# The Times-Dispatch

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1907.


**Religion soothes every wound, and makes the bed of death a couch of felicity.—Southy.**

## THE GRACE OF GIVING AND RECEIVING.

In all charitable activities there is danger in running to extremes, in one or the other of two directions, or in both. Indiscriminate giving is harmful in the long run, to both giver and receiver.

It is sure to encourage beggary, slothfulness and deceitfulness in some who receive; and when men and women who are generously disposed find that they have been imposed upon by unworthy beggars they are apt to harden their hearts toward the entire indigent class.

That is one extreme to be guarded against. Giving should always be spiritually helpful, both subjectively and objectively. It should be a means of grace to both giver and receiver. It should stimulate and cultivate true generosity on the one hand, and on the other manly or womanly gratitude, which is always improving.

But human nature is frail, and as many abuses have grown out of indiscriminate giving on the part of individuals, organized charity has come to pass as a remedy. Charitable associations have done and are doing a valuable work, and yet there is a danger in organized charity which is to be avoided. We must not allow organized effort to take the place altogether of individual effort. It is not the whole of charity to send one's check to an organization to relieve the pinch of poverty. With those who have abundance it involves no sacrifice or personal inconvenience to give money. Such a transaction may be as sending a check to the grocer. It will never do to shift one's individual responsibility to humanity upon an organization. It is shirking, pure and simple. Personal visitations and ministrations to the poor are the injunctions of our Saviour. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me" is the doctrine. Organized charity should be co-operative in the broadest sense. It should endeavor to incite individuals to good works and direct their efforts; and there should be the closest relationship and affiliation between the association and the church. When the organization becomes the relief agency for a distressed family, the church should provide the necessary spiritual oversight and the necessary formative influences for the children and, if need be, for the older members. This is the rule laid down by Dr. Edward T. Devine, general secretary of the Charity Organization Society of New York.

Dr. Devine also says that in modern organized charity, investigation has come to mean something more than it meant to those who had proclaimed the necessity for discriminating between the deserving and the undeserving poor. Investigation is not solely or even primarily for the purpose of thwarting the expectation of impostors. Investigation is rather an instrument for the intelligent treatment of distress. It is analagous to the diagnosis of the physician who does not attempt to treat a serious malady from a glance at its superficial indications, but who carefully inquires into the hidden and early manifestations of the disease, and seeks to know as much as possible of the complicating influences with which he must reckon in effecting a cure. It must be painstaking, conscientious and honest. In the majority of cases, if the investigation is wise and complete, it will reveal personal sources and facts which will enable the situation to be met without calling in outside aid, and in this way, in the large proportion of cases, investigation might be said to become a substitute for relief.

All the conditions above outlined are met by the Associated Charities of Richmond, under the intelligent and humane direction of Dr. James Buchanan. The organization encourages individual charity; it is in hearty co-operation with the churches; by investigation it has run down the impostors and retired them from the beggar list; it has put many indigent persons to work. In the first ten months of its existence it helped more than 800 families; during the past year, with an increased expenditure of $1,000, the number of families helped was reduced more than 100, the unworthy cases having been weeded out and the increased amount of money expended for the benefit of those who were worthy. The organization is decreasing beggary by helping the indigent class to help themselves, and in giving aid it employs the gift and the opportunity as the means of bringing the beneficiaries under the best moral and religious influences.

A work so noble deserves the sympathetic support and co-operation of all men, women and children who would help the helpless and at the same time cultivate within themselves the grace of giving.

## ARE WE OVERCHARGED FOR OUR MUSIC?

From figures compiled by a writer in the New York Times, it would appear that upon America rests largely the burden of supporting the musicians of the world. Our annual music bill is $6,000,000 a year, not counting money paid for musical comedies and "popular" songs, and to native musicians, composers and publishers—an estimate which this authority informs us "is conservative and probably too low." Signor Caruso alone gets $180,000 annually from us—$100,000 from the Metropolitan Opera Company, $40,000 from private performances, $40,000 from the talking machine companies. Paderewski's earnings this season will aggregate $225,000. Kubelik's will approach $100,000. Melba, Nordica, Calve, Sembrich will divide some $350,000 among them. Other singers, pianists and violinists will get another $500,000. Orchestra conductors and opera companies outside New York will get hundreds of thousands more.

Further, Americans who are studying music abroad take $3,000,000 a year out of this country. It is said that they and other sojourning Americans are the chief supporters of music in Europe during the summer season.

So the musical toll of $6,000,000 a year swells the tourists' toll of $100,000,000 a year with which Americans enrich Europe and help to restore the balance of trade between two continents.

Why must Americans pay such a lot for everything? No one grudges the expenditure of large sums for good music, and if the foreigners are the only people who can give us that kind, then by all means must the foreigners sail away every spring with their pockets bulging with our money. Possibly we are at that stage in our musical education when we are willing to spend anything to progress to another stage. Or are we merely a kind of easy-going and lavish mark for every European who has something to sell? Will distinguished tenors demonstrate their gifts elsewhere only under the seductive sway of colossal salaries? Why, to quote once more from the Times writer, should a Russian pianist who got 10 francs for two recitals in Paris have received $250 for each recital in America?

## MR. BRYAN'S SURPRISES.

We pointed out yesterday that Mr. William J. Bryan's plan to have the Federal government guarantee the deposits of national banks would put every State bank and trust company in jeopardy. They would probably lose all their deposits at once. They would certainly be in great danger of runs every time the depositors should take fright. In order to protect themselves, the State banks would have to become "nationalized" at the first opportunity. Then what? Do the people relish the thought of having all State banks put under the control of the Federal government? Would not that be another long stride towards federalism? And what would become of landowners who should desire to get accommodation at bank? National banks are not allowed to lend money on real estate, and if all the State banks were "nationalized," landowners would be at a great disadvantage, and land values would suffer accordingly.

Of course there is no danger that Mr. Bryan's plan will be seriously considered by Congress. But his proposal should be seriously considered by those who want him to be President of the United States. Nobody knows what moment Mr. Bryan will spring one of his surprises on the people and on the party. He does not know himself. He is a man of impulses. He means to do well, but he is a dangerous candidate for any party to tie to. Mind you, we did not say a dangerous man, but a dangerous candidate.

We hope the party will consider Mr. Bryan more seriously than he considers some of his startling proposals, before they select him to be their leader in 1908.

## FAITH.

The present crisis is giving the American people a valuable and much needed lesson in faith. It is a word that causes many to stumble when they get into the realm of religion. They love to see and choose their way. They wish to walk by sight, and when they are told that they must walk by faith they halt and ask how can these things be? They are unwilling to trust that which they cannot see, yet in the affairs of this world faith is a matter of daily exercise, and "without faith a man can do nothing." Without faith all our financial institutions would break down, and there would be panic every day in the year. So long as confidence is established, all the machinery of finance and business moves smoothly; shake public confidence, and the machinery is clogged; destroy public confidence, and the machinery breaks down completely. The lesson has come home to us, and it should duly impress us. If we cannot do without faith in material things, how shall we get along without it in spiritual things?

Lord, increase our faith! It is our only anchor. "Faith strengthens us, enlightens us, for all endeavors and endurances," said Carlyle. "With faith we can do all and dare all, and life itself has a thousand times been joyfully given away." Let us learn the lesson of the hour. Let us realize the importance, the necessity, of faith. Let us cry aloud with Kingsley: "I want a faith which will possess me."

## "THE GLORIFYING OF MEMORY."

(Selected for The Times-Dispatch.)

"The angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them."—Exod. xiv. 19.

There are times in this life when the angel who went before turns and walks behind us. We would call these the times of retrospect. The angel of our life is usually in advance of us; it is commonly the angel of hope. Most of us live by the light of the future, and anticipation is one of our chief joys. Youth looks forward to a coming glory of the earth; age forecasts the coming glory in the heavens.

But there is a period between youth and age, when the angel of hope gives place to the angel of memory. It dwells in that little strip of ground called middle life. It is neither morning nor evening. And being unable to look forward, it looks back. The angel goes behind us.

Middle life lives more on its memories than on its prospects. Yet do not call it a barren age. Is memory to be the only power of the soul which is to have no symbol of immortality? We speak of immortal hope, of abiding faith, of deathless love. We dwell upon the undying aspiration, of quenchless longing, of indomitable will. Is memory to be the only thing left out?

I have seen the resurrection angel pointing to the future, but is he never to recall the lost and past days? Am I always to be told of the great powers which are coming, of added sense and quickened wings of thought? Is there to be no provision for the memory?

We may be planted to-morrow in fairer fields, but the deepest joy comes not from its fairness, but from memories. We may be led to-morrow into pastures new, but the joy is not their novelty, but their power to recall. We may be greeted to-morrow by divine music, unheard before, but the true pleasure of a song is not its freshness, but its ability to wake the past.

There may be beautiful angels in front of us—angels with shining robes and glittering plumes; but we long for the angel behind us; the power to recall the memories of our childhood and youth—the dear and never-to-be-forgotten old home.

I thank Thee, O Lord, that Thou hast glorified memory. I thank Thee that the resurrection angel sits upon the stone where lies my buried past, and thus gives the promise it shall rise again. I cling to my old garments, mean though they be, threadbare as they are! I would not have forgetfulness to steal them away.

In that happy home prepared for me I shall ask my Father for an explanation of my pain. They tell me it will all be forgotten—the tears wiped away from my eyes. I do not want a child's forgetfulness, but a man's remembrance. I am not so eager that the tears should be wiped as that they should be vindicated.

It is easy to expunge—the angel in front can do that; but to explain—that needs an angel at the back of me. Send into my past not a cloud, but sunshine; not oblivion, but a glory. The pledge of my vindicated yesterday is the angel that walks behind!

We of the South are exercised on the subject of immigration, but the real problem has never come nigh to us. Our people are native-born. The foreign element does not enter as a factor in our political or social affairs. With us immigration is a theory. But it is different at the North. There it is a condition, and an ever-present menace. Boston is in the grip of foreign voters, who, under the manipulation of shrewd leaders, hold the balance of power in politics. Boston is almost ready to surrender her charter and appeal to the State for protection. At least it is so reported. Boston now understands the negro problem at the South as never before. The chicks seem to be coming home to roost.

President Roosevelt, of the United States; President George F. Baker, of the First National Bank of New York, and Citizen J. P. Morgan have been having a friendly conference on the financial situation, and it is even said that Mr. Roosevelt read to his friends extracts from his forthcoming message on currency legislation and kindred subjects.

Financial crises, like politics, make strange bedfellows.

It is reported that London is soon to try an experiment which, the inventor claims, will rid the city of fogs. If it proves to be successful, we hope that it will be applied at once to the situation in the United States.

For the especial benefit of the Houston Post, we will digress from financial flurry comments to observe that old Bill Skillit is not the only member of his family to contribute to the dietetic lustre of his native State. Old Mrs. Bill Skillit is the home-maker of as fine pies and potlicker as are to be found in Old Virginia, which is to say eleven times as fine as are to be found in all other quarters of the globe.

We understand that the editor of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot will lead the movement for a pall-bearers' union in his town. It is believed that a very large union, proportionate to population, will be needed to accommodate the large and growing pall-bearing business of Norfolk.

The price of radium has just been reduced from $3,000,000 an ounce to $1,000,000. Better hustle around to your dealer's and lay in a few pound-boxes for Christmas before they jack up the price again.

A pamphlet entitled "A Brief Description of New York" was sold the other day for $1,750. That is a lot to pay for a brief description of New York, considering that you can get one from any Chicago man for nothing.

Says the Kansas City Star: "In times of financial stress, when money is scarce, prices are supposed to fall. Well, then, why don't they fall?" Has the Star's Oldest Subscriber ever seen a price fall?

In Berlin there is one policeman to every 340 persons. In Manhattan there is only one policeman to every 643 persons. Thus has Berlin rightly earned her title as the Cookladies' Paradise.

There will be 992 delegates to the Republican National Convention next year, not all of whom, by any means, are positively committed to the Henry Cabot Lodge first-term movement.

So far not even Dr. Washington Gladden, the pioneer tainted-money expert, is believed to have indignantly rejected any of the unmottoed gold-pieces.

A Denver man recently shot and killed an eagle measuring over seven feet from tip to tip. He noted with great interest that it wore neither motto nor pantalets.

Kindly American undertakers will not organize at just the moment when so many booms show signs of shortly needing their services.

Callous Costofliving can also pat itself on the back for having made one Thanksgiving turkey grow where seventeen grew before.

"Taft's manager has been talking," says the Atlanta Constitution. We gravely fear that he has been talking through his hat.

Secretly, no doubt, prohibition is intensely surprised at the tremendous hit it is suddenly making all over the circuit.

The excellence of Mrs. Bradley's forgettery reveals her as a potential trust witness of magnificent possibilities.

An accident to the unwritten law would inevitably precipitate a panic in the alienist market.

If H. M. Albert Edward were a commercial tourist, he would never dare to wear that diamond.

However, can you think of two Hartjes that beat as one?

### A Doubtful Proposition.

Richmond is considering the adoption of a no-seat-no-fare ordinance for the street cars. The idea strikes us as dangerous. To forbid the entrance of any passenger after every seat in a car is occupied would cause great public dissatisfaction; while to permit people to stand without paying would be out of the question, and it would be hardly practicable to arrange for a rebate to strap-hangers. But if Richmond wants to try a no-seat-no-fare ordinance, there will be a good object-lesson for other cities in the State.—Norfolk Landmark.

# Famous Words of Famous Men.

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**"We Must All Hang Together, or We Shall Hang Separately."** BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, 1776.

While every known line and every known fragment of a line that was penned by Benjamin Franklin has either been put in the printed form or else is the cherished treasure of some library or museum, the world will never know the extent of its loss in being denied the many worthy and witty sentiments that were dropped by the philosopher in ordinary conversation.

The sentence at the head of this paragraph belongs to the latter class of unrecorded and unpreserved sayings. For this exceedingly choice specimen of Franklin's brightness in repartee only comes to us through the mutilating changes of tradition. It is said to have been uttered at the time of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. But while that historic document was passed by a vote of the Congress on July 4, 1776, there are many conflicting statements regarding the exact date of the signing thereof by the different delegates.

According to Secretary Charles Thomson's record of the Continental Congress, the Declaration was passed on July 4th, and on August 2d the engrossed copy was signed by such members as were present at the session of that day. Elbridge Gerry, of Massachusetts, was known to have been on a trip homeward on August 2d, while Caesar Rodney, of Delaware, and Oliver Wolcott, of Connecticut, were both absentees. Rodney says himself that he signed "some time during 1776, and Wolcott was not in Philadelphia until October. There were many other delegates that also "signed some time during 1776." Matthew Thornton, of New Hampshire, was not even elected a delegate until September, 1776, and he did not present his credentials until November 4th.

The scene, however, which Trumbull has depicted on canvass must refer to the initial signatory proceedings of July 4th, when the original draft of the Declaration, and not the engrossed copy of August 2d, was signed by the delegates in attendance on that day. For John Adams, in a letter to Mrs. Mercy Warren under date of February 2, 1814, says the Declaration of Independence "was prepared and signed on July 4th." Whether Franklin was really present on July 4th or not can only be shown by Thomson's records. Jared Sparks, in his Life of Franklin, seems to have been the first of the Franklin biographers to bring to light the famous reply that was made to President Hancock.

"We must be unanimous,' urged Hancock; "there must be no quilting different ways. We must all hang together."

Franklin's response has come down in the following form:

"Yes, we must indeed all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

*Benj Franklin*

# Rhymes for To-Day.

### WHY NOT TRY THE DEMOCRATIC BRAND?

I HEAR a lot o' langwitch 'bout "the
plenty o' prosperity,"
But where the same is hidin' is
some more than I can see.
I'll only make this statement with no
feelin' o' temerity:
It ain't reached out f'um anywheres
and clamped a holt on Me.

If it is reely floatin' 'round—well, I
for one ain't gittin' it:
Mayhap it ain't intended for the
bloomin' likes o' we.
A-tennyrate, I got a thought—ho, I
don't mind admittin' it:
A suddint change at Washington
would make a hit with Me.

Mayhap I ain't a prophet and I ain't
got perspicacity,
Mayhap this terra firma is as pros-
p'rous as can be,
Mayhap I ain't a bold 'un—but I've
got this much audacity:
Republican prosperity ain't good
enough for Me. H. S. H.

### MERELY JOKING.

**Identified.**

"He slept well and ate a hearty breakfast, apparently wholly unconscious to his fate. He was attired in the conventional black, and ——"

"And what hour did they hang him?"

"Hang him? They don't hang a man for getting married! He was the groom, not a condemned criminal."—Puck.

**Works Like a Charm.**

Skinner: "Trying horseback riding to reduce your weight, eh? Well, how does it work?"

Hevvywate: "I've only tried it for a couple of days, and I've fallen off quite a good deal already!"—Philadelphia Inquirer.

**An Impaired Vision.**

"Yes, sir, your daughter loves me. It was a case of love at first sight."

"First sight, eh? I must have her consult an oculist at once."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Alone.**

Aunt: "And have you been all that long way alone?"

Niece: "Yes, auntie."

Aunt: "Then how is it you went out with an umbrella and came back with a walking stick?"—Punch.

**Bound to Be Heard.**

Patience: "How did the report of Peggy's engagement get out? She said she hasn't whispered it to a soul?"

Patrice: "No, she didn't; she used a megaphone!"—Yonkers Statesman.

**Too Much Opposition.**

Miss Bowry: "I have no doubt it was a clever 'Soliloquy of a Traveler' you recited at the church social last evening, but do you know I couldn't hear a word of it?"

Miss Broadway: "Nobody is supposed to hear a word of it. It was a soliloquy uttered by a traveler in a subway train."—Chicago Tribune.

**No Time for Anything Else.**

"So you think his intentions are serious," said the father. "Do you know anything about his habits?"

"Yes," replied the girl's mother; "that's why I think his intentions are serious."

"How do you mean?"

"His principal habits seem to be calling on May and writing to her."—The Catholic Standard and Times.

### STATE TOPICS.

We recently inquired of the Halifax Gazette whether or not the enhanced value of lands spoken of by that contemporary showed up on the tax-books. The Gazette replies:

"We regret that we cannot give the desired information, but we are inclined to think from meagre information that the great enhancement in value does not appear on the tax-books in the rural districts, but we can state from our own knowledge that there was a considerable advance in real estate in the town of South Boston."

The Constitution requires that all lands shall be assessed for taxation at their fair market value.

* * *

The South Boston News approves our temperance lecture to the anti-saloon crusaders. "Prohibition," it says, "will be a failure in any community unless it is backed up by a strong public sentiment. The movement should have behind it a principle. The morals of the people rather than their pecuniary interest should be uppermost. These need not clash. When properly adjusted, morals and pecuniary success will always harmonize."

This view from a newspaper that is a pronounced advocate of prohibition is worthy of note.

* * *

"The traveling men who come to our town," remarks the West Point News, "remark that we have a very pretty town. Yes; we have a pretty town, and by the number of traveling men that come here regularly we know that we must have a business town. But this is not the only indication. Everything is on the move and the boom."

Beauty of a town, or of a woman, is a valuable asset. It is a pity that some towns and cities in Virginia do not appreciate the fact.

* * *

To show how loosely the capitation tax law is administered in Virginia the Abingdon Virginian relates the following:

"A few days ago a citizen in the county came to one of the tax collectors to pay his taxes. An item appeared on the general tax ticket which had not been there for some years. He was credited with the payment of four years' poll-tax, but further than the credit there was nothing to show the amount, $6, had been paid. Any one with access to the books or in other ways could place a credit on any ticket. When asked by the collector for the poll-tax receipts, the gentleman replied he did not have any. He was informed that he could not get his tax bill receipted in full until he could show his receipts for the four years poll-tax with which he was credited. Then he explained the reason why he did not have them. He said he had applied for assessment through other parties and had sent $4.50 up to town to pay up to last year, but some one else had paid the other $1.50 and he had never seen the tickets at all, not one of them; that they were still in Abingdon, although he had voted many miles away from town."

This leads us to remark again that the payment of capitation taxes is a subject that will demand the serious consideration of the next Legislature.

**Another Rich Strike.**

Fake Oil Capitalist (smilingly)—How's your latest gold mine panning out?

Fake Mine Promoter—Beyond expectations. Why, old man, it's assaying over a thousand suckers to the ton of literature!—Puck.

**A Sure Winner.**

Mrs. Henpeck—Those who are unlucky in love are said to be lucky at cards.

Henpeck—If you'd let me out nights, dear, I think it would be a good thing for me to play poker.—Puck.

# Voice of the People

### The Pivot of Peril in the Nation.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—It is not scarceness of money. Recently we are told that there was but $23 per capita money in the United States. Then we had "good times," but now we have over $33 per capita—with scarcity, mistrust, hard times, and thousands being turned out of work and facing despair. It is not the amount of money in the land that can save the men of the land. Mistrust tells the trouble. Men wanting confidence in their fellowmen makes them hoard and hide their money, and fear faithlessness and failure. Faith of man in men would make us free and glad again. Without it the more money the more hoarding, hiding and hindering, with horror close behind. Can we get that confidence? If so, how?

In order that a man be trustworthy he must have a true ideal, and be true to it. "I know I am a Christian," said the servant girl. "How do you know, Jennie," asked her companion. "Because I sweep under the mats now." We want that something that will make a man "stand without hitching" and "sweep under the mats." When his fellowmen know this, they will be only too glad to trust him, for it is hard and tiresome to mistrust. What makes mistrust? Want of real character. What makes true character? The lifting of one's life, and living it before the sleepless eyes of rightness, or as we Christians say, of "God." Until a life is brought into conscious realization of the presence of the righteous all-seeing One, it cannot be fully trusted, for it will be a life of expediency, rather than a life of righteousness. "To be right" must be life's bedrock, aim, or it is liable to give way under pressure. We want "true men and women," not to increase our church membership, but to save this nation and its civilization. What we need is to make the people of this nation see God. The character of God; as an ideal, a power of life; a guardian of living; an ever-present, potent and final force in life. To feel what Elijah felt, when he cried: "The Lord liveth, before whom I stand." The foremost duty of every patriot, as well as every Christian in the nation, is to press for this until the vision of the God of Right shall come moving before us, and send men on, strong in His trust and glad to trust each other. Then "there will flow rivers" in what now threatens to become a desert. How can we bring this about? The simple and direct answer is: Set the people studying to find and make that God our needed reality. Not to build up denominations, or Christian factions, but to fill the land with "men of God"—righteous men, such as the "ten" that would have saved Sodom if they could have been found.

How can we do this? Set apart an hour each day, or a day each school week, in every school of this land, wherein the parents who desire it shall have their children taught the Word of God faithfully, honestly, hard, as we teach history or mathematics, or any other needed thing. Then during this period, set apart, let all the children whose parents do not wish them to be taught the Bible be taught a carefully prepared system of ethics, having the character of God as its ideal.

O believers in God, of every name and creed, get together and do this thing. Twenty-five million children in our schools to-day pass their school life without being taught therein God. We cannot stand it. The nation cannot stand it, and God won't stand it. Do not be afraid to teach God's Word. The more of it we know the closer we will come together and stronger grow. This will bring God. God will bring character, and character, confidence. Let the presence of peril deepen the power of our purpose, and unite us, to seek God with one heart and one soul in the way He commands us to seek Him: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." C. CLIFTON PENICK.

### Crowded Cars.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Referring to your editorial in yesterday's issue, "No Seat, No Fare," the following clipping from an issue of The Times-Dispatch, may be of interest:

"They do not have strap hangers in the London tram cars; it is against the law to let in more passengers than there are seats. The London papers give an account of the arraignment in the Police Court recently of the conductor and a passenger who was standing in a car, both having been run in by a vigilant policeman, and both were fined. Proceedings of this kind will appear like a joke in this country, but they are real nevertheless.—Pittsburg Post."

It would seem as though the rule would be practicable in Richmond if it is in London.

As to the probability of one's having to wait for a car in order to get a seat, it could hardly be worse under the proposed rule than at present. I have had to wait and let car after car pass, at Eighteenth and Main and at Eighth and Main, because each car was so jammed and crowded that it was impossible even to get foothold on the front or rear steps.

I have heard one motorman say that he was even twenty minutes behind schedule time because of the delay occasioned at each stopping place to let people on or off a packed car. It is not difficult to believe this if one understands that a car during the hours when people are returning from and going to work, stops at every corner in the business sections (and also in the residential sections), and that when the car is packed there is a delay of a half-minute or more in allowing the passengers to crowd out. It is a difficult feat getting out of such a car without almost tearing your own or some one else's clothing off, or without stepping on some one's corns.

Another result of the over-crowding of cars, which I have experienced, is that one is often carried a block or two beyond one's destination on account of its being impossible to make one's way out of the car before it starts ahead again and before it can be signaled to wait. In fact, I have been on cars when it was utterly impossible to think of moving either one way or the other, and I had simply to sit or stand still until the car reached some point where a considerable number of people left the car, and then only could I leave the car, often some distance from where I wished to get out.

One more instance (of many which I might give) of how this over-crowding of narrow aisles works: On one occasion I boarded a car with a suit-case. There being no room in the aisle or between seats for the case, I placed it at the rear of the long car, behind the last seat, and took my seat in the front of the car, as the rear seats were occupied. By the time the car reached Eighth and Main, where I wished to get off, it was so jammed, front and rear, and in between, that it was out of the question to get out by the rear. With much difficulty, I managed to force my way out of the front door, after repeated and prolonged ringing of the button, and after getting the car to stop some way up Eighth Street. Then, while the car waited, and the passengers were delayed, and while I begged the motorman and conductor to wait for me until I secured my case, I had to run back to the rear and force my way into the car, and drag out my case, much to the disgust, no doubt, of the waiting crowd and much to my own mortification.

No doubt all these and like instances are well known to many citizens of Richmond. Such a condition of affairs is a disgrace to the city. It is unfair to the passenger who pays for a seat, and it is not calculated to impress strangers favorably. Such a condition might be tolerated in New York, where the crowds are abnormal, in spite of subway, overhead and surface lines, but in Richmond conditions could certainly be bettered.

Perhaps the law proposed would force the companies to put more cars on the lines congested, at least at the crowded hours. As the companies are saving the wages of two men whenever they use the long cars (which are almost as large as two cars), thereby making two men do duty for four, it would seem that they might afford to put more long cars on.

GUY D. CHRISTIAN.

West Point, Va.

### A Cry From Church Hill.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Cannot the Committee on Streets do something to help the long-suffering residents of Church Hill, in the neighborhood of East Broad Street, by making the street car companies give us a regular schedule? As it is now there is not the slightest regularity. I live on North Twenty-seventh Street and constantly find that when I reach Twenty-seventh and Broad Streets and look out to Chimborazo there is not a car on the tracks between Twenty-seventh and the terminus, and I walk on to Twenty-fifth and get a car there, transferring at Eighteenth Street to an Oakwood and Main; but lately I have found it quicker to continue in the car to Ninth, and then walk down to Main Street. The other evening, having to go uptown, I started out, and as usual no car in sight, and I walked on, not stopping at Twenty-fifth Street, and I quietly walked to Eighteenth before a car overtook me, and then it was a Broad and Twenty-fifth Street car. I notice constantly that after waiting for a car a long time, two cars will come along just a block apart, and when they reach Chimborazo they start back the same way, a block apart, the first car, as a result, being jammed and packed and the last one very few in it. This morning, in the rain, I had to walk to Eighteenth and take an Oakwood car. H. S.

Richmond, Va.

### TAX GATHERING.

**Comments by State Newspapers on the Method in Virginia.**

The Richmond Times-Dispatch has employed its editorial columns for two or three days in exhibiting the differences which exist in the cost of tax collecting in the different counties of the State, which are at such variance that it is evident that some of the county treasurers are grossly underpaid for the services rendered, or others very much overpaid.

And as The Times-Dispatch agrees, it all goes back to the pernicious fee system which exists in Virginia, and against which this and other papers have established a crusade with the view of inducing the next Legislature to abolish the same.

Which meets our indorsement. The system is not only wrong, but has been a prolific source of temptation to treasurers to misappropriate funds in their hands, which has cost the State in the last fifty years a great deal of annoyance and loss of money.

In another column we also publish a further commentary from The Times-Dispatch, in which is instituted other comparisons, to which we invite the attention of our readers. If the Legislature of Virginia will but direct its attention to the correction of this antiquated system and establish the compensation, not only of treasurers, but of all other public officers, upon a salary basis, such an act will meet the unanimous indorsement of the entire constituency. We know the argument is advanced that the officer who collects taxes on commission will exercise greater diligence than the one who will get a fixed salary regardless of whether he makes an effort. But like the system, such an argument is antiquated, and the treasurer who fails to make good will soon learn that his re-election is jeopardized by his failure, and that his opponent is formidably armed with the facts and figures. It behooves every newspaper which stands for the public good to declare against such a system.—Roanoke Times.

**Explanation Demanded.**

The Times-Dispatch is rendering the people of the State a great service in calling attention to the lax and slack twisted manner in which the taxes of the various counties have been collected.

The cost of collecting county taxes is not uniform. The percentage for collecting differs in different counties, as will be seen by the following, which we take from The Times-Dispatch of Sunday.

We agree with The Times-Dispatch, that there is something wrong in the system, for why should it cost the taxpayers of Halifax more than $1,000 to collect the same amount of taxes as that collected by the treasurer of Pittsylvania county?

This is a matter of interest to the tax-payers of Halifax, and an explanation is due, and it is up to the board of supervisors or county treasurer to make the explanation.

Surely there must be some mistake, and we hope there will be no delay in letting the tax-payers know why, and how, this matter appears in a light so unfavorable to the reputation of the business capacity of the public servants having this matter in charge.—South Boston News.

**Large New Canadian Lake Vessels.**

Consul H. J. Harvey reports that in September the largest vessel ever built in Canada was launched at Fort Erie. It is 510 feet long, 56 feet wide, 31 feet deep, and has a carrying capacity of 9,000 tons, drawing 19 feet of water, the estimated cost being $400,000. The vessel will be used for carrying grain and ore from Fort William to Buffalo. The same company is building another boat, the Sadecono, 450 feet long, 58 feet beam, depth 29 feet, to be ready for the spring trade.


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