The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1907.

The only way to prevent making mistakes is to sit and do nothing.—Anon.

AN EXPLANATION.

In an editorial in The Times-Dispatch of the 23d instant on the "German System of Land Registration," the fact was mentioned that registration under the Torrens act of Illinois had not been as rapid as the friends of the measure had hoped. We take pleasure in giving the following explanation of that circumstance by Mr. Eugene C. Massie, the leading advocate of the Torrens system in Virginia, who keeps himself fully informed on the subject. Mr. Massie says:

"The Torrens system has been bitterly fought in Illinois by one of the most powerful monopolistic corporations in the great city of Chicago, aided by interested capitalists and able attorneys employed to promote its business. This corporation is the Chicago Title and Trust Company, which has stood like a lion in the path of every endeavor to change the land laws and the methods of certifying titles. The great fire destroyed all the court records in Chicago, and also burned the abstracts of lawyers and the deeds of individuals; but the records and abstracts of the Title and Trust Company were preserved in their fireproof vaults. Thus the company was left in sole possession of evidences concerning the titles of the people and was given an absolute monopoly of all title business. Its power may be understood from the fact that in 1903 it had an income of $496,952.58 from the examinations of titles alone, in addition to fees paid it for guaranteeing or insuring titles certified by it. This giant corporation has done everything it could to upset and discredit the Torrens system and impede its operation. Litigation was begun as soon as the first act was passed in 1895, and that act was declared unconstitutional. But the Legislature promptly passed another act in 1897, which was likewise fiercely fought. But this time the people won out, and the act of 1897 was finally sustained by the courts. Yet the monopoly that squeezes from the people an annual income of about half a million dollars for examining titles has naturally continued to exert itself against the Torrens act; and one of its attorneys, Mr. William C. Niblack, has published a book to cast it into disrepute. This book was intended to stem the tide of popular and professional favor with which the Illinois act was being received. The result of the effort may be learned from the fact that, when an amendment adding certain compulsory features to the act was submitted to popular vote in November, 1904, the voters of Chicago and Cook county declared themselves in favor of it by a popular majority of 211,883. The total vote was 241,926, and the combined efforts of the giant title company and all opponents of the Torrens system only succeeded in mustering 30,043 persons against it. This test shows conclusively that the people are in favor of the Torrens system. But the giant title company continues its fight. New litigation was begun and the courts have recently held that the amendment just mentioned was void because of technical irregularities in its passage. It is expected that the next Legislature will correct these defects, and thus carry out the will of the people."

The Torrens system has never had a fair trial, but it seems to The Times-Dispatch to be a great improvement, certainly on the antiquated system of land registration now in vogue in Virginia.

EXTREMES.

One great trouble with the American people is that they often run to extremes. This may not be peculiarly characteristic of them, but it is true of them. When they are possessed of an idea they are apt to run away with it, or to let it run away with them. And when they do they are intolerant of all opposition. They shut their eyes to the other side of the case and will not admit that there is another side.

Take as an illustration the issue between the people and the corporations. The anti-corporation extremists seem to believe that all corporations are bad and should be either destroyed or so rigidly regulated by law as to cripple them in their operations. On the other hand, the defenders of the corporations would have us believe that all corporations are good; that they are all public blessings, and that it would be wicked and suicidal for the country to restrain them in any degree by legal regulations.

If a newspaper has the temerity to attack a wicked corporation and demand that it be disciplined, the corporation managers accuse it of demagogy.

If another newspaper has the fairness to point out the good features of corporations and the common sense to protest against harsh legislation that tends to destroy their earning power, the extremists on the other hand are swift to denounce it as a "corporation organ," and there you are. In order to escape one accusation a newspaper must continually and consistently defend the corporations, no matter how arrogant they may be; and in order to escape the other it must continually and consistently attack them.

One extreme is about as bad as the other. Certain it is that neither will bring about desirable reforms. We must "hit the happy medium." The extremists in both directions must meet on middle ground and compromise wisely and justly. The corporations must not abuse their privileges or disregard the rights of the people; neither must they be destroyed or so hedged about with restrictions as to destroy their usefulness. It is a time for moderation.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The public school system is maintained for the benefit of the State, and not, primarily, for the benefit of the individual pupil.

This fact should be hammered in and clinched, for it is vital. Upon no other principle can the public school system be justified in a democratic government. All taxation is for the benefit of the State, and not for individuals per se, or for classes. The State cannot tax one man for the benefit of another, or one class for the benefit of another, without violating the basic principles of Democracy.

As an abstract proposition, the State has no right to tax one man to educate another man's child any more than it has the right to tax one man to feed and clothe another man's child.

But the State has the right to tax all men, whether they have children or not, to maintain a system of education which is for the benefit of the Commonwealth and essential to good government.

Does any sane man deny that right? How, then, can any sane man deny the right of the State to compel its citizens to send their children to school? The right in the one case necessarily carries with it the right in the other. It is absurd to say that the State has the right to tax all its citizens to maintain the public school system on the score that popular education is necessary to the highest development of popular government, and then deny the right of the State to compel the children to attend school. The question of expediency is another matter. In the present State of public sentiment it would not be expedient for the Legislature to enact a compulsory attendance law. The Times-Dispatch would have lived to poor purpose if it had not learned that it is worse than folly to enact any law in opposition to dominant sentiment. The Prohibitionists have at last learned that fact, and their cause is growing accordingly. But local option is always in order. Superintendent Eggleston will ask the next Legislature to enact a local option compulsory law, giving each and every county, city and town the right to vote on the question and adopt it by majority vote, and The Times-Dispatch will support him.

There are some counties, we are informed, which would like to have a compulsory regulation, and the State should give them the option of adopting it.

WHAT IS A DEMOCRAT?

In connection with the question raised by the New York World, "What is a Democrat?" Congressman John Lamb sends us the printed copy of a speech which he delivered in the House of Representatives in 1906. He was arraigning the Republican party for its delinquencies, and in conclusion said:

"You represent the principles of force and centralized power in the Federal head. We stand for the imperishable rights of local self-government. You advocate tariff duties that are prohibitory and likely to bring us into serious complications with foreign powers, while they shelter the trusts and retard, if they do not destroy, our shipbuilding interests. We stand for a tariff for revenue, with incidental protection, that will produce revenue sufficient to carry on the government and at the same time safeguard every American interest."

Right in part, but where did Captain Lamb get his authority for the statement that the Democratic party is in favor of "incidental protection?"

The platform of 1892 denounced the Republican tariff as a fraud and a robbery, and declared for a straight-out tariff-for-revenue-only.

The platform of 1896 laid the tariff question aside for reasons that need not be stated, but it did not declare for incidental protection; neither did the platform of 1900, which demanded that the tariff laws should be so amended as to place the products of trusts on the free list.

The latest pronouncement of the Democratic party on the subject is the platform of 1904, which says:

"The Democratic party has been, and will continue to be, the consistent opponent of that class of tariff legislation by which certain interests have been permitted, through Congress favor, to draw a heavy tribute from the American people. This monstrous perversion of those equal opportunities which our political institutions were established to secure has caused what may once have been infant industries to become the greatest combinations of capital that the world has ever known. These especial favorites of the government have, through trust methods, been converted into monopolies, thus bringing to an end domestic competition, which was the only alleged check upon the extravagant profits made possible by the protective system. These industrial combinations, by the financial assistance they can give, now control the policy of the Republican party.

"We denounce protection as a robbery of the many to enrich the few, and we favor a tariff limited to the needs of the government, economically administered, and so levied as not to discriminate against any industry, class or section, to the end that the burdens of taxation shall be distributed as equally as possible.

"We favor a revision and a gradual reduction of the tariff by the friends of the masses for the Commonwealth, and not by the friends of its abuses, its extortions and its discriminations, keeping in view the ultimate ends of 'equality of burdens and equality of opportunities,' and the constitutional purpose of raising a revenue by taxation, to-wit, the support of the Federal government in all its integrity and virility, but in simplicity."

It is the policy of our government, recognized by both parties, to raise the bulk of its revenue from a tax on foreign importations, and so long as the tax is imposed for the purpose of raising revenue, limited to the expenses of a government economically administered, American manufacturers are welcome to any incidental protection they may receive from that source. But the principle of protection is obnoxious to Democratic fundamentals.

All honor to the people of Halifax for their genteel conduct during the Loving trial. They have not made the ordeal of Judge Loving and his daughter more distressing by subjecting them to insolent stares, and crowding about them as though they were wild animals on exhibition. Nor have the women of the village and county forced their way into the courthouse to hear the details of the trial. All of which is a tribute to the good breeding and good manners of the people of Halifax.

If the proposition to extend Federal aid to common education without other restriction than that the money shall go for that purpose is unsound or dangerous, it is likewise wrong to permit the United States to perform any other function or to appropriate money for the direct benefit of any State.—Atlanta Constitution.

Is the Constitution so innocent as to believe that the Federal government would appropriate money for common school education in the South without taking a hand in the management of the schools? Would the Federal government recognize the Southern policy of separate schools for the races?

The Houston Post has been wounded in the house of its friends. The one magazine in the world which the Post's readers would have expected to find its enthusiastic ally, viz., What to Eat, announces that Houston contains the dirtiest stream in the United States. This is a stab in the back, indeed, and we extend sincere condolences to our quondam complacent, but now broken-hearted and prostrate contemporary. Incidentally, and in no arrogant spirit, we add that the streams around Richmond are celebrated throughout the civilized world for their absolute cleanness and purity.

Persons forced by the unbearable heat to leave Texas and other unfavored portions of the map are assured of a cordial welcome and absolute comfort here. Richmond is everywhere conceded to be one of the finest summer resorts in the United States.

The Texas Bankers' Association, who were guests of Richmond yesterday, hit the town in time for a 7 o'clock breakfast. All Texans have the habit of getting up early. The Houston Post makes so much noise that it is impossible to sleep anywhere in the State after 4 A. M.

Some one figures out that, so far, Mr. Orchard "should be sentenced to be hanged five times and to spend 268 years and six months in the penitentiary." After that, in our opinion, he ought to be let off scot free.

The headline in an evening contemporary, "Heads of Departments to No Longer Be Connected With Exposition," seems to have a cinch on the blue ribbon in the 1907 split infinitive class.

We will say for Texas, however, that it produces hardy men of brawn and muscle. It has to. The wind-storms and simoons down there kill off the weak ones and mollycoddles like flies.

Somehow, men's mothers usually get their way in this world. It will now be recalled that Mrs. Taft recently said that she did not want William to be President.

The course of events in England pursues the even tenor of its way. The monthly movement to "curb" the House of Lords is now on.

Dr. Austin Flint says that when a man is worried, he should sing all the time, thus extending the worry to as many of the neighbors as possible.

If Colonel Watterson is sincere in urging us to get "back to the Constitution," it is distinctly up to him to tell us where it is.

If Mr. Roosevelt did not say "cut it out" to those Georgia Day orators, he could make a great hit by saying it some time to the Hon. Jakey Rils.

If Mark did not forget to pack his Joe Miller, there is a good chance that he may yet joke himself into the peerage.

Congress would please a lot of people by passing a law declaring any union down and out after it had made three strikes.

Among other things which Virginia can teach New York, and most other States, is the art and science of running a murder trial.

Anyway, we hope the President isn't trying to keep cool with Oyster Bay-rum.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

Rhymes for To-Day

ON A NOVEL THEME.

TELL me, mammy, tell me, pappy;
Shall I feign that I am happy,
That I'm pleased as any jappy
with the nature of these days?
Never, while I have the vigor, have the hardihood and rigor,
To arise and call for frigor to be scattered on my ways!

O, how could I be contented? See me ply my palm-leaves (rented),
Hear me shout in tones demented:
"Gosh, but these be fervid times!"
Let the edict be repeated that this air grows far too heated
For a chap whose strength's depleted with the task of making rhymes:

Shall I grovel, feebly, weakly, make a false submission, meekly,
While I loll here damply, reekly, 'neath a sun that makes me smoke?
Shall I bluff that I feel thankly? No! I'll shout out boldly, frankly:
"I detest to live so dankly—O I fear me I shall croak!"

Well, my style is growing florid: Good-by, readers—I'm so torrid.
O, I feel so dazed and horrid that I'm writing like a fool,
Should I die, just take some pavestone, hew it out into a gravestone,
And inscribe: "His was no slave's tone——
HE HAS GONE WHERE IT IS COOL."

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

His Were Occupied.

"There's not an unoccupied square foot in this car," asserted the rush-hour passenger.

"Nor any other shaped foot," complained his friend, trying in vain to move.—Cleveland Leader.

The Modern Query.

"Well, they are divorced."

"No?"

"Yes."

"Which gets rid of the children?"—Washington Herald.

Vishnu Up to Date.

It was the terrible car of Juggernaut. Suddenly a man was seen to hurl himself between the ponderous wheels.

"Damn that carburetor!" he muttered.—Puck.

His Idea of It.

"What is it a sign of when a young man kisses a girl on the forehead?"

"Poor eyesight."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

How He Knew.

Earlie: "Come in; sister's expectin' you."

Mr. De Latestayer: "How do you know she is?"

Earlie: "She's been sleepin' all the afternoon."—Brooklyn Eagle.

A Bum Job.

Mrs. Wise: "Mme. Sewem told me yesterday that she had to go to the dentist's to have a nerve killed."

Mr. Wise: "According to the bill she's just rendered for your new spring dress, he evidently didn't succeed in killing her nerve."—Utica Observer.

POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.

MR. FORAKER hopes by fall to bring Brownsville back into a prominence which will enable it to eclipse both Boise and Oyster Bay.—Chicago Record-Herald.

• • •

If an open confession is good for the soul the spiritual condition of Mr. Orchard must be as flourishing as the power of grace can make it.—Indianapolis Star.

• • •

Secretary Taft has accepted a "charmed bridle" from the Sioux Indians. There can be no doubt now that he is in the race.—New York Herald.

• • •

Still it is to be remembered in connection with this nature-fake business that it is a whole lot less painful for wild animals to be lied about than to be shot full of holes or worried to death by dogs urged on by an enthusiastic statesman.—Indianapolis News.

• • •

Possibly the abolition of reduced railway rates to clergymen will result in the congregations paying their ministers enough to travel as other persons.—Kansas City Times.

• • •

But Captain Hobson should not be too sure that Japan is going to make war on us. The majority of the Japanese people don't know that Captain Hobson has severed his connection with the navy.—Kansas City Journal.

• • •

It would be ungrateful in The Hague Peace Conference to inquire into the hip-pocket habit in America.—Boston Record.

COMMENTS OF VIRGINIA EDITORS.

Compulsory Education.

"The subject of 'compulsory education' is a delicate and a difficult one, and yet if ignorance is a menace to law and order the State should have power to protect itself against that evil as well as any and all others. When parents and children become members of civilized society they must yield as much of what we are accustomed to call 'personal liberty' as is necessary for the common weal, and amongst other things the parents must give up the right to manage their children as they think best when that management means mischief to the community in which they live."—Farmville Herald.

The Next Platform.

The Index-Appeal does not propose to write the Democratic platform, but offers a suggestion that the portion of it referring to Federal regulation of means of transportation, and all excursions of Federal power into untried fields, should read something like this:

"Resolved, That the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the Sttaes, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people; and that in all legislation relative to such rights Congress should be extremely careful that no rights originally belonging to the States be taken away or impaired, and that the powers of the United States be limited to such as are expressly conferred by the Constitution; and it is the special duty of all Representatives and Senators chosen as Democrats to resist to the utmost every effort to diminish the power and dignity of the individual States."—Petersburg Index-Appeal.

Moving Along.

The Gazette, after a second attempt, has gotten an engine which we will install next week, thus enabling us to turn out job work and the newspaper on schedule time. The engine we have now gotten is a two-horse-power Fairbanks-Morse gasolene, which is considered the best made. When we get it working next week we invite our friends to come and inspect it.—Williamsburg Gazette.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Four men out of six smoke.

Paris derives a huge revenue from the sale of doll's dresses.

Birthdays were kept even as far back as the time of Pharaoh.

The Chinese have twice sacked Moscow—once in 1237 and again in 1293.

Customs receipts in New York City are running $70,200 more a day than last year.

The Alaskan Marble Company at Shakan shipped 2,500 tons of marble to Puget Sound last year.

The world's record for the greatest number of divorce cases is held by the Hungarian city of Arad.

Prince Edward, eldest son of the Prince of Wales, has developed quite an amount of ability as a singer.

The capital of the Tokio Electric Railway is to be increased to $30,000,000 for improvements and exensions.

The Pied Bull Inn, at Islington, is said to have been the first house in England at which tobacco was smoked.

Most of the coal mines of Northern Cape Breton are submarine workings extending in some cases a mile from the shore.

The salary of a Chicago alderman has been raised to $3,500 a year, the highest compensation attached to the office anywhere.

The Korean government has decided to grant the right to work gold mines to citizens of England, Germany, France, the United States and Italy.

The process of manufacturing silk made from wood pulp is one which in Europe is jealously guarded from inspection. The imitation silk sells for considerably less than real silk, but at a higher price than mercerized cotton.

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
J. W. Lyon, D.D.S.

People Seen in Public Places

"We are going to have all kinds of political scrapping in the old North State next year," said a prominent North Carolina Democrat at one of the hotels last night, "and already there is a small army of candidates for the various offices to be filled.

"We will elect all officials from Governor down; a full delegation to Congress, and a Legislature, which, in turn, will choose a Senator to succeed Hon. Lee S. Overman.

"It will be a presidential year, too, and strenuous times are expected.

"It is well understood that Senator Overman will be opposed for re-election by Governor R. B. Glenn, and the two will probably make an active stump canvass of the State in an effort to capture the various legislative delegations. They are both strong men; fine speakers and popular among the voters.

"There are already more than half a dozen aspirants for the governorship, and this race promises to be the hottest since Vance redeemed the State for the Conservatives in 1876.

"The candidates east of Raleigh are Ashley Horne, a fine type of the Southern gentleman; a farmer and manufacturer; former Congressman Fred. A. Woodard, of Wilson, and J. D. Bellamy, of Wilmington, and those west of the capital are J. A. Long, of Pearson; Congressman W. W. Kitchin, of Roxboro; former Lieutenant-Governor J. A. Doughton, of Salisbury, and Locke Craige, of Asheville.

"They all have strong friends, and will work hard for the honor.

"Locke Craige is the most brilliant Democratic orator in North Carolina, and he is a lawyer of great ability. Every now and then one hears that the organization is for Kitchen, and again it is said to be favorable to Craige. I don't know where it is going to line up, but it will cut some figure if it takes a stand for any candidate.

"Being in the race for Governor, Bill Kitchen will, of course, not stand for Congress again, and this opens up a wide field for the latter honor.

"General B. S. Royster, R. D. Reid, J. C. Buxton, A. L. Brooks and S. M. Gettis aspire to succeed Kitchen, and they are already at work. So you see we won't have to go out of North Carolina to look for political battles next year."

Commonwealth's Attorney Samuel G. Brent, of Alexandria, a warm personal and political friend of Mr. Charles C. Carlin, who was last week nominated for Congress in the Eighth District, was in the city yesterday, and was a caller at the Capitol.

"We are going to put up the best fight we can for the Legislature this fall," said a Southwest Republican last night, as he stood in one of the hotel lobbies, "and though we do not expect to carry the State, we will let the Democrats know we are in the running. Our party strength will be increased in the coming General Assembly, and we will get nearly, if not quite all, the Senators and House members out our way.

"The Ninth District is logically Republican, and the Fifth is becoming so, and we have much strength in the Valley and in other sections."

This statement pretty well accords with one recently given out here by State Chairman C. Bascom Slemp, in which he said it was the purpose of his party to name legislative candidates in all the districts where they thought there was a bare prospect of victory. This proposition, however, has been considerably stretched by the Republicans of this city, who have determined to name a full legislative ticket in a mass-meeting shortly to be held.

The contest for the speakership of the next House is warming up, and Messrs. Richard Evelyn Byrd, of Winchester, and Robert W. Withers, of Suffolk, and their respective friends are hard at work.

Hon. John W. Churchman, of Augusta, is also a candidate, but not having been nominated for the House yet, he is not in as good a position as are his competitors to seek votes for this higher honor. Messrs. Withers and Byrd are as good as re-elected to the House. They have been renominated, and their districts are overwhelmingly Democratic. Mr. Churchman's friends are sure that he will come back to the House, and that the constituency he has served faithfully for so many years will again rally to his standard.

Major J. N. Stubbs, of Gloucester, who has served in all about twenty years in the Legislature, will return to the House, and he talks of running for Speaker, but he is not considered a formidable candidate by those who discuss the relative prospects of the various candidates.

Modesty Personified.

The Club Woman—You have no mind of your own, you microbe! You're merely one of those persons who think they think!

Only Her Husband.—You flatter me, dear;—I often fancy that I imagine I only suspect I think!—Puck.

The Congenial Orchard.

Mrs. Cohenstein: "Vot iss it, Popper? Vot makes you look so happy?"

Mr. Cohenstein: "Sh-h-h! I haf just been talking to der gardner, und he tells me dot our peach grop dis year vill be a total failure."—Puck.

Well, I'll Be——!!!

Well, if you must swear, swear off from the laundry that spoils your new collars. Your laundry troubles will soon banish if you send your linen to the Eclipse Laundry. We know how and have got it down fine. We never spoil the most delicate garment or rip new collars or shirts. Give us a trial and you will belong to us.
Phone 418
ECLIPSE LAUNDRY

Poems You Ought to Know

Whatever your occupation may be, and however crowded your hours with affairs, do not fail to secure at least a few minutes every day for refreshment of your inner life with a bit of poetry.—Prof. Charles Eliot Norton.

No. 1213.

The Death of Romeo.

(From "Romeo and Juliet.")

By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

Other selections from this author, his portrait, autograph and biographical sketch, have already been printed in this series.

How oft when men are at the point of death
Have they been merry? which their keepers call
A lightning before death: O, how may I
Call this a lightning?—O, my love, my wife!
Death, that hath suck'd the honey of thy breath,
Hath had no power yet upon thy beauty:
Thou art not conquer'd; beauty's ensign yet
Is crimson in thy lips, and in thy cheeks,
And death's pale flag is not advanced there.—
Tybalt, liest thou there in thy bloody sheet?
O, what more favor can I do to thee,
Than with that hand that cut thy youth in twain
To sunder his that was thine enemy?
Forgive me, cousin?—Ah, dear Juliet,
Why art thou yet so fair? Shall I believe
That unsubstantial Death is amorous;
And that the lean abhorred monster keeps
Thee here in dark to be his paramour?
For fear of that, I will still stay with thee;
And never from this palace of dim night
Depart again; here, here will I remain
With worms that are thy chambermaids; O here
Will I set up my everlasting rest;
And shake the yoke of inauspicious stars
From this world-wearied flesh.—Eyes, look your last!
Arms, take your last embrace! and lips, O you
The doors of breath, seal with a righteous kiss
A dateless bargain to engrossing death!—
Come, bitter conduct, come unsavory guide!
Thou desperate pilot, now at once run on
The dashing rocks thy sea-sick weary bark!
Here's to my love!—[Drinks the poison] O, true apothecary!
Thy drugs are quick.—Thus with a kiss I die. [Dies.

This series began in The Times-Dispatch Oct. 11, 1903. One is published each day.

THE ORIGIN OF THE ELECTIVE SYSTEM OF STUDY

By Professor A. T. Robertson, D. D., of Louisville, Ky., in the Review and Expositor.

I do not happen to be an alumnus of the University of Virginia, but I am familiar with its great history, and I feel sure that a serious wrong has been done this noble institution of learning.

In Lippincott's Educational Series the new volume on the History of Education is written by Principal E. L. Kemp, of the State Normal School, East Stroudsburg, Pa. The book possesses a great deal of value, and gives in succinct form a survey of educational development all over the world in all ages. Curiously enough, he has no discussion of theological training after the scholastic method of the Middle Ages. (P. 127f.) He knows nothing of the modern change in theological method since the application of the elective system of schools to theological study by James P. Boyce in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1859 (Broadus, Memoir of James P. Boyce, p. 156f), an application of the University of Virginia method to theological education. But it is the author's ignorance of the University that is really inexcusable. On page 353 of the History of Education Principal Kemp speaks of the "elective system begun at Harvard 1824" as one of the great epochs in modern education (cf. also p. 329). Not once is the University of Virginia mentioned.

Now, what are the facts? They are easily accessible. In the present writer's Life and Letters of John A. Broadus (pp. 55-61) a brief summary is given of the way that Harvard College came to get the elective system from the University of Virginia. But Principal Kemp can hardly be forgiven for not being acquainted with "Contributions to American Educational History," edited by Herbert B. Adams, No. 2 in this important series, entitled "Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia," by Herbert B. Adams, Ph. D., associate professor of history in Johns Hopkins University. This volume appeared in 1888 from the government printing press with an introductory letter to Secretary Lamar by the Commissioner of Education, N. H. R. Dawson. In this letter Mr. Dawson says: "It is surprising to observe how Jefferson anticipated many of the modern educational ideas which have come into conspicuous favor since his day." It would be interesting, if one had space, to copy the whole passage, (p. 12), but in the list Mr. Dawson mentions "non-sectarianism in university education," "the academic study of history, politics and economics; the teaching of history in common schools by means of reading books," "physical education," "military training of students," "manual and industrial training." But Principal Kemp has never heard of Jefferson in the educational arena. Mr. Dawson proceeds (p. 12): "To the University of Virginia, Jefferson's creation, the whole country is indebted for the following distinguished services to the higher education: (1) The recognition of real university standards of instruction and scholarship. (2) The absolute repression of class-system and the substitution of merit for seniority in the award of degrees. (3) The first complete introduction of the elective system. (4) The establishment of district schools in which great subjects were grouped, etc." We can quote no further, but this is enough.

Professor Adams sets forth with perfect clearness the proof of this high claim made by Mr. Dawson. Since 1815 Jefferson corresponded with a young Bostonian, Mr. Ticknor, and in 1820 Ticknor was called "to a professorship in the University of Virginia, with more than double his salary at Cambridge" (Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia, p. 127), but he declined and remained at Harvard. In the North American Review for January, 1820, "the proceedings and report of the commissioners for the University of Virginia, printed in 1818, were elaborately noticed by Edward Everett." (Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia, p. 131.) Hear Professor Adams again (p. 124): "In December, 1824, Ticknor visited Jefferson and the University of Virginia, and wrote a most charming description of both the man and the institution to William H. Prescott, the historian." In this letter Ticknor says: "Of the details of the system I shall discourse much when I see you. It is more practical than I feared, but not so practical that I feel assured of its success. It is, however, an experiment worth trying, to which I earnestly desire the happiest results." To what does Professor Ticknor refer? On June 16, 1823, Jefferson had written to Professor Ticknor: "I am not fully informed of the practices at Harvard, but there is one from which we shall certainly vary, although it has been copied, I believe, by nearly every college and academy in the United States. That is, the holding of the students all to one prescribed course of reading, and disallowing exclusive application to those branches only which are to qualify them for the particular vocations to which they are destined. We shall, on the contrary, allow them uncontrolled choice in the lectures they shall choose to attend, and require elementary qualification only and sufficient age." Ticknor returned from the University of Virginia to Harvard, and his "views found absolutely no support from the faculty; on the contrary, the professors voted repeatedly against the innovations. It was chiefly through Hon. William Prescott and Judge Story that Ticknor's ideas found favor with the corporation and the board of overseers, who adopted them in June, 1825" (p. 125), not 1824, as Principal Kemp has it. When Ticknor resigned in 1835 he claimed to have "introduced a system of voluntary study" into Harvard (p. 126), which claim is just, but he got his ideas directly from the University of Virginia, which opened its doors for students in 1825, but whose novel plan of instruction had been published in 1818. President Francis Wayland, of Brown, likewise, twenty-one years after Professor Ticknor's visit, came to inspect the new educational system at the University of Virginia. "The publication of Dr. Wayland's report in 1850 is said to have marked an era in the history of collegiate education in America" (Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia, p. 131), but "every one of these ideas had been published by Jefferson in educational reports more than thirty years before the date of Dr. Wayland's recommendations to the corporation of Brown University," (p. 131.)

It is needless to say more, though much more of the same sort can be told. This proof is absolute and beyond controversy. One cannot think that Principal Kemp would wilfully crown Harvard with the laurel wreath that belongs to Jefferson and the University of Virginia. In 1820 and 1825 it did not damn an idea in New England that it came from the South. The most original contribution to the American educational system came from the South. It was men of Virginia also (led by the Baptists) who finally secured by petition the first amendment to the American Constitution which, by gaining religious liberty for all, took religious instruction out of the hands of the State and gave the world its first great experiment in education that is now at last copied by France, and which England must come to before her people pass out of the throes of the present educational strife.

A Card from Mr. Yoder.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—May I suggest a few corrections in your good paper, issue of the 14th instant, in regard to the contempt case?

First. I did not "demand trial by jury." I only commented on the setting aside by the courts of the law as unconstitutional.

Second. Your correspondent states that I "often sharply criticized prominent citizens and officials of the Hill City." While this is true, it's not quite the whole truth, for I criticized only such persons in their public acts and simply in the interests of the public. I did not jump on anybody except when the public was concerned. On such occasions I did not use gloves.

Third. It is generally believed in Lynchburg that your correspondent's statement that "J. Tinsley Coleman, of Lynchburg, represented Judge Christian without the latter's solicitation" is an error, for Mr. Coleman was one of Mr. Christian's advisers previous to the trial.

ADON A. YODER.

Grand Junction, Col.

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