

# The Old Commonwealth.

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**TILDEN AND REFORM.**  
Come all ye honest Democrats,  
Let each man raise his voice;  
The time has come for every man  
To let his heart rejoice.  
We'll gather round the good old flag,  
With hearts both true and warm,  
And give three honest, rousing cheers  
For Tilden and Reform.

**CHORUS.**  
Three cheers for Tilden!  
Three for Hancock, too!  
Stand by the good old flag,  
The red, white and blue. (Repeat.)

Come, let us live as once we lived,  
Obey our country's laws—  
The Constitution as it is,  
The Union as it was.  
We'll take the Democratic whip,  
And bravely face the storm,  
And hand her safe in port again  
With Tilden and Reform.

Come, strike now while the iron is hot,  
Rescue WASHINGTON  
The work of "honest government"  
Has earnestly begun,  
Let's show to all the world,  
And give the wild alarm,  
For then know the victors are  
For Tilden and Reform.

Come, rally 'round the good old flag  
That won the world's applause  
When Jackson fought at New Orleans,  
And honest men made laws,  
Unchain the mind of Liberty,  
To cast away the chains,  
God bless our country! let us shout  
For Tilden and Reform.

Come, now's the time! 'Tis better far  
We all sleep in our graves  
Than to submit to men who've made  
Us nothing but their slaves.  
Let Liberty lift up her eyes  
To heaven, and bid us rise,  
And say, "Thank God! the country's saved  
Through Tilden and Reform."

**LOTTIE'S BALL DRESS.**  
"Do you think it is best for us to go,  
Lottie?"  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mellen had  
been married scarcely more than a  
year—not long enough for the first  
glow to be worn off her wedding ring  
—not long enough to forget the en-  
chanted gold shine of the honeymoon,  
and now upon this clear December  
morning, the young wife sat at the  
breakfast table in the most becoming  
splendor of rose-ribbons and dove-colored  
cashmere, with an open note in her  
hand, and her blue eyes sparkling with  
delighted animation. A pretty picture  
to look upon, for Mrs. Mellen was  
very pretty—a tall, velvet cheeked  
blonde, with her hair shining like  
braided sunbeams beneath the coquet-  
tish little breakfast cap she wore.

"Best, Clarence? Why, of course it  
is best. Lulu Sparks would give her  
ears to get cards to Mrs. Benedict's  
ball."  
"I dare say," said Mr. Mellen, dry-  
ly. "But did you ever read *La Fon-  
taine's Fables*?"  
"What do you mean, Clarence?"  
"Only that contains a story con-  
cerning an iron pot and a crockery  
pot, that swam down stream together.  
Of course the china pot got smashed."  
"I don't see what your ridiculous  
old fables have to do with me."  
"A great deal, my love. Mr. Bened-  
ict is a rich banker. I am only con-  
fidential clerk in his brother's employ.  
Mr. Benedict has a thousand dollars,  
probably, where I have one. Our  
spheres lie apart. Is it best then for  
us to compete with him in any one re-  
spect?"  
"Because we attend a ball at their  
house, we need not necessarily compete  
with them," pouted the young wife,  
beginning to pull at the fringe of her  
breakfast napkin. "Of course, if they  
invite us, it is only natural to suppose  
that they want us to come."  
"Yes, my dear, we are invited out  
of compliment to Mr. Benedict's  
brother, who is kind enough to think  
favorably of your humble servant."  
"And it would be very rude not to  
go."  
"I don't think regrets would be taken  
in bad part, Charlotte. Besides, what  
have you to wear that would compare  
with the toilets of Mrs. Bentley  
Benedict's fashionable friend?"  
"That's just what I was going to  
speak about," said Mrs. Mellen. "I  
really did need a new silk dress. That  
pea-green affair is actually beginning  
to look shabby, and the black silk I  
had when we were married is positively  
old-fashioned by this time."  
"It is only fifteen months to Lottie."  
"But fashion is so capricious, you  
know. Now there's a lilac moire an-  
tique at Grant's—the loveliest shade  
you ever saw, and a positive bargain,  
on account of their being only twenty-  
two yards in the pattern. I can get it  
for eighty-five dollars, and sister Helen  
will lend me her point-lace flounces  
to trim it with."  
"Eighty-five dollars, Lottie! And  
for a moire antique dress? Do you  
know, my dear, that is almost one-  
tenth of my year's salary!"  
"One must look decent once in a  
while."

He shook his head gravely.  
"No, Lottie, I am sorry to seem  
hard or unkind, but this is so wild an  
idea that I can only conclude that you  
have not thought sufficiently about it  
yourself. Mrs. Benedict is very kind  
to invite us to this ball, but you must  
write a declination."  
Lottie burst into tears for the first  
time since their wedding-day. Mr.  
Mellen stalked out of the room without  
a good-bye kiss.  
That afternoon came up a hurried  
note from the office, as follows:  
"DARLING LOTTIE:—Please send by  
the bearer my valise, with a few  
changes of linen and other necessities,  
for an absence of eight or ten days on  
business for the firm. Inclosed you  
will find a fifty dollar bill for the paint-  
er—a debt which ought to have been  
attended to before. Take a receipt.  
Be careful of yourself while I am gone.  
I wish I could have run up to say  
adien, but time presses. If you are  
lonely, get one of your sisters to come  
and stay with you. Affectionately,  
"CLARENCE."

Lottie had been crying all the morn-  
ing, but now her eyes glittered. A  
new brightness came into her face as  
she hurried hither and thither, putting  
up her husband's things. And after  
the messenger had gone, she looked

down at the fifty dollar bill in her  
hand.  
"Eight or ten days," repeated to  
herself, "I'll go to the ball, after all,  
with Helen and her husband. I'll  
take this money and buy the moire  
antique. Grant will wait on me for  
the other \$35, I am sure; and as for  
the painter, just as likely as not he's  
in no hurry for his money, and if he  
is, I'll write to Uncle Jesse to lend me  
fifty dollars. I was always Uncle Jesse's  
favorite niece."  
And this eager young woman threw  
on her bonnet and shawl and hurried  
down to Grant's to buy the remnant  
of lilac moire antique.  
"Oh, certainly, certainly! Mr. Grant  
was in no hurry at all for the money.  
He would wait Mrs. Mellen's con-  
venience any length of time she chose to  
mention."  
And he unfolded the rich fabric,  
skillfully holding it up so that the  
light should strike its rosy sheen to  
the best possible advantage.  
"How beautiful it was! Amethysts  
shot with glimmering lines of silver—  
buds of spring violets in the sunshine  
—midsummer sunsets! Lottie thought  
of all these beautiful things as she  
thought of it.  
"Pray send it home at once," she  
said, laying down her fifty dollar bill,  
"and credit this on my account."  
And then she tripped around to the  
dressmaker's.  
Mrs. Parkerson was at the dress-  
maker's—a plump rosy widow, with more  
money than she knew how to spend.  
She had always liked young Mrs. Mel-  
len, and now entered with alacrity in-  
to her plans.  
"A nice place to go, my dear," said  
she. "Once let yourself be seen at  
one of Mrs. Benedict's parties, and  
your position in society is settled at  
once. I have cards myself; but, of  
course, so soon after my poor brother's  
death, I couldn't go out. And you're  
to go in lilac moire antique, eh, my  
dear? I'll tell you what—I want  
you to look nice, and I'll lend you my  
diamonds."  
Lottie's cheeks flushed exultantly as  
she thought of Mrs. Parkerson's di-  
amond necklace, with its glittering pen-  
dents, and the bracelets studded with  
gems, to say nothing of the great sol-  
itaires, like drops of dew that hung  
from her ear-rings.  
"Oh, Mrs. Parkerson!" she exclaim-  
ed breathlessly, "how can I ever thank  
you?"  
"Look as pretty as you can, my  
dear," said Mrs. Parkerson, good na-  
turally. "That's the way to thank  
me."  
Miss Mously, the dressmaker, and  
Mrs. Mellen were in deep consultation  
as to whether the front of the dress  
should be cut *a la Pompadour*, or with  
corsage, the next day, when the latter  
was summoned down stairs. There  
stood Mr. Pepper, the painter, in the  
hall.  
"Begging your pardon, ma'am, for in-  
terrupting you," said he, humbly fold-  
ing his cap; "but Mr. Mellen told me  
you would let me have the money on  
my little account!"  
Lottie crimsoned.  
"I am very sorry, Mr. Pepper," said  
she nervously; "but you must call again  
next month!"  
"Mr. Mellen said you'd pay me with-  
out delay, ma'am."  
"I can't help what Mr. Mellen said,"  
exclaimed Lottie. "I haven't the mo-  
ney. That's enough!"  
"But ma'am, I was assured I should  
have it, and I need it, ma'am, to send my  
wife out West to her mother's, and—"  
"I have no time to stand here talk-  
ing any longer," said Lottie, mortified,  
ashamed, yet still endeavoring to per-  
suade herself that the man had no busi-  
ness to be persistent. "I will let you  
have the sum as soon as possible. In  
the meantime you must wait!"  
Pepper went away with a sad face,  
which haunted Mrs. Mellen for many a  
day, and Lottie returned to the dress-  
making operations.

The lilac moire antique was made  
and fitted superbly. Sister Helen, who  
had a rich husband, lent the point-lace  
flounces and scarf, and Mrs. Park-  
erson's maid-servant brought around the  
satin waistcoat of diamonds early in the  
afternoon, and Lottie Mellen went to  
Mrs. Benedict's ball, in the same car-  
riage with her sister and sister's hus-  
band.  
"For once, I am equal to any mil-  
lionaire's wife on the avenue," thought  
Lottie, with a thrill of triumph at her  
heart.  
Her entrance made a sensation. She  
was quite aware of that as she swept  
through the brilliantly lighted rooms;  
and it was no small wonder, for she was  
as beautiful as a vision, with her golden  
hair, deep blue eyes and queenly  
height, while the lilac moire antique  
and diamonds set her off rarely.  
Mr. Bentley Benedict leveled his eye-  
glasses at her as she passed on, after the  
usual presentation to her host and host-  
ess.  
"So that is the wife of your confi-  
dential clerk, eh, Joe?" said he to his  
brother. "A silk gown for a royal prin-  
cess, point lace that couldn't have cost  
less than one hundred dollars a yard,  
and diamonds that blaze like comets!  
I don't exactly fancy that sort of a  
confidential clerk myself! Let me see  
—how much did you tell me you paid  
him? Fourteen hundred a year?"  
Mr. Joe Benedict looked uneasily at  
the brilliant vision.  
"I can't account for it," said he slowly.  
"I always supposed Mellen to be a  
reliable sort of a fellow, but I must say  
I don't like the looks of this. I'm  
afraid we have trusted him too far, al-  
though the accounts seem straight  
enough. I'll look into them to-mor-  
row."  
He did look into them.  
"So far they are right," he said to  
himself. "But it's better to be on the  
safe side. A clerk whose wife dresses

like a duchess can't be altogether  
straight. I'll discharge him."  
So Clarence Mellen lost his situation,  
at the beginning of the winter, with  
hard times looking him gravely in the  
face.  
Mr. Benedict told him frankly why.  
"I saw your wife at my brother Bent-  
ley's ball," said he, "dressed in moire  
antique, costly lace and diamonds. I  
bring no accusation—I have no com-  
plaint to make—only, in these days of  
embezzlement, forgery and defalcation  
one has to look out for himself. And  
'straws show which way the wind  
blows!'"  
When Mr. Mellen went home he  
found a lawyer's clerk in the hall, with  
a letter from poor Pepper.  
He wrote:  
"My wife is dead, God knows  
whether it is your fault or not. Had  
you paid the money you owed, I might  
have sent her West, to her native air.  
It would at least have been a chance  
of life for her. But she is gone now, and  
I have only to say that if the bill is  
not settled at once, I shall resort to  
the extremest means possible."  
This was the first Mr. Mellen knew  
that the fifty dollar bill had not been  
applied to its rightful destination.  
"I hope you are contented now,  
Lottie," he said, as he went up stairs  
to the room where his wife lay sob-  
bing on the sofa. "You have ruined  
me!"  
And Lottie knew at last how dear a  
price she had paid for her one night of  
triumph at Mr. Benedict's ball.

From Cassell's Magazine.  
**Great Men's Wives.**  
It was a saying of Rousseau's that "a  
man is only what a woman makes him,"  
and this sentiment is slightly varied in  
our own old English proverb, which  
says that "if a man would thrive he  
must ask his wife's leave." The records  
of history contain numberless examples  
of women who have done for their hus-  
bands what Aaron and Har did for  
Moses; they have held up their hands  
and supported them at the greatest  
crisis of their lives, and so turned what  
would have been a failure into triumph  
and success. It is only necessary to  
mention the names of Gertrude von  
Werth and Lady Rachel Russell in  
proof of this. It may not be uninter-  
esting to give a few instances of women  
in our own generation who have been  
to their husbands' helpers and fellow-  
workers, as well as sympathizing com-  
panions, and who have thus taken a  
position which is manifestly ranked in  
edged to be the most proud and hon-  
orable one—that of a helpmate to man.  
Among these the name that is first  
thought of, probably because it has so  
recently been brought before the pub-  
lic eye, is that of Lady Augusta Stan-  
ley, the wife of the Dean of Westmin-  
ster. She possessed a largeness of heart  
and a strength of intellect which won  
respect and kindly feeling from all who  
came in contact with her. She sym-  
pathized most heartily with her hus-  
band both in thought and work, while  
the poor of Westminister found in her  
tenderness and kindness a frequent al-  
leviation of their miseries.

Every one will remember the testi-  
mony of John Stuart Mill to the worth  
of his wife, which is to be found in the  
dedication to her manuscript printed at  
the commencement of one of his essays:  
"To the beloved and departed memory  
of her who was the inspirer, and in part  
the author of all that is best in my  
writings—the friend and wife whose  
exalted sense of truth and right was  
my strongest incentive, and whose  
approbation was my chief reward—I  
dedicate this volume." It is said that  
such was Mr. Mill's sorrow at her death  
that he continued to reside at Avignon,  
the place where she was buried, that he  
might continually visit her tomb.—  
Thomas Carlyle, one of the greatest in-  
tellectual lights of this century, has re-  
corded his testimony to the worth of  
his wife on her tombstone: "In her  
bright existence she had more sorrows  
than are common, but no more griefs,  
ability, a capacity for discernment, and  
a noble loyalty of heart which are rare.  
For forty years she was the true and  
loving helpmate of her husband, and  
by act and word unweariedly forward-  
ing him, as none else could, in all of  
worth that he did or attempted." The  
wife of Sir William Hamilton, profes-  
sor of logic in the University of Edin-  
burgh, was a true helper to her hus-  
band; indeed, it is more than probable  
that without her many of his best works  
would never have been written. When  
he was elected to the professorship some  
of his opponents declared publicly  
that he would never be able to fulfill  
the duties of his position, as he was  
nothing but a dreamer. He and his  
wife heard of this and determined to  
prove that it was not true. They,  
therefore, arranged to work together.  
Sir William wrote out roughly each  
day the lecture that was to be given  
the next morning, and as he wrote his  
wife sat up writing till far into the  
night. When Sir William was struck  
down with paralysis, the result of over-  
work, Lady Hamilton devoted herself  
entirely to him—wrote for him, read  
for him, and saved him in every way.

Gen. W. F. Bartlett, of Massachu-  
setts, is said to have remarked lately  
that he is "with the Tilden movement  
heart and soul," and intends to give  
the reasons for his faith in an open  
letter as soon as his health will permit.

No. 3.  
Keep your conscience tender—tender  
as the eye that closes its lids against  
an atom of dust, or as that sensitive  
plant which you have seen shrink and  
shut its leaf not merely at the rude touch  
of a finger, but at the breath of a moth.

Very few people know how to grow  
old.

**His Own Words.**  
We want to put upon record, in his  
own words, General Grant's several  
messages claiming dictatorial powers.  
Here is the one touching the river-and-  
harbor bill:

No. 1.  
*To the House of Representatives:*  
In affixing my signature to the river-  
and-harbor bill, No. 3322, I deem it  
my duty to announce to the House of  
Representatives my objections to some  
features of the bill and the reason I  
sign it. If it was obligatory upon the  
Executive to expend all the money ap-  
propriated by Congress I should return  
the river-and-harbor bill with my ob-  
jections, notwithstanding the great in-  
convenience to the public interests re-  
sulting therefrom, and the loss of ex-  
penditures from previous Congresses  
upon uncompleted works. Without  
enumerating many appropriations made  
for works of private or local inter-  
est, in no sense national, I cannot give  
my sanction to these, and will take  
care that during my term of office  
no public money shall be expended  
upon them.

There is very great necessity for econ-  
omy of expenditures at this time  
growing out of the loss of revenue like-  
ly to arise from a deficiency of appro-  
priations to insure a thorough collec-  
tion of the same. The reduction of  
revenue districts, diminution of special  
agents, and total abolition of super-  
visors may result in great falling off  
of the revenue. It may be a question  
to consider whether any expenditure can  
be authorized under the river-and-har-  
bor appropriation further than to pro-  
tect the works already done and paid for.  
Under no circumstances will I allow  
expenditures upon works not clearly  
national.

U. S. GRANT.  
*Executive Mansion, August 14, 1876.*

Here is the one which indicates that  
he intends to carry the Southern States  
for Hayes by the use of the army. It  
is signed by Don Cameron, but he says  
in it that the President ordered him to  
write it.

No. 2.  
**WAR DEPARTMENT,**  
Washington City, Aug. 15, '67.  
To General W. T. Sherman, Commanding  
United States Army:  
Sir—The House of Representatives  
of the United States on the 10th in-  
stant passed the following preamble  
and resolution, viz:

Whereas, the right of suffrage pro-  
scribed by the constitution of the sev-  
eral States is subject to amendment by  
the United States, which is as follows:  
Article 15, Section 1.—The right of  
citizens of the United States to vote  
shall not be denied or abridged by the  
United States or by any State on ac-  
count of race, color or previous condi-  
tion of servitude.  
Section 2. The Congress shall have  
power to enforce this article by appro-  
priate legislation.  
And whereas the right of suffrage so  
prescribed and regulated should be  
faithfully maintained and observed by  
the United States and the several States  
and the citizens thereof. Whereas it  
is asserted that the exercise of the right  
of suffrage in some of the States, not-  
withstanding the efforts of all good  
citizens to the contrary, is resisted and  
controlled by fraud, intimidation and  
violence so that in such cases the ob-  
ject of the amendment is defeated, and  
whereas all citizens without distinction  
of race or color are entitled to the  
protection conferred by such article;  
Therefore be it

*Resolved, By the House of Representa-  
tives, that all attempts by force, fraud,  
terror, intimidation or otherwise to  
prevent the free exercise of the right of  
suffrage in any State should meet with  
certain, condign and effectual punish-  
ment, and that in any case which has  
heretofore occurred, or that may here-  
after occur, in which violence or murder  
has been or shall be committed by one  
race or class upon the other, the  
prompt prosecution and punishment of  
the criminals, and of the persons who  
control the violence, is imperatively de-  
manded; whether the crime be one  
punishable by fine and imprisonment,  
or one demanding the penalty of death.*  
The President directs that, in ac-  
cordance with the spirit of the above, you  
are to hold all the available force under  
your command (not now engaged in  
subduing the savages of the western  
frontier) in readiness to be used upon  
the call or requisition of the proper  
legal authorities, for protecting all citi-  
zens, without distinction of race, color,  
or political opinion, in the exercise of  
the right to vote, as guaranteed by the  
fifteenth amendment, and to assist in  
the enforcement of "certain, condign,  
and effectual punishment" upon all  
persons who shall attempt by force,  
fraud, terror, intimidation or otherwise  
to prevent the free exercise of the right  
of suffrage," as provided by the law of  
the United States, and have such force  
so distributed and stationed as to be  
able to render prompt assistance in the  
enforcement of law.

Such additional orders as may be  
necessary to carry out the purpose of  
these instructions will be given to you  
from time to time, after consultation  
with the law officers of the Govern-  
ment.

Very respectfully, your obedient serv-  
ant,  
J. D. CAMERON,  
Secretary of War.

Here is one denying the right of  
Congress to order foreign ministers and  
consuls to be called home:

No. 3.  
In announcing, as I do, that I have  
attached my signature to official ap-  
proval to the act making appropriations  
for the consular and diplomatic service  
of the Government for the year ending  
June 30, 1877, and for other purposes,  
it is my duty to call attention to a  
provision in the act directing that notice  
be sent to certain of the diplomatic and  
consular officers of the Government to

close their offices. In a literal sense  
this direction would be an invasion of  
the constitutional prerogative and duty  
of the Executive. By the Constitution  
the President shall have power, by and  
with the advice and consent of the Senate,  
to make treaties, provided that two-  
thirds of the Senators present consent,  
and he shall terminate them by and  
with the advice and consent of the  
Senate, and shall appoint ambassadors  
and other public ministers and consuls,  
&c. It is within the power of Con-  
gress to grant or withhold the appro-  
priation of money for the payment of  
the salaries and expenses of foreign  
representatives of the Government. In  
the early days of the Government a  
sum in gross was appropriated, leaving  
it to the Executive to determine the  
grades of officers and countries to  
which they should be sent. Later, for  
many years, specific sums have been  
appropriated for designated mis-  
sions or employment, and as a rule the  
omission of Congress to make an ap-  
propriation for any specific post has  
heretofore been accepted as an indica-  
tion of a wish on the part of Congress  
which the Executive branch of the  
Government respected and complied  
with. In calling attention to the pas-  
sage which I have indicated, I assume  
that the intention of the provision is  
only to exercise the constitutional pre-  
rogative of Congress over the expendi-  
tures of the Government, and to fix a  
time in which the compensation of cer-  
tain diplomatic and consular officers  
shall cease, and not to invade the pre-  
rogative of the Executive, which I  
should be compelled to resist; and my  
present object is not to discuss or dis-  
pute the wisdom of failing to appro-  
priate for several offices, but to guard  
against any construction that might  
possibly be placed on the language  
used as implying a right in the legis-  
lative branch to direct the closing or  
discontinuance of any of the diplo-  
matic or consular offices of the Govern-  
ment.

U. S. GRANT.  
*Executive Mansion, Washington, D. C.,  
August 14th.*

Three messages from the dictator  
claiming unlimited powers. But these  
are not all. Here follow the two which  
he sent to the Senate, the former of  
which vetoes a certain bill and the lat-  
ter of which undertakes to veto the ve-  
to—a claim of power so absurd and  
unfounded that not one Senator rose  
in his place to advocate the claim.  
Here they are:

No. 4 and 5.  
*To the Senate of the United States:*  
For the reasons stated in the ac-  
companying communication submitted  
to me by the Acting Secretary of the  
Interior, I have the honor to return  
herewith without my approval Senate  
bill No. 779, entitled "An act to pro-  
vide for the sale of a portion of the re-  
servation of the confederated Otoe and  
Missouria and the Sacs and Foxes of  
the Missouri tribes of Indians in the  
States of Kansas and Nebraska."

U. S. GRANT.  
*Executive Mansion, Aug. 15, 1876.*

Upon further investigation I am con-  
vinced that my message of this date  
withholding my signature from Senate  
bill No. 779, entitled "An act to pro-  
vide for the sale of a portion of the re-  
servation of the confederated Otoe and  
Missouria and the Sacs and Foxes of  
the Missouri tribes of Indians in the  
States of Kansas and Nebraska," was  
premature; and I request, therefore,  
that the bill may be returned in order  
that I may affix my signature to it.

U. S. GRANT.  
*Executive Man'n, Aug. 15, 1876.*

This bill was of course not returned  
to Grant, but both Houses of Congress  
passed it over his veto, and it is now a  
law.—Rich. Dispatch.

**Curiosity Shop.**  
Hawks can fly at the rate of 150  
miles an hour.  
Ducks can fly at the rate of 90 miles  
an hour.  
The crow can fly at the rate of 25  
miles an hour.  
The sparrow can fly at the rate of 92  
miles an hour.  
The falcon can fly at the rate of 75  
miles an hour.  
Pigs live from 12 to 15 years (if  
not eaten).  
120,000 little mouths or pores are  
found upon one square inch of a lilac  
leaf.  
Sound moves at the rate of 12 1/2 miles  
a minute.  
3,000 stars are only visible to the  
naked eye. Countless millions are re-  
vealed by the telescope—some are 20  
miles from their light, traveling at the  
rate of 200,000 miles a second, cannot  
arrive at our little planet in less than  
14,000 years.  
The different species of birds is es-  
timated at 6,000.  
The different species of fishes will  
probably reach 10,000.  
The different species of reptiles will  
probably reach 2,000.  
There are 250,000 species of living  
animals.  
The wings of some animals are so  
thin that 50,000 placed one upon the  
other would not form a heap of more  
than a quarter of an inch in height.  
25,000 eggs of a silk worm weigh  
one-quarter of an ounce. The worm  
lives from 45 to 53 days. It increases  
in weight in thirty days 8,500 fold, and  
during the last 25 days of its life, eats  
nothing.  
Glass windows were first used for  
lights in 1180.  
Chimneys were first put to houses in  
1236.  
Tallow candles for lights in 1290.  
Spectacles invented by an Italian in  
1240.  
Woolen cloth made in England in  
1341.  
Art of printing from movable type  
in 1440.

**Habits of Authors.**  
We are told that Charlotte Bronte  
used to sit patiently and laboriously  
writing, day after day, with a lead pen-  
cil in little paper books made by her-  
self, which she held close to her eyes—  
for she was near-sighted—all absorbed  
in her own imaginings, as if her char-  
acters were real men and women whose  
minute history she was putting on re-  
cord. And the language stood in the  
pencil manuscript almost as it af-  
terward did on the printed page, for  
she thought no time was so favorable  
for fastening upon the right word as  
the moment of composition; and if it  
did not come naturally with the idea,  
as in her case it usually did, she waited  
for it, and it suggested itself and fell  
into its place. Such was the fidelity  
of this woman, who never put her hand  
to a book until she was sure that she  
had something to say.

EDGAR A. POE  
used to think over his subject until it  
was complete in his own mind before  
he took pen to write, and his manu-  
script was exceedingly neat and elo-  
quent; while on the other hand, N. P.  
Willis, who was to appearance the most  
off-hand of journalists, was in the con-  
stant practice of changing the phrase-  
ology of his article over and over again,  
even after they had gone into the hands  
of the printer, and the sheets were dis-  
figured with many erasures and altera-  
tions, showing that the paragraphs,  
which show as if dashed off on the spur  
of the moment, were in reality con-  
structed with the utmost pains.

Another of the fastidious was Lamb.  
He wrote very slowly, and every word  
was subjected to the severest criticism,  
and the one which expressed the near-  
est shade of meaning was fixed upon.  
Macaulay made a general plan on large  
sheets of paper, with lines far apart;  
then filled in, crowding sentence upon  
sentence, until the whole was a marvel  
to see, and then change for the better,  
or illustration or amplification seemed  
impossible, copied in a fair hand for  
the printer. Dr. Channing, in prepar-  
ing one sermon, actually wrote enough  
to make two or three, going on and on  
as his thoughts came rapidly; then cut  
out page after page, saving none but  
those portions which best expressed  
what he wished to preach.

And yet, in the face of all this nicety  
and deliberation, it cannot be denied  
that some of the most popular things  
in literature, especially hymns and  
short poems, with now and then a  
story, have been written almost without  
forethought, and printed with but lit-  
tle alteration. As, for instance, the  
"Missionary Hymn."  
From Greenland's icy mountains,  
which Heber wrote at a few minutes'  
notice.

And "Sheridan's Ride" has a history  
as felicitous. It is said of it that its  
author, Heber, had Murdoch, the actor,  
for a guest, and while at breakfast saw  
in the morning's journal an account of  
Sheridan's exploit. He withdrew to his  
own room, and in about an hour  
came out with that poem, which Mur-  
doch read at his breakfast table that evening,  
and which in the course of a few  
weeks appeared in half the newspapers  
of the land.

SIR WALTER SCOTT  
said that when he began "Waverley" he  
had no idea what would come of it; he  
had no plot at all. In the morning he  
would think it over awhile, then rush  
on, and the characters took care of  
themselves, and it all came out right  
in the end. While he was engaged on  
his novels he became subject to attacks  
of cramp in the stomach, and he lay on  
a sofa and dictated nearly all of the  
"Bride of Lammermoor" and the whole  
of the "Legend of Montrose." When  
a paroxysm of pain seized him he would  
stop with a groan and then begin where  
he left off. He used to arrange in his  
own manuscript for the day before his  
own amanuensis came, which was ten  
'clock, when he would commence and  
go right on, sustaining all the charac-  
ters and detailing the conversation  
without confusion or mistake, and so  
interested that sometimes he would  
spring to his feet and act it all out.

The same thing as to want of plan  
is said to have been true of "Pickwick"  
and some of the novels of Thackeray.  
The author of "Pendennis" and "Van-  
ity Fair" was wont to dally with his  
subject before he set himself to work,  
starting with half a quire of paper, on  
a part of which he made comic pic-  
tures, a part he tore up, and on the re-  
mainder, after walking about in the  
most doleful manner, he began in earnest.

DICKENS  
in his earlier days of authorship wrote  
only when he felt in the mood, but  
afterward became thoroughly systemat-  
ic, and when the hour came he was at  
his table, allotting a certain part of  
the day to his work, and from this rule  
nothing could tempt him to depart; for  
it was upon persevering industry, not  
special inspiration, that he depended.  
Southey was another of the methodical  
writers. His days were indeed all busy;  
for, as he said, speaking of supporting  
his large family, his means lay "in an  
ink stand." And Dr. Barnes was an-  
other. Before he began his regular  
employment for the day, he labored at  
his "Notes on the Bible," which, al-  
though all the time given to them was  
before 9 o'clock in the morning, grew  
to such proportions, through his sys-  
tematic application, that they form al-  
most a library of themselves.

**THE EXPLOSION AT HELL GATE.**  
The entire mass to go up at once time.

From the New York World.

The great explosion at Hell Gate is  
now certain to take place during the  
latter part of September, and contrary  
to reports which have been generally  
circulated, the entire mass of rock will  
be demolished by one terrific explo-  
sion. The work of tunneling and bor-  
ing is now ended, and nothing remains  
undone except the preparation and in-  
sertion of the cartridges.

The tunnels radiating from the main  
shaft, and likewise those crossing them,  
are all cleared out, leaving the upper  
crust of rock supported on 172 piers,  
each 8 feet square, but varying in  
height from 20 feet up to 60 feet to  
10 or 12 feet in the outer circumfer-  
ence. In the roof of the rock thus  
formed 3,500 holes have been bored in  
an upward direction, ranging in depth  
from three to eleven feet, with a uni-  
form diameter of three inches. These  
holes will be the receptacles of the ex-  
plosive material, which will be dynam-  
ite where the rock is hardest and ordi-  
nary vulcan powder where the super-  
incumbent mass is more friable and  
easier to blow to pieces. As the floor  
of the tunnel slopes outward from a  
depth of thirty-two feet to forty feet  
below the water, and the depth of wa-  
ter required for navigation in the  
neighborhood of New York is only  
twenty-six feet at low mean water, it  
plainly follows that after the explosion  
and the subsequent dredging there will be  
ample room for the largest ships in  
the world to reach New York bay  
through the waters of the sound, and  
thus make a saving of time on the  
voyage to and from Europe.

Nitro-glycerine was at first contem-  
plated as the most suitable explosive  
agent; but on mature consideration it  
was rejected, not only as being too  
dangerous in the manufacture, but also  
because some of the charges are  
liable to slip out of the holes prepared  
for them, and in such an event nitro-  
glycerine would be liable to explode  
prematurely. Dynamite, which is com-  
posed of 25 per cent. of clay and 75  
per cent. of nitro-glycerine, was finally  
selected; and it is calculated that each  
charge will break up twenty cubic  
yards, there being in or about seventy  
thousand cubic yards in the entire  
mass to be exploded. A bomb-proof  
chamber has been prepared for the op-  
erators, at a distance of 300 feet south-  
east of the main shaft, and in the di-  
rection of the Ravenswood road. In  
this chamber will be placed at least 200  
gallon batteries of the pattern known as  
Grove's, and each of these will ex-  
plode from seventeen to twenty charges.  
A most ingenious scheme has been  
devised by which all these batteries  
will be brought into action at the same  
time, and thus a complete circuit be  
formed, setting off the entire 3,500  
charges together, and utterly destroy-  
ing the great plateau of rock which has  
made Hell Gate so dangerous to nav-  
igators.

General Newton has been unces-  
sant in his exertions, and has kept up  
a constant series of experiments to in-  
sure a perfect success when the great  
day comes; and there is no reasonable  
ground for fear of any untoward ac-  
cident occurring. The assistant engin-  
eers who will have practical charge of  
the operations on the day of the explo-  
sion, will, according to the popular  
belief, be placed in a position of great  
danger, but this is only visionary, as  
the utmost foresight has been used to  
prevent any harm to the operators.

The engineers are of opinion the ex-  
plosion will be the hurling into the air  
of a huge column of water, with perhaps  
some bits of rock, as the resistance of  
the super-incumbent water will prevent  
any except a few of the smaller masses  
from being ejected beyond the surface.  
As soon as ever the explosion is over  
the work of dredging will begin, in or-  
der to throw the channel open to na-  
vigation at the earliest possible moment.

The man who lives right and is right  
has more power in his silence than an-  
other has by his words. Character is  
like bells which ring out sweet music,  
and which, when touched accidentally,  
ever resound with sweet music.

Your disposition will be suitable to  
that which you most frequently think  
of; for the soul is, as it were, tinged  
with the color and complexion of its  
own thoughts.

Opportunity is the flower of time,  
and as the stalk may remain when the  
flower is cut off, so time may remain  
with us when opportunity is gone for-  
ever.

What are Raphael's Madonnas but  
the shadow of a mother's love, fixed in  
permanent outline forever.

The woman of work sweeps every-  
thing before her; the woman of fashion  
sweeps everything behind.

The man who is honest from policy  
is the most dangerous customer we  
have to deal with.

The love of justice in most men is  
nothing but the fear of suffering from  
injustice.

Nothing can be love to God which  
does not shape itself into obedience.

It is much easier to limit one's grati-  
tude than one's hopes and desires.

Good words and good deeds are the  
rent we owe for the air we breathe.

Exercise gives health, vigor, cheer-  
fulness, sleep, and a good appetite.

The ascents of honor, however steep,  
never appear inaccessible.

Our passions are the only orators  
who are certain to persuade us.

Carlyle takes a good vigorous Eng-  
lish walk of several miles, far enough  
to get himself in a glow, and then is  
ready for his pen.



OLD COMMONWEALTH.

Harrisburg, Va., August 31, 1876.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY C. H. VANDERFORD.

Office over the Store of LONG & HELLER South of the Court-House.

Terms of Subscription: TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Table with columns for 'Advertising Rates' and 'Subscription Rates'.

Yearly Advertisements \$10 for the first square and \$5.00 for each additional square per year.

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS the legal fee of \$5.00.

Job Printing. We are prepared to do Job Printing of all kinds at low rates, FOR CASH.

Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Valley Branch. GOING EAST.

Table of train schedules for Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Valley Branch.

LOCAL AFFAIRS. JOURNALISTIC ENTERPRISE.—In to day's issue appears another large amount of telegraphic news from various parts of this country and Europe.

HARRISBURG AND FREDERICKSBURG RAILROAD.—The work of narrowing the grade of this road from Parker's to Fredericksburg was completed on Friday last.

A meeting in the interest of the road was held at Orange Court House on Monday last, but up to the hour of going to press we have not learned the results.

EXTENSIVE THEFT.—Officer Williams arrested Jim Goodloe, colored, on Monday, who has proven himself to be a thief of no mean pretensions.

On Tuesday morning Jim was taken before Mayor Hyde, who committed him to await the action of the Grand Jury at the next term of the County Court.

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PRIMARY MEETINGS.

The County Divided between Harris and O'Ferrall.

We stated in these columns last week that two districts would go for Harris and two for O'Ferrall, leaving the contest in Central as to who would have a majority of the delegates.

At a meeting of the Democratic voters of Linville District, for the purpose of sending delegates to the Congressional Convention at Staunton, Sept. 1, Jasper Hawse was called to the chair and Jno. D. Pennybacker appointed Secretary.

At a meeting of the Conservative voters of Stonewall District, held at McGabeyville, on the 26th of August, on motion of Dr. S. P. H. Miller, J. C. Walker was called to the Chair and J. A. Hammon chosen Secretary.

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BREVITIES.

Old John Robinson's circus will exhibit at Staunton on Monday next.

The 7th district Congressional Convention will meet at Staunton to-morrow.

A match game of base ball will be played at Pleasant Valley on Saturday next.

Charlotteville is happy. It is to have a post road to Stanardsville, in Greene county.

Mr. Bryan's school for girls will reopen September 11th. Only twelve pupils will be received.

A meeting of the stockholders of Rawley Springs will be held at the Springs on Friday, October 6th.

Judge John W. Ashby has been appointed Commonwealth's Attorney for Page county, vice R. S. Parks.

The Red Men's excursion to Staunton takes place to-morrow. Round trip tickets \$1.05. It is open to "pale faces" also.

Staunton has lost its oldest landmark—a house 127 years old. In 127 yrs Staunton has grown to be a place of six or seven thousand inhabitants.

Mr. J. M. Prope, mail contractor from this place to the Shenandoah Iron Works, is now carrying the mail in a handsome sulky, and makes all the offices on better time than heretofore.

The Centennial excursion from the Valley of Virginia will start next Monday from Staunton, the E. & O. R. R. having made arrangements with the Valley road to run the excursion train over its road.

The historian of the "State of Pendleton," in his sketch of that county, mentions Edmond Pendleton, after whom the county was named, as "distinguished alike for his legal lore and the equipose of his judicial balance."

A large meeting of the Tilden and Hendricks Reform Club of Harrisburg was held on Monday night last. A number of new names were added to the roll, and able speeches were made by Col. U. L. Boyce, of Clarke county, and Jacob N. Liggett, Esq.

LOCAL CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM CUB RUN.

DEAR OLD COMMONWEALTH:—I have been a reader of your columns for several years, and I have seen letters representing every portion of the county with the single exception of this part, which is watered by Cub Run.

Not desiring to let this portion sink into oblivion, I will endeavor to give you a brief history of it by describing to you the course of the stream, romantic scenery and the enterprising and patriotic citizens.

The above-named stream exudes from the Massanutten about three miles north of Kezletown and flows in a southern direction, parallel with the mountain until it reaches the southern extremity, where it changes its course and flows in a south-eastern direction through a broad cultivated region, and empties into the broad boom of the rolling Shenandoah.

After the coronation was finished the tables were spread with edibles of all descriptions, and all ate and ate until they could eat no more.

At night the exercises were resumed at the residence of Mr. Wm. P. Shipp, where all the elite of the occasion engaged in the grand ball until night lingered in the bosom of morn.

A great many pretty girls were upon the ground to witness the riding; but Greene beauty is too well known to many of the young gentlemen of Rockingham to need any comment from us, and if we did pay any handsome tribute to her fair daughters it might be the means of blasting the hopes of some of Greene's noble sons, therefore we forbear mentioning their names, as it might cause new autors to pour in.

Nothing occurred during the day or night to mar the enjoyment of any one, but all appeared to be pleased, which reflects well upon the managers and the young men of Greene.

GOOD TOBACCO.—The best tobacco we have seen this year was on the farm of Messrs. Yancey & Julius Garth, three miles west of this place. They have about five acres, and if it is not injured by storms they will make at least \$600 out of the five acres.

DIED.—On Tuesday morning last, of typhoid fever, John Hedrick, son of Richard Hedrick, Esq., formerly of Rockingham, aged 17 years.

FROM BRIDGEWATER. ALL GONE.—The Normal School has closed its Summer session and all the students have gone, and Bridgewater forcibly reminds us of Goldsmith's Deserted Village.

FROM INGLEWOOD. August 24th, 1876. EDITOR COMMONWEALTH:—On Wednesday, the 23rd inst., we added our best and started en route for the vicinity of Mt. Crawford.

FROM STANARDSVILLE. August 26th, 1876. DEAR COMMONWEALTH:—All of us, "Bonapartes" included, in this good old county, have just been having a good time; and a good many ladies and gentlemen in adjoining counties have been joining us in our festivities.

"Jop" to "Avalanche."

BRIDGEWATER, Aug. 25th, 1876.

EDITOR COMMONWEALTH:—Sir—There appeared week before last in the columns of the "Register" a letter from the "Register's" correspondent at this place, under the name of "Avalanche," in which an attack was made upon the "COMMONWEALTH's" correspondent of this town.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE PHILADELPHIA

FOR THE PURCHASE OF RELIABLE READY-MADE CLOTHING!

Table with columns for 'FOR MEN', 'FOR BOYS', 'FOR YOUTH', 'FOR CHILDREN'.

AND NO HOUSE LIKE Wanamaker & Brown's

SIXTH & MARKET STS., PHILADELPHIA, For Lowest Prices, For Best Glass Goods, For Imminence of Stock, For Guaranteed Satisfaction.

The Largest Clothing House in America. WANAMAKER & BROWN.

THE OLD RELIABLE LAW OFFICE!

J. D. PRICE, LAND AGENT!

Harrisburg, Rockingham Co., Va. OFFICE: SEIBERT BUILDING, Room No. 11, second floor.

I have many Farms and Town Properties on hand for sale, which do not appear in this column.

A desirable HOUSE and LOT in Dayton, Va. Price, \$750.00.

Several Town Properties in Harrisonburg. Desirable and cheap homes.

19 1/2 ACRES OF LAND—portion of it in the corporation of Harrisonburg. A rare bargain.

DESIABLE TOWN PROPERTY in Harrisonburg: store room on first floor, dwelling above. Eligibly located for business purposes.

27 1/2 ACRES improved, desirable dwelling; most excellent neighborhood; site unquestionable. Price, \$150.00 cash, if purchased soon.

56 ACRES, 1 1/2 miles from Pleasant Valley Depot. Good improvements. Excellent orchard of 175 trees. Never-failing Spring. Price \$1,000. Easy terms.

112 ACRES of good land with improvements, 2 1/2 miles from Railroad depot. Some meadow land; well watered; 30 acres of choice timber; fencing good. This is a cheap property. Call at once and purchase at the low sum of \$250.

170 ACRES OF LAND, good buildings, 18 miles from Harrisonburg. Price, \$50 per acre. This property is located in a good neighborhood and is a splendidly located for business purposes.

FOR SALE—ONE HUNDRED ACRES OF LIMESTONE LAND within five miles of Harrisonburg; well watered; improvements good. Price \$4000.

FOR SALE—A valuable small FARM within one mile of Harrisonburg. Call at once and purchase at the low sum of \$250.

A Small Farm, containing thirty acres, near Rawley Springs Pike; good, smooth land, good improvements; excellent view of Shenandoah Valley. Easy payments. Price \$2,000.

FOR SALE—ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY ACRES of good land, good view of Shenandoah Valley, near Rawley Springs Pike; good, smooth land, good improvements; excellent view of Shenandoah Valley. Easy payments. Price \$2,000.

A MILL PROPERTY in Rockingham county. Mill and Machinery (iron gears) all new. Saw-mill, fourteen acres of land, good view of Shenandoah Valley. All necessary out-buildings. Splendid site for laundry. Will sell cheap. Call at once and purchase at the low sum of \$250.

FOR SALE—A valuable small FARM within one mile of Harrisonburg. Call at once and purchase at the low sum of \$250.

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OLD COMMONWEALTH.

HARRISONBURG, VA., AUG. 31, 1876
Never despise or rebuff what you do not understand.
It requires greater virtue to sustain good fortune than bad.

Paper was made from linen in 1302.
Watches first made in Germany in 1447.
Circulation of blood discovered by Harvey in 1610.

Newspaper first established in 1626
First book printed on paper in England in 1508.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

JAMES KENNEY, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, HARRISONBURG, VA.
MEADE F. WHITE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, STATION VA.—Courts: Augusta, Rockbridge and Highland Counties.

F. A. DAINGERFIELD, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, HARRISONBURG, VA.
YANCEY & CONRAD, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW AND INSURANCE AGENTS, HARRISONBURG, VA.

J. SAM'L HARNBERGER, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, HARRISONBURG, VA.
JOHN PAUL, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, HARRISONBURG, VA.

J. H. HARRISON, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, HARRISONBURG, VA.
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