JULY 5, 1907

# The Commoner.

# When Riley

Few are the prophets honored in their own country, and fewer still, perhaps, the poets. But Mr. James Whitcomb Riley is the exception. It lived-for example, Dr. Latson's remay be remembered that "Jim," as he is called pretty universally in Indiana, hails from the little town of Greenfield, that state, where as a youth, he shook the dust off his bare feet to travel with an itinerant sign painter. He learned the trade be sensible-sensible about what we mighty well, and today storekeepers in many Indiana towns are the proud clothes we wear and the air we possessors of signs painted by the breathe and what we do with these Hoosier poet. It was his facility in wonderful bodies of ours. sign painting which was responsible largely for the beautiful, painstaking like those of Dr. Latson, and think hand the poet writes today. When about them. We must eat enough. fame came to Mr. Riley and he was in demand as a lecturer and reader, brains by exercising our bodies, or when with "Bill Nye" he toured the country and made a fortune, there brains; and then we must find a few was a great demand in Greenfield for "Jim" to come back. Those who had know him as a tow-headed, barefooted youngster, playing hookey from school and going off fishing, wanted to see the frock-coated, bespectacled poet whose fame was abroad in the land. But Mr. Riley is shy, or perhaps he did not care to appear to gloat with his success over his overall-wearing friends of other days; at any rate, for years he declined to do any of his "stunts" in Greenfield. If they needed him for a charity he sent a check as his representative, tom of the authorities of Yale to and many a church and worthy char- take a poll of that institution's gradity has received part of the proceeds uating classes to find out what caof the Riley lectures. But at last he reers have been chosen by the graddid go to Greenfield and gave a read- uates. This year there was a class ing for the benefit of a church, and or several classes, numbering 2,243, it was a unique gathering. The hall and the poll showed this interesting was crowded, of course, and the mu- result: sic was furnished by that old Gree field band which Riley has immorta ized in the poem "I Want to He th' Old Band Play." He knew the all by name, from the "slip-horn player to the "little old man in t tinshop," and the Greenfield vetera put their hearts into the mus When he read about "The Ragged Man" there was the original, leaning sheepishly against the wall; when told about "Little Orphant Annie, many eyes picked her out in the the law continues to hold its own, as audience, and when, with tender indicated by the fact that 718 gradupathos, Riley recited "An Old Sweet- ates are going in for it, the table heart of Mine"-old bachelor that he shows also that 320 are to become is-a sweet-faced middle-aged lady who had been provided with a seat very near the platform nodded in a most sympathetic way, and furtively wiped her spectacles. Surely never before was poet so beset and blessed with the spirits of his poesy as Riley was that night .--- Washington Herald.

which came before," Dr. Wiley goes on, "because it knows more about the laws of diet, hygiene and surgery. Went Back It's a rank disgrace for any man to die except from old age."

We have been trying to contribute something to this knowledge which Dr. Wiley says will make us longer cent series on the subject of "Eating," and other articles which have had for their text the words, "Keep Well."

The way not to die is to keep well, and the way to keep well is to eat and what we drink and the

We must read the helpful articles but not too much. We must rest our rest our bodies by exercising our good friends, and teach ourselves, a little more every day, to look on the bright side.

There is a 100-year club in Los Angeles. Its membership should be limited only by the city's population.

If everybody would join, we would probably be living 150 years before generations.-Los Angeles many Record.

#### THEIR LIFE WORK

For some time it has been the cus-

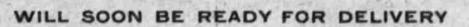
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	Miscellaneous 74
3."	While the honored profession of

PATIENCE EXHAUSTED

The people of Russia have gained much in their sincere efforts to accomplish a reorganization of government by peaceful means. They have gained the respect and the sympathy of the civilized world, and now, having exhausted all peaceful means and forced the czar to disclose his real purpose, a revolution would command a very large measure of sentimental indorsement abroad. It is

evident from the dispatches that the Russian people have reached the reluctant conclusion that they have been hoodwinked and betrayed, and that they must depend upon themselves henceforth. Perhaps, after all a short and terrible revolution in Russia would be the best thing that could happen. The land is now prostrate and persecution and misery abound. everywhere Conditions could scarcely be worse, and they might be infinitely better under a new regime,---Kansas City Journal.





#### LET US LIVE 100 YEARS

"I belong to a 100-year-club, any member of which who shall die before he's 100 years old will be immediately expelled in disgrace."

That is what Dr. Harvey Wiley said lately, addressing the graduating class of one of the universities. What he said sounds good. You must remember that he is one of the men who know about things, for he is chief chemist of the United States department of agriculture.

We would all like to belong to such a club.

When we come to think of it, we wonder why people should die, after all, at 20 or 30 or 40 or even 70barring accidents, of course, and precarious habits like riding on the train and so on. Yet the insurance people tell us that the average man lives somewhere around 33 years.

clocks which run down thirty-years I am going up to Mr. Brown's, and after they are started. Why shouldn't the porter at the station told me to each one of us live to be at least follow you, as you lived next door. 100?

to live much longer than the one Public Ledger.

"financiers." Unfortunately it isn't quite plain just what is understood by this term. In this day and generation a "financier" is anybody that handles money, from a nickle-in-theslot speculator to a trust fiscal agent. -Kansas City Journal.

#### SHADOWS

A nervous man on his lonely homeward way heard the echoing of footsteps behind him, and dim visions of hold-up men and garroters coursed through his brain. The faster he walked the more the man behind increased his speed, and although the nervous one took the most roundabout and devious course he could devise, still his tracker followed. At last he turned into a churchyard.

"If he follows me here," he decided, "there can be no doubt about his intentions."

The man behind did follow, and quivering with fear and rage, the nervous one turned and confronted him.

"What do you want?" he demanded. "Why are you following me?" "Do you always go home like this?" asked the stranger, "or are "Now, we know we are not like you giving yourself a treat tonight? Excuse my asking, but are you going "The present generation is going home at all tonight?"-Philadelphia

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