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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1909.

SOME RICHMOND CHRISTMAS DAYS.

Yesterday was a typical Richmond Christmas. The prosperity which the city has enjoyed during the year enabled the people to give play to their natural hospitality...

But those who have spent many years in Richmond, and those who are familiar with old days, will recall many another celebration. They will remember the unbounded hospitality of ante-bellum days...

But Christmas has not always been a season of rejoicing in our city. In fact, some of the saddest days in our annals have fallen at the Advent season.

Christmas, 1869, was another season of sadness. A month and more before that time the election returns showed Lincoln as the President-elect...

These gloomy feast days have been few, however. The city has been blessed with peace and prosperity, with plenty and with progress.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS AT CHURCH. There is a preacher in Brooklyn who believes literally in letting his light shine. Finding the persuasive notes of the church bell did not call his flock to church...

ENGLAND'S YOUNG HOPEFUL. Great sons of great sires have been none too frequent in English public life. With the single exception of the younger Pitt, few men have been able to equal the record made by fathers...

When Aquilith's Cabinet was formed that astute leader showed his confidence in the elder Gladstone's judgment and in the younger Gladstone's ability by naming the young man as Home Secretary of State.

It is noticeable, however, that most of these plans have been as quickly dropped as they were enthusiastically adopted.

jar change of bill, so to speak, was naturally impossible, and without this novelty the curious audience could not be held.

The truth of the matter is old, but it is none the less sure. Man, as a general rule, do not go to church to be amused, but rather to be encouraged and inspired.

CONGRESS AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. In a week or so now the performance will begin again in Washington. Having shaken hands sufficiently and having made a few changes in their make-ups, the actors will return to the Capitol to begin the year's law-making.

But what may come after the preliminaries is already exciting the leaders. It is suggested that important measures of far-reaching significance may be enacted before Speaker Cannon officially ends the session.

Next in interest will be those modifications in the interstate commerce act which have already been unofficially suggested by the President.

While we would certainly not be without such a conflict within Republican ranks, we must regretfully register our doubts both of the possible frays and of its probable results.

So far as the enactment of radical legislation is concerned, the approaching election will act as a check. Congressmen will remember that they will have to appeal to the people in November next, and they will accordingly be cautious.

We must wait in patience. Great sons of great sires have been none too frequent in English public life. With the single exception of the younger Pitt, few men have been able to equal the record made by fathers...

Doubtless this was the feeling which prompted an English statesman, during Gladstone's time, to refer to Herbert Gladstone as "Young Hopeful."

In the same way, churches have endeavored to fill their pews, from time to time, by special musical attractions. These did not always come within the proper realm of church music, as, for example, when a vaudeville star stood in the chancel of a New York church and whistled anthems to the accompaniment of the cello organ.

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verge of important changes in the very basis of the government. As a result Aquilith was somewhat criticized at the time, and was accused by unscrupulous Liberals of playing on the reputation of the great Premier.

NOTEABLE TITLE AT STAKE. Valuable Lands Sought by Yorkshire Man Claiming Descent From Lord of the Isles.

BY THE MARQUISE DE FONTENAY. LORD SHERINGTON'S judgment in the extraordinary suit of Alexander Bosville of Thorpe Hall, Yorkshire, against Lord Macdonald, whose ancestors bore the title of Lord of the Isles, now one of the dignities of the Prince of Wales, is rather unsatisfactory, for short of all its old-fashioned, quaint and almost incomprehensible legal phraseology, it amounts to this—that the Court of Session is not the proper tribunal to deal with questions of legitimacy, and that the only court competent to determine the matter is that of Chancery.

It is one of the strangest suits that has ever been brought before the Scottish tribunals, which are called upon to deal with moral and legal questions than the justice of almost any other country in existence.

Yet this plea of this over-fullness is a false one. You say "I am too busy, my life is too full, and yet I feel its importance." That is not true. You do not feel your need—you do not want to be a Christian. If you did, you would find the time and the room.

Man—in the face of all his present degradation—was made fit for the birthplace of Christ. You have made your room so low and mean that great truths cannot live in them.

In this great caravansary where travelers are met midway upon their journey from Eternity to Eternity there has been found room for every interest except religion and for every friend except Jesus.

No room! And is your heart so full, my brother, your life so complete? No room for Jesus!—when He is your only hope. No room for Jesus!—yet salvation never crosses any threshold where His feet have not been set.

No room! Let the guests which keep Him out stand up before Him, and mark how full of shame they are when they meet His face!

When they need so many men for the new ships, how can they find enough to draw land pensions?

They don't even blame the weather for the Georgia-Nebraska collision.

SCOTTISH CONTEST INVOLVES ROMANCE

Ancient Gretna Green Marriage Is Basis for an Extraordinary Lawsuit.

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sons, and from them came the Lords of the Isles and the Lords of Lorne. The Lord of the Isles of the time of Robert Bruce was named Angus Og, and was styled the Lord of Innisgal, that is, Lord of the Islands of the Gael, or the Hebrides. Sir Walter Scott calls him "Donald," for the poetical reason that this name was prettier. The grandson of Angus was named Donald, and his descendants were called Macdonald.

The Lords of the Isles were practically independent until the time of Alexander, who was defeated at the battle of Lochaber, in 1429, and reduced to abject submission to James I. of Scotland. The last of the non-royal Lords of the Isles was John, who was likewise Earl of Ross. He was deprived of his honors for rebellion against James II. of Scotland. Some of them were restored to him on his reconciliation to the crown, but not the title of Lord of the Isles, which was retained by the King and

which has been since the union of the English and Scotch crowns one of the most highly-prized titles of the Prince of Wales. Sir Donald Macdonald, who was the chieftain of the clan in the days of Charles I, received in 1602 the title of baronet, which is the second point of seniority in the Kingdom of Scotland.

The seventh baronet took no part in the Jacobite rebellion of 1746, but contributed to the escape of the Pretender, in which his niece, Flora Macdonald, played the role of the heroine. This was the chieftain who entertained Dr. Johnson and Boswell on their famous tour in Scotland, at his castle of Ardmillan.

The present Lord Macdonald, whose chieftainship of the clan of Macdonald is contested by Alexander Bosville, is the twenty-first chief of the clan, and his eldest son and heir bears the historic name of Somerville.

Marrying on \$20 a Week. Your answer to "Betrothed" some weeks ago has created a good deal of dispute. Some maintain that \$20 per week is ample for the young couple, while others think you were correct in saying no one should marry on so small a salary.

Revising the Code. I see there is a movement on foot to revise the Code of Virginia. Would this set aside the present Code, made by Mr. Pollard, in 1807?

Involved Valuable Estates. Aware of this condition of affairs, an uncle of Lord Macdonald, Alexander Bosville by name, bequeathed his large fortune and some very valuable estates in Yorkshire to Lord Macdonald, with the distinct stipulation that the entire property should go to the one of the late Lord's sons who did not succeed to the peerage and to the Scotch estates.

The Alexander Bosville of to-day, who is a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of Yorkshire, therefore runs no danger of losing his Yorkshire property in the event of the Scottish Court of Chancery eventually declaring that his grandfather, the eldest son of the third Lord Macdonald, was legitimate, and obtains thereby the Scottish Macdonald estates, the Macdonald baronetcy of 1826, and what he wishes most of all, the chieftainship of the ancient clan of Macdonald.

The entire question rests upon whether the third Lord Macdonald was a domiciled Scotman, and all the evidence in the recent trial has turned upon this issue, for it is virtually admitted by both sides that the Gretna Green marriage was invalid, owing to Louisa la Costa being at the time a minor.

Both Alexander Bosville and Lord Macdonald, besides having the royal blood of England in their veins, through their descent from George III's brother, the Duke of Gloucester, are also direct descendants of the Lord of the Isles and Argyll, in the twelfth century. His dominions were divided at his death between his two

Title of the King of England. What is the title of the King of England, and what connection has the title assumed by King Edward IV, "Defender of the Faith," with his official duties?

Church Fens. Is there any reason to believe that the feasts which we observe in the church commemorating the birth and death of Christ really took place on the dates in question?

Oldest University of Europe. What is the oldest university in Europe? Who founded it?

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Daily Queries and Answers. Address all communications for this column to Query Editor, Times-Dispatch. No mathematical problems will be solved, no coins or stamps valued and no dealers' names will be given.

A Prosperous New Year. Will be yours if you open a Savings Account and save something every month. We Furnish the Banks. Merchants National Bank, "Safest for Savings" CORNER MAIN AND ELEVENTH STREETS.