The North Carolina Whig.

"Be true to God, to your Country, and to your Duty."

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EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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Poetry.

OUR CHILDHOOD.

BY G. D. PRENTICE.

'Tis sad—yet sweet—to listen,
To the soft wind's gentle swell,
And think we hear the music
Our children knew so well;
To gaze out on the even,
And the boundless field of air,
And feel again our boyhood wish
To roam like angels there!

There are many dreams of gladness
That cling around the past—
And from the tomb of feeling
Old thoughts come thronging fast—
The forms we loved so dearly,
In the happy days now gone,
The beautiful and lovely,
So fair to look upon.

Those bright and lovely maidens
Who seemed so formed for bliss,
Too glorious and too heavenly
For such a world as this!
Whose soft dark eyes seemed swimming
In a sea of liquid light,
And whose locks of gold were streaming
O'er brows so sunny bright.
Whose smiles were like the sunshine
In the spring time of the year—
Like the changeful gleams of April
They followed every tear!
They have passed—like hope—away—
All their loveliness has fled—
Oh! many a heart is mourning
That they are with the dead.
Like to the bright hues of Summer
They have fallen from the stem—
Yet oh—it was lovely death
To fade from earth like them!

And yet—the thought is saddening
To muse on such as they—
And feel that all the beautiful
Are passing fast away!
That the fair ones whom we love,
Grow to each loving breast,
Like tendrils of the clinging vine,
Then perish where they rest.

And we can but think of these
In the soft and gentle spring,
When the trees are waving o'er us,
And the flowers are blossoming!
For we know that winter's coming
With his cold and stormy sky—
And the glorious beauty round us
Is blooming but to die!

Miscellaneous.

From Peterson's Ladies National Magazine.

THE MERCHANT'S TEST.

BY MARY L. MEANY.

"DICK, I am afraid the old man has taken it into his head to send you adrift."

"Why, what can you mean, Philip?"

"Only that he was talking very earnestly with Mr. Oglethrop as I went into his room just now, and as they ceased very discreetly on my entrance, I took the liberty of waiting outside the door till the conversation was resumed, and I heard enough to satisfy me that Oglethrop has a nephew who is about to take your place."

"What did you overhear?"

"Merely a sentence from each. Oglethrop said, 'So you think my nephew will have no difficulty in filling the place of your head clerk;' and Beale replied, 'None whatever; the other clerk, Philip Walden, has been in my establishment a long time, and can give him a little insight into our business affairs if need be.' I did not wait to hear more, but that is enough I think."

"So it would seem," was the reply, in a tone of deep despondency.

"It is mean in the old man to discharge you, and equally strange; if it was *me* now, I should not think it so odd, but he has all along seemed to think so much of you. But 'tis just like him, always doing something out of the common way."

Richard Wilkins was too sick at heart to reply. He turned to the desk and endeavored to concentrate his wandering thoughts upon his work, but in vain. The pen dropped from his fingers, and leaning his head on his hand he gave full scope to his sorrowful and indignant feelings. When the two gentlemen emerged from Mr. Beale's private room he started like one guilty of a secret crime, and snatching the pen pretended to be all absorbed in his duties. His flurried manner, so different from his usual quiet composure, was noticed by his employer, who drew his own conclusions therefrom. Mr. Oglethrop was returning to his home in Baltimore His friend accompanied him to the steamboat, and on returning closely observed his two clerks as he sauntered back and forth through the store. Philip's appearance indicated nothing unusual; but Richard, though he had partially regained his customary composure, could not prevent a slight hesitancy and constraint when replying to Mr. Beale's casual remarks.

Several days after, Mr. Beale brought Richard a letter to seal and deposit in the post-office as he went to dinner. At the same time he sent Philip to a neighboring store on business, which would detain him some little time, he then returned to his private room. Left to himself, Richard gazed on the superscription of the letter long and earnestly. "D Oglethrop, Esq., Baltimore"—words seemed burned into his brain. What would he not give to know the contents of the letter? Doubtless it related to the nephew who was to supplant *him*. Richard hesitated, turning his letter over and over. Why could he not glance into it? It was not sealed—he would betray no confidence by doing so—most of the business letters were given him to answer, and certainly to no one living would he reveal the contents, whatever they might be. These reflections overcame his strong repugnance to the act, with a trembling hand he opened the letter and read—

"DEAR SIR—I wish your nephew to arrive, if possible, by Tuesday, the thirteenth, as on that day young Wilkins' year will have expired, and it is desirable that his successor should be on the spot to enter immediately on his duties.

Truly yours, J. BEALE."

The blood mounted to Richard's brow as he read. For an instant he forgot the consequences to himself of the threatened blow in indignation at his employer's duplicity.

"Four years ago," he murmured, bitterly, "aye, four years next Tuesday, I entered this store. Not once since that day has he had occasion to reprove me for the slightest neglect or oversight; stern and exacting as he is, I have given him no cause for complaint, and *this* is the end—*this* is my reward. I am to be discharged to make room for one of his friend's connections. I am thankful I opened the letter—now I can prepare for his treachery."

With a calmness that surprised himself, the clerk sealed the letter, and dropped it in the post as he had been directed. On his way back to his employment he called at the counting-room of a merchant, whom as one of Mr. Beale's acquaintance he well knew. Richard wished to make inquiries in an indirect way for a situation, but while he was striving to form some question to this end the gentleman came to his relief, by asking if he knew any young man in need of a situation whom he could recommend to him, as he had a vacancy for a clerk. Richard eagerly offered himself. Mr. Curtis was surprised that he should wish to leave his old place, but gladly accepted him, having long admired the integrity and strict application of the young man, whose praises he had frequently heard from Mr. Beale. The yearly salary was named; it was one hundred dollars more than Richard was now receiving; and having engaged to enter on the duties of his new place on the following Tuesday, he went with a light heart to his old employment. He did not mention his intention to Mr Beale, and so the week passed without Mr. Curtis visiting the store. He hoped he had not met his employer, for Richard had a wish that the latter should not hear how his treacherous scheme had been defeated till the last moment.

On Monday evening Richard knocked at the door of Mr. Beale's room, and in as few words as possible requested the wages due to him, as he was engaged to go to another house on the morrow.

"I have known of your engagement since Wednesday," replied Mr. Beale. "Mr. Curtis informed me of it. May I ask the motive of this secret and unusual proceeding on your part? I believe I gave you no cause for so sudden a determination to quit my employment—did I?"

"No cause!" Richard repeated, bitterly. "Oh, no, sir, no cause, of *course*—the clerk is only the dupe, the slave of the merchant, and has no right to complain of any conduct, however iniquitous, of which he is the victim."

"Your sarcasm is rather out of place, young man," replied Mr. Beale, coolly. "I asked if I had given you any cause of offence. I *know* I have not—you falsely imagine that I have, and thus imagining, you have done yourself a great injury. Nay, no questions—I will tell you all. On the day that Mr. Oglethrop was here I noticed a great alteration in your looks, your words, your whole conduct. I suspected at once Philip had overheard our conversation and repeated it to you, in consequence of which you were disturbed in mind. This was natural, and I was far from blaming you; but it afforded me opportunity for a test which I had peculiar reasons for desiring to apply I penned a brief note to Mr. Ogethrop, gave it to you to seal, and watched your after proceedings from that window. I thought the temptation would prove a severe one, and that if you arose superior to it I need never have any fears concerning you. I was right, the temptation was strong—*too strong* for your honor or integrity to withstand, I saw you open the letter, twas enough. I did not at all wonder when I heard of your applying for a new situation; you thought I was acting treacherously to you, and that you would outwit me."

Mr. Beale ceased, and looked fixedly at Richard, whose whole countenance was suffused with blushes as the true nature of his conduct was brought thus calmly to his view. In his indignant feelings he had not till this moment thought of his dereliction of principle in opening a letter not intended for his inspection; now he was overwhelmed with shame and remorse, for he was naturally upright and ingenuous. Mr. Beale saw his confusion, and turned to his desk to pay what was due of Richard's salary, but first taking some papers from a secret drawer, threw them on the table before the young man.

"All this is at an end now," he said, "but you may see how unjust your supposition was to me, how injurious to yourself, as I said awhile ago."

Richard's eyes were intently bent upon the papers. One was in the merchant's handwriting, a notice of Richard Wilkins having been admitted as junior partner into his old established business firm; the others were the necessary legal papers relating thereto. Richard continued gazing on them as if fascinated, till the merchant's voice broke the spell.

"Well, young man, do you understand the matter now?"

"Oh, sir!" said Richard, turning his eyes imploringly on him, and then unable to repress his tortured feelings, he bent his head on the table to conceal the fast gushing tears.

"Regret is unavailing now," said Mr. Beale, in his clear, cold tones. "I had every reason to place confidence in you. During these four years I have observed your conduct closely. It was such as to satisfy me; and resolving to reward your strict integrity and faithfulness, I had decided to take you into partnership as you see by these papers, prepared nearly two months ago, and only wanting signatures and date. My friend, Mr. Oglethrop, had frequently mentioned his nephew whom he much desired me to employ. At his last visit I agreed to do so. It was my intention to give you an agreeable surprise to morrow, and, therefore, I desired to keep all my arrangements secret, fortunately as I now see; for my whim enabled me to test the strength of your principles."

"Oh, if you could only forgive me, Mr. Beale," exclaimed Richard, imploringly. "It was my first error in this regard—I am sure it will prove my last."

For all answer Mr. Beale quietly pushed the money he had counted over to Richard, and picking up the papers tore them into small fragments. The young man looked sadly upon them, but knowing that remonstrance or entreaty was alike unavailing with the stern man, he by a strong effort conquered his emotion, and taking up the money bowed his thanks and farewell to his late employer, and turned to leave the room. As he laid his hand on the door-knob, he paused and asked, in a still faltering voice, if Mr. Curtis was informed of all this.

"No, I did not think it necessary to speak of it," said Mr. Beale, "for I had reason to think it was your first departure from the straight road, and though all business connection between *us* has ceased, yet I would not wish to injure your reputation by revealing an act which I thought you would regret. You will find Mr. Curtis a more indulgent employer than you are leaving, your salary will be larger than it has been here, so that on the whole, perhaps, you are no loser, and I hope for your sake that your first error will prove also your last."

Richard sadly left the store. On the morrow he entered on the duties of his new situation. It proved agreeable, and the addition to his previous salary was of great use; but what could silence remorse for the act by which he had not only lost so much in a pecuniary point of view, but also sank immediately in his own estimation? He profited by the lesson, however. Years after he found himself in a position prosperous and enviable as that which he had forfeited in early manhood, but to his dying day he never tried to banish the humiliating but salutary recollection of his first and last deviation from the straightforward path of honor and integrity.

BREVITY.—The following is the annual message of the Governor of New Jersey, in 1713, and the reply of the Legislature to the same. They are SOUND on the score of brevity:

"GENTLEMEN: I am heartily glad to meet you here after so long an absence; and believe you are not sorry to meet me in so good company."

REPLY.

"YOUR EXCELLENCY: It is with the greatest satisfaction we meet your Excellency in such good company now, and hope we shall be favored with it often."

THE FISH DINNER.—When Lord Erskine was Chancellor, being asked by the Secretary of the Treasury whether he would attend the grand ministerial fish dinner at the end of the session, he answered: "To be sure I will; what would your fish dinner be without the *Great Seal!*"

BY REQUEST.

[*From the Lexington Flag.*]

MR. EDITOR: I notice that the Editor of the Bulletin in his last number devotes nearly two columns of his paper to an article in reply to the communication published in the "Flag" some two or three weeks since. The extract below is the only portion that calls for a reply.

Among other grievances, the Flag's Correspondent charges that the Banks of the State, receive South Carolina and Virginia money on deposit, nay even *swap* their own notes for it, and after purchasing therewith Exchanges in South Carolina and Virginia at a ¼ or ½ per cent., sell the same to North Carolina merchants for 1½ per centum, &c., by which shaving operation they realize large profits on the necessities of the public. This all may be true for aught we know, and think quite likely it is; but we would here ask the said correspondent to answer this question—if the North Carolina Banks procured not exchange in this way, how are they to have any for sale at any price? The products of the State, the chief means of supplying the Banks with exchange, are quite all sent out of it and sold in other parts, for foreign bank paper, to whose institutions the exchange thus created inures. Therefore our Banks, if they would furnish exchange in any amount, like a merchant that goes North to buy goods, are compelled to go abroad for it—and, as they job it out second hand, of course are disposed to make all they can out of it; they cannot afford to buy and sell at the same price.

The Editor of the Bulletin must remember that I have not yet complained of the Banks buying exchange from any one. They have a right to do this, and no one should, or will, I apprehend, complain if they go to Virginia or South Carolina, or further South for their supply. But when they condescend to degrade their own paper, to enable them to carry on this trade in such a way *as to share the community to enrich themselves, I have in common with every other citizen, a right to complain and as a freeman demand a reform of our Legislators.* I go further and say if there is any State pride or spirit left among old Rip's sons, any self independence among the conductors of the newspaper press in this State, we will have a reform in this important matter, and that before long. There is too much light, and too great a spirit of investigation and enquiry abroad even in the Old North State, to prevent an organized clique to rule the State much longer. The people are getting tired, heartily sick, of seeing men, who aspire to the position of Legislators condescending to stoop so as to bring all their wealth, position, and influence as politicians, and private gentlemen, to bear upon the members of the Legislature while it is in session, in such a way, and to such an extent, as to make every interest secondary in importance, and a contributor to their own. In fact this has become so common of late, that the very swaggering air these gentlemen assume, seems to flash in the face of the State, and others, this insulting motto, from the haughty countenance of each.

"*Ego primus, Vos secundum.*"

But to conclude, I will ask the Editor of the *Bulletin* one question; and when he has answered that correctly, he will no longer draw wrong conclusions from correct premises as he has done. And he will see, or I am greatly mistaken, that the Banks as now organized and managed, are to blame for the produce of the State seeking foreign markets. Suppose for example, that the cost of sending a barrel of flour was precisely the same to Wilmington, Norfolk, Fayetteville, Petersburg, Newberne, Richmond, Charleston, and Beaufort, where would all our Merchants and Farmers, who are trading with Philadelphia, and New York, send their flour and other produce? Clearly to the South Carolina and Virginia Markets. And why pray, would they act so unpatriotic? Simply because they can procure exchange there at from three-eighths to one-half per cent., notwithstanding the public debts of these States in the aggregate amount to near forty millions, whereas, our Banks charge their customers one and a half to two per centum for the same article, and that too when the public debt of the State, is not yet four millions of dollars. Under this policy our Banks can, as some of them did last year, make from fifteen to twenty per cent on their capital stock by speculating in exchange, and shaving the commercial community to the quick, and instead of fostering the industry and enterprize of the State, to strengthen, build up, beautify and adorn our great and glorious old commonwealth, as our Banks should take a pride in doing, we find them from contracted, mercenary motives, offering a handsome premium to our merchants and others to send the produce of the State to foreign markets. To talk of trading with our own ports, under such circumstances as these, Mr. Drake, is worse than speculation—a stubborn impossibility, that is all. As we agree so well where our trade should go, I regret you oppose the only safe and certain remedy for this great and growing evil. Who can blame our States for styling North Carolina, a strip of land between South Carolina and Virginia, when our people thus tamely submit to be plucked of their wealth as so many geese of their feathers, to build and make warm the nest of our enemies? Unfurl the banner of reform, Mr. Bulletin, and strike for your rights and the rights of your countrymen, and measure that all your blows fall in the right direction and on the right parties; and while thus engaged, it will be patriotic to wish you and the *Bulletin* a long and prosperous life, as will be the case with MANY.

ILLUSTRATING A POINT.—Sir Fletcher Norton was noted for his want of courtsey. When pleading before Lord Mansfield on some question of manorial right, he chanced unfortunately to say, "My lord, I can illustrate the point in an instant in my own person: I myself have *two little manors.*" The judge immediately interposed, with one of his blandest smiles, "We all know it, Sir Fletcher."

CONGRESS.

APRIL 2, 1856.—In the Senate yesterday, the President called up the special order at one o'clock, and Mr. Clayton resumed and concluded his remarks upon the general subject of the late Naval Advisory Board. The immediate question before the body is the resolution offered by Mr. Iverson to appoint a select committee to examine into the proceedings of the late Board, and to report the facts, reason, and grounds upon which it acted. But the debate has, for the most part, taken a wide range, and from the peculiar nature of the inquiry, and of the material upon which investigation must necessarily concentrate, it discursive discussion be indulged, considerable personal feeling must mingle with the deductions of reason. So it is to be feared, in the progress of a somewhat vague debate on topics so delicate, that more acrimony may be engendered—to be sure, of a temporary character—than is usually produced even by discussions upon the strongest party topics. We are certainly glad that no such regretable incident has yet occurred. The Senator from Delaware spoke in reply to a recent speech of Mr. Houston for some two hours, in the course of his remarks defending some of the officers from the Retiring Board, and animadverting upon some of the gentlemen whose official position has been affected by the action of that Board. Mr. Bell replied to portions of Mr. Clayton's strictures, and at four o'clock the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, the bill appropriating four hundred and twenty thousand dollars for restoring and maintaining the friendly relations with the Indian tribes on the Pacific was considered and passed by a large majority. Amongst the business of a general nature, a bill was reported by Mr. Cobb, of Alabama, from the Committee on Public Lands, to grant to the States having public lands therein the unsold and unappropriated lands which have been in market for twenty years and upwards for the purpose of education and internal improvements; also, a bill to allow the exchange of school lands in certain cases. Mr. Goode, of Virginia, reported from the Committee on the District of Columbia a bill to authorize the Circuit Courts of the District to decree the sale of real estate in certain cases. This is a measure of great importance to the people of the city. A bill was introduced by Mr. Meacham to extend the jurisdiction of the Corporation of Washington over the lower Eastern Branch bridge, and to regulate travel on the upper bridge. In Committee of the Whole, the President's Annual Message was further discussed on the motion to refer its several parts. Mr. Warner, of Georgia, and Mr. Allison, of Pennsylvania, spoke on the slavery question in reference to the disputed jurisdiction of Congress over the subject; and this closed the day's proceedings.

APRIL 3.—In the Senate yesterday, according to a general understanding of the preceding day, the unfinished business was detefred to allow Mr. Fessenden to deliver his views upon the Central American question as connected with the bill for the greater efficiency of the army. The Senator occupied about two hours in his exposition of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, the general tenor of his remarks being in favor of the American interpretation. But being, as he said, a manifest-destinarian to some extent, he was opposed to asserting our views by war, but preferred delay for some years, when the inevitable progress of events will have rendered unnecessary any formal settlement of the question. Mr. Cass spoke at some length in reply to the Senator from Maine, and took occasion further to expand what has fallen from him in the various debates on this topic. The opinions of the venerable Senator are so familiar to the country, and have been so much more elaborately expressed, that more is needless than this allusion to them. Mr. Bell then addressed the Senate in explanation of some personal passages which had occurred between Mr. Clayton and himself on Tuesday, acknowledging that he had been betrayed into unusual warmth of language by a misapprehension of the Senator's meaning upon a subject in relation to which he was exceedingly sensitive. Satisfied now that he was mistaken, he tendered the olive-branch to the Senator from Delaware. After brief explanations, a reconciliation succeeded, and the amicable intercourse was renewed, which as the Senator remarked, has been unbroken for twenty years. The Senate shortly afterwards held an Executive session.

In the House of Representatives, three of the appropriation bills, with the Senate's amendments, were considered, viz: the bill for paying invalid and other pensions, the bill making appropriations for the Military Academy, and the deficiency bill. The Committee of Ways and Means had recommended a non-concurrence in the Senate's amendments to the two first-named bills, and the House adopted the recommendation. The discussion upon the amendments to the deficiency bill was continued until near four o'clock, when the House adjourned.

APRIL 4th.—In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Collamer, of Vermont, proceeded, on the special order of the day, to discuss the bill for the formation of a State Constitution in Kansas, and the general relations of the questions now raised relative to the Territory. He commenced a comprehensive and compact argument by adverting to what are called new views of the Constitution, with respect to which he asserted that the fact of their being new was pregnant proof that they were false. The past legislation of the country was held to be the best exposition of the Constitution, and of the power of Congress under that Constitution. From the mere literal and textual interpretation of that instrument it was argued that even the existence of such a thing as slavery could not be inferred, and hence it was only by a reference to the practical legislation of the country that it was removed beyond all controversy that three provisions of the Constitution had been introduced because of the existence of that domestic institution.

Mr. Collamer then proceeded to show that Congress had never before the year 1850 committed the subject of freedom or slavery to be exclusively discussed and legislated upon by the inhabitants of a Territory, and maintained that Congress had assumed to regulate the institution of slavery, firstly, by prohibiting it where it did not exist, or where it existed to a small extent; and, secondly, by not disturbing it where it already had a permanent footing. Congress having thus specially legislated on the subject of slavery in the Territories, Mr. Collamer inferred that Congress had the power to do so, and held that to deny it was to deny the interpretation put upon the Constitution by those who were most competent to expound that instrument.

Mr. C. then examined the ordinance of 1787, and showed that its constitutionality had been recognised by the admission of the Northwestern States under its express sanctions. He also referred to the legislation of Congress relative to the Territory of Tennessee, of Orleans, (a part of the Louisiana purchase,) and others, for the purpose of proving that with regard to them also Congress had assumed a power of regulating the relations of slavery; to which he added that a power to regulate implied a full power of control, since it had been held by the Supreme Court that under the power to regulate commerce Congress was competent to pass a perpetual embargo.

Mr. C. next proceeded to analyze the organic act of Kansas Territory, and maintained that it clearly embodied the doctrine of what is popularly called "squatter sovereignty." The relation of the Constitution to the territory of the Union was next discussed, Mr. C. maintaining that the Constitution of the country covered all the Territories within the jurisdiction of Congress, and could not be legitimately extended over them by an act of Congress, which moreover was needless, since the Constitution was there *ex necessitate rei* anterior to the passage of such act. A Territorial Government Mr. C. regarded as nothing more than a municipal corporation chartered by Congress, and in canvassing the Kansas-Nebraska bill he declared it to be an anomaly in the Territorial legislation of the country, and regarded it as an experiment fraught with evil. He then proceeded to show the grounds on which it was asserted in the minority report of the Committee on Territories that the invasion of the Missourians extended to more than seven of the election districts of Kansas, quoting for this purpose from Governor Reeder, from a Missouri newspaper, and from a comparison of the votes with the census taken just before the election. At this stage of his remarks Mr. C. gave way to a motion to postpone the further consideration of the subject until to-day when it is expected the Senator will conclude his remarks.

In the House of representatives the bills making appropriations for the payment of invalid pensions and for the Military Academy were considered, and the Senate's amendments partly concurred in and partly disagreed to. The principal part of the sitting was occupied, in Committee of the Whole, with the deficiency bill, the Senate's amendments being canvassed at much length. The discussion was upon the item for printing the report of the Secretary of War transmitting the reconnoissances and surveys of the engineers who surveyed the routes for a Pacific railroad. The sum proposed by the Senate for engraving the maps and drawings is $49,200, and, in addition to the points raised as to the best mode of executing the engraving, the expediency of constructing a railroad to the Pacific was considered. The committee rose without coming to any decision on the question, and the House adjourned.—*National Intelligencer.*

FATAL RAIL ROAD ACCIDENT.—A sad accident occurred at Thomasville, Davidson County, on Friday last, resulting in the death of Mr. William Allen, a very worthy young man, aged about 20 years. He filled the post of brakeman on the freight train, and, at the time of the accident, was in the act of "cutting off" a car. Before he had got clear, the train started threw him on the track and he was run over, crushing one thigh and leg, and one hand. His leg was amputated by Doctor S. H. Pendleton, on the evening of the same day; but the severity of the shock and the loss of blood, was too great, and the sufferer died on Saturday night.

There are conflicting reports as to how this accident happened: The deceased, we learn, blamed the engineer; but it is alleged, on the other hand, that deceased gave the usual notice, and that the engineer did not move the train until he received such notice. The case, if it has not, will, doubtless, be duly investigated. This much is due to public justice. The greatest misfortune is that there is no reparation to those who suffer in the loss of a son, tenderly and lovingly reared.—*South Carolinian.*

THE PEE DEE COUNTRY RIGHT SIDE UP.—In our recent visit to Rockingham we saw and conversed with many friends from Richmond, Anson, and the borders of Montgomery. The Pee Dee country is right side up, and no mistake about it. The whole country is in a blaze of enthusiasm for Fillmore and Donelson; and the counties on both sides of the river from the South Carolina line to the narrows of the Yadkin, will roll up majorities in August and November that will astonish those who are ignorant of the deep feeling of National Americanism pervading the bosoms of the gallant people inhabiting therealong. We know on whom we rely; and never yet did they disappoint our hopes in the hour of battle.—*Fay. Argus.*

GOLD IN NORTH CAROLINA.—The American Eagle, published in the county of Franklin, N. C., states that the slaves at the Portis Gold mine in that county, now the property of T. K. Thomas, Esq., found a few days ago several nuggets of gold, making about $1,050, one piece was worth between $500 and $600—almost pure gold. Another piece was worth about $120—intermixed with quartz—with several others worth from 10 to $40.

A STRIKING PICTURE.

The San Francisco *Chronicle* draws the following graphic picture of the past of that city:

We have hard times in the city—so most people say—and so many people feel. What has made these hard times? Not the gold in our placers, gulches, ravines, mountains, quartz veins, have made the hard times. Not the failure of our gold mines has made the hard times, for they have not failed. Has our rich soil, more prolific in the necessaries of life, than any other on earth, brought hard times? Has the splendid natural location of this seaport brought hard times? Have the immense immigration, the incalculable commerce, the ships that come full, the healthy climate, the great possible future which might be ours? None of these have brought hard times. What has? Thieves, robbers, cheats, swindlers, in all professions, in all ranks, in ages of the city. They have done it all.

What have they stolen? Every thing stealable. They stole into office, and then stole what they were put there to guard. They stole outside of office as well as in office, stole all the lands of the city. They sat as officers, and granted away the inheritance of the corporation to each other. They acted as private citizens, and "gobbled" up all the land which the officers had not stolen. They taxed the people, and then stole the taxes as fast as they came into the treasury. They loaned to themselves the city's funds to buy the city's lands, already stolen by as great scoundrels as themselves. They put the city up at auction, sold her, and pocketed the cash. When there was no more land to steal and to sell, no more cash in the treasury to steal and to run away with, they formed a paper mint, coined out scrip by the million, and stole that. The contractors on the streets stole all they could. The contractors furnishing the Government with necessaries, viz: stationary, fuel, brandy and cigars, stole all they could. Those who built roads stole; those who ran away over the roads stole. They stole through ordinances, they stole through the Courts. The Council helped people steal, and themselves stole whatever they could quietly. They even stole the city's money with which to buy themselves gold medals in praise of their stealing. Thus they not only stole all the realestate of the corporation, her taxes, and her future receipts by stealing her scrip, but in doing all this they stole her good name, and left her poorer than Lazarus.

Did they stop there and then? No. When the city had nothing more for them to steal, they stole from each other, and have been doing so ever since. More than one half the law suits are nothing but theft under the form of law. Half the lawyers of the city do things under a dodge and quibble of law which would disgrace Cherokee Bob to do inside the walls of the State Prison. Some—how many?—of our merchants who roll and wallow in wealth got their money by stealing! How many of them set up on a trifling capital, get consignments of goods, put them on storeships, and next day after a great fire returned accounts to their correspondents, their assignors, that the goods were "broke," "burned," and next day sold them and pocketed the money.

How many of our bankers stole the money of their confiding depositors? How many of our moral gentlemen stole the wives of their neighbors and friends? How many women stole the affections—the last rather—of their female friends' husbands! How many of various classes stole all they could of the capital brought here by our own countrymen, and especially by foreigners for investment? Oh, how they stole through quasi companies! Oh, how they stole through fraudulent mortgages, loans, trades! How they stole every way. *Gentlemen* stole—indeed he was not considered one unless he did. This is all the claim a large portion have to the title of gentleman, even to this day; they stole large, did not get into the State Prison, and are rich.

Does any one wonder, then, that we have hard times in the city? Can there be prosperity where honesty does not rest at the bottom of society? When we reflect upon the immense systems of public and private plunder which have groan and burst like festers here for years, should we not rather wonder that times are not worse? Is it not strange that any confidence between men, any reliance upon government remains? Talk of hard times! Nothing but villainy has brought them upon the city. The heart of the people is rotten. Gold has turned to a devil and a king, and the crowd worship it. Perhaps the public won't thank us for these truths. It is all the same—we ask no thanks. And we do not care a fig whether what we have written pleases or not. We ask no odds at the hands of the public.

If we have robbed, tell us so; if we have stolen, tell us; if we have gone in debt without expectation of paying, tell us. But you, dear public, have done all. And you have disgraced all honest men by your vices, and crimes, and meanness. Think, reflect. Reform. Oh! righteous public, church members as well as world members. The devil that troubles you is in your pockets. The hard times you feel your own vices have manufactured. Who that has means will invest it here, where half the people would try and steal it? Hard times, eh? You deserve them until repentance and reform prepare you and the city for better. Cease stealing, robbing, cheating, privately, publicly, legally, cease to disgrace the name of the city throughout the world, and better times will come. They ought not until then.

THEOLOGIANS OF HUMBLE ORIGIN.—The Reformer Zwingle emerged from a shepherd's hut among the Alps. Melancthon was a workman in an armorer's shop. Martin Luther was the child of a poor miner. Dr. Adam Clarke was the child of Irish cotters. John Foster was a weaver. Andrew Fuller was a farm servant. Dr Marrison, translator of the Bible into Chinese, was a last maker. Dr. Milne was a boy.