The Free Lance

Devoted to the Agricultural, Commercial and Manufacturing Interests of Fredericksburg and the Tidewater and Piedmont Country.

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THE OLDEST MAN IN AMERICA

Tells How He Escaped the Terrors of Many Winters by Using Pe-ru-na.

Mr. Brock's Age is 114 Years.

MR. ISAAC BROCK, BORN IN BUNCOMBE CO., N. C., MARCH 1, 1788.

His age is 114 years, vouched for by authentic record. He says: "I attribute my extreme old age to the use of Pe-ru-na."

Born before the United States was formed.
Saw 22 Presidents elected.
Pe-ru-na has protected him from all sudden changes.
Veteran of four wars.
Shod a horse when 99 years old.
Always conquered the grip with Pe-ru-na.
Witness in a land suit at the age of 110 years.
Believes Pe-ru-na the greatest remedy of the age for catarrhal diseases.

ISAAC BROCK, a citizen of McLennan county, Texas, has lived for 114 years. For many years he resided at Bosque Falls, eighteen miles west of Waco, but now lives with his son-in-law at Valley Mills, Texas.

A short time ago, by request, Uncle Isaac came to Waco and sat for his picture. In his hand he held a stick cut from the grave of General Andrew Jackson, which has been carried by him ever since. Mr. Brock is a dignified old gentleman, showing few signs of decrepitude. His family Bible is still preserved, and it shows that the date of his birth was written 114 years ago.

Surely a few words from this remarkable old gentleman, who has had 114 years of experience to draw from, would be interesting as well as profitable. A lengthy biographical sketch is given of this remarkable old man in the Waco Times-Herald, December 4, 1898. A still more pretentious biography of this, the oldest living man, illustrated with a double column portrait, was given the readers of the Dallas Morning News, dated December 11, 1898, and also the Chicago-Times Herald of same date.

This centenarian is an ardent friend of Peruna, having used it many years.

In speaking of his good health and extreme old age, Mr. Brock says:

"After a man has lived in the world as long as I have, he ought to have found out a great many things by experience. I think I have done so.

"One of the things I have found out to my entire satisfaction is the proper thing for ailments that are due directly to the effects of the climate. For 114 years I have withstood the changeable climate of the United States.

"I have always been a very healthy man, but of course subject to the little affections which are due to sudden changes in the climate and temperature. During my long life I have known a great many remedies for coughs, colds and diarrhœa.

"As for Dr. Hartman's remedy Peruna, I have found it to be the best, if not the only, reliable remedy for these affections. It has been my standby for many years, and I attribute my good health and extreme old age to this remedy.

"It exactly meets all my requirements. It protects me from the evil effects of sudden changes; it keeps me in good appetite; it gives me strength; it keeps my blood in good circulation. I have come to rely upon it almost entirely for the many little things for which I need medicine.

"When epidemics of la grippe first began to make their appearance in this country I was a sufferer from this disease.

"I had several long sieges with the grip. At first I did not know that Peruna was a remedy for this disease. When I heard that la grippe was epidemic catarrh, I tried Peruna for la grippe and found it to be just the thing."

Yours truly,

Isaac Brock.

For a free book on catarrh, address The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case, and he will be pleased to give you his valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio.

Big Underselling Prices

PREVAIL AT THE

VIRGINIA CLOTHING HOUSE,

H. FALK, Proprietor,

Open evenings until 9 P. M. 814 Main St, Fredericksburg, Va

Having just returned from the North and secured my selection for a lot of High Grade Tailor made Suits, Pants and Overcoats, having bought the entire stock of the

BALTIMORE CLOTHING MANUFACTURING CO.,

who went into the hands of receivers, I am therefore enabled to put before my patrons and the public in general the above mentioned goods at less than half of manufacturer's price.

Below I quote a few of the Manufacturer's Underselling Prices.

Men's Storm Coats
Fifty-two inches long, with high storm collar, all wool, black lining.
Manufacturer's price, . . $5.50
Underselling price, . . 2.98

Raglans
In all wool oxfords, farmer-satin lined plush pockets, forty-eight inches long.
Manufacturer's price, . . $7.50
Underselling price, . . 4.98

Raglans.
A BETTER GRADE.
DIFFERENT COLORS.
Manufacturer's price, . . $10.50
Underselling price, . . 5.98

Men's Overcoats.
Blue, Brown, Gray, Black and Mixed colors, Overcoats, Raglans and Automobiles, cut in the latest fashion, Silk, Satin, Valure or Wool Serge Linings, in Kerseys, Meltons, Tricos, &c.
Manufacturer's price, . $15 to $25.00
Underselling price, . . 7.98

Cravenettes.
In Gray, Rich Colors, in all sizes, $15.00; well worth $25.00.

Youth's, Boy's and Children's Overcoats
AT HALF MANUFACTURER'S PRICE.

Men's Suits.
The latest style goods, Tailor-made, in Cheviots, Flannels, Worsted and Cashmeres, which have been made up to sell at
Manufacturer's price, . . $4.50
Underselling price, . . . 2.98

Men's Suits.
Double-Breasted, Three Button Sack Suits, in a Fancy Stripe, the latest out.
Manufacturer's price, . . $7.50
Underselling price, . . . 2.98

Men's Suits
In all Wool, Clay—Worsted, fine Tailor-made, best trimming.
Manufacturer's price, . . $8.50
Underselling price, . . . 5.98

Finest Thibet Suits,
In latest Military Cut Sacks, or Three Button Double-Breasted, fine Trimmed.
Manufacturer's price, . . $12.50
Underselling price, . . 9.50

Youth's Long Pants Suits
From $1.98 to $6.50.
Worth double the amount.

Children's Suits,
All sizes and ages, from 75c. to $4.98.

Pants.
We carry a full line. Range in price from 75c. to $6.00. Each pair sold guaranteed to be worth double the money.

Odds and Ends Through the Store.
Big reductions in Winter Shoes.
Men's Heavy Fleeced Lined Under wear from 23c. up.

Ladies' Silk Finished, Ribbed Underwear,
Sold everywhere at 39c. Our price 23c. each.

Ladies' Heavy Fleeced Lined Underwear,
Sold everywhere at $1.00 a suit. Our price 78c.

Neckwear.
All Colors, Shapes and Makes. 25, 35 and 50c. goods to go at 19c.

Men's and Ladies' Handkerchiefs at 3c

Suspenders from 9c. up.

Men's Working Shirts
From 23c. up. Soft and Stiff Bosom Dress Shirts, worth 50, 75c., $1.00, at 49c.

Don't forget the place, as for the next thirty days we will sell goods as advertised. Come early, select your choice and avoid the rush.

VIRGINIA CLOTHING HOUSE,

H. FALK, Proprietor,

Open evenings until 9 P. M. 814 Main St, Fredericksburg, Va.

THE GIRL AND HER BOY FRIENDS

She May be a Little Queen.

The following articles, written by Mrs. J. S. Dill, until recently a resident of this city, now of Bowling Green, Ky., published in the Baptist Argus, of Louisville, Ky., in its issue of January 14th, will be read with interest by many of our subscribers:

The Rowe boys were a sturdy set. Six in all and we often called them the "six He-Rowes." Such noise they would make! The shrill whistle, the loud halloo, the glad, bright laughter often came to us as they played on the large green lawn by the side of their home. One day there came to them a sweet little sister. So gentle and pure. Now those boys loved her, and with what care they watched over her. She so lovely, entering into all their glee and joining their games when not too boisterous, enjoying their fun and ever setting near by during their rough and tumble play. Thus the happy days went by, until the Angel Reaper came and with his sickle garnered this choice flower for the garden of Heaven. The father, speaking of the good done by the short young life, said: "Most of all it had a refining influence on my boys. It made them more gentle, more considerate, more helpful." What if she had lived on to mature years! Who can estimate the good done by "only a sister?"

In this American life of ours, girls need to realize that not only with their brothers at home, but with the larger circle of noisy, teasing boys in the class room and on the play ground, they have an influence they scarcely estimate. There are some lands in which girls and boys, except as brother and sister, are not reared together. But with us, girl and boy, man and woman, mingle together from the cradle to the grave, and very early it is that the girl life has important contact with the boy that is not her brother.

We are not dealing here with that time in a girl's life when "love comes a wooing," but in those earlier years when she is in the glad winsomeness of youth. It is then, by cultivating all the graces of girlhood, she may call forth the admiration of her boy friends. The turn from the rough and tumble game of life to find a softening influence in a girl's presence. Yes, the girl of today has a mission to the boys. Mingling as she does with them in school and class life, in her home and on the street, she should be clean and pure in purpose, kind and gentle in dealings, firm in her thoughts of right and wrong, and with a high ideal. Then may the girl lead her boy friends to noble purpose and determined success. Her influence must be always for the betterment of her boy comrades.

Emerson says: "Our friends are those who make us do what we can;" and the girl who stimulates a boy to his best endeavor proves his best friend. Her influence holds against the strong current of evil. I fear that girls do not realize that often a word or look will deter a boy from wrong.

The cigarette the boy thinks is manly, but which unmans him, is cast aside, because his little girl friend tells him it is not nice. The glass of wine is set down untasted, the ribald jest dies unspoken on the lips, the hand raised to strike falls to the side, all because of the look or word of a pure, sweet girl. Then, in the hour of gross temptation, the memory of that face will hold in check the passion and deter from evil.

Does the girl of today wish thus to influence her boy friends? Then she must never be careless, but always neat in dress; never rude, but always lady-like in manner; never coarse or boisterous, but always chaste and gentle in thought and speech. She must be to him ever a superior and uplifting being.

And then, what of the Christian girl? She who has pledged to serve her Lord and Master? Her individual work may lead her boy friends to find a life of love and duty. By her example she urges them on to a higher life. What more beautiful than a consecrated girl's life given to leading, by her own pure example, her boy friends to make Christ their best friend? Where can more pleasure be found than in innocent merry-making by the young, where Christ is the unseen guest, and the silent listener to every conversation, and at all their games of fun? Such influencee, such pleasures have no sting of remorse. They are pure and unalloyed.

And after all the girl becomes the woman. Those boys become the strong men of the hour. Borne on in the active duties of life, far from personal influence, yet the memory of it all comes as an inspiration; and the boy, now grown to manhood, bears the impress of that influence.

There are some flowers that grow that are beautiful enough to look upon, but which have no fragrance. The perfume that is the soul of the flower-nature has been denied, and we turn from it disappointed. To every "girl-life" there belongs a delicate fragrance, without which she is not her true self. It is in the presence of this maidenly by perfume of character, of even a young girl, that a boy finds the influence that calls out the best there is in him. He takes off his cap and bows to the little queen.

HONORS TO A COLORED MAN.

His Funeral in White Church, of Which He Was Sexton.

Court Street Baptist Church, of Portsmouth, Va., one of the wealthiest Baptist churches in the South, was the scene of a negro funeral. Hundreds of colored people attended the obsequies of Wm. Elliott, who was for forty-nine years the sexton of the church, and who died Tuesday at the age of seventy-six years. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. M. Armistead colored, assisted by Rev. Dr. R B Garrett, pastor of Court Street Church. Rev. A. E. Owen, for twenty-six years pastor of Court Street Church, and other city pastors, assisted in the funeral services over the old colored man. The pall-bearers were the deacons of the church, and among them were bank directors, capitalists and manufacturers.

A PUZZLE WORTH HAVING.

Dr. G. G. Green, of Woodbury, New Jersey, whose advertisement appears in our paper regularly, will mail to any one sending a 2c stamp, to pay postage, one of his new German Syrup and August Flower Puzzles, made of wood and glass. It amuses and perplexes young and old. Although very difficult, it can be mastered. Mention this paper.

Unless you have a good reason for doing a thing you have an excellent excuse for not doing it.

THE LIBRARY.

Annual Report of the Fredericksburg Library Association.

The Fredericksburg Public Library, which has been closed for repairs during the past week, will be re-opened on Tuesday, Jan. 19th. At the beginning of a new year of work the Library Association wishes to thank the patrons who have so loyally supported this institution during the past year. The increase in the number of subscribers on the roll shows the growing interest felt in this enterprise which is so justly dear to the hearts of all those who are working for the growth of our town along the higher lines. The members of the association feel, however, that there are still many names lacking on their list of subscribers that we should naturally expect to find enrolled in this effort to lift the standard of culture and education in Fredericksburg, and to give to our young people the open sesame to what is best in the world of literature and science. It has been reported to the association that complaint has been made that the work has been carried on so quietly that many in the town were ignorant of the rules and methods followed. To meet this objection the association has determined to publish a few facts in relation to the library.

The management of the library is directly under the control of two committees—an Executive and a Book Committee, each numbering eight ladies. Miss Vivian Conway is chairman of the Executive Committee. This committee looks after all the business interests of the institution. The duty of the Book Committee is to select all books bought for the library, subject to the supervision of the chairman of the Executive Committee. No librarian is employed, the chairman discharges the duties of that office, assisted by the members of both committees. All money received from subscriptions is spent in the purchase of books, except what is absolutely required for incidental expenses. The price of a year's subscription is one dollar, and a subscriber is entitled to two books for two weeks' time. The library now contains nearly three thousand volumes. These include the best standard works in all branches of literature as well as the popular books of the day. In selecting the books the effort is made as far as possible to suit the tastes of all the subscribers, and two copies are always supplied of the novels of the day that are most in demand.

The committee has added 120 books to the library in the past year, and hopes to make still larger additions in the coming year if well supported by the patrons of the institution.

The members of the association hope that when these facts are brought before the public, the people of our town will be aroused to take a still more active interest in this work that is of such vital importance to the educational interests and intellectual and moral development of our young people. We are all proud of Fredericksburg's historic past, and of the many distinguished sons that she has given to her country's service, but we wish also to turn our faces to the future and to give such opportunities to the rising generation that, when the call comes for men of thought and action, Fredericksburg may be able to respond as when she gave John Paul Jones to first unfurl the banner of the Stars and Stripes, and George Washington to weld from independent and antagonistic States the mightiest republic that the world has ever seen.

FLURRY IN POSTAL TRIAL

Inspector Mayer Accused of Interviewing Witness Before Testifying.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The trial of August W. Machen and the others indicted with him for conspiracy to defraud the government is proceeding rapidly. The government put in evidence a number of documents having a direct bearing on the dealings of the Groff brothers with Machen's division in the postoffice department, and bank officials gave testimony regarding the deposits of the Groffs and the checks drawn against these deposits.

The fact was brought out by two witnesses representing firms which manufactured the Groff fastener that the price to the Groffs of the complete fastener was 25 cents, with a rebate of 5 cents on each fastener, conditioned on prompt settlement of bills. The price at which the fasteners were furnished to the government at first was fixed at $1.50 each, but later it was reduced to $1.25 each.

A flurry was created during one stage of the proceedings, when Attorney Kumler, representing the Lorenz's, complained to the court that Postoffice Inspector Walter S. Mayer had been talking to witnesses before they came on the stand. Mayer denied the charge. When, subsequently, the matter again cropped out and Attorney Kumler said he had positive information that Mayer had committed the offense, Justice Pritchard rebuked the inspector and warned him against its repetition. District Attorney Beach demanded an affidavit to prove the assertion, which Mr. Kumler said he would furnish later in the day, but the matter apparently was allowed to drop, as the affidavit was not presented.

GOOD SPIRITS.

Good spirits don't all come from Kentucky. Their main source is the liver—and all the fine spirits ever made in the Blue Grass State could not remedy a bad liver or the hundred and one ill effects it produces. You can't have good spirits and a bad liver at the same time. Your liver must be in fine condition if you would feel buoyant, happy and hopeful, bright of eye, light of step, vigorous and successful in your pursuits. You can put your liver in fine condition by using Green's August Flower—the greatest of all medicines for the liver and stomach, and a certain cure for dyspepsia or indigestion. It has been a favorite househould remedy for over thirty-five years. August Flower will make your liver healthy and active, and thus insure you a liberal supply of good spirits. Trial size 25c, regular bottles 75c. At all druggists'.

Some men practice economy all their lives but never learn it.

When some men fall in love it takes a minister and a divorce judge to get them out.

IN VIRGINIA.

The roses nowhere bloom so white
As in Virginia;
The sunshine nowhere shines so bright
As in Virginia;
The birds sing nowhere quite so sweet,
And nowhere hearts so lightly beat—
For heaven and earth both seem to meet
Down in Virginia.

The days are never quite so long
As in Virginia;
And when my time has come to die,
Just take me back and let me lie
Close where the James goes rolling by
Down in Virginia.

There nowhere is land so fair
As in Virginia;
So full of song, so free of care,
As in Virginia;
And I believe that Happy Land
The Lord's prepared for mortal man
Is built exactly on the plan
Of Old Virginia.

VIRGINIA SCHOOL REPORT.

New Age Limit Provision Causes Decrease in Number of Pupils.

The annual report of the superintendent of public instruction shows that there are now 8,965 schools in Virginia, eighty-nine less than a year ago, because of the consolidation of small schools. There are 257,138 white pupils and 118,463 negroes, a slight decrease because of the constitutional provision fixing the age of entrance at seven years. In the higher branches of the public schools the number of whites has increased from 10,336 to 11,523, and the negroes have decreased from 1,176 to 865.

There are 1,671 white male teachers and 5,200 females. Of the colored teachers there are 706 males and 1,497 females.

Stafford Writings.

List of writings which have been admitted to record in the Clerk's office of Stafford County Court, since the December term:

Deeds of Bargain and Sale—George Bullock et ux to Wm. H Carter; R. H. L Chichester, special commissioner, to Geo. Armstrong; James Ross et ux to R. F. & P. R. R; John B. Bourne et ux to same; James Ross et ux to same; R. S. Payne to Nannie Payne; Lewis Nelson et ux to Unie Boswell; Alex Pratt et als to Abraham Newton, Mary Edrington et als to R. F. & P. R.R.; Kate Lee to Mattise Lee; R. C. Perry et ux to Peter Johnson; Charles D. Taliaferro et ux to Wm. P. Anderson; E. A. Groves et ux to R. F. & P. R. R.; M. K. Lowry et ux to same; Susan A. Cox and husband to Edward White; Albert O Mays to Jake Goldsmith; Jake Goldsmith to Miss Mary Mays.

Deeds of Trust—Wm. H. Carter et ux to R. H. L. Chichester; Thomas Williams et ux to T. W. Berrey.

Fines—Paid into Court: Commonwealth vs. Jake Shackelford, $2.50; same vs. Strother Shackleford, $2.50. Paid by W. F. Dodd, J. P.: Commonwealth vs. Geo. Dye, $5.00; Commonwealth vs. Dock Jones, $2.50; Commonwealth vs. Wellington Hill, $2.50.

Another Alleged Ghoul Arrested.

Chicago, Jan. 20.—The police arrested Frank Uhler, a printer, 19 years of age, on a charge of robbing the dead after the fire in the Iroquois theatre. Uhler attempted to dispose of a diamond ring valued at $850, and when he was taken into custody confessed that he had stolen it from the hand of a dead man which was hanging over the edge of a wagon when the load of corpses was piled up in front of the morgue.

Judge Crump Reappointed.

Judge Bev. T. Crump, chairman of the State corporation commission, has been named by Gov. Montague to succeed himself for the term of six years, beginning Feb. 1, 1904. Judge Crump is now chairman of the commission.

The man who can't afford to travel enjoys it more than the man who can.

Don't think a girl always comes from an old family because she looks it.

Heaven isn't exclusive enough for some society people.

WOOLEN MILL STORE

is the place to buy

Silks, Flannels,

CLOTH,

BLANKETS, DRESS GOODS

AND

YARN.

Bradford Building,

Commerce St.

GREETING!

Having passed through another year's business, which was one of phenomenal success, we extend to one and all our most hearty thanks for their patronage, and can assure you it is highly appreciated. Our methods of business,

Accuracy, Measure, Honesty, Promptness and Politeness,

have made us the enormous trade we now control.

To our customers that had to leave our store during the holiday rush without being served, we wish to say in the future we will have a larger number of clerks and your orders will be promptly filled. Again thanking you and soliciting your further valued commands, we are,

Respectfully yours,

Strasburger & Son

SECURE YOUR

STOVES

and Stove Pipe

You know the line we sell, direct from the factory. We save you money on every stove. Merchants, write for wholesale prices on stove pipe and elbows. Foreign and domestic Carpets and Rugs.

High Grade Furniture

of every description. Elegant Leather Couches and Easy Rockers and Davenports. Stock of Furniture, Carpet, Stoves, Tinware, China, Cutlery, complete. Over a thousand yards of Mattings to close out.

E. C. NINDE,
FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

J. T. Lowery & Co.

Fredericksburg, Va.

Cheapest Dry Goods and Notion House

IN VIRGINIA.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

THE BEST LINIMENT
In the World for anything
that a Liniment is needed for.

SLOAN'S LINIMENT
KILLS PAIN

SURE~SAFE~SCIENTIFIC
All Dealers

Do You Wear Shoes?

Largest and nicest display of fine Shoes ever seen here.

All the latest styles in FALL FOOTWEAR at our store.

You get a better fit, better shoes and later styles.

"Queen Quality" Shoes for Ladies.
"Walk-Over" Shoes for Men.

Everything in the shoe line at our store.

Brown & Crismond.

Health Begets Happiness

What could be better to begin the New Year with than the installation of modern sanitary open plumbing in your house, which insures good health and protection against sewer gas and foul odors. Get an estimate from E. J. Cain & Co., where plumbing work is the best in the trade and at reasonable prices.

E. J. CAIN & CO.