The Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1913.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT IN PERSON.

The decision of President Wilson to read in person his message to Congress is a bold revival of an ancient precedent at a psychological moment. The fact that Washington and the elder Adams in the first days of the republic did what he will do to-morrow would not of itself have been sufficient reason to impel him to repeat their course, although the action may be considered a return to the simpler and more direct procedure of old time.

This unusual and somewhat spectacular departure from custom acquiesced in for more than a century and a quarter will have two results. It will fix the attention of the country upon Congress, and then upon the Democratic majority in Congress and what it has pledged itself to do. It will bring home to the American people the fact that the Democratic majority of the House of Representatives, all save a few Senators of the Democratic majority, and the President, are endeavoring to reduce the high cost of living through revision of the tariff, and that certain Democrats in the Senate and the Republican minority therein are united in an attempt to block legislation that would, through tariff revision, reduce the high cost of living. The spotlight is flashed upon Congress, and in the centre of Congress is the little band of legislative puppets who obey the orders of Special Privilege and work together against the weal of the American people. By going in person to Congress, President Wilson makes it as plain as day to the country that the executive and legislative departments are working as one man for the reduction of the tariff and that the opposition comes from a few individuals, whom the country must hold responsible for any failure to pass efficient tariff legislation. Responsibility is directly laid upon the shoulders of the servants of Special Privilege; they are made to stand out where all may see them and the names upon their collars.

President Wilson's course in personally appearing before the national legislature to read his message involves no detriment to the republic. The Federal Constitution merely says that "he shall from time to time give to Congress information of the state of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." There is nothing there to inhibit him from appearing in person to give that information and to recommend those measures. The matter lies wholly within his own discretion. As Governor of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson declared, in speaking of the executive, that "it is no presumption on his part . . . and no invasion of the rights of any other branch of government, if he presses his views in any form that he pleases upon the law-making body." Our parliamentary system is based directly upon that of England, and in England the constitutional head of the country, the King, sometimes reads a message to Parliament. The English parliamentary system is vastly better than ours. Let no man condemn the course of the President until it is seen whether or not it is more effective than our system of a divided responsibility that has wrought so deleteriously and dissatisfactorily.

As Governor of New Jersey, Woodrow Wilson exercised executive leadership, but he threatened no man. He did not use his power of patronage to punish; he suggested, advised, and cooperated. He did not improperly interfere with the legislative department, but aided it and urged it forward. That much he has not only the right, but the duty, to do as President of the United States in whatsoever manner he chooses.

THE ART EXHIBIT.

Richmond has not come to the stage of having Futurist art exhibitions—the only thing resembling the cult being some of those Cubist landscapes tossed off by contractors in the way of street building—but we are to congratulate the Richmond Art Club in securing a collection of American paintings for exhibition during the Conference for Education. We can score this much to the conference already, that it has inspired a movement for the better education of our people in one branch of art. For Richmond, no less than the visiting educators, will be benefited by seeing good examples of American painting. The rooms will be open to the public without charge during the day and between 8 and 10 in the evening for a week before the assembling of the conference. The entire period is between April 8 and 18.

The collection, which is sent here by the American Federation of Arts, includes about fifty canvases. Some of the best of the younger American painters are represented. There are no old masters or modern freaks, but just an interesting and stimulative group of studies by intelligent men and women.

Richmond has been singularly neglectful of the opportunities for education through pictures. In other cities of smaller size there are permanent exhibitions, gathered by gift and public purchase from all over the world. In Kansas City, for example, the public library contains a set of reproductions of European masterpieces, provided, if we remember right, by that generous and constructive citizen, William R. Nelson. To the permanent collections are added from time to time such annual shows as that of the Society of Western Artists and of the American Water Color Society.

A feature has also been made in some places of loan exhibits from the private galleries of wealthy men and women. Certainly, in the homes of Richmond are many paintings of both esthetic and historical interest. Can there be a worthier enterprise than that of occasionally placing such works on public view? Why should not the impetus of this exhibition carry us on to more ambitious things?

HELPING YOUNG VOTERS.

We are glad to publish a letter on some of the practical causes of the indifference manifested by young men toward the grave public duty of voting. The Times-Dispatch thinks it is a good sign that this communication is from one of the young voters. It gives the point of view that must be taken into account by any campaign for vigorous civic interest among young men. It should be read and pondered by young enthusiasts and veteran laborers for the common good. We would be very glad if other short expressions of opinion on this scheme might come to us. We need light. The problems cannot be solved by speculation and theory. The future of the South is in the hands of the young men. The Times-Dispatch believes in the young man and stands for him. It trusts that he may be inspired by all that is fine in our tradition to face new problems and gather into our life the best of modern ideals.

This young voter gives four reasons for the lethargy of his fellows:

First, the lack of school instruction of a practical kind to fit them for citizenship.

Second, the failure of parents and older men to set the example of an active and patriotic devotion to public service.

Third, the want of confidence in the young man as a citizen and officeholder.

Fourth, the failure of the community to provide a public library, whence knowledge and inspiration can be drawn by young men.

We know of no more serious charges that could be made than these. If the young man is not given instruction or knowledge, example or opportunity, can we wonder that he neglects to register? If the community is not interested in the young man and his possibilities, is it strange that the young man feels no interest in the community?

These four points go at the very root of civic virtue. They stand as an indictment by the accused against his accusers. They are too grave to be answered off-hand by platitudes and banalities. In part, we must admit their truth. We have no public library to which a young man may go for information. Is it not fundamentally futile to persuade young men to register by personal campaigning, yet to give them no fountain of past wisdom or present practice to teach them how to vote?

The Times-Dispatch has repeatedly charged that one of the chief vices of the so-called "machine" is the stifling of legitimate ambitions for public service in young men. Personal qualifications and friendship too often dictate candidacies, and not the ability to perform public functions efficiently and economically. Young men cannot enter the race on their ability and they have no "pull."

Finally, and most importantly, has the tradition of service failed in Virginia? Are the elders so interested in money-making and private ambitions that they no longer mold the hearts and minds of their sons in the line of duty to the Commonwealth? It was not once so. If it be true now, then Virginia will some day have a bitter awakening.

UPHILL AND DOWN DALE.

Like the justly famous, but vacillating King of France, that Fulton street car line marches up the hill and then comes down again. So also do the people of Fulton. The trouble seems to be that the bond did not specify whose hill was meant. We trust the City Engineer will be given power to make this mountain back into its original molehill.

HUMAN RECLAMATION.

There is honor among prisoners. Indisputable proof that criminals can be reformed and trusted just like other men is supplied in the experience of Oregon with its prison honor system. The horrors of the old prison discipline and the evils of prison contract labor are slowly yet surely being abandoned for more scientific and more human methods. Oregon used to have all the vices of the worst prison system. It had the infamous "water cure," with its horrible device for torturing a recalcitrant convict into submission. Time was when men were flogged and tortured to death in its dreadful cells. A decade ago the Oregon penal system was no improvement over that which existed two centuries before, a system of punishment which embodied the spirit and not a few of the methods of the Inquisition.

To-day convicts are treated as men in Oregon, not as wild beasts. Go out upon the roads, and you pass convicts at work, without being able to tell them from the usual industrious farm laborers. No guards surround them, pacing back and forth with loaded rifles. The convicts are restrained from flight into the woods, where capture would be difficult, but the only leash that holds them back is their own word of honor. They have promised not to escape, and they keep their word. Farm homes are around them, yet the country people do not fear them, but give them help and sympathy. Not long ago a group of farmers' wives gave them a dinner in a grove near where they were working, and sat at the same table with them under the trees. When the table had been cleared away, several of the prisoners voiced their appreciation. Said one:

"Under a system like this, where we are treated as men, the best we can do is scarcely sufficient. Under compulsion and guarded by cold steel and heartless men, the least we can do is good enough. We feel that under such a system as the present one, incarceration is a help, and not a hindrance, in getting us re-established as beneficial members of society."

Governor West, of Oregon, sustains his contention that the new system works well by pointing out that in the two years, 1909-'10, just before the adoption of the honor system, about thirty men escaped from prison. Some were killed, some were captured; some are still at large. Since the honor plan went into operation but three men have broken their word, and, taking advantage of the absence of guards, have escaped. One has been recaptured. And yet the system was tried out in the long summer months, when the wanderlust is strongest, when work is hardest, when temptation to cast off the invisible shackle of honor is greatest, and when it is easiest to go into the woods and sleep and find food there until the danger zone has been left behind. "I believe in the prisoners," affirms Governor West. "They are savable. I believe in plenty of wholesome, cheerful and useful labor. I believe that Jesus Christ and John Howard and Abraham Lincoln were full of gentle sympathy and stern justice and did all they could to help the unfortunate. I want to emulate them."

Has Virginia nothing to learn from Oregon?

BAD ROADS FOSTER ILLITERACY.

The advantages of good roads no longer have to be preached. Every county realizes their value and would be glad to have them. It is now most important to tell how the money for roads may be raised and explain the methods of building permanent highways. Yet it is still worth emphasizing the benefits of good roads as an investment. The money can be raised in some way or other, provided the people are sufficiently impressed with the return they will get.

One of the results of good roads, as pointed out in the Southern Good Roads Monthly, is a higher standard of education. The economic value of an educated citizenship is even more important than the immediate economic benefits from improved means of transportation. Social advance goes hand in hand with industrial and agricultural progress.

The country child who must wade through snow and mud to school is handicapped. Part of the year he will be unable to attend. When he does, he will not be as well prepared to profit by his instruction. Bad roads go with poor schools, indifferent teachers and curtailed sessions. Good roads enhance land values, make prosperous communities, and so provide better schools, with full terms.

Some instructive figures are quoted. In five good roads States—Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ohio and Indiana—some 77 per cent of children of school age are in school. About 35 per cent of the roads in these States has been improved. In five bad roads States—Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas and South Dakota—with 2 per cent of improved roads, less than 60 per cent of children are in school. Of 8,000,000 people in four bad roads States, 375,000 native-born whites cannot read and write. Of 6,000,000 in four good roads States, only 20,500 are illiterate.

The majority of the bad roads States are in the South. The percentage of illiteracy is especially high in the South. The moral is obvious.

"THE VANISHING PARTY."

What of the progress of the Progressive party?

Returns from elections held in parts of the country widely remote from one another last week are regarded in certain quarters as straws indicating which way the tide is going.

In the town of Hempstead, New York, where last fall the Progressives polled 3,624 votes, they could secure but 1,813 last week. In the same place the Republican vote increased from 2,741 last November to 4,219 last week.

In Chicago, which was carried by the Progressives in the last general election, they finished as a poor third in last week's local election.

In St. Louis, the Republicans elected Henry W. Kiel, their candidate for Mayor, by a plurality of 2,139, over the Democratic candidate, Frank H. Gerhart. The Progressive candidate, whom Theodore Roosevelt has personally indorsed, received 4,611 votes out of a total of 125,000 cast, finishing about 1,500 votes behind the Socialist candidate, for whom more than 6,000 votes were cast.

Do these local elections prove whether or not the Progressive party possesses solidarity and endurance? The Albany Journal, the personal organ of William Barnes, Jr., of New York, one of the most prominent of old-line Republican bosses, believes that these returns indicate that the Progressive party is "an evanescent product of aberration, not a permanent one of a definite movement in a new direction . . . a puff-ball growth from spores spread by an individual evidently going the way that puff-balls go." Doubtless, desire is here father to belief. The overwhelming preponderance of testimony of the late elections is that the old Republican party is a good deal nearer the grave than its Progressive offshoot.

Cole Blease "has broke loose again." Figuratively speaking, he is firing off a shotgun with each hand and yelling at the top of his voice.

From reading about the pleasant things done at open air schools, including resting on a cot and drinking fresh milk, we are inspired with a desire to get a modern education.

If John Powell wants a real crowd let him give one of those wrestling exhibitions in seven flats.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Poor Old Maids.

She was many years in college
And acquired a lot of knowledge,
On the ologies and isms she is strong.
She just dotes on reading Ibsen
And she loves Charles Dana Gibson;
On theosophy and ethics she is strong.

But she can't bake a cake
Like her mother used to make,
Nor a pie, we are very much afraid.
And she can't mend a skirt,
Sew a button on a shirt,
So she's only just a poor old maid.

She has got a lot of scholars
And is earning her own dollars
And she's living in a cozy little flat.
Does she have to beg each penny
From a husband? Well, not any;
She's no family to care for but a cat.

And she doesn't have to bake
Any bread or pie or cake
Or wash or iron, rake or hoe or spade
Like her mother used to do
All the livelong summer through,
So she's glad she's just a poor old maid.

From the Hickeyville Clarion.

Mrs. Lemuel Higgins was disappointed in love about forty years ago, shortly after she married Lem, and her husband's disappointment was equally keen. Mrs. Lem is now one of the prominent members of our sewin' circle and she can scent a scandal in a family three years before it happens. Some women are so durned religious that they can't bear to see anybody else happy.

A feller kin be a fool once or twice without hurtin' him much, but there ain't any hope fer a feller who makes a practice of it, year in and year out.

The three best things in this world to be out of is politics, jail and debt.

The most humorous thing in the world is human nature and there is always goin' to be enough human nature floatin' around to make life worth livin'.

By the time a feller has learned what all of the French items on a cafe bill of fare mean he has spent all of his money and has to eat at a one-armed restaurant.

It is purty well nigh impossible to do anything fer a feller who believes in failure.

The feller who wastes $2 worth of time trying to save 2 cents never becomes a great captain of industry.

Nowadays when a feller's family has beefsteak for dinner the neighbors begin to look wise and inquire where he got his money.

We see a want ad in the paper: "Wanted, steady position by man who understands horses." This is the first time we ever knowed that horses could talk.

Caught on the Fly.

A Missouri woman has traded her husband for a mule. The husband is probably satisfied, even if the mule isn't.

John D. only got $110,000,000 at the latest Standard Oil melon cutting, but if this happens three or four times a year he may be able to worry along.

Turkey needs money. In that regard Turkey is much like all other principalities and powers.

Voice of the People

Observations by Young Voter.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I have read with interest the many articles relative to the indifference of young men in the matter of suffrage, and as I have recently become of voting age and mingle with a number of young men who have and will become entitled to this privilege, I might be able to add a word to what has been said.

As has been stated, it is astonishing to note the number of men in their youth who take no interest whatever either in city or State matters. Especially is this true of the city of Richmond. In my estimation there are several things responsible for this state of affairs. In the first place, there is a lack of interest in this line of work among the schools, especially among those which have the control of the boy in his teens, which is the age in which such matters should be given space in his mind, as well as other subjects taught in the public schools. At this stage of a boy's school career his mind is in the condition to be impressed for a lasting good. If by means of constant reference to everyday practical matters he could be brought to face the existing conditions of city and State interests through his school days, there would be nothing that could better benefit the present-day evil along this line.

Another fault is the lack of proper training in the home circle. How many men are there who have done all that might have been done to aid the boy in taking hold of such matters with the proper interest? The tendency has been to let the school take care of the boy while the father attends to business, and, on the other hand, the schools have not taken the necessary steps; so neither have maintained the proper position in the matter.

Another thing might be added which seems apparent also. The fact that the public in general has not manifested confidence in the young man to such an extent that it has gone to any effort to attract the attention to these matters. In many places the older men have interested the younger set in civic matters to such an extent that clubs have been organized, both political and nonpartisan, and many of them meet once a month or oftener. Such matters as are before the public as an interest to the people are discussed and debated by these clubs. To my knowledge, no such movement has ever been started for the young men in Richmond.

The public must make the man becoming a citizen feel that he has a part in the public welfare. He must be shown whereby public improvements benefit him as well as his older fellow-man. And public improvements, too, have a great amount of good to bestow upon a man in shaping him for good citizenship. The things that make for civic pride and public welfare should be brought to bear upon him from all sides and in all matters. One of the most beneficial improvements in instilling pride and patriotism in the heart of a people is excellent and well-kept streets. This is one of the most direct means of seeing where a man's tax and his public support goes. A street is the one thing in which all the people are brought in contact with daily, all classes and ages. It affects the people directly, more than any other improvement of a city. When the taxpayer and voter steps upon the street which is well-paved, well-kept and cleaned, it enthuses him with pride for the city in which he lives. On the other hand, when one enters upon the street in the sweeping winds of March to be greeted with clouds of gern..-laden dust and dirt, he indignantly heaps wrath and threats upon the authorities who are responsible for such conditions. His city pride and respect for government is dispersed, and he asks himself what is the use to pay tax; what is the use to support a government, when there is, seemingly, no good to be derived from it?

When the voter or nonvoter steps upon the streets of Richmond, he is a barrier in summer to rolling clouds of dust and a mudsill for the winter weathers.

Another necessity for the welfare of the young people, especially those who have not the means of acquiring an education through school, is a public library. Not only does this add to the benefit of this class, but to those who have left school for various reasons and desire to continue such work in libraries in connection with their daily task. Instead of throwing both boys and girls upon the streets at night for amusement, there should be a public library to which all classes could go and make themselves acquainted with the many problems before the people for their welfare, by means of daily, weekly and other periodicals which deal with matters of public interest. Aside from this fact, it makes a place for spending the evenings where many of the young people are made street walkers, which neither adds to their own benefit nor to the public.

While there are many reasons for the lack of such interest, these are only a few as I have observed in my own experience and in my association with others. ONE OF THEM.

The Weather Man Protests.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Part of the work done by the local office of the Weather Bureau is the forecasting of flood stages in James River. Conditions preceding and attending floods, therefore, have naturally been the subject of close study on the part of this office, and in the course of the past seventeen years during which these forecasts have been issued, as required, we have learned something of the varying conditions that affect the stream, from the unequal per cent of run-off, or drainage, yielded by dense soils like clay as compared with light soils, such as sandy loams, to the varying per cent of run-off occurring at different seasons of the year, due to a retarded or accelerated rate of evaporation, which in turn results from differences in the temperature of air and of soil at such seasons.

I have, therefore, read with some interest the account in your Sunday issue of our local flood conditions. In this it is stated that the rise was greater than predicted, and that "at midnight the gauge stood at eighteen feet, and rising steadily."

I would like to know on what gauge this eighteen-foot reading was taken, and from what source, if any, a prediction of less than seventeen feet as a maximum height was obtained. Certainly neither the one nor the other came from this office.

Omitting the telegraphic warnings we sent out Thursday evening and Friday morning to Columbia and to Lynchburg, we issued by telephone to local interests on Friday morning preliminary warnings of a seventeen-foot stage of water here, and advised all parties likely to be affected by such a rise to get threatened material out of the way. No change in this warning was made until late Saturday night, when supplemental information that the river would go a little higher than seventeen feet, and possibly to eighteen feet as a maximum, late at night or early Sunday morning, was issued.

The readings of the river, as taken from the Weather Bureau gauge at the Southern Railway bridge, showed a continuous slow rise Saturday (a slow rise was predicted by this office), and at midnight the gauge was slightly above seventeen feet and still rising slowly, reaching its highest point, 17.5 feet, at 3 A. M. Sunday, and remaining at a stand at that height until 9 A. M. Sunday, when it began to fall slowly, reading 17.4 feet at 11 A. M. and 17 feet at 2 P. M.

Your article is somewhat misleading and indirectly does this office an injustice, since it does not exclude us from the general statement that the freshet went higher than was predicted, and was eighteen feet and rising at midnight Saturday.

There are thousands of your readers in Richmond who do not receive flood warnings directly from this office, but get their information from your columns, and to such it will no doubt appear that we have made an error in our flood prediction, when, as a matter of fact, we forecast the exact height to within a few inches nearly forty-eight hours ahead of its occurrence, and gave the hour of occurrence as closely as it is possible to estimate such data.

Prediction of the maximum height that may be expected in times of flood is difficult under the most favorable circumstances, and will not always verify as closely as did this present one.

Will you not kindly extend the courtesy of space in your columns for this communication, and at the same time indicate what gauge the eighteen-foot rising at midnight was taken from; also from what source prediction of a maximum height of less than seventeen feet, if any, was obtained?

This office is mapping contour lines for freshets of various heights in the lowlying sections of the city. These lines are based on the zero of the Weather Bureau gauge, and if there is any other gauge having a zero thought to be reliable, it is important that the difference in the height of the zeros be ascertained and taken into account in mapping the flood planes.

EDWARD A. EVANS.

Richmond.

The Allens and the Bacon Rebellion.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Will you allow me as a son of the Old Dominion to insert a few lines in your paper? As a man who upholds the right and opposes the wrong, but with a heart of mercy, I must stand on the sad side of the scene which has just passed. To see two men dying without any mercy on the part of our leaders, brings back to me memories of when this old State of ours was under the tyrant's reign og Governor Berkley. As the men of Bacon's Rebellion weer hanged as heroes, so has Claude Allen died a heroic death, and that without mercy. If Claude Allen had taken a life, the officials of our State have taken two. Is not the man who consented to these men's deaths just as much of a murderer as they? But as they are gone, they have gone to their haven of rest. They yet leave the man who launched them on eternity's shores to yet ask forgiveness and probably in vain, though I hope not, as the One he will have to deal with is a merciful God.

To deprive Claude Allen of his just medal didn't hurt him in the least, when there are over 75,000 people and the All Seeing who knew he justly deserved it.

I feel sure that every man with a heart, it matters not where located, will agree with me. J. T. HUGHES.

Wintergreen.

Mr. Blake Replies.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In your issue of Friday last there appeared a card from Rev. James Cannon, D. D., superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League of Virginia, denying the statement published a few days ago in the newspapers that the Anti-Saloon League has made an effort to have the Hon. Carter Glass run for Governor on the prohibition ticket, opposing Hon. H. C. Stuart, who is the only avowed candidate for the Democratic nomination.

It may be true that the Anti-Saloon League does not bring out candidates, but when the candidates announce themselves for the Legislature, they get busy in finding out how they stand on the enabling act. This is all important; other qualifications are not considered. If a candidate is opposed to this act, matters not how well qualified he may be to become a legislator, the Anti-Saloon League fights him to the last ditch. If a candidate opposed to the enabling act is nominated in the Democratic primary, the Anti-Saloon League lines up with a so-called independent pledged to the enabling act, although he may be utterly unfit to vote on any question.

Dr. Cannon says the Anti-Saloon League is not in politics. How did they spend $18,000 last year? Let the doctor remember that he can fool all the people some time; he can fool some people all the time, but he can't fool all the people all the time.

A large majority of the voters of Virginia stand for local option, or in other words, local self-government.

My observation and experience is, that eac hlocality knows best its own needs, and should be allowed to settle this question for itself.

For the past ten years Dr. Cannon and his Anti-Saloon League have taken up about one-third of the time of each Legislature; no wonder that our laws are so muddled that even the lawyers cannot interpret them.

And now, with the question of prohibition and woman suffrage before the next Legislature, what time will be left for the enactment of necessary measures?

God save the Commonwealth?

GEORGE M'D. BLAKE.

Memories.

In the peace enfolding twilight,
When the sun is falling low,
Then my thoughts slip off their shackles
And fly back to long ago.
Then my memory book, unfolding,
Turns its pages to my mind,
And the scenes all unforgotten
Are the scenes my visions find.

There's a slope of sunny hillside,
Where the golden waving wheat,
Waits the coming of the reapers
In the morning warm and sweet.
I can hear the swish of cradles
As the shining grain falls low,
And the plaintive darky music
Of the reapers in the row.

There's a level lying meadow,
And a creek with shallows wide,
Where the "mellow bugs" are darting
And the little minnows hide.
There's a rosy winsome laddie
With a pinhook and a line,
And a curly-headed lassie;
He is ten and she is nine.

"There! I've got him," says the laddie.
"Got him!" lassie says with joy.
He is talking of the minnow,
She is thinking of the boy.
Soon the fishing sport is over,
Dead the minnow (sad regret),
But the lassie got the laddie,
And to-day she has him yet.

Visions sad, and visions cheery,
Flitting pictures, grave or gay,
Doors unlocked to silent chambers,
Joys recalled long passed away.
Strains of music, voices calling,
Faces dear revived to sight,
These the blessings memory brings us,
On the bosom of the night.

Blackstone. R. H. G.

Spring Fever.

Lord, I sho is feelin' badly!
Got a sleepy kind er feelin';
Go 'way yo' all wid yo' bustle,
Mos' everythin' seems gettin' busy—
De birds an' frogs an' crows an' snakes.
If dey felt like de way dat I do
Dey sho' would hush de fuss dey makes.
I'se glad my appetite ain't lef' me;
I sho' kin make de salit fly;
It's dis yere working hard what gits me;
I feel so mean I might' nigh die.
What's de use ter keep a worryin',
Diggin', scratchin' all de time?
Why, ef yo' kaln't make a millyun,
Don't go frettin' 'bout a dime.
Dar's dat ole grub hoe hangin' rusty
Up in de crotch uv dat apple tree;
I got it sharpened las' September—
Sharp it kin stay for all uv me.
Ez dat ole hymn, say "Lord, I feel it,"
Spring's a-comin' sho' enough;
Reckin I got a tech uv fever,
Dat's what make me feel so tough.

S. G. W.

Chilesburg, Va.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Punctuation.

Does one place quotation marks after the punctuation in all cases? Is it better to say the railway company is or are in debt? If an interrogative sentence end with "etc.," is it right to use the period after the abbreviation and the question mark after the sentence? Do you place a period after every abbreviation and begin them all with capital letters? GREENIE.

The quotation marks having but the use to inclose quoted words do not affect the punctuation. The singular verb is commoner. The period belongs to the abbreviation only, and the question should be closed with the interrogation mark. All should have the period; many—as the one you use—are spelled with the small initial letter.

Sidna Allen.

Can you tell me whether Sidna Allen was ever a student of the University of Virginia or a member of the Virginia Legislature? T. L. S.

He was never either.

Double Elopement.

I and a girl friend are arranging to elope with two young gentlemen, having the sanction of our mothers, and mainly to avoid the trouble of a double wedding. Will you inform us whether the brides or the grooms are expected to pay the expenses?

MARY AND HELEN.

Unfortunately, the etiquette of elopements has not been entirely investigated, and few of the "social usage books" would probably give space to this interesting and romantic matter. As a question of common sense, the costs of the expedition would naturally be borne by the men involved.

"Burke's Armory."

Please tell me where is "Burke's Armory." K. W.

We should be really pleased to know whether our friend is "kidding" or not. "Burke's Armory" is not a place, but a book. It is published at intervals in England, and made up of genealogical data of families of distinction entitled to "armor."

Mind and Body.

Where may I get a list of the leading colleges in the United States? Please state the number of diseases that the human body is subject to.

SUBSCRIBER.

Write to the United States Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C. Nobody knows.

St. Memin.

Did the artist St. Memin ever live in Richmond? Did he do anything but miniatures? READER.

Yes. He had his studio for a while at the corner of Eleventh and Main. Not so far as we know.

Legal.

If a woman write and sign a will in her own hand, does it need to be witnessed? If witnesses are necessary may they be women? If a woman sells some land and there are judgments against her husband would the buyer be able to get a good title?

A SUBSCRIBER.

(1) Such a will need not be witnessed. (2) Women witnesses are as good as men. (3) You would far better ask a good lawyer to whom all the facts may be stated. The character of the title which the wife could give might depend on her age, on the date of the marriage, on whether there had been children born alive, etc., etc.

A Deserter.

An enlisted man deserts the army and goes abroad. How long must he stay to be safe against punishment on his return? If he should come back and surrender, what punishment would he receive? C. S.

He is liable to punishment no matter how long he defers his return. No one but the judges in his case could tell.

Byrd Park.

Please tell me the shape and size of the lake in William Byrd Park.

CENTRALIA.

As the outline of Virginia is said to suggest a camel and that of Italy a boot, etc., the outline of the lake looks like that of a boxing glove. It covers about seven acres.

Totten's Speculation.

Please tell me what was Professor Totten's Anglo-Israel speculation.

MRS. L. H. P.

Charles Adiel Lewis Totten, born New London, Conn., 1851, was educated at West Point, and has spent most of his life as military instructor and investigator of explosives, etc., and as inquirer into biblical questions. He satisfied himself that "what became of the lost tribes" was that they were identical with the Anglo-Saxons who overran England, etc., and in 1890, he published his work, "Lost Israel Found in the Anglo-Saxons."

New York Club.

Please give the date of the founding of the University Club in New York City. R. R. TINDER.

1865.

The Reunion.

Please tell me when and where the reunion in Tennessee will be held.

W. S. COURTNEY.

At Chattanooga, May 27, 28, 29, 1913.

Views of the Virginia Editors

The V. P. I. and Agriculture.

The Lynchburg News, in a recent, well-conceived editorial, discusses the suggestion, repeatedly made heretofore, that the Virginia Polytechnic Institute change its course of study and policy, become an agricultural school exclusively. After considering at length both sides of the question the News reaches the conclusion that it would be unwise to make the change. There are now, says the News, 351 students studying engineering, applied science, and only 139 studying agriculture exclusively, and it is not at all clear that the agricultural department would be increased by the change.

The question is an important one, and as we see it, impossible of solution except by actual trial and experiment. The institution being already equipped to give instruction in other branches than agriculture, and apparently at least, doing a good work along these other lines, the suggested change might work other than inevitable financial losses. Unless the abolishment of these other schools would enable the management to widen and extend the work of the agricultural school, which is not at all impossible, the change would profit nothing.

The V. P. I. plant, endowment, working capital and all, makes a total investment of over $1,170,000.

The complaint rather than criticism is often made that such an investment should be more fruitful of direct, tangible results. The owners of the school, the people of the State, want to see it prosper. They want its influence and help in the great agricultural interests. What is taught besides will make little difference if only the agricultural interest is fostered.—Clinch Valley News.

Would Sound All Right.

After all, Attorney-General King would sound all right. Here is hoping that Clifton Forge will come into its own by having one of its citizens honored with a State office.—Clifton Forge Review.

Assistant Secretary Williams.

John Skelton Williams has long been recognized as one of the strong, constructive factors in the business life of the South. Just now we can recall no man who, by vigor of initiative and breadth of conception and genius of leadership and execution, has done more to revitalize the business spirit of this section and rehabilitate the stricken South of yesterday into its magnificent industrial structure of to-day than this son of Richmond, who has been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, one of the most important and responsible posts within the gift of the nation. Mr. Williams is singularly well adapted to render the country notable and valuable service in that position. His experience and achievements in the world of railroad enterprise; his successful experience with banking affairs; his deep study of fiscal problems and broad grasp upon public issues—considered in connection with his unusually high order of intellectual attainments, and his capacity to take hold of big undertakings and afford them disposition on definite, satisfactory lines; his high character and patriotic purpose, strongly vindicate the wisdom of his selection to the office for which he has just been chosen. It is, indeed gratifying to know that the administration, and especially the distinguished Secretary of the Treasury, are to have the benefit of the wise counsel and helpful co-operation of Mr. Williams. Virginia is honored in the appointment; the nation is to be congratulated, while to Mr. Williams will be extended the well wishes of thousands of his friends throughout the country.—Lynchburg News.

It's Started.

Some of the town boys did a little practicing in baseball Saturday. Presently there will be heard "play ball," "out on first," "take your base," "a three-bagger," "hit de ball," the boys "will run around the bases so fast they see their backs" (with a mirror), and of which will be "bread and meat and molasses" to the sufferers in the grandstand and along the line of battle just beyond the ropes.—Pittsylvania Tribune.

"White Lightnin'."

"Keep your corn pure," urges the Progressive Farmer. For lo these many years a large percentage of North Carolinians have been taking it without so much as one drop of water, even as a chaser.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

His First Lodge.

In the proposed building of a million dollar temple at Alexandria by the Masons of this country, in honor of George Washington, it ought to be borne in mind that it was the Masonic lodge of this city which Washington first joined. Would it not be more appropriate to erect the proposed temple here?—Fredericksburg Journal.

Abe Martin

Th' feller that sings at his work never hears th' whistle. Joe Lark, th' clever an' accommodatin' clerk at th' New Palace Hut-tel, has cut out coffee, as it keeps him awake.

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