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EIGHTEEN PAGES.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1900.

IT LOOKS LIKE HARMONY.

The Virginian-Pilot, working in the interest of the party, feels that the Democratic Executive Committee took a long stride Friday night towards a reunited and harmonious party when it re-elected Captain W. W. Dey and requested him to act as chairman of the party.

It takes all kinds of people to make a world. It takes people thinking many different ways to make up a party. They are all entitled to be heard. It takes a smart, politic, pleasant and personally popular man to be able to harmonize all these interests and keep the party machinery running smoothly. The tendency always is to resent the least restraint, yet it cannot be said of the Democrats of Norfolk that they are not considerate, if not long suffering.

The Virginian-Pilot has ever fought for the people—the rank and file. If their wishes were consulted many candidates would be the result. If they were brought together and the whole situation gone over, it is believed that no man would come nearer meeting the two extremes of the party than Captain Dey. It is a difficult task to please everybody, except where Democrats hold the love of a reunited and representative party, higher than personal gain or self-aggrandizement.

It takes a good politician to manage the party in Norfolk; he should likewise be a man in whom the rank and file (the people) have confidence. Let there appear upon the list of the committees and in the party council—representative men of every walk of life. It is too important to be overlooked and passed by.

There is not a man in Norfolk, nor in Virginia, but who recognizes the old party as the salvation of Virginia. He who would doubt it will have only to go back a few years in Virginia history, or else cast his eye across the border to our sister State, North Carolina, where, in Wilmington, the streets fairly flowed with blood. Let us stand together in the interest of harmony and a reunited party, for in that alone lies the security of civilization, education and peace. When the carpet-bagger ruled the State with a law of fraud and shame, the old party came to the rescue and saved her. The Democratic party is the white-man's party in the South; it is the party of representative people, so let us work together for its success.

The Virginian-Pilot is working in the interest of the party. We desire to bring it in closer touch with thousands who now take no interest in its welfare, save to vote as a precaution against Republican rule. We want these people to feel that it is their party.

In passing, it may not be amiss to correct the impression liable to be created by Mr. Wilcox's letter, among those not familiar with the situation, that "the position of Police Commissioner" identified him so closely with one of the candidates that he preferred not serving as chairman." It must have been a generous impulse that dictated that lofty feeling of impartiality. The Democrats had not felt called upon to ask for a disclaimer of Mr. Wilcox's perfect fairness any more than they now believe that he intended to have the public infer that a Chairman of the party could have the least bearing or effect upon the primary. We are also inclined to feel that, though Mr. Wilcox were "closely identified with one of the candidates," no one would believe him capable, even under those circumstances, of doing an unfair thing for the benefit of his friend. Mr. Wilcox

has done himself an injustice by his disclaimer. The Virginian-Pilot feels certain that one who has the interest of the party at heart, as has Mr. Wilcox, will not doubt the statement made by Mr. W. R. Johnson, of the committee, "that the management of the primary has been taken out of the hands of the Executive Committee," and, therefore, the Chairman could possibly have nothing to do with it. Mr. Wilcox has doubtless overlooked the fact that the CANDIDATES select their own electoral board and judges, and such other matters pertaining thereto. We have recently had our attention freshly drawn to this fact. We feel certain, therefore, that Mr. Wilcox will do all in his power "to aid in harmonizing party differences," and that he can, as he says, be of great "aid as a private."

MANHOOD OR PROPERTY.

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

It is related of Abraham Lincoln, and is much to his credit, that during the last year of his administration he condemned with great bitterness of speech the fact that Congress was "legislating not for men, but for property." Sooner or later, he said, that would destroy the manhood of any nation upon earth.

Let it be borne in mind, once for all, that the Virginian-Pilot is no "calamity howler," no enemy of property or property owners; but a general well wisher of the prosperity and happiness of the country and all its people, whether urban or rural.

Prosperity—the accumulation of property—is well nigh the universal incentive of the human race to energy and industry. It ought to be so—else there would be universal sloth and stagnation of business, to be followed by want and consequent suffering. Decried every man, as the Socialists may do, yet every man would like to be rich and independent of the toll and anxiety that are always the burdens of poverty. It is as plainly written as anything can be, that everybody cannot be rich—else riches would be robbed of all their fascination. Then the rich man must be his own servant, when none can be hired by his money to wait upon him and do his bidding. If all are rich, who will be the servant? The poor we always have with us, and always shall have. The great question that confronts us is how to promote a general diffusion of prosperity, so that the few shall not be nabobs, the many in terrible straits and poverty, with no hope of changing their condition.

Of course the natural aptitude of men is a great and almost a controlling factor in the general result. What government ought to be concerned about is that all men have equal opportunity. When that is accomplished, government has fulfilled its mission in that regard.

Is there no favored class under our system, as administered of late? Practically speaking, is there any mere individual who can venture into the usual channels of trade and commerce, and not feel that he is overshadowed by some dominant influence that can make a bankrupt of him in the twinkling of an eye?

The political economists talk very glibly of the law of supply and demand, which indeed ought to be an universal law of trade. Is it such a law? Do not the Trusts control the supply and demand, and the consequent prices of necessary commodities as absolutely as despots? Take illuminating oils, for example: The Standard Oil Company sets the price, and the merchant who does not obey their dictates can sell no oil at all. The retail grocer no longer sets his own price on sugar, or tobacco, or flour; he must sell at a price set for him by the Trusts, or very soon he can buy none of the standard brands to sell at any price. And this is true of iron and steel, and all the thousand products of these essential things. The candid merchant will tell you so, and say that it is oppressive and even cruel; but he will also tell you that he cannot help himself or you.

These are facts known and read of all intelligent people. They have not long been facts, yet too long! Can there be any general prosperity while such things be? Is there not a remedy?

Bryan and the Democratic platform promise relief. It is genuine Jeffersonian doctrine—the liberty of the individuals unhampered by repressive and destructive legislation. Shall we make another brave fight for principle—or shall we despair of the Republic?

Which course will you take?

For seventy years the uniform and unbroken custom of submitting new constitutions to a vote of the PEOPLE for ratification or rejection has been observed in Virginia. Why vary or abandon this custom? ARE WE AFRAID TO TRUST THE PEOPLE? Are the people less capable of enlightened judgment, and patriotic action now than heretofore? In denying to them the right to pass upon these vital matters, are we not striking a fatal blow at the fundamental basis of a government by the people? What harm can result from our following the precedents set before us for the last seventy years? All considerations of prudence and wisdom would seem to point to the policy of submitting the work of the convention to a vote of the PEOPLE for ratification or rejection. Our best safety rests in that course.

THE DIPLOMACY OF THE BOOTLECK.

"Shirt-sleeve diplomacy" was not very long ago the favorite epithet by which European statesmen were wont to characterize the American method of transacting business with foreign countries. It had an especial vogue about the time when President Cleveland re-asserted the Monroe doctrine, and served notice on England in language easily understood that no aggression in Venezuela would be tolerated on the shallow pretext of a boundary dispute. The expression: "Shirt-sleeve diplomacy" was, of course, meant to emphasize the deficiency of Americans in the polished and circuitous diplomacy that is supposed to dazzle and confound opponents without jarring on their finer sensibilities.

Latterly there has come into being quite another style of diplomacy, so far at least as our relations with one country are concerned, and is quite far enough removed from the brusque but virile "shirt-sleeve" variety. The newest sort is the cringing and obsequious diplomacy of the bootlick; and the Honorable Secretary of State may be, in all fairness, said to be the most shining exemplar of the cult. The man in his shirt-sleeves may have his shortcomings as a diplomat, but he is quite thoroughly understood to mean business and always commands a wholesome respect accordingly. For the bootlick, the man who asks with many apologies for what it is his right to demand, there has not been, and will not be anything but contempt. Americans may, therefore, well be restive at the figure they are made to cut in the eyes of the world by the present administration.

This new diplomacy may be found, in all its ripe perfection, in our recent relations with England, and was very well set out by Mr. Sulzer in his speech in Congress on his resolution of inquiry into British fortifications on the Canadian border. Mr. Sulzer said:

"There is a feeling all over this country that the administration has absolutely and abjectly surrendered American rights to British interests. It has done so in Alaska, it has done so in regard to the Nicaragua Canal, it is doing so now in the Orient, in the Philippines, in China. If it had not been for what the administration did the other day, after consultation with Lord Pauncefote, after being told what to do by Salisbury, there would have been a concert of European powers which would have demanded the cessation of the war in South Africa."

Mr. Sulzer has not overdrawn the picture. The Hay-Pauncefote compact, reviving without shadow of excuse or advantage to America the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, abrogated by England's own high-handed act, and surrendering the Monroe doctrine without protest and without cause, has brought shame and confusion to this nation. The plea that England stood between us and a European coalition during the war with Spain, baseless enough in fact, could not carry with it any obligation of a concession so humiliating to the pride, so derogatory to the dignity, and so injurious to the interests of the American people. And as if the unspeakable Hay-Pauncefote treaty were not enough, in all several of the other matters, wherein we have to do with England of late, there has been exemplified the same obsequious willingness to surrender our rights and interests.

THE DEMOCRACY AND THE ISSUES.

Probably not in a half century has there been waged a battle between the two great political parties of the country on issues so clearly marked as the issues in the national campaign which is soon to open. It is going to be essentially a fight on fundamental principles, and practically the whole voting population is going to align itself with one or the other of the two great parties. It will not be a good year for factions, frills and annexes in national politics. There is serious business going forward, and however he may run after fads and indulge in political play at odd times, the voting American is serious at bottom, and takes his politics seriously.

The evidences of the working of this influence is just now most apparent in the ranks of the so-called "gold Democracy." There will be no gold Democracy after this campaign. The same blind and unreasoning pride of opinion—the political snobbishness—that led to this faction's cutting itself adrift in 1896, may still obscure the facts, so far as individual members are concerned, but the facts are there none the less. The really sincere newspapers and foremost leaders who refused to support the Democratic platform and nominees in 1896 will be found back in the ranks this year, fighting for the platform that shall be made, and the leaders who shall be named at Kansas City. The disintegration has already set in, and it will go on with increasing rapidity as the essentially vicious tendency of Republican rule becomes more apparent.

The Jacksonville Times-Union and Citizen puts the case very well for Democracy, when it says: "Statesmanship is the application of old truths to new conditions, and here is the light of experience by which our feet should be guided. If Mr. Bryan is allowed his way he will eliminate many difficulties, and he can guide us to salvation, but the views of the hopelessly incompetent should not be hung like a millstone round his neck. Let us go into the work to win, or stay at home, and those who never win and cannot hope to win are not the best leaders in the crisis now upon us."

There is no reason to fear that the "hopelessly incompetent," those who still believe that the only issue before

the American people is one of tariff percentages, will not have their way this year any more than in 1896. The claim of the Democracy to the confidence and support of the citizens of all classes has always been the fearless way in which it has met the issues that arise. It was freely predicted by the "incompetent" that it would disintegrate as the result of the campaign of 1896. It is stronger to-day than ever before. The prophecy is free in the same quarter, that if it persists in the right this year, it will be destroyed. We shall see.

The reaffirmation of the Chicago platform and the "application of old truths to new conditions"—that done, the platform of the Democratic party is written, and it will be a platform on which the Democratic party will sweep the country.

MORE OFFICES.

Not satisfied with the present colony in Washington, the Senate is now making arrangements to increase the population by appointing a "page" for each Senator. Those august million-dollar salary drawers have fixed their gaze upon a Treasury rapidly filling from the sale of stamps and desire not to decrease the stamp issue, but to increase the expenses. We would be pleased to see each Senator provided with "his man." And why not? Why not supply them with a private barber, whose soft fingers shall touch, alone, the blooming cheek of the great million-dollar law-makers.

It is not denied that Senators are valuable and important; for they come high. From reports it now appears that the cheapest Senator costs from \$100,000 to \$200,000, except, of course, where they have a "pull." These are costly bric-a-brac and ornaments and should not be allowed to deteriorate for want of keeping; and since they belong to the people and are cared by them, the people ought to pay the costs.

The Virginian-Pilot is sorry, however, to see the Senate throwing away money upon stenographers. That august body desires to create the office of Official-Stenographer, for each Federal Circuit Court, at a salary of \$2,000 a year each.

All we have to say is: "whoop 'em up!" Increase salaries! Make new ones! Do anything and everything to dispose of the peoples' money, and then increase taxes and stamps. THE RESULT WILL BE QUICKER IN COMING, AND MORE EMPHATIC IN ITS EFFECTS.

UP TO SECRETARY ROOT.

And now Congress is after Secretary Root, of the War Department. The Governor of Alaska has notified Congress that the Secretary of War has granted special mining privileges to persons near Cape Nome. The Government has charge of, and controls, the waters thereabouts, the bottom of which miners find is filled with gold. The Governor thinks the law has been violated, and Congress is asked to find out about it.

Congress is taken with one of those fits, regularly, when it is not increasing the tariff, or making new offices, or enacting currency laws for the benefit of so-called national banks, and other trusts. The general pension bill occupies right much of its time when it is not engaged legislating for the District of Columbia. It is bound to amuse itself. The whole truth of the matter is, if the Secretary has granted such a privilege his report will vindicate his actions, and the Republican majority in Congress will endorse him just as it did Mr. Gage, or any other agent of the plutocrats, trusts, imperialists and British torles generally.

The correspondence between the United States and the Government of Colombia, recently sent to the Senate by the President, makes clear what the traditional attitude of this Government has been in the isthmian canal matter. The correspondence shows that in 1850 Secretary of State Evarts instructed the United States Minister to Colombia to represent to that Government that this country felt that Colombia's "military strength was inadequate to maintain the security and neutrality" of the proposed canal in case of war between powerful foreign nations, and that the United States would insist on being placed in a position to maintain these treaty stipulations. This was only a diplomatic way of serving notice that, by whomsoever constructed, the United States was determined to control the Panama canal. Yet the Hay-Pauncefote treaty would deprive this country of the control of the Nicaragua, though it is to be constructed by the United States.

It is to be hoped, from any point of view, that the trouble between the Machinists' Union and the manufacturers of machinery will be settled before the strike reaches national proportions. Apart from the rioting and distress that so often attend strikes, a strike of the machinists of the country would have other deplorable results. The South would be one of the heaviest sufferers. Just now it is making tremendous strides in manufactures, and the demand for machinery is very heavy, the manufacturers of cotton mill machinery, especially, being months behind with orders. A strike of the machinists of the country would mean, for a time at least, that the new mills could not be equipped with machinery.

Despite the popular impression to the contrary, it does not appear that the importance of the individual man to his fellows has suffered any material abatement under the conditions of

modern existence. It is a very true saying, that it is easy to fill any man's plate. Apparently the company which is constructing the Manhattan rapid transit tunnel does not take this view of the matter. It has insured the life of John B. McDonald, who is in charge of the work, for \$2,000,000, and pays an annual premium of \$90,000 on the policy. This is not for the benefit of Mr. McDonald, but to guard the company against loss by his death before the enterprise is finished. The quite obvious lesson is that individual ability and capacity of the first order are as rare and valuable as ever.

It is now up to Secretary Root to explain whether or not, as attorney for the concern, he negotiated a loan of \$2,000,000 of the funds of the State Trust Company, of New York city, to the company's office boy. Such, it is alleged, is the charge made by F. D. Kilburn, Superintendent of Banking for New York State. The loan, if made, was for the benefit of officers of the company, and the office boy was merely utilized to evade the statute. It is an ugly looking business, and Secretary Root does not improve appearances by declining to explain or deny his connection with it.

What the moneyed interests induced a few Republican officials to trick Congress and the President into doing in 1873 they are in 1900 strong enough to COMPEL the Republican party to openly give legislative sanction to. The secret inoculation of 1873 has produced such a diseased state of the body politic and financial that only radical treatment can be effective, and the poor victim has been persuaded to dread the cure more than the disease. The Financial bill, recently made a law by Congress and the President, was, in effect, only the cry of the "hipped" and timorous patient.

Would any sensible man authorize a mere agent to frame for him a contract controlling his property, his liberty and his life, and binding him absolutely, without reserving to himself the right to look the contract over and accept or reject it? Yet this is what those who oppose submitting the amended Constitution to a popular vote want the people of Virginia to do. It is improbable that they will be gratified, when once the proposition is understood.

Prof. E. Benjamin Andrews, Superintendent of the Chicago City Schools, has issued a bulletin embodying the results of his personal investigations as to the cause of dullness and inattention in school children that should interest teachers and parents everywhere. Prof. Andrews holds that in the great majority of cases these phenomena are due to defects of sight, or hearing, and not to mental incapacity. The remedy in all such cases is, of course, obvious.

The Richmond News thinks it "remarkable journalism" that a certain newspaper should have printed Senator Martin's alleged interview on the Nebraska platform when it had his denial of its authenticity in its office at the time. That was not nearly so remarkable as a journalistic stroke, as the kind of support the newspaper in question gives to the Democratic party.

It is said that as a result of the amicable adjustment of the Carnegie-Frick lawsuit a \$200,000,000 steel trust will be formed. The man who needs steel in his business will doubtless heed that there will not be occasion for any additional reconciliations.

The explanation given for the failure of the Appleton Publishing house, that it was too prosperous, reads like the "it-will-pay-in-full" notices that used to be tacked on bank doors three or four years ago.

It is safe to assert that that Cincinnati lawyer who wants an officer with a posse of 3,000 armed men to go into Eastern Kentucky to arrest Goebel's murderer will not accompany them when they go.

Why don't they pass a bill designating Porto Rico as the National Poor House and Farm, and appoint a Board of Poor Directors, with the President ex-officio member and chairman?

It is said that sundry Virginia Republicans covet the honor of being delegates to the National Convention of their party. And this will not be an average year for delegates, either.

A reading of the platform of the Nebraska Democrats makes a fellow feel like jumping on a train and going out there to shake hands with the man who wrote it.

England has thrown out a gentle hint that she would not be violently angry at American intervention between the Johannesburg gold mines and Oom Paul.

Whatever may be thought of the way that Congressman Wise got his seat, it will be conceded that he has not been slow to tumble to a Republican Congressman's privileges.

It is only natural that the Fashoda paper should temporarily be lost to sight in the glare of the great Exposition.

Why couldn't Miles and Corbin do their great reconciliation act on the stage in various towns for local charities, with a divvy?

Ammunition wristlets, a la Boer, will now be the correct thing as progressive euchre prizes in Kentucky.

If there is a conspiracy of the officeholders, what is the matter with a little conspiring on the part of the "also-rans?"

The esteemed Philadelphia Press is trying hard to keep the Constitution and Porto Rico apart. Which, does it fear, will be injured by the contact?

The Hon. Don M. Dickinson is not interested in Democratic platforms. Democratic platforms are not interested in the Hon. Don M. Dickinson.

Porto Rico for a tariff duty, he duty" to Porto Rico for a tariff duty, he descended from a higher plane to a very low one.

It is plain that the Honorable R. A. Wise has some fine Ohio politician timber in his make-up.

A man never realizes what an awful liar he is until his wife begins to remind him of the promises he made during courtship.

It was downright mean of Bishop Hurst to give away the fact that the President is expecting an early retirement to private life.

The Nebraska Middle-of-the-Road Populist separation from the other wing has a string tied to it.

The Honorable Cecll Rhodes seems to have been cast for the "marble-hearted-fend" part of the program.

The world may owe a man a living, but he has to collect it on the installment plan.

It makes some people miserable to find anything less annoying than they expected.

It's always difficult for a man to understand why a woman doesn't like him.

It sometimes happens that a homely woman doubts the accuracy of her mirror.

A man's poetry may win a woman, but he is an exception if he is able to maintain her on it.

An ignorant man should always remain silent—but if he knows enough to do so he isn't ignorant.

A soldier's first "engagement" is of little consequence—it's the battles after marriage that count.

Some men would rather eat at a restaurant than at home,—because their orders are not suppressed.

Miles and Corbin always were brothers on pay-day.

Indiana never has been out of the doubtful column, thank you.

"You needn't carry us. Just untie our legs," says Porto Rico.

An act of charity usually discounts an act of heroism.

It never hurts the value of money to call it filthy lucre.

Usually the harder a man works the more he earns for others.

Poverty drives some men to drink, and keeps others from drinking.

When a baby cries it never sheds sufficient tears to drown the noise.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

A LONGER TIME BETWEEN WANTED. (Index-Appeal.)

Biennial sessions of the Virginia Legislature proved a blessing over the annual sessions in that they gave the business interests of the State two years deliverance from freak and fraud in legislation, instead of one. If we are to have much legislation of the kind, grabbing and valuation act order, it would be a good plan to abolish biennial sessions and adopt quadrennial sessions in their stead.

A MAN OF MANY OFFICES. (Savannah News.)

At Edwardsville, in Pennsylvania, there is a man who is authorized by law, by virtue of the offices he holds, to order a man's arrest, arrest him, try him, sentence him to jail, and guard him while he is locked up. He is a burgess of the town, justice of the peace, special policeman, janitor of a public building and jailkeeper. How the Pennsylvaniaians permitted this one man to corral five offices, when there are not offices enough to go around among the faithful, is a matter of wonder.

WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS. (Washington Times.)

In connection with the Porto Rican matter, the latest White House news is that all the President wants is harmony. He abandoned the trusts, and if the Pennsylvaniaians permitted this one man to corral five offices, when there are not offices enough to go around among the faithful, is a matter of wonder.

information about the bill which is to convert the multitude to its support? And who possesses it, and why does he not bring it forward?

(From National Watchman.) Many Hannatte Congressmen will die yearlings.

The republic ends when unequal taxation begins.

The National Watchman is a thorn in the side of the Hannattes.

An old-time Republican is no more like a modern Hannatte than Gabriel was like Lucifer.

The growth of trusts and the elimination of the individual from the field of competitive enterprise is already injuriously affecting the value of real estate in our large cities. As the profits of industry go into fewer and fewer pockets the number of those who can live in elegant homes correspondingly diminishes, causing a terrific destruction of real estate values. Now, gaged real estate in our cities is already becoming a burden to its nominal owners, and the day is not distant, under the trust regime, when the poor will lose their homes, mortgages, and the cities will be owned by the bankers and trust magnates.

The Hannattes base their hopes of success upon the people accepting them as legitimate Republicans on account of their controlling the expert machinery and hiding themselves behind the party name. The principles they contend for would have been hoisted out of any Republican convention that has ever been held since the party was organized. It remains to be seen how many Republicans will be content to support of Hannattism. If the Democrats do their duty in spreading the light the Hannatte ranks will gradually grow thinner and thinner as their iniquities are exposed. The responsibility for spreading the light rests with Democrats.

The Republican platform of this year may be briefly stated as follows: Down with the republic. The earth belongs to the money kings and trusts. The few are created to rule and the many to serve. The poor should be content with the crumbs that fall from the tables of the rich. A standing army of sufficient size to compel labor to obey the injunctions of the rich and to starve without a murmur. The moral law is mere sentiment and is out of date.

Senator Foraker made a bad break in the Senate last week when he intimated that the Hannattes, for whom he was speaking, had passed the law-book stage in the consideration of governmental questions. The constitution and the law were never popular among outlaws, but it is rarely that they have had a spokesman who has given them away in such plain words as was spoken by the Ohio Hannatte cuckoo.

AN OFFICE-HOLDER'S PARADISE. (Newark, N. J., Advertiser.)

One of the brand-new laws provides that every honorably discharged Union soldier, sailor or marine, who served in the rebellion, now holding, or who shall hereafter be elected or appointed to any office or position in the service of any county in the State, shall continue to hold the same during good behavior, as long as such office or position shall legally exist, notwithstanding his election or appointment may have been for a fixed term. This law clinches the positions of veterans in county office for life.

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM. (Richmond News.)

Just why the papers of the country should attempt to convey the idea that the platform adopted by the Democrats or Fusionists of Nebraska is that which will be adopted at Kansas City next July is more than we can understand.

There may some things in the Nebraska platform that the Democrats of the country will indorse at their next National Convention, but it is certainly absurd to take the ground that this platform is a cut and dried performance that will be taken up and pushed through the July convention.

THE EVIL DAYS OF EMPIRE. (Philadelphia Record.)

British Administration in India last year cost \$12,765,000 less than the receipts from taxation amounted to. This year the surplus will be trilling in amount. For content, the expenditure for famine relief last year was \$10,275,000; this year, according to estimates of the Indian Office, the famine will cost at least \$16,675,000. With no surplus revenue, and with a starvation account in two years of over \$25,000,000, Britain's empire in India has certainly fallen upon evil days.

EDGAR ALLEN POE AS A SOLDIER. (Baltimore Sun.)

In the Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia for February there is a brief statement of the results of a careful investigation of the military record of E. A. Poe, the famous author of the "Raven" and many original stories. It is shown by the records of the War Department at Washington that Poe enlisted as a private in the United States Army, served nearly two years with distinction—attaining the rank of sergeant-major—and was honorably discharged. His enlistment—which took place three years after Byron's death—was because was a boy-freak prompted perhaps by books of military adventure. He served under the name of E. A. Perry, his right name coming into the record only in connection with his offer of a substitute. The enlistment was at Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, May 26, 1827. Poe is described by Lieutenant H. Griswold, who enlisted him, as 23 years old, 5 feet 8 inches in height, having gray eyes, brown hair and fair complexion. He was assigned to Battery H, First Artillery, which was soon after transferred to Fort Monroe, S. C. Poe having been discharged at Fort Monroe, Va. Nearly two years after entering the army Poe was advanced to the non-commissioned staff, having while at Fort Monroe showed ability that attracted attention. On April 15, 1829, he offered a substitute and was honorably discharged. It is interesting to note that the rank of sergeant-major. On July 1, 1830, Poe was admitted to the Military Academy at West Point and on March 6 of the following year was dismissed by order of court-martial. The company roll shows that there was no ground for the allegation, made during Lincoln's administration, that Poe left the barracks at Fort Monroe and was absent some time before his honorable discharge in April, 1829. The university honors itself by honoring the memory of its distinguished alumnus. The records have already brought to light various interesting facts of his life, and it is to be hoped that it will after a time produce a verified biography which will be accepted the world over as authoritative.