

Home-Democrat,
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Commencement Exercises at the University of North Carolina.

Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, a large assembly of the people of the State met at Chapel Hill last week to participate in and witness the Commencement Exercises of the University of North Carolina. Gov. Scales was present, and presided with dignity and affability, assisted by the President of the University, Hon. Kemp P. Battle. In consequence of heavy rains, the audience was not very large on Wednesday, but on Thursday it was as large as we ever saw on such an occasion—the married people, the girls and the boys, and the children from the surrounding country being in large numbers, along with many prominent gentlemen of the State; and the ladies and girls of elegance from all parts of North Carolina.

President Battle and his corps of Professors did all they could to make the occasion an agreeable one to visitors of all sorts, and we think they succeeded well.

On Wednesday morning, June 1st, the Annual Address before the two Literary Societies was delivered by the Hon. John Goode of Virginia, (the man whom the Republican Senate rejected for Solicitor-General.) It was, indeed, a grand production, and delivered in admirable style and manner. He made a telling exhibit of the resources and possibilities of North Carolina, showing it to be one of the well-favored sections of the nation. This is a progressive age, and North Carolina a progressive State, offering a magnificent field to her people to develop a great territory and build up a grand commonwealth.

What more a young man can do, a young man starting in life desire? The essential demand in North Carolina is the fuller development and perfection of industrial and mechanical pursuits. Ambition in young men is commendable, and the professions afford many avenues for its gratification, but all young men cannot engage in the professions. There is a political tendency to cultivate the more practical realities of life. It is an honorable to be a master mechanic as it is to be president of a college. Every young man with energy and pluck can succeed, and no opposition can ever quench the fire of sterling worth. This practical age is no longer intolerant to the young man. A longer indulgence to the young man can not-day yield an ascendancy over the claims of genuine merit. The youth stands upon equal footing with the patriarch. Every man's worth is his credentials.

After the Address of Mr. Goode, the Rev. Dr. J. R. Wilson, Professor in the Presbyterian University at Clarksville, Tenn., preached the Annual Sermon. Dr. Wilson was, for several years, the pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Wilmington, N. C., and therefore no stranger to many of our people. The line of his discourse was framed from the Scripture proverb that he who ruleth his own spirit is mightier than he who taketh a city. The cream of the discourse was a discrimination and comparison of character and reputation. The idea was vividly illustrated by the drawing of a word-picture of a life representing each. First was presented a man of self-sacrificing, noble and Christian character, living a life of isolation in a secluded mountain glen where men never saw and appreciated the richness of his example. The other side of the picture was shown in the character of Lord Byron, a man of genius, of fame and reputation, but who only wielded the power he possessed to create dissipation and acerbity among his fellow-men, instead of devoting it to the edification of humanity. The life of the humble mountaineer was happier and far more to be desired than the possession of a brilliant genius, the only mission of which is to make others unhappy.

Wednesday night was the occasion for the "speaking-contest" between representatives of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, as follows:

Dialectic Society—Lee Crowell, Stanley county, subject, The Utility of Beauty; June R. Parker, Graham, subject, Reformation; John A. Hendricks, Davis county, subject, The Death Penalty.

Philanthropic Society—H. F. Murphy, Pender county, subject, Leadership in America; Logan D. Howell, Goldsboro, subject, The Spirit of the Age; C. D. Batchelor, Nash county, subject, The Reformer.

Mr. Batchelor was awarded the Medal prize as the best Orator.

Thursday, June 2d, was Commencement Day proper, and there was a very large and handsome present. The Graduating Class consisted of twenty-two young men, as follows: Joseph H. Baker, Jr., Lewis M. Bourne, Robert T. Barwell, Claudius Dockery, Robt. G. Grissom, Rich'd. N. Hackett, Jacob C. Johnson, Vernon W. Long, Wm. H. McDonaugh, Lucius P. McGee, James McGuire, Jr., John F. Meyer, W. M. H. McNeill, Joseph A. Morris, Haywood Parker, Henry F. Shaffner, Albert M. Simmons, Claudius F. Smith, Henry R. Starbuck, Wm. R. Tucker, Wm. S. Wilkinson and Delonzo T. Wilson.

Of the above, the following delivered Orations:

D. Tate Wilson, Sampson county, "The Mystery of Nature";

W. S. Wilkinson, Tarboro, "Russia's Position in Europe";

H. F. Shaffner, "Bismarck";

Will H. McDonald, Raleigh, "The Merit System versus Spoils";

F. Smith, "The Ideal Teacher and His Social Influence";

M. Simmons, Fairfield, "Our Social Dangers and Their Remedies";

Haywood Parker, Halifax county, "Our Best Inheritance";

Claudius Dockery, Mangum, "American Citizenship";

Richard N. Hackett, Wilkesboro, "The Influence of Ideals";

Robert G. Grissom, Raleigh, "The Slavery of Freedom";

W. M. H. McNeill, Cumberland county, "The Failures of Republics";

Jacob C. Johnson, Pitt county, "The Foreign Element in American Life";

Vernon W. Long, Chapel Hill, "The Makers of Our State";

Henry R. Starbuck, Winston, "The Transition Period";

Lucius P. McGee, Raleigh, "The Scientific Spirit" (Valdettorian).

The speeches (or orations) of the young men were well delivered, and all elicited applause, but those of Messrs. Grissom,

Bourne, Hackett, Simmons and Dockery, were particularly attractive. The Willie P. Mangum Medal was awarded to Mr. Louis M. Bourne of Tarboro, as the best orator.

Mr. W. M. Little of Anson county, was given the mathematical prize; Mr. W. J. Battle the Greek prize; Mr. R. G. Grissom of Raleigh, the chemistry medal; and Mr. L. P. McGee of Raleigh, the Worth prize.

The large Hall, where the Exercises took place, is a magnificent one, holding 2,500 or 3,000 persons, and it was about full on Thursday.

The President of the University, the Professors, and Marshals, did all they could to make the occasion pleasant to all visitors, high and low, rich and poor.

The Board of Trustees conferred the following Degrees: D. D. on Rev. John G. Bacon of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Rev. L. C. Vass of Newbern, N. C.; and L. L. D. on Hon. J. J. Davis of North Carolina, Dr. Morris H. Harvey of New York, Rev. Theodore B. Lyman of North Carolina, and Dr. Hunter McGuire of Virginia.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Premature Harvesting.

DAVIDSON COLLEGE, N. C., June 10th, 1887.

Editors Charlotte Home-Democrat:—On my way to and from Charlotte yesterday, I saw some parties cutting wheat. I know that the scarcity of food justifies the early harvesting of some, i. e., enough for immediate use this year; but as a rule it is a great mistake to harvest wheat in the "green order" or even in the "dough state." By so doing there is a loss both in quantity and quality. Had I the time, I could prove this proposition by chemical analysis, but common sense teaches that it is as important for wheat to be thoroughly ripe when harvested as corn or any other grain. When wheat is ready for the sickle it will grow in head in obedience to it. I hope, Messrs. Editors, that you will publish this as a communication to the farmers this week, and insist on their reaping their main crop until it is thoroughly ripe, and thereby realizing a larger yield and a far better quality. Try it once, gentlemen, and thereafter you will all agree with your friend,

W. P. WILLIAMS.

A Bag-Making Machine.

The Durham Plant gives this description of a new invention by a North Carolinian:

"The new bag machine invented by Mr. Will H. Kerr is ready for work. Each machine sews out from ten to fifteen thousand bags per day. We are not machinists enough to explain the workings of the bag machine so any one can understand us, but we know that they make bags faster than any thing we ever saw or dreamed of. The place for the drawing is hemmed, then both ends of the bag are sewed at the same time. The bag is turned and stitched, a little knife jumps out at the right time and cuts the cloth the proper size; as soon as this is done, a plate that waits for the center of the cloth catches it and puts it within reach of the two needles that sew the sides. One after the other the little bags roll out, so fast it almost makes your head swim."

Mr. Kerr is a North Carolinian, a son of the late W. C. Kerr, who was for many years State geologist. He has been in Illinois, N. Y., for more than a year perfecting the machines and superintending the construction, and now comes back to his native State to put his machine to the test. "There is life in the old land yet." We wish Mr. Kerr all the success he hopes for, and we are certain he has now within his reach a handsome fortune, for the machines are successful and do their work perfectly. The bag factory is ready to fill orders for all kinds of bags."

An aged couple committed suicide Tuesday in New Jersey. They had journeyed happily together for over half a century but had failed to acquire that which is needful to old age—money. They had spent their lives in study, and when it came to going to the poor-house they both took poison. The husband was a graduate of Heidelberg, a doctor of laws and an eminent linguist, and both he and his wife were passionately devoted to their books. There is a lesson in that late touching the danger of over-doing even what is commendable which every one can elaborate for himself or herself.

[People had better try and save a little something for old age.]

A Death-Bed Marriage.

A dispatch from Wichita, Kansas, says: "Capt. J. L. White, aged 52 years, died at his home in this city Thursday, after an illness of several months. Capt. White was, until about ten weeks ago, the editor and one of the proprietors of the Evening Beacon of this city, which he and his partner, Postmaster Frank Smith, sold for \$50,000. He had lived in this country since 1871 with his aged and infirm mother, and never married until a couple of hours before his death. Capt. White was very devoted to his mother, and for the past nine years had her well cared for by a maid lady who is somewhere near 40 years of age. This lady was Miss Susan Sebastian, who is the daughter of Charles Sebastian of Clinton Heights, St. Louis, formerly of Edwardsville, Ill. She is a most estimable lady. As the Captain realized that he was about to die, he had E. B. Jewett of this city, draw up a will for him, in which he provided for an annuity of \$2,000 to be paid to Miss Sebastian as long as she lives but in order to obviate the danger of accident happening before he could sign his will, whereby his aged mother and Miss Sebastian might be deprived of something, he insisted upon being married to Miss Sebastian on his deathbed, and the ceremony was performed by Probate Judge Thomas Capt. White was a native of Pennsylvania, and learned the printer's trade. He was always a earnest worker, and in the interest of Wichita, and through judicious investments had accumulated property estimated by some to be worth \$100,000. He had just completed an elegant new residence in Orchard Beach, an addition owned largely by him, and was preparing to take life easy. He leaves his mother, who is prostrated by his death, and a brother."

A Russian doctor named Rabow says that nine times out of ten headache can be almost instantly cured by swallowing a spoonful of salt dissolved in a quantity of water sufficient to allow the sufferer to swallow it.

[The whole story is very doubtful.]

The Star of Bethlehem.

From the Boston Herald, May 27.

"No, I haven't seen the Star of Bethlehem," said Prof. Pickering of the Harvard College observatory, last evening. "I looked for it Wednesday evening when I heard that some professor in Kentucky, unknown to me, had discovered its presence in the heavens, but I could not see it. I looked for it with the naked eye. It isn't there, and the chances of its appearing are uncertain indeed. Astronomers are doubtful about it. Many of them do not believe it will come at all. I have heard no official information from any quarter, that the reappearance of the Star had been noted by responsible astronomers. Should it make its reappearance, it would be an important astronomical phenomenon, and would be observed with great scientific interest all over the world. Its value to astronomical study can hardly be determined except upon its reappearance. Undoubtedly it would be of great value, and scientists would be enabled to ascertain its cause. Should it appear it would be made a special study at the Harvard University observatory. Astronomers have but little authentic information about the so-called Star of Bethlehem. The only reliable data are those secured by Tycho Brahe, the celebrated Danish astronomer, in 1572, who discovered a very bright star in Cassiopeia which was so brilliant that it could be seen with the naked eye in the day time. It was there was a similar star, and there was probably one about 900, but there is no certainty that they were the same. From this arose the idea that there is a Star of Bethlehem which appears every 315 years or so. As to the belief that great misfortunes will occur upon the earth as a result of the appearance of the star, there is no historical evidence whatever. There is no historical evidence whatever that the Star of Bethlehem is the star which is said to have appeared upon the birth of Christ. The Bible speaks of it as the 'Star of the East.' This could not have been the Star of Bethlehem, as that did not appear in the east, but in the north."

[Every voter ought to be made to pay a tax of some sort, and it would make him more careful as to whom he votes for.]

Gov. Scales has appointed Col. L. L. Polk of the Progressive Farmer, to represent North Carolina in the Interstate Convention of the ten cotton States, to be held in Atlanta on the 10th of August.

DEATH FROM AN OVERDOSE.—Mr. Jas. I. McLean of Atwell township, Rowan county, a brother of Mr. W. B. McLean of Mooreville, died last Friday evening of an overdose of medicine, a preparation of landanum and other drugs which had been prescribed for him as an anesthetic. Being unwell he had kept his room pretty much all day except that he came down to dinner and eat his usual meal. In the afternoon he was found lying on his bed in a profound stupor, and an examination of the contents of the medicine bottle contained forty doses, disclosed the fact that it was empty. An attempt was made to neutralize the effect of the drugs by exercising him violently, but they had done their fatal work.—Statesville Landmark.

We have never taken much stock in the so-called Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, and are inclined to place it on par with the burial of March 21st.

This is from the Salisbury Watchman, a paper hoary with age and venerable with journalistic traditions, is positively shocking. That a man like Father Bruner should, in one sentence, lay profane hands upon two of our most cherished traditions, showing that even the best of men are becoming subject to the skepticism and iconoclasm of the age. Such a revelation as this has the same effect upon us, that a disclosure of the degeneracy of the times had upon Mr. Tigg Montague: it is enough to make one "reject the superstitions of ages."—Statesville Landmark.

Gov. Scales has appointed Prof. W. G. Simmons of Wake Forest, Dr. J. R. Tucker of Henderson and Mr. Arthur Winslow of Raleigh, members of the State Board of Health.

The stockholders' meeting of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad will be held at Morehead City on Thursday the 20th of June.

Capt. T. A. Robbins, Yard Master of the Carolina Central Road at Laurinburg, died at that place last Sunday morning at the age of 57 years.

A gentleman who has traversed the principal portions of Madison county within the past week says that there has never before been such corn and grass prospects in that county—that there will be enough corn sold this year from that county to replace the corn bought for the county for the last two years. Not more than half the average of tobacco will be planted this year, but great care will be given to what will be planted.—Asheville Citizen.

The Color Line.

The recent trouble in the Episcopal Convention in South Carolina, the unpleasant and unfortunate affair during the Convention at Raleigh, the question of disagreement between the Northern and Southern Presbyterians on this subject, and the recent falling out of line of two religious companies at the same time, are all proof positive that the race problem is one of mighty importance. In the Episcopal church in North Carolina, thus far, everything has worked harmoniously; they have only educated intelligent colored men who understand their relationship, and were not disposed to force themselves on the white people, and we think (if we have been correctly informed) this was the case at Raleigh. They were in a dilemma, and feared censure, as they would, and we think they are, or ought to be, free from blame; but it should open the eyes of all intelligent people, that they may see that when in the presence of a colored man in a moral and intellectual way they must not attempt also to place him upon an equal social footing. Our natural teachings have been so fixed, our ideas of superiority are such that while we may deem it a duty to aid him all we can in matters of church and state, morally, religiously and intellectually, we cannot help but feel that Social equality can never be, and it would be best at once to arrange matters in the churches, that hereafter there may be no trouble of like nature; for while the number in the Episcopal church is now so small that they can have little power, yet if they increase, trouble will be sure to follow. We are by nature a distinct people, separated by bond and power of joining together, and our living together in the same country and same land is bad enough; but if we permit social equality in our churches it is opening the door, which ere long will produce much evil, if not a revolution, and whatever our ideas may be, and we know we are not truly when we say that we are endeavoring to elevate their race, and we know that some are worthy of our highest respect; still as a race we shall ever be against what others are endeavoring to do upon us, social equality. And it would be well to arrange matters at once.—Fayetteville Observer.

An Old Man Fasting.—NASHVILLE, Tenn., June 6.—Capt. William Murphree, of Meador, is still alive. This is the eighty-second day of his abstinence from food and drink of any kind whatever, taken in any manner since the fast began. He is entirely conscious, and has been so during all this time. His fast is not to accomplish any act of crankiness, but is made compulsory on account of some terrible throat trouble.

State News.

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By the act to raise revenue, passed by the Legislature of 1883 the failure to list poll-tax was made a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars and imprisonment not more than thirty days. It seems that the revised act of 1887, does not contain that clause, and that the Legislature intended for it to be repealed. The Washington Progress says: It is doubted by many of our best lawyers, whether the act of 1883 was constitutional, in as much as, in a manner it restored imprisonment for debt, which is expressly prohibited by the constitution of the State. This is an important matter to those who have the collection of taxes and will have the effect to lessen the collection of taxes, if our view of the law is correct.

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N. C. Supreme Court Decisions.

Opinions were filed on Friday in the following cases:

McCauley vs. Commissioners, from Mecklenburg; no error.

University vs. Bank, from Wake; error; new trial granted.

Simpson vs. Curston, from Union; error; inquiry of damages ordered unless parties consent to valuation of commissioners, and if so, final judgment may be entered.

State vs. Sloan, from Rowan; motion for certiorari refused and the court find no error in the record.

Hodges vs. Lassiter, from Hertford; no error.

Hamilton vs. Western N. C. R. R., from Watauga; no error; affirmed.

Kukluxism in Iowa.

From the Chicago Herald.

The fanatical R.-publicans of Iowa have been showing their loyalty again in a characteristic fashion. A man named Harlan was appointed Postmaster at Pocahontas, greatly to the disgust of the patriots, who looked upon this innovation as a blow at the star-spangled banner. At first they resolved that they would set up an opposition postoffice, but when they discovered that this would not work they restored to more lawful measures. They would meet in the office and in loud words insult the Postmaster and his wife. At night they would put snakes in the letter-box, nail offensive signs on the door, and run up Confederate flags. Finally some of them visited Harlan's house one night and stoned it, breaking several windows. Fearing violence of this sort, Harlan had provided himself with a shotgun, and when the attack was made upon him he fired the weapon, doing no damage, however. His use of fire-arms roused the local citizens of the town to a fever of indignation, and they sought to secure the offender's indictment by the grand jury. Failing the first time, they finally packed a jury, and he was committed to prison with intent to commit murder. Harlan's trial has just been finished at Humboldt, where he was acquitted of the charge.

Of course, the truly loyal citizens of Pocahontas will not let the matter rest here. Harlan is as much a Democrat now as he was before his trial, and it will be in order for the liberty-loving populace to make things as hot for him as possible.

"Mr. Sherman's Speech.

The "bloody shirt" speech of Senator Sherman, at Springfield, Ill., has served one good purpose, at least—it has clearly demonstrated the fact that the people of all parties are tired of issues based upon the causes and results of the late war, and will frown upon all attempts to revive them. Many of the ablest and most influential newspapers of Mr. Sherman's base have condemned the tone of his speech, and deprecated his attempt to revive war hatred. The following is from the Springfield, (Mass.) Republican.

"Mr. Sherman's speech as a Presidential candidate at Springfield, Ill., was extraordinary in its recurrence to and dependence upon the revival of war feeling as a basis for his campaign. The war arose from the issue of slavery; the war wiped out that issue from the face of the country, although it could not extinguish in a day all the barbarism, ignorance and hate which two centuries of slavery had engendered between races and between sections. Yet to-day races and sections are living in perfect accordance with each other. In the last Presidential election three-quarters of a million voters voted to the polls in the Southern States and voted for James G. Blaine, and their votes were counted. Never was the South so tranquil and prosperous as it is to-day under a Democratic Administration; never were the rights of the black man so generally enjoyed by the white race, and never so completely conceded by the white race.

"Yet, in the face of all this unexampled achievement in the reconciliation of sections and races, Mr. Sherman proposes to base the Presidential campaign of 1888 on a distinct and avowed revival of war hatred—the war having closed twenty-three years before. He seeks in every way to identify the Democratic party, and the national administration with rebellion; his favorite term for the party in power is 'Confederate,' and he revived the baseless charge that the last Presidential election was won by fraud and crime—a charge for which the Republican Senate would have established a foundation of fact if it could have found a single witness among 60,000,000 people to substantiate it. Mr. Sherman stigmatizes as 'Confederate' principles which governed the country through a large portion of our history, and to which patriots and statesmen whose shoe-leathets he is unworthy to unlunge have shown their sincere convictions.

"All the soft words in which the Ohio Senator indulged in his Nashville and wicked character. The Sherman campaign is to be one of the revival of war hatred. This is the tone of his speech from beginning to end, and his lame disavowal of such a purpose is not supported by a single other utterance in his whole address. This fact is one of vast moment to the Republican party. Can it hold together with any hope of victory upon the Sherman revival of war feeling? This is the grave problem before the Republican party."

To continue collecting one hundred millions of money annually from the people more than is necessary to carry on the Government is a disgrace to the intelligence and patriotism of the country, regardless of party. If Congress will not, at the next session, provide for a heavy reduction of taxation, we hope every member who resists such efforts will be relieved the next year, and less men sent who will act for the burden of the tax on the people. The burden is too grievous to be longer borne, and has been continued for some years only by the solid vote of the Republican party with the aid of a few democrats who preferred to subordinate the interests of a whole people to the individual interests of their own constituents. "This thing must stop by some means, or the people will get very short of the millions of money which are now being collected in the name of the Government."

The ninth International Medical Congress will meet in Washington in September. The session is expected to last about six days. The Congress meets every three years. The last meeting was held at Copenhagen, where an invitation was extended to the Congress by the American Medical Association to hold the Congress of 1887 in Washington. The Copenhagen meeting was attended by the most distinguished medical men of Europe and America, and much valuable scientific work was accomplished by it.

Mexican War Pensions.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—Deputy Commissioner of Pensions, McLean, states that the Pension Office estimates that under the Mexican Pension Bill about 30,000 claims will be filed. Congress estimated 40,000. So far 18,000 claims have been filed, of which 3,000 were of soldiers widows, and the remainder by the survivors of the Mexican war themselves. Of the number filed 2,200 certificates of pension have been issued, owing, as he states, to the lack of clerical force. Beginning, however, with June 4th, the force of the Pension Office, which has cognizance of this class of claims, will be greatly increased by detail from other divisions, and from that date it is expected that the force will be able to dispose of cases at the rate of 200 per day, or about 5,000 per month. Most of the claims are from the South, and the age of claimants ranges between seventy-five and eighty years. One claimant's age is over 100 years. Because of advanced age of the claimants, the Pension Office is making every exertion in its power to quickly adjudicate these claims.

H. W. Gen. Jackson Entertained.

President Jackson's table manners were as democratic as could be desired. He had at each plate two forks, one which was of silver and the other of steel. The President used a steel fork himself, and after his dinner he always smoked his tobacco from a long-handled cornucop pipe. Andrew Jackson entertained lavishly on the night of his first inauguration. The carpets of the East room were ruined by the orange punch which was served to the crowd which came to his reception. Barrels of this punch were made and it was brought into the room in buckets. At last the people began to rush for the waiters as soon as they entered the room. Glasses were broken and ladies' dresses ruined. Tubs of punch were taken into the garden, and in this way the strong was drawn off, and it was possible to serve cake and wine to the ladies. At Jackson's farewell reception a monster cheese, as big as a hoghead in circumference and nearly a yard thick, was cut with sawblades made into knives and served out to the guests. Each guest received a slice of the cheese. The event was the talk of the nation, and when Van Buren became President his New York friends, emulative of Jackson sent him a big cheese. It was cut up in the East room. The greasy crumbs falling upon the carpet were trampled into it, and the ruin of the furniture during these days of administration led the later Presidents to discontinue the practice of serving eatables at general receptions. Now no guest comes to dinner at the White House unless invited. In Van Buren's day, Bacoart, in his "Souvenirs d'un Diplomate," says that the President's cook took his valet to the grand morning event was the election of 1840 many persons arrived at the White House for breakfast or dinner and threatened to vote against Van Buren if they were not entertained. The cook stated that he had all the trouble possible in satisfying them, and they often returned what he sent up, doing so on the pretext that it was uneatable, and ordered something else.

UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, CHAPEL HILL, N. C.

Summer Session begins July 1st, and ends September 1st, 1887. Two Classes, Junior for \$30. Senior for \$30. Both for \$50. For particulars, address

JOHN MANNING, Professor, May 27, 1887. 1m Chapel Hill, N. C.

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