The Times-Dispatch

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HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1908.

Grace does not descend into the soul of a man but by prayer and affliction.—Jeremy Taylor.

THE PEOPLE AND THE MINING TAX.

It is to be hoped by all means that the Folkes bill, which imposes a tax of 1 per cent. on all minerals taken from the soil of Virginia, will become law. This bill goes to the root of the vexatious and difficult problem of equitable taxation, and as such it deserves the fullest and most impartial consideration. The question is difficult, but not insoluble, and the guiding principle ought to be the greatest welfare of the State. Arguments against this bill have been urged with all that force which an attack on special privilege invariably awakens. But despite the clamor of the mine-owners and railroads, it is not and cannot be denied that in its essence coal mining is the destruction and taking away of an irreplaceable part of the corpus of the State. Corn and wheat and tobacco are crops which owe their value in large part to cultivation. Given land and intelligence and appliances, agricultural wealth can be infinitely reproduced. But not so with mineral wealth. No annually recurrent processes of fructifying nature will refill with coal or iron the vast caverns that now yawn under our mountain ranges. When once the ingenuity of man has extracted and burn the coal, nothing remains but the wealth created by its use—and ashes.

Virginia's enormous coal deposits are being exploited and dissipated to build up fortunes for a few operators and railroads. The demand for this tonnage tax is both just and unanswerable. If the common and invaluable heritage of our coal deposits is to be dug up, hauled away and sold to bring wealth to others by carrying on the commerce of the world and driving the factories of New England and Europe, so be it.

But, at least let Virginia save for herself and her people the petty and almost negligible benefits of the tax proposed by Senator Folkes. No coal mining operation would for an instant exhume its coal without creating a depreciation fund, as a mere matter of business management. Can Virginia afford to be less careful of her citizens than corporations are of their stockholders?

THE "RIGHT" TO KEEP A SALOON.

There is much complaint of the Dabney ordinance, on the score that it has deprived some of the saloonkeepers of their right to do business. This view of the case is fundamentally wrong. No man can be deprived of that which he never had, and no man has any inherent or constitutional right to sell ardent spirits. The liquor traffic exists, if at all, by sufferance. Judge Keith, of the Court of Appeals, has said that the Legislature may prohibit or restrict the sale of spirituous liquors in any manner which its discretion may dictate. "No one," he added, "can claim as a right any power whatever to sell such liquors; if he sells at all, it must be on such terms as the Legislature sees fit to impose."—Farmville vs. Walker, 101 Va., 323, 327.

He further held that "the Legislature may lawfully grant the right to sell to a certain class or classes of persons and withhold it from all others."

It was held by the Iowa court that "the right to sell intoxicating liquors is not one of the privileges and immunities of the citizens of the United States, by the fourteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, the States were forbidden to abridge."

There are many such decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States, as well as by the lower courts, and the charter of the city of Richmond provides that the Council "may grant or refuse licenses to all sellers of wine or spirituous or fermented liquors." It has also been decided that the Legislature may confer its police power in such cases, upon municipal corporations.

These and other rulings were pointed out by City Attorney Pollard in an able opinion on the constitutionality of the Dabney ordinance, and the members of the Council were guided by that opinion in adopting it.

The men who engaged in the liquor business in Richmond did so with their eyes open. They knew that they were liable to be restricted, or regulated, or to be closed up. They took the risk, and those who play a game of chance should not complain when the game goes against them. As we said in a former article, the man who invests his money in a powder factory should always be prepared for an explosion.

THE NEED OF NORMAL SCHOOLS.

The Times-Dispatch has felt no special interest in the contest which has been going on between the towns of Virginia for the location of the new normal school. The location is a matter of small concern, provided it be eligible and healthful. But The Times-Dispatch is deeply interested in the school itself. One of the greatest needs of the public school system of Virginia is better trained teachers. Teaching is a profession.

It is not enough that the teacher be a person of education, as that term is usually applied. The successful teacher must have hard training in the art of imparting knowledge, in discipline and in the scientific methods of dealing with boys and girls, so as to incite them to study.

Normal schools are designed to train teachers for that important work. The term is derived from the Latin word "norma," which means a rule or model. It is said that the first normal school in the United States was the outgrowth of a suggestion made in an address delivered by Prof. Denison Olmstead at New Haven, Conn., in 1816. At any rate there have been normal schools since 1838, and they are now regarded as essential to the welfare of the public school system. There are now at least 200 normal schools in the United States, New York leading, with sixteen; Pennsylvania has fifteen; Massachusetts, ten; Wisconsin, eight, and so on.

In Virginia most of our teachers in the public schools are women, and we should have at least three training schools for their education. The school at Farmville has done and is doing an invaluable work in this line of educational activity, and one new school has been provided for.

The new normal should be designed and conducted upon somewhat more practical lines. More especial attention should be paid to manual training, the kindergarten, nature study and kindred topics, which will enable the teacher to give instruction by object lesson.

REPUBLICAN DISCORD.

In reply to a question from The Times-Dispatch, asking the Tazewell Republican to print a list of subjects upon which the Republicans are agreed, our contemporary replies:

"The Republicans are about solidly agreed in their support of the following:

"A protective tariff system. A sound and stable currency, with solid value resting behind every dollar.

"An intelligent and equitable regulation of railroads and other corporations.

"Inland waterways on a great scale at home, and a rapid completion of the Panama Canal.

"International arbitration abroad, and the arbitration of differences and disputes between labor and capital at home.

"There are other things upon which the Republicans are fully agreed, such as:

"United opposition to free trade or tariff for revenue only.

"Opposition to fiat money, which is to be furnished either by the free and unlimited coinage of silver or by a paper currency that is not made redeemable in gold.

"Solid opposition to government ownership of public utilities and to initiative and referendum.

"And last, but not least, unmeasured hostility to the ultra States' rights doctrines of the Democratic party."

We were referring, of course, to live issues and real issues, and upon all of those mentioned by our contemporary—tariff, regulation of railroads and the doctrine of States' rights—the Republican party is fairly split to pieces. There is more dissension in its ranks than ever before since it became a political organization.

THE COMMISSION PLAN.

Leavenworth, Kan., a town of some 25,000 souls, adopted the commission plan of city government the other day by a majority of 500. Kansas City, Kan., will vote upon the plan before long. Des Moines, Iowa, has already voted in favor of it, and the Supreme Court of the State has just sustained the city's act. The commission idea is spreading. So far as we have observed, it has always brought improved results wherever it has been given a fair trial. One serious obstacle stands in the way of its fullest success. That is the difficulty of getting "the right sort of men" to come out and help. Des Moines appears to be already facing this difficulty. "The business men in the community," says one of the local newspapers, "will not interest themselves in the city's welfare." And other papers speak of the unfortunately surviving influence of "the ok crowd." It is axiomatic that no government is better than the men who compose it, and no city can have an enlightened and efficient government unless it can command the services of enlightened and efficient men.

The commission plan does not undertake to work miracles. But it unquestionably brings most valuable fruits to the city which accords to it intelligent and enthusiastic support.

In matters of legislation and administration, the younger West is more open to new ideas than are the old seaboard States. Not necessarily the wisest, but certainly the most aggressive and enterprising of the State Legislatures is that of young Oklahoma. Similarly, the commission plan has made all its early conquests west of the Mississippi. No Eastern city of consequence, we believe, has as yet adopted it, though many of them are thoroughly disgusted with the evils of the unwieldly bicameral body, and of the whole ward system. The path is open for Richmond to take the lead in this part of the country and demonstrate to those near at home that a small body of high-class men furnishes the one really effective means of operating the business of a municipality.

THE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

House bill No. 90, providing for a State Board of Charities, has passed the House, and we urge the Senate to take similar action. The bill has the earnest support of those who have the subject at heart and who have given it patient study and investigation. The plan is one which many States have tested and found to be eminently satisfactory. Virginia should by all means give it a trial.

We are happy to stamp as unqualifiedly false the rumor that the Interstate Commerce Commission has indicted old Bill Skillit for shipping carloads of Old Virginia sausage to Northern and Western points on the through, or long distance, rate. On the contrary, the commission has ruled, in the case of the State of Texas vs. B. Skillit, that Old Virginia sausage is at once a necessity and a great civilizer of the human race, and that the railroads ought to be glad to haul it without charge.

It is gratifying to note that Washington's Birthday passed without any taunts at the eccentric Washingtons of to-day, despite the provocation the latter have given in openly confessing that they wanted Cincinnati.

The New York Independent has thoughtlessly furnished ammunition to those who are clamoring for war by translating and publishing a bunch of poems by the Emperor of Japan.

"Harry Thaw declares that he is very anxious to get back to Pittsburg," notes the Omaha Bee. People are more and more beginning to realize that Harry's insanity plea was no bluff.

However, the dullest Federal officers should be aware that it is far easier to split an infinitive than to do the same for the Solid South.

What's the matter with shipping the Joe Cannon boom to Panama? The workmen down there insist that they must have more amusement.

"Call in as you pass along," says the Cincinnati Enquirer, "and take a look at Harmon." And then, of course, pass along.

Lots of young infinitives never dream that they can do the split until some Michigan Congressman or other gets hold of them.

Well, as for that, if Frank H. Hitchcock succeeds in "fixing" the South for Taft, he will deserve a Cabinet job or so, won't he?

When the Nashville Tennesseean intimates that nobody cares "a whit whether the Shah of Persia is dead or alive," it surely forgets the Sharino.

It costs $1,000 to chauffeur over a St. Louis man and kill him. Discriminating judges inform us that it is not worth the money.

Dakota's divorce mill netted the State some $500,000 in 1907, and Lillian Russell was not divorced at all that year, either.

To be strictly in character, Kentucky ought now to go ahead and organize a douma.

The docile little Richmond groundhogs are not nearly so hoggish as those we have noticed elsewhere.

The Chicago Record-Herald discusses "the Cannon type of politics." Boldface?

Says the Atlanta Georgian: "All the criminals are not rich men." And, conversely, Mr. President.

Only the stingy tightwads of the Paragraphers' Union have yet unlimbered their guns on the Easter bonnet.

Now is the time for all good men to come out and restore their confidence.

What a Jacky Thinks.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—There has been much talk for some time about changing the uniform now worn by the enlisted men of the naval service. I, like most of the men, am writing to my home paper in regard to the change. Will you help us out by publishing the following:

"Leave us keep it!" It has been rumored for several years that there would be a change planned in our present uniform. This change is about to be made. Why should this change be made? The uniform has been worn for years, dating back farther than a great many can remember. None of us who wear it has any reason to wish for a change. What we all want is to have the present uniform respected by all American citizens. I have been in several foreign countries. There I find we are treated much better than we are in our home country.

Some of the changes suggested are as follows: To leave our flat hats at home or in our bags, to remind us of the old navy, and take in their place a small blue felt hat, similar to our white hats or the hats worn a great deal by railroad men, with the ship's name on the brim. To change our neat blue overshirt with its taped collar and cuffs for a short square-cut coat, with its braid and two rows of brass buttons and a band for a collar with U. S. N. on each side, which would cause a great many mistakes to be made. The ferries are used a great deal by us in and around all ports. Strangers would take us for a porter or bell-hopper on such. Why should this be?

Instead of the pants worn at present with large bottoms to them and the "fly" with its thirteen buttons, we are to have a pair of pants with braid down each seam, which would make us look more like a porter or bell-hopper. The changes in regard to underwear, jerseys, etc., will be welcomed by all.

In regard to civilian clothes on board of a sea-going ship, without special room made for such, they would never do. Leave men who are stationed ashore have civilian clothes, if they wish.

Why make any other change? We who wear it are satisfied. Seventy-five per cent. say "Leave us keep it."

Yours respectfully,
LEIGHTON J. LAWS,
U. S. S. Maryland, Magdalena Bay, Mexico, February 10, 1908.

For Sprains or Strains

Sloan's Liniment

Acts instantly, relieves all inflammation and reduces swelling.

For Lameness, Backache, Stiff Neck, Cramp or Colic, Bruises, Cuts, and any Soreness, Sloan's Liniment is unsurpassed.

Price, 25c., 50c., and $1.00.

Dr. Earl S. Sloan, Boston, Mass.

Borrowed Jingles

CHARGE OF THE SPELLING SQUAD.

Half a leag, half a leag,
Half a leag onward,
Gallopt the spelling board,
With its three hundred;
Knockit out one "g" from egg,
Lim is the word for leg,
Hear Brander Matthews beg
"Lern the three hundred."

Forward the spelling board,
Teach 'em to spell it "sord,"
Slashing words lim from lim,
How we have hundered;
We'll never yield the gost,
What tho' the scoffers rost
Spred them from cost to cost,
All the three hundred.

Dettors to right of them,
Columns to left of them,
Bedsteds to slumber them
Changed in the making;
Fonografs squeking loud,
Bravely they spelt and rowed—
What tho' their heads were now
Wofully aking!

Gone were the extra "p's"
Dum the silent "b's";
Diffthongs were routed;
Crazed by fonetic schemes,
Quire singers rote by reams
Such words as solem,
Camfor and colum,
Harang and thum and lam,
Pamflet and diafram,
Tho the world douted.

Bravely they bilt and well,
Teaching us how to spell
Campain and boro;
Even that dred diseze,
Tisis, they spell with eze,
Honor such words as these,
Rebilt so thoro.

—Detroit Free Press.

MERELY JOKING.

The Way It's Said.

"These are the bridal rooms," announced the bellboy to the blushing young couple.

"Oh, what a sweet suite," exclaimed the bride.

"I don't know anything about that," said the bellboy, "but the head clerk says he hopes the suite suits."—Brooklyn Life.

Getting On.

Two girls returning from Sunday-school in the country were discussing their progress in the Shorter Catechism.

"I'm past original sin," said one.

The other immediately responded: "Oh, I am farther on than you, for I'm past redemption."—London Tit-Bits.

Baseballicized.

"Albert," said the editor of the Bugle to the baseball reporter, "I see that the Rev. Van Deusen married Jud Hicks to Susy Philbrick this morning. Write up a couple of lines about it."

Fifteen minutes later the baseball reporter, red faced and perspiring, turned in the following:

"A tie game was put up this A. M. by the Rev. Van Deusen, who assisted a double play—Philbrick to Hicks. The game was called at 10:15 and none of the decisions was disputed. Mr. Hicks's batting average, which has been tolerably high in the past, will doubtless be lowered considerably, though from reliable reports the young couple expect to make a home run in the near future."—Puck.

Decidedly So.

Hogan—Hev ye hear-rd me daughter, Mona, sing, lately?

Dugan—Both lately an' earlier, bedad! 'T is th' fine insthrumintal music she do make.

Hogan—Ye ignoramus! Shure, singin' ain't insthrumintal music.

Dugan—Begorry, thin, Keegan towld me it wuz insthrumintal in causin' him t' move twe blocks away frum yer house!—Brooklyn Life.

THE INCORRIGIBLE PARAGRAPHERS.

Burglars are using chloroform to a large extent. They are kinder than the high financiers, who extract the public's coin without an anesthetic.—New York American.

* * *

"What better are we than Russia?" queries Chancellor Day. Why, we can say what we darn please, doctor, and you know what a relief that is.—Denver Republican.

* * *

London's July pageant, as planned, will present in spectacle the Roman, Danish and Norman conquests. Is it friendly to omit the American invasion?—New York World.

* * *

Reports of the Kaiser's great love of music are not surprising. He has always been ambitious to play first violin in the concert of Europe.—Indianapolis News.

* * *

The man who compliments nine women on their looks and the tenth on her cleverness makes but one mistake.—St. Paul Dispatch.

* * *

Senators are going to be consulted about army promotions. Young lieutenants who have married into the families of Senators are going to learn, soon, of a raise in pay.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

* * *

How disappointed Captain Hobson must feel for the reason that his name did not occur in the 1,600-word speech the Mikado made from the throne.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

* * *

Take rum and honey for grip colds. Equal parts. Don't forget the honey.—Buffalo News.

Voice of the People.

The Times-Dispatch will print signed letters on all questions which relate to the public welfare. Such articles should not exceed in length 150 words, except under exceptional circumstances, should be signed with the full name of the writer, and should bear his or her address. The name of the writer will be withheld if desired.

A Reply to Senator Keezell.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Please be kind enough to allow me the use of your columns for a reply to Senator Keezell on the subject of the proposed Normal School. In Saturday's issue Senator Keezell attempts in a very specious, but likewise fallacious, argument to show why he killed the House joint resolution, providing for a joint meeting of the Senate and House to select a site for this school, by the elimination method. The gist of his objection seems to have been that this plan would have given the House an advantage over the Senate by reason of numerical superiority of members. This is true in a measure, but this same advantage lies with the House in the selection of judges and in all other matters which come before a joint Assembly. The conference proposed was not intended to bind either the Senate or House to establish a school, but I reiterate my former statement that it was and is the only fair way of selecting a location. No advantage could by this plan be taken by one location over another, as each is represented both in the Senate and in the House, though as a matter of fact Harrisonburg has two Delegates in the House, and thereby does enjoy this advantage over the other cities and towns, none of which have but one. Now, let's see if Senator Keezell's plan of procedure and the arguments now being used for Harrisonburg in the House are fair. He refuses all overtures looking to the selection of a site by any method other than the one adopted by him in the Senate, secures a favorable report from his own committee, the Harrisonburg bill takes its place on the Senate calendar, and the only alternative left the other cities and towns is to offer amendments to the Harrisonburg bill. This gave the latter a manifest advantage because the other towns, naturally looking out for their own interests, were, of necessity, forced to vote each against the other's amendment, thus playing right into Senator Keezell's hands, and making the passage of his bill a certainty. Now, after his very skilful policy in the Senate had forced this cut-throat fight among his opponents and secured the selection of his town, he and his colleagues in the House come to that body and say to its members, "the Senate has agreed on Harrisonburg and the only chance of securing a school this session is to vote for that bill." It is manifest, therefore, that by this plausible plea the friends of Harrisonburg seek to deprive the House of all voice in the selection of a site by urging that it is the Senate choice or nothing, and that the Senate having selected Harrisonburg, it is up to the House to concur. And yet Senator Keezell complains that the joint resolution would have given the House an advantage over the Senate. The distinguished Senator from Rockingham objects to the latter course, but in the same breath urges the former, and while the diplomacy of his plea is apparent its unfairness is likewise so, and I am confident that the House won't consider one without the other. As a matter of fact, Harrisonburg is, in my judgment, much weaker in the House than several of the other applicants, and had the House Committee on Schools and Colleges seen fit to act this committee would have reported a bill to establish a school at some other point. This once accomplished, Harrisonburg would have had to have been offered as an amendment to the reported bill and would have been overwhelmingly defeated on the floor of the House, but the House committee, of which I am a member, not desiring to place one locality in a better position than the others, refrained from taking action, hoping that some fair way of selection could be agreed upon. Afterward the method of selection agreed upon unanimously by the House was turned down by Senator Keezell, and therefore on him, more than any one else, rests the responsibility for the present complicated and unsatisfactory condition of affairs.

C. O'CONOR GOOLRICK.
February 21, 1908.

DYSPEPSIA

MUNYON'S DYSPEPSIA CURE corrects bloating of the stomach, palpitation of the heart, shortness of breath, and all affections of the heart caused by indigestion, wind on the stomach, belching wind or sour food, bad taste, offensive breath, loss of appetite, faintness or weakness of the stomach, improper circulation, coated tongue, heartburn or water-brash. His Headache Cure stops headache in 3 minutes. Price 25c.

Munyon's Pile Ointment cures all forms of piles. Price 25c.

Munyon's Blood Cure corrects all blood impurities. Price 25c.

Munyon's Liver Cure corrects headache, biliousness, jaundice, constipation and all liver diseases. Price 25c.

Munyon's Vitalizer restores lost powers to weak men. Price, $1.

Munyon has a cure for every disease. The Guide to Health (free) tells of them. Cures, mostly 25c. Munyon, Philadelphia.

Tough on Insurance Agents.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—It may not be generally known that there is a bill now pending before the Legislature that affects not only the business of an insurance agent, but imperils his liberty as a man and as a free American citizen.

Senate bill, No. 354, of which Mr. White is patron, has in it a section which is entirely new and aimed at insurance agents or solicitors. It requires them to take outa license from the Insurance Commissioner for which they have to pay him a fee of $2. This license fee or tax is not paid into the treasury of the State like all other license taxes, to help the general fund and aid in defraying the expenses of the State, but it is required to be paid into the treasury solely for the benefit of the Insurance Department.

Inasmuch as the Commissioner of Insurance is empowered under the existing law to make an assessment against insurance companies to cover the expense of running his department it would seem that it is absolutely unnecessary to impose this special tax on the agents of the companies.

The report of the Auditor of Public Accounts for the year 1907 shows that the insurance companies paid into the treasury of the State last year $11,435.50 to defray the expenses of the Insurance Department, and it is believed that the amount will be much larger this year, since it increases as the companies enlarge their business.

This section also empowers the Insurance Commissioner to revoke the license of any agent should he think he "is in any way an undesirable person to represent an insurance company," without allowing the agent an appeal from his decision.

Such a law appears to violate the spirit of the Constitution, which requires specific charges and a trial by jury in matters so vital as this, for this new law would allow mere opinion or belief, unsupported by sufficient evidence, and based upon charges true or false, to have the effect of depriving a man of the right to pursue a business that he may have followed all his life, besides requiring him to pay a fee for something that may be taken away from him at any moment through a mere breath of suspicion.

Surely in the closing hours of this session the Legislature will not pass any such measure without giving a hearing to the agents, who are the parties most seriously affected by the proposed legislation, for it seems that the insurance companies who are interested in other features of the bill have alone had a hearing before the Senate committee.

X.

Bones of Custis.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I notice from reading your most valuable paper that you have reserved a column or two for the "Voice of the People." I have long wanted to make known the following to the public, hoping that some one might be able to throw some light on the subject: In the year 1899 I purchased the farm in New Kent county, on the Pamunkey River, known as "Eltham," which was once the home of Colonel Bassett, of Revolutionary fame, and in recent years was the home of the Hon. B. W. Lacy, one of the judges of the Virginia Court of Appeals. Your correspondent now lives in what was in years gone by the kitchen to the mansion house, the said mansion house having been destroyed by fire soon after our Civil War. The house was built of brick, brought from England; was three stories high and contained twenty-four rooms.

Soon after moving to the place, which was in a frightful condition, being grown up in weeds and vines, I began the process of cleaning up. I was grubbing near the old house site when I struck a brick foundation, which very naturally raised my curiosity. The place was a vault, 9x6 feet, and about four feet deep, being bricked on the sides, bottom and top. On cleaning out I found some bones of a human being, which I buried at another place. I have very recently gotten hold of an old history of "Mount Vernon and Its Associations," by Benson J. Lossing. Said history, which gives an account of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and the eagerness with which the loved ones at Mount Vernon waited for news, states that "at length there came a messenger with tidings which produced mingled joy and alarm. He came to tell of a triumph at Yorktown and of mortal sickness at Eltham." Said history also states that young Custis, General Washington's wife's son, was very sick with camp fever at the house of Colonel Bassett, the husband of his mother's sister, at Eltham. Washington sent his faithful friend, Dr. Craik, to attend the sufferer, and he (Washington) himself arrived at Eltham just before Mr. Custis breathed his last.

The said history does not state what disposition was made of the body, so I have wondered if the vault which I have described contained the remains of the young man. I would be glad to hear from any one who knows anything of the above, and especially as to the disposition of young Mr. Custis's body.

Respectfully,
W. J. TAYLOR.
Plum Point, Va., Feb. 20th.

Licenses to Confederate Pensioners.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I want to call your attention to two bills offered in the Legislature, which, in my judgment, are entitled to consideration. First, to exempt Confederate pensioners from payment of licenses. This is a bill permitting the court, under such terms and conditions as it deems wise, to direct the commissioner of revenue to grant a license for anything, except the sale of intoxicating liquors, to any Confederate pensioner. It seems to me that these men are too old to do enough business to seriously interfere with other and younger men paying a license. The courts, I am sure, could be trusted not to permit such a provision to be used to keep the State from getting its taxes in regular course. I take it that the court could require a payment to a part of the license or limit the number of clerks in the business, or even prevent the use of clerks at all. As the bill is limited to pensioners, I am sure it will be received only by those deserving the utmost consideration.

The second bill is in accord with your splendid editorial of last Sunday on the Mecklenburg, N. C., roads. There the city paid an equal amount (per capita, I believe, or an equal rate) as the county; in other words, it was co-operation between the city and the county. The bill in question provides for co-operation between the cities and the counties for construction of roads within a limited distance from the city.

In the North Carolina case, your paper of Sunday states that the merchants of the town received a greater benefit than the people in the country.

This bill might result in a plan of co-operation to bring Newport News into closer contact with Richmond by the construction of a good road between Richmond and this city. When you realize the number of points of historic interest that would be reached by a road extending from Old Point through Hampton, by the Old Church, along the waterfront where the Merrimac and Monitor fight occurred, through Newport News by Big Bethel to Yorktown, and over to Williamsburg and Jamestown, you will appreciate at once that a similar extension from Richmond down the peninsula (a large part of which, no doubt, you already have) would leave only about twenty or twenty-five miles to be constructed to give a road that for historic interest would be unsurpassed. It seems to me that nothing is fairer than that the city should pay its part of roads, which are certainly of equal advantage to the city as to the county.

G. N. W.
Newport News, Va., Feb. 19, 1908.

AN OLD NURSE

Persuaded Doctor to Drink Postum.

An old faithful nurse and an experienced doctor, are a pretty strong combination in favor of Postum, instead of coffee.

The doctor said:

"I began to drink Postum five years ago on the advice of an old nurse.

"During an unusually busy winter, between coffee, tea and overwork, I became a victim of insomnia. In a month after beginning Postum, in place of coffee, I could eat anything and sleep as soundly as a baby.

"In three months I had gained twenty pounds in weight. I now use Postum altogether instead of coffee; even at bedtime with a soda cracker or some other tasty biscuit.

"Having a little tendency to Diabetes, I used a small quantity of saccharine instead of sugar, to sweeten with. I may add that to-day tea or coffee are never present in our house and very many patients, on my advice, have adopted Postum as their regular beverage.

"In conclusion I can assure anyone that, as a refreshing, nourishing and nerve-strengthening beverage, there is nothing equal to Postum." "There's a Reason." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

"RACHEL"

BY G. H. STEVENSON

Author of "Kind Hearts and Coronets," Etc.

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"Aye, we still calls it Bluebeard's cottage, though the old man's been dead this twenty summer, an' there be few more as rightly rekillect his story."

I was standing in the garden of Bluebeard's cottage, my back to the wicket, looking at it, whilst my landlady stood on the doorstep, her arms crossed, ready for what, I knew, was dear to her soul—a gossip.

The cottage itself was a low building, with outer walls, hidden by a pear tree that thrust inquisitive boughs into the open lattices of the chamber windows, and a thatched roof, under the eaves of which swallows had built from time immemorial. The heavy oak door stood open, giving me a glimpse of white walls, the glimmer of a fire and the red cushion in the rocking-chair. There was a row of bee hives beneath the parlor window; under that of the kitchen a slab of stone, which my landlady called a "bink," and under which she kept her calf-pails, for the cottage was a small holding, and had buildings and fields adjoining.

"It was just the name the lads gave him," continued the good woman, "because o' his wives, but it stuck to him all his life, an' it's sticking to the place still, an' will stick, my man says, so long as there's a stone of it standing. Would you like to hear about him sir? It's not much, but I mind me of the time when my mother ha' been tellin' folk o' him and Rachel, I ha' stood by and seen 'em fair greet aloud.

"She was his last wife—but there, we ain't come to that yet, for he had four afore her. The first three we've nought to do with. He married them one after the other, an' when the last went he would be somewhere atween fifty and sixty, a hale, hearty man and, in spite of his years, not one o' that sort to be long a widower.

"It was quite an argeyment atwixt the neighbors as to which of the women or maids he'd be making up to next. Some said it 'ud be Mary Binks, of Stonefold. She were keeping her brother's house at the time, a fine stout woman of a sensible age, and the best butter-maker in the country.

"Others were sure it would be Jane Dawson—"Lady Dawson" we used to call her in our fun because of her fine ways. She lived in her own house, that her father had left her, and, though ill-looking and not blessed wi' the sweetest of tempers, she had at one time or other every man in the place at her feet. Mind you, it wasn't that they lost their hearts to her, poor blighted body, but to her money, so went the tale. Then there was Thomas Grey's eldest daughter Alice, an' Martha Greensit an' a clump more that were all likely in their several ways.

"But I can tell you, sir, we were just thunder-struck when we heard the banns i' church between him an' Kate Lumley. There was not one of us had dreamt such a thing, for Kate was little more than a girl; an', besides, who would ha' thought of a man like John Bell wedding himself to such a flighty, careless lass?

"But it's just as the saying goes, there be no fool like an old one. An' Kate, she was really a bonny enough lass, as far as looks goes, to turn any man's head, but she were that light-hearted an' skittish her mother often telt mine there was neither guiding nor driving her.

"Never in our village was there such a match. Husbands there have been that have beat their wives, and wives there have been that ha' driven their husbands to drink and worse, an' husbands and wives there have been who, like father and mother, have never got across, but never such a pair as John and Kate Bell. No one could say whose the blame was. Father said it lay atwixt them. Perhaps John was over old-fashioned and precise i' his ways, in spite of his quips and cranks, and perhaps Kate was hot-tempered and careless. But however it was, things went wrong from the very first month, and ever after, sir, until she died, married just a year and three months.

"Oh, but it shocked folks something terrible!

"John Bell was an old man after it. It seemed to turn him inside out. At one time there'd not been a man in the parish so ready with a smile and a joke as John, but now he went about, his head down and shoulders bent, barely speaking to a soul; and where he went, it seemed to us young ones, he always left a cloud behind.

"Before his marriage with Kate he'd never been what one might call a religious sort of a man, though he went to church reg'lar of a Sunday; after her death he were never there, sort said because he couldn't bide the reading of the eighth commandment. Ay, an' he would say all manner of things against God and the Bible, even to the parson hisself. We, in the village thought he'd lost his soul, seeing it was no common wickedness like drinkin' an' swearin', but a kind of wrath and warring against God.

"The week before the New Year, Uncle Jonathan had gone away on a preachings. Being just a single man with naught to tie him, he was often off like this, with never a word to anybody, an' sometimes 'ud be away weeks, and not even my mother knew his whereabouts; then one day my father 'ud happen come in wi' word he'd seen him busy at his bench (he was a cobbler by trade), and that would be all we ever knew. Well, this time he was away nigh on to the first of February. The day he came home we were talking about John Bell, and how he'd shewn the door to the parson's lady, who had been to rebuke him on his ways.

"'If there's anyone will ever bring back John Bell,' said my mother, 'it 'ull be no parson's wives, but my brother Jonathan.'

"And mother was right. We didn't know how he managed it till afterwards, but John Bell turned to chapel, led prayer meetings, preached, and, for all that he maintained that he was but a miserable sinner, a brand my uncle had plucked from the burning, he was almost as much a power among the Methodists as Uncle Jonathan himself.

"And both of them made sure that poor Kate was lost.

"But now I must tell you about Rachel, not that we called her Rachel then, but Mrs. Bold, for not being village-bred, but only come among us from the town, and holding herself as it were aloof from us besides, we didn't know her good heart and her kingness as we got to know it later.

"She had had a sad history. Her husband was a Marsden man, born in the corner shop there. His mother died, and his aunt brought him up; but he was a good-for-nothing fellow, would stick to no honest trade, and was always rambling off somewhere or other.

"To end up he married this young woman, whom he had met at Bradford, and his aunt heard no more of him for a space of two years, when she got a letter from his wife to say, 'Joe' was off gold digging in Australey, and leaving her behind.

"The old aunt never wrote back, until one Christmas, more than four years after, when, being bad with the rheumatics, and no one she liked to tend the shop, she got the minister's wife to write to what had been her nephew's wife's address at Bradford. She was still there, and came to the old woman straight, and was as good as a daughter to her, ay, better than many, till the day of her death.

"Strange to say, she had heard nought o' Joe since a year after his leavin', and never heard again, though she was fain to give up hope, and would be always comfortin' the old woman with, 'Oh, he'll come back some day.' But when the aunt died (and she died about the same time as Kate), it seemed to kill the other's hope as well, and from that day Rachel looked upon herself as a widow. She had that faith in him and love, that think he'd forsaken her she wouldn't, though there were plenty ready to convince her.

(To Be Continued To-morrow.)

Faith Cures.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In your issue of the 12th you published a news item from Danville, Ill., to the effect that Mr. and Mrs. John Conron are believers in Christian Science, and had allowed their nine-year-old daughter, Eunice, to die of malignant diphtheria and without a physician being called for her, and that the jury had held them responsible for the child's death.

Please grant me space in your paper to correct this statement, in so far as it refers to Christian Science. Christian Science had nothing whatever to do with this case. My advices from Illinois are positive and reliable that the Mr. and Mrs. Conron mentioned in the news item in question are not Christian Scientists; that they have no knowledge of Christian Science, and that they did not employ it for their children. I am informed that the Conrons are believers in faith or prayer cure, between which and the teachings of Christian Science there is wide dissimilarity.

In justice to Christian Scientists, I will say that they are very careful to comply with health laws and regulations, and that they report to the health authorities promptly all cases of contagious diseases.

Very respectfully,
W. S. MORRIS, JR.
Norfolk, Va., Feb. 18, 1908.

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