

Queries AND Answers

Song Wanted.

A correspondent wants the words to the song, "I'm Going Back to Dixie." Who will send them?

Poem Located.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Ella Wheeler Wilcox is the author of the poem beginning, "Laugh and the World Laughs With You," for which request was made in your Query Column of last Sunday. B.

Dates.

Will you please publish in your Query Column what days of the week were February 5, 1854; also February 13, 1855. A. A.
February 5, 1854—Sunday.
February 13, 1855—Friday.

Cost of Monuments.

What was the cost of each of the monuments in and around the city, viz.: Hill, Davis, Lee, Stuart, Wickham, Washington, Howitzer, Jackson, Soldiers and Sailors, McGuire and Confederate pyramid in Hollywood? X.

We are unable to say.

The Poll Tax.

Will a voter in an incorporated town have to pay his town capitation tax in addition to his State capitation tax in order to vote in a town election? GEO. P. A.

No; nothing but the State poll-tax.

All Right.

Which is correct alright or all right? "All right" is correct. There is no authority for alright. It is a vulgarism.

The Ashland Road.

Who is the general manager of the new road between Richmond and Ashland, Va.? A. SUBSCRIBER.

William North, Richmond, Va.

Virginia Historical Society.

Please inform me where to make application for a copy of the Proceedings of the Virginia Historical Society of 1906. L. A.

Address Dr. Landon B. Edwards, Richmond, Va.

Naval Review.

Will you please inform me through your Query Column at what time will the naval review take place at the Jamestown Exposition? READER.

There will be naval reviews from time to time during the entire exposition, and there will be war vessels on parade every day.

Jamestown Exposition.

Whom to write to get a position at the Jamestown Exposition, and oblige. A. SUBSCRIBER.

Write to C. Brooks, Johnston, Norfolk, Va.

Virginia Governors.

Will you please state in your Query Column if there have not been two Governors of Montana, and if so, give the initials of the first one and the date of his term of office? FRIEND OF THE TIMES-DISPATCH.

Andrew Jackson Montague is the only man of that name who has been Governor. His father, Robert L. Montague, was Lieutenant-Governor.

"Sign of the Cross."

To settle an argument, please say in your Query Column Sunday the 31st, if "The Sign of the Cross" was played at the Blue Theatre last season or at any previous time. A. CONSTANT READER.

It was played at the Academy of Music.

The Reunion.

1. What date does the Confederate Reunion begin at Richmond? How many days will it last?
2. And will the soldiers be taken care of while there? A READER.

1. The reunion begins on May 30th and ends on June 3rd, the birthday anniversary of Jefferson Davis, when the Davis Monument will be unveiled.
2. Yes.

Wills.

Will you please give directions for making a will in the simplest form possible and state if witnesses are absolutely necessary to witness in each other's presence, as in England, i. e., to attest the signature? J. W. S.

If the will is in the handwriting of the maker and signed by the maker in his own hand, no witness is necessary. The simplest form would be something like this: I, John Smith, do hereby make this my last will and testament, revoking all others. I direct that all my just debts be paid after which I give, etc.

Annexed Territory.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Please answer the following

through your Query Column: Does the law prohibiting barb wire being used as a fencing stand good in the annexed portion of Richmond? If so, who are the proper authorities to appeal to to have the law enforced? READER?

Yes, the law does apply to the annexed territory. Call attention of its violations to any police officer of the city, or make complaint to the police Justice.

The Salary Vote.

You will please publish the recorded vote of the House of Representatives in Congress on the salary grab. Your many subscribers are anxious to know how their Representatives voted on that question. By so doing you will very much oblige. A SUBSCRIBER.

There was no recorded vote on the question. Generally speaking, the Republicans voted for the increase and the Democrats voted against it. In fairness it should be stated, however, that the Democrats admitted, practically without exception, that they were in favor of the increase, and showed their delight when it was made.

Giving Liquor to Minors.

Kindly inform me through the Query Column of the Weekly Times-Dispatch if there is a law in Virginia under which a man twenty-one years of age and over could be prosecuted or fined for giving another boy sixteen years or under, intoxicating drinks, to the extent of getting said boy in a criminal condition, especially in a licensed town or district. SUBSCRIBER.

In Pollard's Code, Clause 141, page 2262, it is provided that any person who shall sell alcoholic beverages to a person under twenty-one years of age is subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, and the license will be revoked. If the seller had no license he would be subject to additional punishment.

But we know of no law to punish a person for giving a minor whiskey.

Veterans and Capitation Tax.

Does a Confederate veteran, who receives a pension from the State, have to pay a poll-tax? X.

2. Does he have to apply to the county court for exemption from payment of poll-tax, or is the fact of his drawing a State pension all that is necessary to exempt him? X.

1. All citizens are subject to this tax, but war veterans are not required to pay it as a prerequisite to voting, whether they receive pensions or not.
2. War veterans are exempt by the Constitution from the payment of the poll-tax as a prerequisite to voting.

Suffrage in Virginia.

Under the new Constitution of Virginia how long does a male person have to be in the State of Virginia from another State before he can vote, or is eligible to hold office? Does he have to pay taxes before he can hold an office? X.

He must be a resident of the State two years before he can vote. Any person qualified to vote is eligible to hold office.

If a man has no property he is not required to pay taxes, and the fact that he is not a tax-payer does not debar him from holding office. But every male citizen twenty-one years of age and over is subject to the capitation tax, and that tax must be paid as a prerequisite to voting, except in the case of war veterans. Whether or not it must be paid as a prerequisite to office-holding is a question that has never been decided by the courts.

Beneficial Bacteria.

1. Are there any bacteria that are beneficial?
2. How are some bacteria employed to rid us of certain pests, such as the chinch bug, which destroys fields of grain in many localities? STUDENT.

1. Among the many hundreds of known species of bacteria there are comparatively few which are producers of disease; the vast majority, so far as our present knowledge goes, are probably neither harmful nor helpful, and, lastly, there are many kinds which are of great use and some which are indispensable. Certain industries, such as cheese-making, are absolutely dependent upon the activity of bacteria, and the rich flavor for which the butter of certain localities is famous is due to aromatic substances which are produced by bacteria. All of our best vinegar is made from cider or wine, which has had its alcohol turned into acetic acid by bacteria.

It is entirely through the action of bacteria that certain crops, such as clover and peas, are able to take free nitrogen from the air and "fix" it, that is, use it in the building up of nitrogenous organic matter, thus, as is

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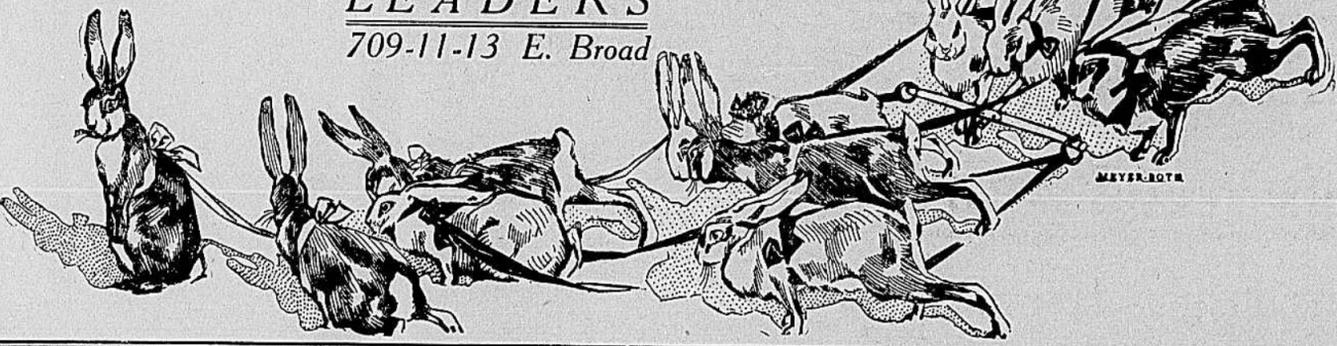
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well known to farmers, enriching the land.

The above are a few of the special instances of beneficial bacteria, but in the economy of nature they play a far greater role than thus indicated, since, but for bacteria, all higher forms of life, both animal and vegetable, would cease. When an animal or plant dies, the organic material of which its body is composed would remain locked up indefinitely but for the action of bacteria. By their decomposition of the dead body is brought about, and the material is liberated in a form suitable as food for growing plants, and these, in turn, furnish, directly or indirectly, the food of all animals, and thus the cycle of life is kept up.

The Small College.

Will you kindly inform me in your Query and Answer Column as to what your definition or idea of the mission

or work of the small college is, and oblige? A READER.

The small college is an American institution, and its function has been to bring the incentives and opportunities of higher education close to the masses of the people. The small college has kept alive traditions of culture, even amid primitive surroundings. It has sought out gifted youth and started them on the highway of knowledge. The small college has made higher education accessible and cheap to thousands of American youth who in all probability could not otherwise have enjoyed the benefits of college training.

Surnames.

1. What was the origin of surnames, and at about what time were they first used?
2. When were the titles of Mr., Mrs. and Miss first given, and for what reasons? K. F.

The Romans were the first, or among the first, to give their citizens more than one name. Each citizen had a

nomen, which marked the gens or cognomen, which marked the family, and a praenomen, which marked the individual. There were few surnames in England until the Norman invasion. In the middle of the twelfth century it was thought essential that persons of rank should have a surname, and tradition says that in the reign of Henry I, a lady objected to marrying a natural son of the King because he had no surname, whereupon the monarch gave him the surname of Fitz-Roy, fitz being a corruption of filius, son. From that time on surnames gradually developed.

Mister and Mrs. are corruptions of master and mistress. It is impossible to say when the titles were first given, but master was first applied to one in authority or to a "gentleman."

Non-Air Cars.

Please advise what the law in the State of Virginia is with reference to railroads handling non-air cars, and whether or not a railroad has a right to refuse to handle non-air cars from Richmond to Manchester or to any point in the city.

There is no statute in Virginia requiring any particular character of equipment on freight cars, hence the only law applicable to freight car equipment is to be found in an act of Congress approved March 2, 1893, amended April 1, 1896, and again March 2, 1903. By this act and its amendments it is provided in substance that all common carriers engaged in interstate commerce by railroad shall have not less than fifty per centum of the cars in any train equipped with brakes used and operated by the engineer of the locomotive drawing such train. This statute is applicable to practically every common carrier by railroad in Virginia, and as will be observed, is in no way inconsistent with the duties and obligations resting upon these carriers under the common and statutory laws of Virginia; hence, in the case submitted the non-air cars are presumed to have been brought to Richmond in conformity with the Federal law, and when tendered to a connecting carrier in this city it is the duty of such connecting carrier to obey this law in so far as same is applicable to the further movement of the car. If this "further" movement is such as to involve making up a train, the law would unquestionably apply, and it would be the duty of the connecting carrier to put a sufficient number of air-brake cars with the non-air brake cars to meet the provisions thereof. If, however, a switching movement is to be

performed, involving merely, as in many cases, the movement of a single car to a siding, it would seem manifest that the provisions of the statute could not, in the nature of the case, be held to apply. If, however, the connecting carrier, as in this case, be advised that the Federal statute applies to switching movements, then it would be the duty of such carrier to couple to the non-air brake cars involved in such movement, a sufficient number of air-brake cars to meet the requirements of law. In no event could a connecting carrier lawfully refuse to handle a non-air brake car to its destination, since its duties as a common carrier require it to perform this service, and it must be performed, whether governed in part by the provisions of the Federal statute referred to or not.

His Own Supply.

"I can't see why that theatrical press agent complains of cold in his flat." "Well, you know, those flats are really not well heated." "Yes, but just look at his own supply of hot air."—Josh Wink.

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