashore at Plymouth.

These considerations unmistakably set forth the importance of the Jamestown settlement in the history of America. They give it a unique place, the first place among all the great events of our country. Congress should do something commensurate with its importance to permanently memorialize it. The national government owes more to it than the niggardly appropriation made for the Jamestown Exposition—that should have been at least five million dollars instead of the small sum given. Part of this appropriation is to be used, I understand, for permanent improvements on the island and the erection of a monument there. This sum ought to be generously supplemented. The scope of the improvement contemplated by Congress ought to be enlarged, and a fitting memorial ought to be built. To do the thing suggested in this article seems the one appropriate thing to be done.

I suggest that The Richmond Times-Dispatch inaugurate a movement looking to this end. Let it work out the details of the suggestion and prepare a proper form for a monster petition to Congress, which every visitor to the Jamestown Exposition next year shall be invited to sign. There is scarcely a doubt but there will be a universal response, and the sentiment of the American people will be recorded in such unmistakable terms as to leave Congress no grounds for hesitating to put their will into effect.

J. W. BRISTER.

Nashville, Tenn.

City Contracts.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

SIR,—What remedy have property-holders for the long delays in finishing work by the city contractors?

Last June the city contracted to have the sidewalks of certain streets paved. Among them was Twenty-seventh Street, from Broad to Marshall. In this block there was some pavement, which had been there for years. About the 20th of July past the contractor's men appeared and took up the pavement and dug up the ground, and then left. The following week the city hands cut down and removed some cotton-wood trees, and also straightened the curbing. From that time [illegible] nothing was done, and in the past three weeks four or five loads of bricks and a couple of loads of sand have been dumped. During all the wet weather we have had to walk in the gutter and to wade in the mud to get from the gutter to our residences.

I notice an excuse made before the Street Committee by one of the members of said committee that the contractor could not get sand. If that is the case, he knew it, and should have never commenced the work, and I think the city authorities should protect property-holders by inserting in their contracts that no contractor should be allowed to commence a job unless he is prepared to finish it right away, under a penalty for every day's delay in the work. In this case it is out of all reason that a contractor should be over three and a half months in paving the sidewalk of one block.

A LONG-SUFFERING TAX-PAYER.

Richmond, Va.

Colic.

"Doctor," asked young Mrs. Popley, "do you really think it's true, as some people say, that when a baby smiles in its sleep the angels are whispering to it?"

"I don't know," replied the good doctor, "but I'm pretty sure that a little hot water and soda mint will drive the angels way."—

Excursion to New York

Old Dominion Steamship Co.'s Annual Personally Conducted Excursion, account of Horse Show, leaves Richmond Friday, Nov. 16th, 7:00 P. M. via Night Line; Saturday, 17th, 4:00 P. M., via Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, or 3:00 P. M., via Atlantic Coast Line, connecting with Old Dominion Express Steamer at Norfolk, arriving in New York Sunday, 3:00 P. M. Round-trip tickets, good for ten days, including meals and stateroom berth on steamer, only $12.00. Special hotel rates have been secured. Early application should be made to secure good steamer and hotel reservations.

JOHN F. MAYER, Agent,
808 East Main Street.