

The Times-Dispatch

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1909.

THE CHAPMAN MOVEMENT.

Like every other activity of life, religious sentiment has its elevations and depressions. The fanaticism of Puritan England was followed by the reckless dissipation of Charles II's reign. The great religious outpouring that took place under the Wesleys, and later on the Oxford movement in the Episcopal Church, were dampened and depressed by the rising tide of materialism which the first reading of Darwin's books created. To Huxley and Spencer and their followers of a few years ago nothing seemed more certain than that the heart of man disquieted itself in vain and sought insubstantial shadows when it reached out for immortality and the hope of enduring personal existence, and yet to-day the leading scientists of England are struggling to establish immortality, and such men as Sir Oliver Lodge are teaching where they cannot demonstrate that the belief in immortality is rational, normal, desirable and to be cultivated. It is such signs as these that point indubitably to the revival of religious spirit, and therefore the Chapman movement in Richmond is sowing seed on ground prepared to bring forth much fruit. The Times-Dispatch welcomed this movement when it was first announced to Richmond, and further experience has confirmed us in our opinion that the objects and the achievements of this mission will make for better citizenship, happier homes, stronger lives, and a quickened sense of dependence on that Power in whom we live and move and have our being.

To an unusual degree Richmond is a religious city. It possesses qualities and practices kindnesses between all classes that indicate the presence of that spirit of brotherly love on which the Christian civilization depends. But in the war against ease and self-indulgence and misery and poverty and graft and corruption in which all cities are enlisted to-day whether they will or no, there is need for real fighting qualities as well as the more charitable virtues. It is to the strengthening of such qualities that the Chapman movement looks, for wherever a man learns to appreciate and respect his own personality and character, that man has been made a fighting force for effective righteousness in his walk of life. And as Governor Swanson said with tremendous emphasis yesterday, what the world needs is righteousness in every man, in every vocation.

ADVERTISING THAT DOESN'T PAY.

The road from Warrenton to Gainesville, on the way home, was exceptionally bad. In all his riding experience the President never saw a worse road. He said—News Story in Washington Post.

"Virginia roads in the wintertime," said the President, "are not usually in the best condition."—The Associated Press.

Murder will out. We never know at what moment, or at whose instance, the light of publicity will be flashed upon our errors, but so flashed it usually is. The inherent wickedness and natural depravity of many of Virginia's roads have never been precisely a secret among the well-informed. Now, however, a whim of presidential equestrianism has brought these matters sharply to the attention of the whole country.

Nor can it be hugged to our bosoms that the more euphemistic comment which the Associated Press has scattered from sea to sea will mercifully mislead remote observers. It is known that Mr. Roosevelt is, first of all, an astute politician. His preference is toward popularity and making friends, and he dispenses language with the bark on only when actuated by the sincere and passionate desire to hurt. Therefore, when he says with a civil whim, "Virginia roads in the wintertime" he inevitably conveys an opinion scarcely fit to print; and this sinister fact will be instantly plain in Maine as in California, in Athabasca and Saskatchewan, in Sydney, Siam and Singapore, in Phrygia and Pamphylia, in Egypt and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene.

So the badness of Virginia's roads goes ringing around the world. We hope to hear a different tale some day. We hope to see the time when some future Roosevelt, returning from a mad ride in the Old Dominion, will delightfully remark to the Associated Press: "Virginia's roads? They beat France's to a frazzle. Why, Virginia has perfectly corking roads!"

"OBTURDING" THE ABBEY. Our neighbor, the News Leader, we note, warmly favors the proposal to place the new Battle Abbey by the side of the Confederate Museum. It deplores any disposition to "obtrude" the new edifice on public notice, and indicates as the ideal site for it ground that is at once "historic and charac-

terized by "quiet and seclusion." We almost venture to direct the News Leader's attention to the field of Seven Pines, a site which is splendidly historic, which would certainly emphasize the battle idea, and which, from the Abbey point of view, would offer a quiet and seclusion wholly eclipsing the plot near the Davis mansion.

This tendency to obtrude great museums upon public notice has cropped out frequently in these unenlightened times. A walk about the streets of any of the capitals of Europe will reveal striking evidences of this want of refinement. Almost without exception those responsible to their contemporaries and posterity for these structures have neglected the arguments for quiet and seclusion, and built in the western and growing parts of their cities. Nor have we shown more delicacy here in Richmond. We have obtruded Stuart; we have obtruded Davis; we have obtruded Lee. Hill we did not obtrude, and he stands solo heir to a quantity of quiet and seclusion possibly greater than his admirers desire.

It is idle to suggest that "three blocks from the Capitol Square" is nearly the same as in the Capitol Square, or that two blocks from the City Hall means the heart of the city. We have only to go a stone's throw due west from the City Hall to find that the market value of land is heavily influenced by such a detail as which side of the street it is on. If the reluctance of people to cross the street can thus be measured in dollars, their indisposition to cross the street and walk two blocks can hardly be dismissed as the simple figment of an un sentimental mind. It is quite true that tourists from Boston and elsewhere would find it a "convenient arrangement" to "do" the two buildings in one morning's round in a hired carriage. But we do not understand that this building is for them. As to our own people, the same point of view which objects to obtruding the Abbey on public notice should sternly discard the argument of convenience of location. That interest in Confederate history which, so the News Leader intimates, both controls and properly restricts the class which visits the Museum, should be strong enough to send right-minded persons to the Abbey, entirely regardless of "convenient arrangements."

For our own part, we have not conceived this splendid new building as a shrine for the infrequent and stately pilgrimages of the faithful, but as a living and familiar memorial which shall daily grow more and more into the hearts of all our people. We do not conceive that it is only for those already warmly interested in Confederate history, but also for those who ought to be so interested; for the young men and women whose thoughts are running more to the future than to the past; whose ambitions and activities are centering on the things of today, and who will need these sacred reminders which, when all is said, the policy of cloistered sequestration would effectually deny them. We attach the fullest weight to sentimental considerations, but we must submit that to let them alone determine the location of the Abbey would be largely to eliminate that fine storehouse of tradition from the lives and affections of the generations to come.

"Who knows that the Panama Canal will pay?" inquires a contemporary. "Also," adds the Washington Herald, "who knows that it won't pay?" More important yet, who knows whom it will pay? New York World pleads wisely.

A Richmond language sharp has just notified our grammatical department that he was on the point of asking the New York Mail's purist to go and romp on "noveltz" when he noticed the barbarosity on p. 6 of Wednesday's Mail and swiftly changed his plans.

While knocking is the last thing in the world we wish to do, we feel constrained to remind Congress that it was put there less to defend its own honor than to pass an occasional law.

Mr. Roosevelt's ability to boom the circulation of the Congressional Record is doubtless being watched with pleasurable sensations in the Outlook office.

American patent laws seem to be the most satisfactory of any country, and it is probable that the statutes of many countries will be changed in the near future to conform with those of the United States.

Why a Farmer Carpeted Only Four Rooms Instead of Five. This discussion of tariff changes reminds me of the following, which I have adapted from the French of Bastiat:

A poor farmer of Pennsylvania raised, with great care and attention, a fine crop of wheat, and forgot, in the joy of his success, how many drops of sweat the precious grain had cost him. "I will sell some," said he to his wife, and with the proceeds I will buy carpets for our large floor." The honest countryman, arriving in Philadelphia, there met an American and an Englishman. "Give me your wheat," said the American, "and I will give you seventy-five yards of carpet." The Englishman said: "Give it to me, and I will give you a hundred yards, and I will give you a better carpet than our Englishmen can make cheaper than our Americans can. (Had his wife carpeted four rooms. (Had she sold to the Englishman she could have carpeted five.) These good people are still puzzling themselves to discover how it can happen that people are richer by receiving four instead of five yards of carpet for their wheat with seventy-five yards than with 100.

"The next year the farmer voted for 'prize' he could not make out of it. Letter in New York Evening Post.

"Certainly, do you not see that America would be a loser if you were to receive 100 yards instead of seventy-five," said the laborer. "Nor can you explain it," said the custom house officer, "but there is no doubt of the fact, for Congress has decreed that a people is impoverished in proportion as it receives a large compensation for any given quantity of its produce." The countryman observed: "To conclude his bargain with the American, his wife carpeted four rooms. (Had she sold to the Englishman she could have carpeted five.) These good people are still puzzling themselves to discover how it can happen that people are richer by receiving four instead of five yards of carpet for their wheat with seventy-five yards than with 100.

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Borrowed Jingles The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

SWITZERLAND has just elected a President for the President of her Republic, in the person of the seventy-eight-year-old Dr. Adolphe Doucher, of the Canton of Thurgovie. If I draw attention to the fact, it is because this is the aged gentleman's fifth term of office as chief magistrate of his country. They have not been consecutive terms, for the Constitution requires that he should not be re-elected until after leaving office before the President can be eligible for re-election. In joint session with the National Assembly in joint session with the National and State Councils, holds his office for a year, and receives a salary of a little less than \$10,000 annually. He is a graduate of the Universities of Prague, Zurich, Heidelberg and Vienna, and has been in public life for a long time. He was a member of the Federal Council for close upon twenty-five years, and is particularly identified with the agricultural and forestry interests of his country. 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