

The Watauga Democrat

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An Appreciation of Foster

The following tribute was read before the pupils of the Appalachian Training School on Foster Day, April 24, by Prof. I. G. Greer:

Stephen Collins Foster has been classed as America's greatest success as a folk song writer. His chief successes were songs written for the negro melodists or minstrels so popular in New England at the time he lived. When about 18 or 19 years old he wrote "Old Uncle Ned" and "O Susanna." For the latter he received \$100. This encouraged him to adopt song-writing as a vocation. During his short life of 38 years he wrote about 175 songs. The most popular of these are "Old Black Joe," "Nellie Was a Lady," "Old Kentucky Home," "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming," and "Old Folks at Home."

Different opinions have been given as to the compensation Foster received for his songs. One writer states that he received \$15,000 for "Old Folks at Home." Others claim that he received only \$500. The latter is perhaps more nearly correct.

While living, Foster may not have been appreciated as he should have been. His life like many other writers and composers was checkered—often sad, perhaps many times neglected by his friends. But during these hours of sadness and neglect, he not only gave expression to his own feelings, but he made America and even European countries rich in folk lore by giving us songs through which, in the melancholy hour and happy moods of life, we may give expression to the deepest feelings and emotions of the heart. As proof of the appreciation of Foster in other countries we note the fact that the above named songs have been translated into five or six different languages. "Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming" has been translated and is now being sung in twelve different languages, and is considered one of the most pleasing and popular vocal quartets ever written. His popularity among the folk in America is without question. Even composers, and poets of celebrity recognize his peculiar talent, and great musicians have imitated his style. Although as a musician and composer, Foster would, strictly speaking, have little claim to high rank, his song writings made an epoch in popular music, of a class which certainly possesses melody and beauty of harmony, that has appealed to a large majority of the American people.

Remove from the field of musical composition the master pieces of Schubert and Schuman and but a small per cent of the American people would realize what the world has lost, but take from them the old-time songs of Foster and they will feel like you have robbed them of the richest heritage in the field of music. They have come to be a part of our American life, from the peasant in the cottage to the aristocracy of the palace. Under the influence of these "home songs" family ties have been drawn closer and society has been made richer and purer. In days passed these songs were sung by matrons and maidens at the spinning wheel, and by the weaver at his loom. Today they are heard in the logging camp, at merry makings, and in the home around the winter fireside at night. They mark the coming of the planter as he returns home from the field after the day's work is over. They add to the family reunion of a summer's evening and carry the parents back in their mind to

Taft's Support of Wilson

Speaking before the Wisconsin Legislature yesterday, former President Taft not only commended President Wilson for the policy of neutrality "which he has so conscientiously followed," but fully justified the attitude of the Administration toward the traffic in munitions of war.

This is not likely to be popular doctrine in Wisconsin, which has been one of the chief centers of the German-American propaganda against the President and Secretary Bryan, but it is sound American doctrine no matter where it is preached.

This is not the first time that Mr. Taft has appeared publicly as a vigorous defender of President Wilson's policy toward the belligerent nations, and it is not likely to be the last. On that issue no Democrat has supported the Wilson Administration more ably and more loyally than the Republican President whom Mr. Wilson succeeded.

Mr. Taft's commendation reflects great credit upon Mr. Wilson, but it reflects equally great credit upon Mr. Taft. There is a fine and wholesome patriotism about it that carries a lesson to everybody. In a crisis like this, Mr. Taft is trying to help, not to hinder. He is too true an American to be a partisan on issues that no loyal citizen should treat as partisan, and this is one of the most important public services that a former President can render to his country.—New York World.

A Sheffield firm has received from Holland a contract for the manufacture of 80,000 army pocket knives, to be made to the pattern of those hitherto imported from Germany.

A twenty-ton bell at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Paris, is tolled by electricity. A choir boy operates the mechanism.

the days when the children sang "On the bench by the old cabin door." They are cradle songs of the mother in the humble walk of life, and the daughter's accomplishment in the homes of wealth and leisure. They are sung to the banjo, guitar and piano by persons of taste and refinement, and crooned by the servants in their daily tasks. They haunt the memory of the carpenter at his bench, the scholar at his desk, and are the property alike of the farmer and the professional man. Little short of the songs of worship they create in us feelings of sympathy and love. It is a healthy indication for the American people for the old-time melodies to live so long and be so popular among all classes of society. We may say of them as Sidney Lanier once said of the old ballads: "I know that he who walks in the way these following ballads point, will be manful in necessary fight, fair in trade, loyal in love, generous to the poor, tender in the household, prudent in living, plain in speech, merry upon occasion, simple in behavior, and honest in all things."

Many influences are tending to obliterate these old-time melodies. America has been justly criticised for producing so much rag-time. Catchy, but empty songs not worthy of comparison with these are being placed on the market every day. Let these empty songs come and go, but may the time never come when the American people forget to respect, honor and appreciate him who gave to America and the world "Uncle Ned," "Old Black Joe," "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," and "Old Folks at Home."

Experiences of Some on the Sinking Liner

The brief time elapsing between the torpedoing and sinking of the Lusitania was long enough to develop a heroine in the person of Miss Kathleen Kaye, 14 years old, returning from New York where she had been visiting relatives. With smiling words she aided stewards in filling a boat with women and children.

When all were in she climbed aboard the lifeboat as coolly as an able seaman. One sailor lained at his oar and the girl took his place. None among the survivors bears as little sign of her terrible experience as Miss Kaye.

The dragging of the lifeboats was explained by passengers and members of the crew by the statement that the second torpedo severed several steam pipes from the engines. The Lusitania had been sent full speed ahead when the first torpedo was seen and it was impossible to stop her head way by reversing the engines when the necessity for lowering the boats was realized.

The most remarkable escape was that of R. J. Timmis of Gainesville Texas, who was returning to England for his yearly visit accompanied by his chemist R. T. Moodie, also of Gainesville. Both men gave their lifebelts to steerage women just as the Lusitania sank. Timmis, who is a strong swimmer, remained in the water, clinging to various objects for nearly three hours. Then he was taken into a boat, which he still had the strength to assist in rowing.

The boat began picking up from the water all those showing signs of life and the first person rescued was the half-unconscious steerage woman to whom Timmis had given his life-belt. Moodie sank when the ship went under and although he was a good swimmer, he was not seen again. Moodie was all ready to jump when Timmis, who had previously given his belt to a woman, said:

"There is a steerage woman here with a six-months-old baby." Moodie promptly stripped off his life belt but it seems both he and the woman perished.

Dr. J. T. Houghton of Troy, N. Y., a survivor, said there was no reason to fear any danger after the first explosion, as it was believed the vessel would be headed for Queenstown and beached if necessary. Just then, said Doctor Houghton, the liner again was struck, evidently in a more vital spot, for it began to settle rapidly.

Orders then came from the bridge to lower all boats. Women became panic-stricken. People were rushed into the boats, some of which were launched successfully, others not so successfully.

G. D. Lane, a youthful but cool-headed second cabin passenger who was returning to Wales from New York, was in a lifeboat which capsized. "I was on the 'B' deck," he said, "when I saw the wake of the torpedo. I rushed to get a life-belt but stopped to help get children on the boat deck."

"The second cabin was a veritable nursery. Many youngsters must have drowned, but I saw one boat get away filled with women and children. When the water reached the deck I saw another life boat with a vacant seat, which I took as no one else was in sight. The Lusitania keeled so suddenly our boat was swamped but we righted her again."

"We witnessed the most horrible scene of human futility it is possible to imagine. When the Lusitania had turned almost over she suddenly plunged bow foremost in the water, leaving her

Face to Face

The outcome of the President's deliberations over the sinking of the Lusitania is a note, clear-cut, firm and vigorous to Germany, in which that Government is unescapably held to "a strict accountability." The note ignores the German pretense of placing the blame on England. It holds the German Government responsible. An explanation is made imperative and there is an implied demand for an apology. Not only is Germany called upon to make due reparation, but that Government is given plain notice that a guarantee shall be forthcoming against a repetition of such an offense against the laws of humanity and the laws of international warfare. The note is drafted in terms that are calculated to win the serious attention of the Government to which it is addressed, and to elicit a reply which will not be characterized with bravado. It is one which Germany will not be inclined to carelessly scan. It will be studied with seriousness by the Imperial Government. The action of President Wilson and his Cabinet is of a character which we believe will meet with the instant approval of the people of the United States. While it does not mean war, it means justice to humanity, reparation to an outraged country and a guarantee for the preservation of the rights of neutral flags. The note is not meant as a "bluff." It is a serious, sober presentation of facts for Germany to confront—and decide. Failing in that, Germany will invite all of the discomfiture which the resources of this country may make possible. There is a way of squaring accounts in a matter of this kind without resort to war. Just what that way is, President Wilson knows. The country may rest assured of that. The hardest blow Germany could invite would be to force this country to place its resources at the command of the Allies—to back them with its credit, to give them the privileges of its factories and its granaries, to equip and strengthen them in a way made possible only by a rich and powerful Nation. We may well believe that the note will give Germany pause. We are anticipating no flippant answer from the German Government. The Kaiser and the President are face to face for the first time. If either is to quail, it will not be the President of the United States. Meanwhile, for Mr. Wilson's management of the situation up to this good moment, the plaudits of the American people are in order.—Charlotte Observer.

No Law for the Submarine

The appearance of the new element in warfare—the submarine boat and the torpedo—has necessarily made obsolete some of the rules of international law. The Declaration of London, which has been quoted in the case of the Lusitania, is one of these rules that no longer hold good. That Declaration applied to naval warfare in the days before the advent of the submarine, when a merchantman should be held up on the high seas by a war ship. It was then practicable to hold up stern high in the air. People on the aft deck were fighting with wild desperation to retain a footing on the almost perpendicular deck while they fell over the slippery stern like crippled flies.

"Their cries and shrieks could be heard above the hiss of escaping steam and the crash of bursting boilers. Then the water mercifully closed over them and the big liner disappeared, leaving scarcely a ripple behind her."

BANK REPORT.

Following is the report of the condition of Valle Crucis Bank at Valle Crucis, in the state of North Carolina at the close of business May 1, 1915.

RESOURCES:

Loans and discounts	\$16,410.00
Overdrafts secured	85.68
Overdrafts unsecured	64.50
Banking House	1,849.45
Furniture and fixtures	1,000.00
Due from banks and banks	1,089.26
Cash items	5.70
Gold coin	67.40
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency	123.19
National bank notes and other U. S. notes	512.00
Total	\$21,249.33

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock paid in	8,000
Undivided profits less current expenses & taxes paid	88.55
Notes and bills rediscounted	1,785.00
Bills Payable	1,500
Time certificates of deposit	2,682.25
Deposits subject to check	5,988.64
Cashier's checks outstanding	478.90

Total..... \$1,948.83

State of North Carolina, County of Watauga ss. I, L. M. Farthing, cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

L. M. FARTHING, Cashier.

Correct—Attest:

W. J. WAGNER,
W. F. WINKLER,
H. B. PERRY,
Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9 day of May 1915.
W. H. MAST, N. P.

BANK STATEMENT.

Following is a report of the condition of the bank of Blowing Rock at Blowing Rock in the state of North Carolina, at the close of business May 1st, 1915:

RESOURCES:

Loans and discounts	\$44,420.77
Overdrafts secured	.87
Overdrafts unsecured	10.39
Banking house and lot	2750
Furniture and fixtures	1,263.10
Due from b'ks and b'krs	13,064.35
Gold coin	1,640.00
Silver coin, including all minor coin currency	3,151.45
National bank notes and other U. S. notes	550.00
Building Fund	86.00
Total	\$66,936.93

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock	\$16,000.00
Surplus Fund	900.00
Undivided profits, less current expenses and taxes paid	344.53
Bills Payable	5,500.00
Time certificates of deposit	24,759.23
Deposits subject to check	19,364.78
Cashier's checks outstanding	68.39
Total	66,936.93

State of North Carolina, Watauga county, ss: I, G. M. Sudderth, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

G. M. SUDDERTH, Cashier.

Correct—Attest: W. C. Lentz,
J. A. Lentz, W. L. Holshouser Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of May 1915.
J. H. GREEN, J. P.

the merchantman, make an examination of cargo and take off the passengers in case it should be decided to burn or sink the prize. But the submarine has no provision for the taking off of passengers and it has no time for parley, for, while the parleying was in progress, attacking vessels might come up and make short work of the submarine. It is for this reason that some of the rules that applied in the past wars are now obsolete, and it is for this reason that there will have to be a revision of the international laws. Under the force of circumstances the modern submarine is pretty much of a law to itself. International law has slept while science has been at work.—Charlotte Observer.

One of the evils of war is the lowering of the national physique. In the generation after the Franco-German war an appreciable decrease in the stature of Frenchmen through the large number of young men of good physique who were killed.

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