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SCOTLAND NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1897.

NO. 8.

THE EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

Points and Paragraphs of Things
Present, Past and Future.

Christmas is usually a lively season
with most people, and it is a little
strange how some people do enjoy the
rough-and-tumble side of Christmas
fun. The Durham Sun says:
"Some thirty-seven people were dis-
figured by fireworks in this State during
the recent Christmastide, and the re-
turns are not all in yet. The sky rock-
et flies high and falls hard, but it seems
we are bound to have it."

Gen. G. W. C. Lee, who has been
president of Washington and Lee Uni-
versity since his father, Gen. Robt E.
Lee, died in 1870, has resigned his posi-
tion his resignation to take effect July 1,
1897. He was at once appointed Pres-
ident Emeritus for life, and he will
still be interested in the great institu-
tion. Ill health was the cause of his
resignation.

The first woman Senator hails from
Utah. She is Mrs. Martha Hughes
Cannon, one the three wives of her
Mormon husband whom she beat in the
fight for the State Senate. She says
that women are better than men, for
slaves are always better than their mas-
ters. But Mrs. Cannon will not cut
much of a figure in the affairs of her
State, we predict; for it is not in ac-
cord with what the American people
have always regarded the fitness of
things for women to hold offices which
call for masculine dignity.

Many of the churches in Richmond,
Va., held "old year service" on the
night of Dec. 31st, between 10 and 12
o'clock. Perhaps there was a solemnity
about it, after all, that would not have
come to the minds of the worshippers
anywhere else or at any other time;
and if this was true it was by no means
a profitless worship, however much
some might be inclined to think lightly
of it. Whatever makes men think
holier thoughts, entertain more lofty
ideas of living, is helpful and should
everywhere be encouraged.

On Christmas day egg-nog and wine
were served to the inmates of the alms-
house near Norfolk. The Women's
Christian Temperance Union had severe
strictures on the management of the
almshouse for giving to the inmates
the very thing which was perhaps in-
strumental in bringing them there.
Dr. L. C. Sheperd, physician to the
almshouse, assumed all the responsibil-
ity, but the W. C. T. U. passed strong
resolutions against such a course to-
wards the persons for whom they had
been doing charity work for many
years.

The "Grand Old Man," Hon. William
E. Gladstone, celebrated his 87th birth-
day at Howden, England, on Dec.
29th. Church bells were rung in the
village and general congratulations
were sent the venerable statesman.
Telegrams were numerous from all
parts of England as well as from the
United States. Mr. Gladstone is per-
haps the greatest statesman of the cen-
tury; and while England feels a pecu-
liar pride in claiming him as her own,
all the world rejoices that the great and
good man has lived in this century,
and all peoples feel grateful that his
years have been so lengthened and so
filled with usefulness.

Some of the pictures prophesied for
the opening of the twentieth century
are pleasing indeed. Among the most
marked improvements contemplated
are good roads, flying machines, com-
munications with the planet Mars,
photography that will show one's
thoughts, the cure of all diseases except
old age.

These things, to be sure, are shown
in tinsel colors, but there is no telling
what four years may bring about. It
may be that in many parts of the
country the highway will no longer be
"a mud-river in winter and a dust-
cloud in summer." Also the flying
machine may be a means of locomo-
tion. While we cannot accurately
forecast these things, we may be well
assured that wonderful things will turn
up in our land by the year 1900.

THE NEW YEAR.

MANY HELPFUL HINTS.

Some Rambling Thoughts.

BY "XEMO."

(Copyrighted.)

(These "Thoughts," by a layman,
are read in five hundred thousand
homes, scattered in every State of the
Union. In this county they will be
found week by week in the columns of
this paper only, as we have made ar-
rangements with the author for their
exclusive publication.)

In every hamlet of the country last
week there were shoutings and noise
to welcome in the New Year. I can-
not understand this almost univer-
sal exultation. It is hardly because of
what we have done, for a good many of
us have accomplished nothing more
remarkable than the making of a jour-
ney of 365 days nearer to the end. And
then we howl with joy at the prospect
of 365 more to be spent in an equally
aimless fashion. Perhaps it is the joy,
exaggerated, of the child who rubs off
one puzzling example from the black-
board and then starts again. This sup-
position brings me to the question of
New Year's resolves.

By an absurd misfitness this season
has come to be regarded as the favor-
able time for making resolutions—a ten-
dency that results, unfortunately, in
keeping the Recorder of Deeds most
busy writing down the failures and
mistakes. To lump all good intentions
into one day of the year, while our
carelessness of good during all the other
days has weakened our moral fiber, is
to invite failure, absolute and nausea-
ting. The time for a good resolution is
the time that any particular tempta-
tion is strongest. Then while right in
the whirl of the struggle against wrong-
doing, a sincere deep-felt determination
is much more likely to be effective than
if we reserve it for the clearing-house
day of the year. For at this opening
of the year, it is not at all unlikely that
many of the temptations that have as-
sailed us most strenuously in the year
gone by will be absent, and our resolu-
tions, therefore, will be worse than
useless because of their lulling influ-
ences upon our moral senses. We are to
fight hour by hour and day by day, and
not once a year. The sailor cannot
temporize with a storm and say: "Rude
Boreas, if you will kindly come bluster-
ing here on the 1st of January, I shall
then be in harbor with everything snug."
No, the poor fellow must hustle
up the whistling shrouds, hang on by
skin of his teeth while he clears away
the wreckage above, pull and haul,
strain and struggle, till by supreme
effort he makes everything safe. Learn
from him!

Then let us not make futile resolves,
regarding the whole category of sins
and weaknesses, against which life is a
constant battle. But if we must "re-
solve," just to be like others, then let
it be "To be watchful, unrelenting with
ourselves; to crush the lower nature;
to feed the higher; to scatter seeds of
kindness, unofficially and gently, day
in and day out." If we die rich, our
heirs scramble for the dross we leave
behind; if we die poor, we are "only
paupers whom nobody owns"; if we die
learned, others will arise mightier than
we; but, if either rich, poor, or learned,
we die beloved, then are our lives are not
in vain, and our memories shall live at
least as long as those who loved us.
So you money-makers—as you turn to
your vain and dismal task; you poor
folks with another dreary grind of labor
before you; you students piling up
knowledge that will surely slip from
you, glorify and transmute it all into
beauty and grandeur by an honest ef-
fort to live the Golden Rule.

Be not among those who rejoice in
finding out evil-doing and weakness in
others. There are some who seemingly
take more pleasure in discovering a
worm at the heart of a noble tree than
in standing off to admire its symmetry.
To such, a lion is not a noble beast, but
merely the supporter of some disgust-
ing parasites. To such, a clump of
woods is not a thing of beauty, but
merely a harbor for wood-ticks. To
such, great and good characters are in-
conceivable. Each one hath its wood-
tick, its parasite, its worm, and they
rejoice thereat. To you tender-hearted
maiden too kind to hurt an animal, to
you brawny boys too manly to smite a
fellow from behind; to you mothers
and fathers, the tutors and guides of
boys and girls,—shut down relentlessly
on "gossip" in the year to come. A
shrug of the shoulders, a questioning
tone, or an unjust surmise, may serve
to blast a reputation that has been
built by years of goodness. Almost
every closing thought this week is on
the horror of injustice, the depth of mean-
ness shown in idle talk by those whose

hearts are tender and noble in every
other respect.

There is for most of us poor mortals
a large degree of isolation in life. Our
inner experiences we cannot voice to
those around us; our battles with wrong
within are beyond human ken; even
outward sorrows call for scarcely more
than a passing thought of sympathy
on the part of the great rushing world,
whose time permits it to enter into our
feelings about as fully as the scientist
enters into the anxieties and tears of
the insect that squirms under his mi-
croscope. What fools we mortals be,
who add to our isolation in the crowded
ways of life by sticking out the porcu-
pine quills of repulsion. To have
friends to do for us, we must show a
willingness to do and suffer for them.

My New Year's wish to you is that
the best wishes of all those who love
you best may be fully realized.

The Last Dollar.

Youth's Companion.
A prosperous New Yorker who in
the course of twenty-five years has at-
tained high distinction in his profes-
sion, attributes his success in a large
measure to his father's good sense in
appealing to his manliness and pride.

He had been an indolent student at
college, and had made a poor use of his
advantages; and as soon as he was
graduated he asked his father to allow
him to go to New York and to study
law. The father's reply was brusque
and forcible.

"So far as I can make it out, you have
wasted your time at college," he said,
"and there is no ground for faith in
your success at the bar. Still you may
do as you like. I shall give you one
hundred dollars; but remember that
when you have spent your last dollar,
it will be useless to ask me for money."

This reads like an unkind, unsympa-
thetic speech, but the son treasures it
to this day as a rich legacy from a wise
father. It helped to develop in him a
spirit of many independence. It made
him set his teeth together, and resolve
that under no circumstances would he
ask his father for another dollar.

A strange glow of excitement bright-
ens the veteran's face whenever he tells
the story of his last dollar.

When he reached New York the let-
ters of introduction upon which he had
depended, failed to secure an opening
for him, and he found himself without
a friend in the great city. Week after
week he walked the streets in search of
employment in stores, factories and of-
fices, and he received no encouragement.
His lodgings became poorer and poorer,
his luncheon was dropped, and at last
he had only one meal a day.

There came a day when he had only
one dollar left in his pocket. It was late
in the afternoon, and he had eaten
nothing since the previous night. With
this last dollar unbroken he secured a
clerkship in a dry-goods store, and the
crisis of his fortunes was passed. Six
months afterward there was an opening
for him in a law office, and eventually
he became a successful lawyer.

A metropolitan banker recently re-
marked that his bank was an asylum
for millionaires' grandsons. "I have
said," and not one of them has the en-
ergy required for earning his living un-
aided. If they were poor men, without
wealth, they would find it for their ben-
efit to learn something in my bank,
and to fit themselves for useful careers."
That was a cynical remark at the ex-
pense of rich men's sons; but it is true
that hard and painful experiences, like
the young collegian's search for em-
ployment with his last dollar in his
pocket, toughen the fibre of one's man-
hood and develop force of character,
and, with the possession of good mental
qualities, contribute to success in life.

Palms.

New York Times.
A new wrinkle about palms which
a London florist indorses is that the
leaves should be washed, not with pure
water but with milk and water, which
has a wonderful way of preserving them
and preventing the appearance of the
brown spots which are so disfiguring.
Another suggestion about "palms" is
that a little cold coffee poured over the
earth at the roots occasionally will be
found beneficial. Coffee is a good fer-
tilizer. This treatment is specially
recommended for hyacinths.

HOW A WOMAN PAID HER DEBTS.

A lady in Lexington says: "I am out
of debt and thanks to the Dishwasher
business. In the past six weeks I have
made \$530.00. Every house-keeper
wants a Dishwasher, and any intelli-
gent person can sell them with big
profit to himself. The Dishwasher is
lovely, you can wash and dry the family
dishes in two minutes, and without
wetting your hands. You can get par-
ticulars by addressing the Mound
City Dishwasher Co., St. Louis Mo.
There is big money in the business for
an agent. I expect to clear \$4,000 the
coming year. I need the money, why
not make it."
Miss C. E.

FEARFUL HOLOCAUST.

TRAIN DASHED FROM A BRIDGE
AND BURNED.

The Fearful Deed of Train Wreckers.

Baltimore Sun.

Birmingham, Ala., December 27.—
Twenty-seven lives were lost by the
wrecking of a passenger train of the
Birmingham Mineral Railroad Company
at Cahaba River bridge, twenty-
seven miles from this city, at 7:50
o'clock this morning.

The wreck was caused by the remov-
al of a rail on the middle span of the
bridge. The train plunged into the
shallow river, 110 feet below. It took
fire after the fall and burned to the
edge of the water, which was between
three and four feet deep.

After the crash robbers rushed to
the scene and plundered the dead and dying.
There seems to be little doubt that
these robbers removed the rail which
was missing from the bridge.

Of the passengers and crew but nine
persons escaped alive. Most of the pas-
sengers were miners, who had round-
trip holiday tickets and were return-
ing to their homes.

The Mineral railroad trains are op-
erated over the Southern railway's
Brierfield, Blockton and Birmingham
branch under a contract. On this part
of the route the disaster occurred.

Six miles south of Gurnee is the Ca-
haha river, a shallow mountain stream.
This river is spanned by an iron bridge
with wooden trestles on each side. The
entire length of the bridge is 800 feet
and the length of the main span, on
which the wreck occurred, is 110 feet.
The bridge was built four years ago and
was regarded as strong. The main
span is made of iron.

When the crash came, the locomotive
landed on its side, almost at right
angles with the track. The cars were
piled upon each other. The entire
wreck took fire soon afterward, and was
rapidly burned.

Meanwhile a few persons gathered at
the scene to render what aid they could,
but it was too late to do much. Nine
persons had gotten out of the wreck
and the others had been burned.

When the relief train from Birming-
ham arrived the wounded were quick-
ly attended to and sent to Blockton for
further attention. The work of taking
out the dead then began. Nothing was
left of the wreckage but the smoulder-
ing ruins. Charred bodies were packed
in between the iron framework where
the seats had been.

Most of the bodies had been burned
beyond recognition. Some had their
heads burned off and of others nothing
was left but skeletons. As rapidly as
possible the bodies of the victims were
taken out and laid in a row on the
river bank.

Samuel Spencer, colored, was the on-
ly one of the train crew who escaped
alive. He was the fireman. Spencer
jumped from the locomotive while it
was in midair and landed in the water
some distance from where the train fell.
His only injury was a broken arm. He
left the scene for Blockton on foot soon
after the wreck almost crazed with
fright.

Of the other survivors three are
children, all of whom had their feet
burned and mashed. A lady, who had
both her feet crushed, also escaped
alive. Among the other survivors are
Henry Handberry, a railroad conduc-
tor from Birmingham, who was taking
his wife and two children out for a trip,
and William Gardner and Andrew Bry-
son, miners from Blockton.

Handberry was on the same seat
with his wife and children when the
crash came. The wife and children
were killed and he was pinned down
and would have been burned alive had
he not been rescued by Bryson and
Gardner. These two men also saved
the lady and three children mentioned
above, who were pinned down and ap-
pealed piteously for help.

By the time these five persons had
been rescued the heat had become so
intense that Gardner and Bryson were
compelled to desist their work of rescue.
It is believed that fully three-fourths
of the dead were killed outright in the
crash, while the other five were pinned
down and burned to death. Gardner
and Bryson were both severely hurt.

Dr. Ray, a Blocton physician, who
attended Gardner, telegraphs to-night
the statement made by Gardner as to
the cause of the wreck. Gardner says
that when he felt the cars leave the
track he looked out and saw three sav-
age looking men rushing from a hiding
place near the water's edge. After the
wreck, he says, they robbed the dead
and injured, and then fled to the woods.
They did their work quickly, and offer-
ed no assistance toward rescue. Other
facts tend to show that the disaster was
the work of train wreckers.

An examination of the locomotive
shows that Engineer White had shut
off the steam and reversed before it
went down, indicating that he saw
danger as he approached the bridge and
tried to stop the train. His charred
body was found with his hand on the
throttle.

Disappeared from the Face
of the Earth.

Norfolk Virginian.

The Island of Juan Fernandez—Rob-
inson Crusoe's land—has disappeared
from the face of the earth. According
to the Savannah News the captain of
a vessel which arrived at Lisbon recent-
ly reported that he saw the island blown
to pieces by a volcanic eruption, and
another sea captain who arrived at San
Francisco the other day declares the
island is gone, and that he believes the
other captain's story.

There is no other news concerning
the sinking of the island, but it is quite
possible that it has disappeared, for the
reason that volcanic and earthquake
disturbances have been known to de-
stroy islands before. Then considering
the situation, why not Juan Fernandez
as well? The fact that the island was
of volcanic origin renders the report of
the disappearance not improbable. It
will be recalled that some ten or twelve
years ago a volcanic outbreak occurred
at Krakatau, off the Coast of Java,
when many miles of land were subsided
in the sea and many were lost. In fact,
history furnishes other instances of the
kind, and while earthquakes and vol-
canic disturbances have not been as
serious in late years as was the case
many years ago, yet the action of the
volcanoes or the Mediterranean shores,
even during the present century, shows
how possible it is for Juan Fernandez
to have been destroyed as reported.

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it still.

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