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TWELVE PAGES

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1899.

NO CLEMENCY FOR CRIME.

It seems to be taken for granted that
clemency in our criminal jurisprudence
and administration is wise and proper,
and that it should be exercised ad
libitum (or with the rarest exceptions)
by the executive power of the Com-
monwealth. At any rate, that is the
view our constitution takes of the
subject, and it is very fully carried out
in practice, inasmuch that, whether
regarded as a duty or a privilege of the
Governor, his time is largely engrossed
in hearing appeals, reading petitions,
examining pleas and evidence, and con-
sidering the law, &c., in behalf of the
pardon, or commutation of sentence, of
this, that, or the other criminal; and
still they come, and still the crowd of
applicants grows, and still is the bur-
den on the shoulders of the Governor
increased; and he has to cry for relief
or help, and a Board of Pardons or
Clemency is proposed.

Better first consider whether justice
should be thwarted by clemency in
dealing with crime and criminals, or
not. Is not this provision for executive
clemency an additional inducement to
the violation of law? There is one ex-
ample in our own experience, full of ob-
ject-lessons, that should teach us how
the best of laws may be practically
rendered null and void by placing the
power somewhere to mitigate or re-
move their penalties. The anti-duelling
law, with its political disabilities, was
practically perfect, but for the power
vested in the General Assembly to re-
move these disabilities. The power to
do anything naturally compels, per-
suades, or leads to the exercise of it,
and the thing is done. In fact, the
removal of disabilities added another
grace to the attractions of duelling,
through the greater notoriety it gave
the parties, and the sense that they had
had their names inscribed in the ar-
chives of the State as those of citizens
too able to be excluded from public
service.

If an alleged criminal has been im-
properly convicted, or too heavily pun-
ished, or is in anywise unjustly dealt
with in the amount of his fine, or term
of imprisonment, or graver penalty, to
relieve him is not clemency, but sheer
justice, and, of course, the power to
afford relief in such cases should be
lodged somewhere, if it is not already
placed, under the writ of habeas corpus,
in our courts of justice; and if, under
this existing authority in the courts to
repair their own injustice, wrongs and
errors, there be anything lacking,
speedy legislation should supply it.
Surely it is not for the executive de-
partment to invade the judiciary de-
partment, either to defeat justice, nega-
tive the law, or to correct judicial mis-
takes. If any "clemency" be allowed,
it should be placed in the hands of the
courts, and administered fairly to all,
according to law and not made the sub-
ject of caprice.

Unless the constitution be amended,
we cannot see in what way a Board of
Clemency can relieve him. It may, on
the contrary, add to his burdens by
the necessity he will be under to ex-
amine and consider the further papers
they will submit in every case. If there
be any relief to be found in such insti-
tution to the Governor, it should come
from the judiciary, without increasing
the number of officers and the expenses
of the State.

In a government, like ours, there is
no room for clemency, and no man
should be invested with any power of
clemency. It is a royal prerogative,

that should not be known here, unless
where the letter of the law works in-
justice; and then the judiciary should
avoid it. The more criminals pardoned,
the more sentences commuted, or miti-
gated, the more crimes and criminals
there will inevitably be. Our own
criminal records prove this. Crime can
only be met successfully by justice;
and if justice be subordinated to mercy
in another department, crime has an
advantage over justice that must ap-
pear in its rampancy. The injustice of
crime receives thus more mercy than it
deserves in strict justice; and in any
case, the judiciary alone should correct
the errors of the courts, or mitigate the
letter of the law.

THE SAME G. O. P.: "GRAB OFFICIAL POWER."

The editor of the Harrisonburg Spirit
of the Valley is a gentleman of rare
courage (because it is moral and phys-
ical) of rare integrity (because he car-
ries his honesty and honor into politics,
as well as all his business and private
life), and of an intellectual ability and
equipment which he devoted with sin-
gular zeal to truth and his country.
But, unfortunately, he narrows himself,
his paper and their sphere to what is
immediately around him, instead of ex-
tending the application of his qualities
and qualifications to a broader and
more liberal work; and, therefore,
though perfectly reliable in the field to
which he confines his personal labor
and inspection, outside of that he is
easily imposed on by that "enchant-
ment" which "distance lends to the
view."

From all this it results that while the
Spirit of the Valley gives its readers
the cold and unadulterated truth about
the Republican party of Rockingham
county, it gives them fancy pictures of
State and National Republicanism—
not perceiving that the whole party has
"fallen from its first estate," and that
the degeneracy he sees so distinctly in
Harrisonburg and Rockingham county
permeates that "ab uno disce omnes"
(from one specimen, judge of all the
rest); and that the picture it draws so
faithfully of what is before its eyes,
has only to be expanded and enlarged
to be equally true of the entire Hanna-
Alger combination.

Our esteemed Harrisonburg contem-
porary has found what we say corrobo-
rated by the fact that the black sheep
and their doings in the Republican fold
of Rockingham have generally found
more favor in the sight of the powers
that be at Washington, and that con-
trol the party in Virginia, than the
white sheep and their doings. Like unto
like; a fellow feeling makes us won-
derous kind; birds of a feather flock to-
gether; and much similar erudition ex-
plains clearly enough why the degen-
erate Republicans of Rockingham are
Hanna's lambs.

The Spirit of the Valley sees what a
thing the Republican party has become;
but it still fondly believes that the her-
oic and traditional party continues to
exist elsewhere. But consider Hanna,
Alger, Quay, Addicks & Co. Arcadians
all!

The way in which the Washington
Post still applauds the Alger-Hanna-
Eagan-McKinley treatment of the army
that liberated Cuba, and maligns those
who exposed and condemned that in-
famous treatment, would be strong cir-
cumstantial evidence that it was an in-
terested party to the Army beef con-
tracts; but we know the Post is con-
cerned only in veil, which was not sup-
plied to the army in any form,—golden
calf cutlets being reserved for the
bomb-proofs and exemptions at Washing-
ton.

Besides, the Post is pretty much on
beef as Hans Deufelder was on Lim-
burger cheese. The people of all the
county complained that it smelled badly;
that even the buzzards had quit
the region; and that he should not keep
it in his store, but bury it.

"Yah, dots right," said Hans; "but I
aint sellin' him for Klone; what schmeil
got to do mit him? He not for schmeil;
he for eat!"

If the Richmond Times would cease
awhile making dogmatic assertions, or
citing facts that prove only themselves,
and thereby begging the question (peti-
tio principii), and give its readers a lit-
tle rational argument, it might so well
please "the groundlings," nor have so
easy a task, but it would at least gratify
the judicious. If it failed to con-
vince them. Everybody is willing to
grant all the facts and figures it cites,
and to even agree that that proves
prosperity for some folks, if at every-
body else's expense; but no just, im-
partial, or well-informed man will
agree that so partial a prosperity is the
"General welfare" meant in the preamble
of the U. S. Constitution, or the
prosperity of the people.

The power aimed by courts and
judges in matters of contempt and in-
junction, is worse and more unwarranted
than lynching by the people in cer-
tain foul and infamous crimes. With
less reason and no law, the judges claim
an "inherent power" to take a case into
their own hands (not the law of the
case) in a matter of no moment to any-
body but themselves personally, and
fine and imprison good citizens, where-
as, in lynching, the people merely take
the law into their own hands against a
miscreant whom the laws adjudge to
death. Both are great evils,—lynch law,
and the unauthorized and illegal power
exercised by courts and judges in mat-
ters of so-called "contempt of court,"
and government by injunction.

No tanned beef has yet been consid-
ered in this beef inquest, we believe.
As the "keeping" of the beef has
seemed to be the main point in dis-
pute, suppose Secretary Alger make or
hide a tanyard, construct the necessary
vats, and steep fresh beef in the usual

oak-bark-pickle, for various periods, so
as to discover how long it takes to
tan beef that will stand a torrid cli-
mate. Tanned beef may not be fresh,
or sweet, or toothsome; but then it
might not be so repulsive as embalmed
or canned beef, and would surely keep
better. Oh, yes; try tanning, by all
means.

The only sensible thing this adminis-
tration has done for a long time is to
send that \$3,000,000 for the Cuban Army
to Cuba, in spite of the cry for "more."
A bird in hand is worth two in the
bush, just the same in Cuba as else-
where. The army—or any other army—
will naturally disband, with that much
money to spend. But whether the dis-
banding will be better than their present
organization, is another question.
They will then be under neither Cuban
nor American command; and disbanded
soldiers are usually a turbulent and
tumultuous set,—as witness our own
troops, black or white.

"Republican allies who masquerade
as Democrats between campaigns," and
are not wanted by the Democratic party,
says Mr. W. J. Bryan, of Nebraska,
to Mr. Perry Belmont, of New York.
It is a wise saying, and worthy of all
acceptation. It is true that Jesus sat
at table with Judas, but the case of
Judas was not given as a precedent;
but only as a warning.

We are quite happy to agree with the
Washington Post that Mr. McKinley
needs rest,—and for our part we would
be content for him to retire perma-
nently, at once, with his guardian-angel,
Hanna. In any case, the people
will give him his discharge in Novem-
ber of next year, to take effect March
4th, 1901. May Hanna and joy go with
him!

It is easy enough to found a party;
any little squad may do it, as witness
Billy bynum's Indianapolis "party" in a
parlor; but it is sometimes difficult to
find a party, as also witness Billy by-
num's little party, which cannot be
found since he dropped it somewhere
and went to Hanna to keep from starv-
ing.

The self-constituted legislative assem-
bly of Cuba, consisting of Generals and
Colonels self-elected to that body, have
even had the cheek to "depose," or
cashier, General Gomez, for insubordi-
nation. As he is Commander-in-Chief
of all of them, he should order them
to disband, or adjourn sine die, or have
them put under arrest.

A Duluth man has sued his wife for
divorce on the ground that she failed
to inform him before marriage that
she had a glass eye. In his specifica-
tions he alleges that she is careless
with her glass eyes and subjects him to
hardship and expense in keeping her
supplied with new ones.

Several street cars were held up by
robbers in St. Louis one night not long
since. This leads us to remark that
Norfolk, with its metropolitan features,
is preferable to any quiet country town
of which we have knowledge, St. Louis
not excepted.

An Ohio paper boasts of a barber in
Cincinnati who won a gold medal for
shaving a man in fifty seconds. The
sequel to the story may be read in a
statement from Trinity Hospital that
he will hardly get out again before
hot weather sets in.

Accurate measurements and other
tests have demonstrated that certain
decisions of the Norfolk Board of
Health have not caused any appreciable
difference in the ebb and flow of the
tides of this section.

A person must now live in Dakota a
year before he or she can sue for a di-
vorce.—Iowa State Register.

This being true, esteemed contem-
porary, what excuse is there for living in
Dakota at all?

After this, army officers who get mad
will find in the fate of Commissary
General Eagan a standing admonition
to wait for a war, and take it out on
the enemy.

The grip was once called the influ-
enza. In this year it is called several
things that would not make appropri-
ate Sunday school mottoes.

The newspapers engaged in renom-
inating President McKinley are demon-
strating their ability to be on time
when the procession starts.

Gen. Jim Walker is having a little
war on his own account in the South-
west. However, he received two bul-
lets to one he gave Hamilton. Hamil-
tons are unlucky in duels.

About that army beef; some folks
can't understand the objections to it
at all. There are birds, beasts and
men who like their meat that way—
"high"—you know.

At none of the State dinners given
by Secretary of War Alger, has any
guests, the President not excepted,
found a resignation under his plate.

Perhaps beef saturated in liquid air
might do to send to our soldiers in
Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines.

Is there any need of vaccination,
after eating a ration of commissary
beef?

Italy is mad again. Cause why? She
found the "Open Door" in China swung
the wrong way.

The fellow who goes out looking for
trouble rarely misses finding it.

The inventor of "Angel Food" is dead.
We expected it.

VIRGINIAN-PILOT'S HOME STUDY GIRGLE

(Copyrighted, 1899.)

DIRECTED BY PROF. SEYMOUR EATON.

SUBJECTS OF STUDY IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE PUBLISHED.

EVERY SUNDAY—
History—Popular Studies in European History.
EVERY TUESDAY—
Geography—The World's Great Commercial Products.
EVERY WEDNESDAY—
Governments of the World of To-day.
EVERY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY—
Literature—Popular Studies in Literature.
EVERY SATURDAY—
Art—The World's Great Artists.

These courses will continue until June 26th. Examinations conducted
by mail, will be held at their close as a basis for the granting of Certificates.

POPULAR STUDIES IN LITERATURE.

IV.—SPENSER: THE ELIZA- BETHAN AGE,

(Concluded.)

BY JOHN MILLAR, M. A.
(Deputy Minister of Education, Ontario,
Canada.)

Early Life.

Little is known of the childhood of
Edmund Spenser, the "Prince
of Poets." His father was related to that
family of Spensers from which the vic-
tor of Blenheim was descended. East
Smithfield in London is pointed out as
the birthplace of the poet and the year
1552 is mentioned as the date. He was
educated at the Merchant Tailors'
school, from which, with some recog-
nized ability for verse, he was admitted
at the age of 16 as a sizar at Pembroke
college, Cambridge. Poverty and ill
health marked his university career,
and had it not been for the generosity
of a friend of education the "poor
scholar" would have been unable to
finish his course. He took his B. A.
in 1573 and his M. A. in 1576. In tradi-
tion speaks correctly, he planted the
mulberry tree which still survives in
the garden of his college. A friendship
formed at college with Gabriel Harvey
of Trinity hall had considerable influ-
ence upon the poet's fortunes. On leav-
ing Cambridge he went to the north of
England and amid obscure poverty
spent some years as a tutor. He had,
no doubt, long been wooing the muses

sible that the patronage of Leicester
and Essex may have caused the great
statesman to look with distaste on the
new poet. As a dependant on Leicester
and a sutor for court favor Spenser
is supposed to have experienced many
reverses. In "Mother Hubbard's Tale,"
which belongs to this period, Spenser
gives us his mind of the difficulties of
the sutor at court. He knew the craving
for advancement, the envy of others by
which many were distinguished, and the
unworthy means by which they sought
to gain advancement. Sometimes in
gentle satire or even humor he con-
demns the vices of the age. At other
times he uses great seriousness, but
in all instances there may be recog-
nized the deep moral and religious mo-
tive by which he was continually ac-
tuated. The uncertainty of court favor
was brought home to Spenser. It is
said that Queen Elizabeth on being
presented with his poems was so greatly
affected that she commanded Lord
Burleigh to give the author a hundred
pounds. To this the treasurer demurred.
"Then," said the queen, "give him
what is reason." The matter was for-
gotten or intentionally neglected, and
some time passed without Spenser re-
ceiving anything. At length Spenser
complained of her orders not being car-
ried out, and Elizabeth demanded that
her commands should not be over-
looked by her minister.

A RESIDENT IN IRELAND.

After 1580 the greater part of Spenser's
life was spent in Ireland. As
secretary for the lord-lieutenant he had
the duty of writing much in defense of



EDMUND SPENSER

by the classic banks of Cam, but now
the time had come when his genius was
to shine out in richer lustre. It was
during this time that he met that per-
sonally whose attractiveness domi-
nated his poetic genius. Rosalind, who
cannot be dissolved as a myth, made a
plaything of his heart, and when tired
of her sport cast it aside. Though she
little knew the worth of the jewel she
had thrown away, her influence re-
mained. Love gave an impulse to his
powers and a color to his thoughts
which may be seen in the most beau-
tiful and characteristic creations of his
imaginative genius. The scorn of the
estate of Kilkenny drove him again south-
ward. "The sad mechanic exercise" of
verse was balm to the wounded poet,
and his friend told him that life was too
serious a thing to be spent in vain re-
gret for the object of his unrequited
affection. Indeed, more than advice was
given, for, it seems, his friend intro-
duced him to Sir Philip Sidney and thus
opened to him an important matter in
those days—the avenue along which
preferment eventually came.

"SHEPHERD'S CALENDAR"

In 1580 the poet was in love again,
and writes to Harvey of "another little
Rosalind" who, however, soon disap-
pears. About the same time his first
important venture, the "Shepherd's
Calendar," is given to the world. The
greater part of the poem was written
while a tutor in the north. It consists
of twelve parts, and while in the form
of a pastoral, it is such only in an al-
legorical sense. The shepherds are the
pastors of the church and their sheep
are the people committed to their care.
It is evident the poem was founded on
the model of Virgil and Theocritus. One
of the pastors was intended for the
archbishop of Canterbury and another
for the bishop of London. The tone of
the poem is puritan, but not of an ex-
treme kind. By this introduction the
author was recognized among the first
poets of the day. It was different from
what the age had hitherto known. It
was always a favorite with Spenser,
who desired to be known by the name
of Colin Clout, as a later poem of his
specialties testifies.

"MOTHER HUBBARD'S TALES"

It is said that some allusions in the
"Shepherd's Calendar" to Archbishop
Grindal and to Bishop Aylmer gave of-
fense to Lord Burleigh. It is quite pos-

sible that the patronage of Leicester
and Essex may have caused the great
statesman to look with distaste on the
new poet. As a dependant on Leicester
and a sutor for court favor Spenser
is supposed to have experienced many
reverses. In "Mother Hubbard's Tale,"
which belongs to this period, Spenser
gives us his mind of the difficulties of
the sutor at court. He knew the craving
for advancement, the envy of others by
which many were distinguished, and the
unworthy means by which they sought
to gain advancement. Sometimes in
gentle satire or even humor he con-
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"Then," said the queen, "give him
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some time passed without Spenser re-
ceiving anything. At length Spenser
complained of her orders not being car-
ried out, and Elizabeth demanded that
her commands should not be over-
looked by her minister.

"THE FAERIE QUEENE"

In Spenser's letter to Raleigh he
speaks of his masterpiece as "a con-
tinued allegory of dark conceit." The
"Faerie Queene," by whom the knight-
ly were sent forth, indicated Glory in
general, but more particularly "the
most excellent and glorious person of
Queen Elizabeth." Twelve virtues are
represented by twelve knights, who
were sent forth from the court of the
Glorious Queen of Fairyland. Each of
the six finished books is divided into
twelve cantos. They give the legends
of Holiness, Temperance, Chastity,
Friendship, Justice and Courtesy. The
ordinary reader need not feel that he
should grasp the whole allegory. The
high moral and religious aim of the
writer will not be missed. There is no
doubt many of the leading personages
of Spenser's time are represented. Eliza-
beth, Mary Queen of Scots, Leicester,
etc., are represented by Gloriana,
Duessa, Prince Arthur, etc. The object
of the poet was, following the example
of Homer, Virgil, Ariosto and Tasso;
to write a book, colored with historical
fiction, which should "fashion a gentle-
man or noble person in virtuous and
gentle disposition." Of the twelve
books planned we have only six. The
first two have a descending scale of merit.
The first two have the fresh bloom of
genius upon them. The third contains
some exquisite pictures of womanhood,
but in the last three the divine fire
is seen only in fitful and uncertain flashes.
In attempting to suggest for the reader
specimens of Spenser's poetry the task
is embarrassing, on account of the
many familiar passages so dear to stu-
dents of literature. Perhaps a first at-
tempt might be made by reading from
the "Faerie Queene" such pas-
sages as that relating to the Red Cross
Knight and Una, or the signing of
Book I.; or that of Belpheobe, Book
II.

VERSIFICATION, STYLE AND RANK.

Spenser wrote the "Faerie Queene,"
after having his head full of the ro-
mantic world of Italy. The melody of
their heroic meter, the ottava rima—
had fallen on his ear. The meter he
added a grace of his own, the ninth
line—an Alexandrine—to close the can-
dence. The stanza in which the great
poem is written, and which bears the
poet's name, has been compared to the
swelling wave of a summer sea, which
sweeps on until it breaks upon the
pebbly shore in long and measured flow.
The power of the grand Spenserian
stanza has been proved by Thomson,
Campbell and Byron.

Spenser was the first poet who might
challenge comparison with Chaucer.
The "new poet" became the recognized
title of the author of the "Faerie
Queene." His power of invention was
extraordinary. All the past was dis-
played to view with its imagery, illu-
sion and glory. The passion of conflict,
the grossness of sin and the tarnish of
sordid motives were superseded by
what was graceful, noble and true.
Next to Dante among the Italians, next
to Homer and Virgil among the an-
cients, Spenser must be ranked, and
surpassed only by Shakespeare and per-
haps Milton in English literature. Of all
our poets he is most truly sensuous, but
of so chaste and ardent a nature that
in his paintings sentiment, passion or
material loveliness becomes something
higher than is generally seen on earth.
By his ideal method of treatment he
greatly influenced the style and lan-
guage of later poets. He had many imi-
tators among third-rate poets. The
masters of style have studied his pro-
ductions. Milton called him "our sage"
and Dryden claimed him for a master.
Wordsworth and Shelley show traces of
his influence, and the idealism of his
poetry, as well as the high moral tone
of his sentiments, has become a stand-
ing protest against what is low, pedan-
tic and commonplace.

John Millar

STUDENTS' NOTES AND QUES- TIONS.

1. Spenser is not a poet whose works
are found in every bookseller's cata-
logue. It requires some appreciation of
culture or desire for culture to induce
one to attempt to read him at all. As
Gifford Hopkins in "The Guardian An-
gel" says: "He is hard." And yet no
poet—not even Shakespeare—has from
first to last, "from the very moment of
the appearance of his first masterpiece
down to the present," held so firmly his
position as one of the great poets of
the world. The standard edition of
Spenser's works is that edited by Dr.
Morris (with an introductory memoir
by J. W. Hales, M. A.), published by
Macmillan & Co. (Globe edition, \$1.75).
Rowell publishes an "Astor edition" at
50 cents and a "Students' edition" at
\$1. Appleton also publishes an edition,
with notes, glossary, etc., at \$1.

2. Very few professed students of
literature read the whole of the
"Faerie Queene." Book I. is generally
found to be a sufficient course of in-
struction for an ordinary reader. To
such as wish to keep up the study of
Spenser seriously, yet wish only to give
to the study a limited time, we can
confidently recommend Kitchen's
"Faerie Queene, Books I. and II." (Ox-
ford; The Clarendon Press; 2s. 6d.), or
Percival's "The Faerie Queene," Book
I. (New York: Macmillan Co., 50
cents.) Those who prefer to study "The
Shepherd's Calendar" instead of "The
Faerie Queene" will find Herford's edi-
tion, published by the Macmillans at 40
cents, suited to their purpose. These
works all have good texts, full notes
and ample glossaries.

3. Spenser is familiarly called the
"Poet of Poets." A little work by this
title, containing the "lovely mount of
the minor poems" of Spenser, has been
put together by that enthusiastic Spen-
serian scholar, Alexander B. Grosart.
It forms part of the elegant "Eliza-
bethan Library," a fine series of vol-
umes made up of selections from the
works of Sidney, Raleigh, Bacon,
Greene, Spenser, Jonson and other
Elizabethans (Chicago: A. C. McClurg
& Co.; each 75 cents).

4. "Spenser was the earliest of our
great modern writers in verse, as he
was the earliest of our great modern
writers in prose."—Dean Church. Who
was our "first great modern writer in
verse?"

(Continued on Fifth Page.)