

The National Period of American Literature

BY LORENZO SEARS, LIT. D.,
Professor of American Literature in
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The verse which accompanied it was exceptional, too, but not in the same way. All ballads were of course inspired by patriotic or loyalist sentiments. Even when John Trumbull's long poem, "McFingal," appeared, it could be referred to the same kind of inspiration. Still the channel in which the devotion of the youthful versemaker flowed was inevitably narrowed by its prevailing satire. This was effective, as no one can deny, and by its mirth provoking sallies did good service for a good cause. It is not so much purpose to inquire here who furnished the copy which he followed with greater or less fidelity as to know that the help furnished was not after the manner or in the degree of the aid lent by the political prose of the day.

Nothing but the controversy which had its participants on both sides, in England as well as in America, could have carried this mock heroic performance through several editions. Besides the literary taste of the time in poetics was not far above this level. We can be grateful to the author for winning supporters whom statesmen could not reach without calling him an eminent poet.

However, he did not aspire to write an epic, as two of his contemporaries did. But they had their sense of obligation as citizens and men of letters in the young America that had just been released from old England. A new and free nation of almost boundless expanse, with limitless prospects and high hopes, it was urged, should have a commensurate literature or the beginning of it at least. A patriotic aspiration of this kind must have impelled Timothy Dwight, president of Yale college, to undertake in 1785 his "Conquest of Canaan," the first American epic, as the author himself calls it. The resemblance it bears to those which had preceded it, notably the "Iliad" and "Paradise Lost," consists largely in the antiquity of the subject. Differences must be explained by saying that Homer and Milton were born to be poets, as the American was born to be a college president and a diligent and persevering versifier. Genius is not always the faculty of taking pains. If it were, the "Conquest of Canaan" would not have perished in a hundred years. Nevertheless it is worth reading—some of it. Biblical students will be pleased to note what side lights can be thrown upon the sacred story by a poetic imagination if they read as far as the eleventh book. The crookedness of Haniel, the loves of Irad and Selima, of Elam and Mina, the ghost of Herzon, the prowess of Jabin, the valor of Zimri, are for the modern reader what the miracle and mystery plays were to the dark ages. Modern battlefields and Revolutionary generals are somewhat belated actors, but the heroes just returned from Monmouth and Yorktown did not object to being in company with Caleb and Joshua. They knew their Bibles as well as their descendants knew a Sunday newspaper, and they understood a Scriptural allusion or an Old Testament hero a great deal better. And as for the versification, the rhymes of Dwight were as good in their esteem as Pope's translation of the "Iliad" and his characters not inferior to Milton's in their Biblical derivation. It was a book for the age by a counselor of statesmen and a theologian. He, if any one, could meet the demands of the youthful nation for an epic of its own. Moreover, a note of progress might be discerned from one to the other of the three epics, and a humanistic element could be found in the "Conquest" which was not in the "Iliad" or in "Paradise Lost." Even the oratory of the Argive leaders or that of Satan himself is at least recalled by Caleb's address to the assembled host.

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Barlow was a type of the cultivated and patriotic young American of his day. He belonged to the Dwight-Trumbull knot of young men in college who were the first to break away from the traditions of the elders and devote themselves to a study of outlander literature in the English classics. In vacations he shouldered a musket and fought bravely with the Massachusetts militia in the opening battles of the Revolution. His commencement part in 1778 was a poem on "The Prospect of Peace," hopeful, enthusiastic, expansive, prophetic.

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The design of Barlow's masterpiece, "The Columbiad," evolved from "The Vision," was to give a historical view of events from the time of Columbus to that of Washington as foreseen by the great discoverer from his prison. Conducted by Hesper to the mount of vision, he takes a long lesson in American geography and the history of Mexico and Peru. The story of colonization by Raleigh and others follows, preparing the way for the old French and the Revolutionary wars. Officers in the latter are thus signalized:

Here stood stern Putnam, scored with ancient scars,
The living record of his country's wars;
Wayne, like a moving tower, assumes his post,
Fires the whole field and is himself a host.
Bland, Moyland, Sheldon, the long lines enforce
With light arm'd scouts, with solid squares of horse,
And Knox from his full park to battle brings
His brazen tubes, the last resort of kings.
When at his word the carbon cloud shall rise
And well aimed-thunders rock the shores and skies.

It was in this post revolution period that the first intimation of a sub-merged dramatic tendency bubbled up to the surface from the ooze where it was sunk 150 years before. Puritan laws and frowns had kept it out of sight and hearing thus far. Hospitable Virginia had allowed the "Merchant of Venice" to be acted by professionals in Williamsburg as early as 1752, and Farquhar's "Beaux' Stratagem" was played the same year in the first American theater at Annapolis, Md., which was followed by the second in New York the next year and another in Philadelphia six years later. But in Massachusetts previous to 1792 players appeared on the stage at the risk of arrest. Only in unorthodox Rhode Island and under the patronage of planters who came to Newport were they safe within the bounds of New England. As early as 1765 Thomas Godfrey of Philadelphia had peeped in a closet drama entitled "The Prince of Parthia," but Royall Tyler of New York was the first domestic playwright to put a piece upon the stage. He called it the "Contrast," possibly with reference to the change in public sentiment since Massachusetts enacted an ordinance, in imitation of Cromwell's parliament in 1642, abolishing theaters. This act was annulled in England 14 years later, but here there was no relenting until 170 years after the pilgrims came to Plymouth. Under such regime not much could be expected of American dramatic talent. When at length it dared to appear on the boards, it seemed not to the manner born. The tragedy was high enough and the comedy low enough, but the Elizabethan dramatist or even the restoration playwright had not accompanied the star of empire westward. Have they yet arrived?

Still there were homemade plays which pleased provincials by their local color and hits, and as good a beginning was made as could be expected in a climate which ranged from temperate to frigid in the matter of dramatics. What need was there of tragedy representation when the genuine article could be had by standing in front of the meeting house near the whipping post, stocks and pillory or by climbing the hill where the gallows loomed stark against a wintry sky? And as for comedy, it might be had whenever a pirate crew was brought ashore or a knot of witches convicted. The Puritan boy was not without his diversions. For awhile he had no need of theater or circus. When, however, his primitive entertainments went out of fashion, it was unfair to expect counterfeits to take their place all at once or to be satisfactory. Had not everything fictitious been sternly forbidden and painfully discouraged? Accordingly the early American drama should not be scrutinized too sharply.

Tyler, Dunlap and Payne made the best beginning they could with such plays as "May Day in New York," "The Father of an Only Child," "Brutus" and "Theresa," all of which were appreciated at home and some in London. Dunlap's later work of "Danby's Return" drew unusual laughter from the grave Washington, and sympathetic merriment from all who were watching to see how he would take an allusion to himself. But no one underneath these old provincial tragedies and comedies for present reading, and a company which should venture to reproduce them would not undertake their repetition a second night.

II.—Epics and Dramas.

THE writings of statesmen in the closing period of the eighteenth century were not equalled by other contemporary literature.

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WHITE HOUSE NOTES.

Items of Interest Concerning Social Affairs at the President's Home.

Miss Alice Roosevelt, the daughter of the President, will not be presented until after January 1. Miss Roosevelt has spent much of her time with her mother's relatives, among whom are the Goddards, of Newport, who are well known here. Miss Roosevelt inherited a large fortune from her mother.

After October 19 the state mourning will come to an end. President and Mrs. Roosevelt will then begin a series of informal dinners and luncheons to their personal friends and the members of the Cabinet circle who are comparative strangers to the Chief Executive and his wife. They both deem it advisable, as it undoubtedly is, to become better acquainted before the pressing duties of the social season.

There are two houses in Washington where Mrs. Roosevelt may visit if she feels so disposed—that of Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnson and Mrs. U. S. Grant, two former mistresses of the White House. According to the unwritten law of official etiquette the "first lady of the land" never accepts invitations outside of the Cabinet circle except from those who formerly occupied her high social position.

Another item of interest concerning the affairs of the White House is that the old name "White House" will be used instead of "Executive Mansion," and will be restored to the stationery used by the President's family. All the guests of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt will be invited to the "White House," and thus some of the staidness of the past will be resumed.

The Sigh in the Song.

Dear, when the beautiful world goes wrong—
And the sigh is heard in the sweetest song,
Say to the night,
"There will be Light—
Love is kissing the darkness white."
Sorrow and sighing—but still we rest
Living—dying, on Love's dear breast;
Out of the Night
The Light! The Light!
Love is kissing the darkness white!
—Atlanta Constitution.

North Carolina Products.

That is an exceedingly agreeable statement contained in the Post's Greensboro correspondence—that the furniture for the offices of the new City Hall in that city was made in High Point and the carpets made in Greensboro.

With furniture made at High Point, springs and mattresses at Goldsboro, blankets, counterpanes and eiderdowns at Mount Airy, sheeting at Wilmington and carpets at Greensboro! And all of grades equal to any made in the United States! What an encouraging state of affairs for the young people who contemplate embarking on the sea of matrimony in the Old North State to know that they can get all things needed, and of home make at that.

The old State is rapidly developing along all useful lines.—Raleigh Post.

Remarried to Divorced Wives.

Portsmouth, Va., Oct. 13.—Thirty-five years ago John and Edith Lytes and George and Lizzie Danner, then newly married, settled on adjoining farms in Kentucky opposite here. Five years ago they found that their affections were shifting, and securing divorce, each man married the other's former spouse.

Recently they tired of the second union and longed for the first, and this week were married to their original wives, second divorces having been secured. The marital relation changes seem to have been agreeable alike to all four parties.

Quadruple Felicity.

Aunt Dinah—Major, if yo' eud gimme an old pair breeches yo'll makes foah heahs glad.
Major Julep—Four, aunty?
Aunt Dinah—Yeas, sah. De ol' man will wear dem fur awhile; en gib dem to Jim. Den Jim will gib dem to Pete, en after Pete weahs dem fur awhile he'll put dem on demule to keep de flies off his hind legs.—Chicago News.

Lewis Ockerman, Goshen, Ind.: "DeWitt's Little Early Risers never bend me double like other pills, but do their work thoroughly and make me feel like a boy." Certain, thorough, gentle. Hare & Son, J. R. Ledbetter, Hood Bros., Benson Drug Co.

Notice, Taxes!

I shall attend at the following times and places to collect the County and State taxes for the year 1901:

Clayton, Monday, October	21
Cleveland, Tuesday, "	22
Pleasant Grove, Wednesday, "	23
Elevation, Thursday, "	24
Banner, Benson, Friday, "	25
Ingrams, Four Oaks, Monday, "	28
Meadow, Rome, Tuesday, "	29
Bentonville, Wednesday, "	30
Boon Hill, Princeton, Thursday, "	31
Beulah, Kenly, Friday, November	1
O'Neals, Hare's Store, Monday, "	4
Wilders, Arch'r Lo'ge, Tuesday, "	5
Wilson's Mills, Wednesday, "	6
Selma, --- Thursday, "	7
Smithfield, --- Friday, "	8

The books will be kept open at the office in Smithfield all the time.

J. T. ELLINGTON,
Sheriff Johnston County.

CLOTHING AND OTHER GOODS.

—IF YOU WANT—

CLOTHING,
SHOES, HATS,
SEWING MACHINES,
COLLARS, TIES

and other Gent's Furnishing Goods

CALL TO SEE ME.

I make Clothing my specialty and keep men's, youth's and boys' suits in good grades as well as cheap grades.

K. KORNEGAY,
08-2m Pine Level, N. C.

MOVED

To Brick Store.

We have moved across the railroad to the new brick building near the Selma Manufacturing Co. We shall keep a complete line of

GROCERIES, FRUITS, CONFECTIONERIES AND VEGETABLES.

Canned Goods for sale. Country Produce a specialty. Come and see us at our new stand.

J. M. VINSON & CO.,
Selma, N. C.

July 1-1st.

BARBER SHOP.



When you come to Smithfield be sure to get a first-class shave and an up-to-date haircut at my shop. Mack Hawkins,

An Experienced Barber,
is with me.

Prof. Matthew McCauley,
The Old Reliable Barber,
MARKET ST., SMITHFIELD, N. C.

WHITE'S BLACK LINIMENT.

25c. BOTTLES REDUCED TO 15c.
"I have used White's Black Liniment and his other horse medicines with great success and found them to be as represented."
"W. L. FULLER,
"Smithfield, N. C."

For sale by ALLEN LEE,
Smithfield, N. C. Druggist.

OPIUM COCAINE and WHISKY
Habit's Cured at your home or at Sanatorium. Best of references. Book on Home Treatment sent FREE. Address B. M. WOOLEY, M. D., Box 33, Atlanta, Ga.

KNOCK OUT PRICES.

CLOTHING. We have just received the largest and most complete stock of Men's and Boys' Clothing that has ever been brought to Johnston county.

Here are a Few of our Prices.

MEN'S SUITS.		BOYS' SUITS.	
VALUES	\$3.00	VALUES	\$.85
\$5.00		\$1.25	
6.00	4.00	1.50	1.00
7.00	5.00	1.75	1.25
8.00	6.00	2.00	1.75
9.00	7.00	3.00	2.50
10.00	7.50		

These are a few of our clothing prices. Our line of other Gents' Furnishings is complete at corresponding low prices.

FULL LINE

Ladies' Trimmed Hats.

LATEST STYLES.

OUR DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT IS COMPLETE. SHOES. OUR STYLES AND PRICES ARE RIGHT.

GROCERIES. We have received one car load Salt
That we are selling at extremely low prices. We have everything else in the grocery line you want.

WE HAVE **Bagging and Ties** That we are selling at prices to suit the times.

HARNESS. We have the best and cheapest line of buggy and wagon Harness in the county.

Wagons and Buggies.

We have just received a car of wagons and our stock of buggies is complete. Will sell them cheap for cash or on time.

BRING YOUR COTTON TO SELMA.

Mr. J. B. Hudson is on this market buying, and everybody knows Buck will give the highest price for the staple. We also have three other buyers on this market and we will see that you get the highest price for your cotton.

Yours to please,

M. C. WINSTON & CO.,
SELMA, N. C.

Hardware!

Fitz Lee and Wetter Stoves

FOR COOKING AND HEATING.

Big stock of Farm Implements, Carpenters' Tools, Builders' Material, Cutlery, Tinware, Crockery, Paints, Sash, Doors, Blinds, &c., always on hand.

GOOD STOCK OF GUNS OF THE BEST MAKES.

We Have Taken out License to Sell Pistols.

COUNTRY MERCHANTS,

We are prepared to give you wholesale prices on Nails by the keg, Tinware, Cobblers' Shoe Nails, Axes, S. & W. Cartridges

Everybody asked to come and trade with us.

Clayton Hardware Company,
C. W. CARTER, Owner and Proprietor,
D10-tf. CLAYTON, N. C.

NEW FALL GOODS,

My new stock of Dry Goods, Notions, Millinery, Cloaks, Capes, Shoes, Hats Caps, Clothing and Gents' Furnishing Goods is now complete and up-to-date in each department.

IN DRESS GOODS,

I have a full line of the latest weaves and colors in dress goods. Also a full line of trimming in silks, velvets, gimps, braids, jets and applique.

SHIRT WAIST GOODS,

My line of shirt waist goods is 'bang-up.' I have a nice line of silks, flannels, all-wool Albatross, Percales. All in beautiful shades.

My Millinery Department is Full and Complete.

I have put in a full stock of the latest shapes and colors for fall and winter. Also full line of CAPS for misses and children. Ladies wishing anything in this department will find Miss Beckwith at her post ready and willing to serve them in a strictly up-to-date style.

SHOES, SHOES. SHOES, SHOES.

I carry a full line of Zeigler Bros' fine shoes for ladies, misses and children, the best shoes made for wear. Every pair warranted. I also carry a full stock of other makes of fine shoes for men, ladies, misses and children, which are first quality and you can buy them very cheap.

CLOTHING! CLOTHING!

I have put in a full stock of clothing of newest make-up styles in all sizes for men, youths and children. Prices from \$1 to \$12.50 per suit. Also a nice line of PANTS from \$2 to \$5. Also I have a good line of FINE HATS, all colors, and a good line of

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

Don't buy your goods until you get my prices, as I am sure that I can save you money, as I discount all of my bills and will give my customers the benefit of it.

W. G. Yelvington,
SMITHFIELD, N. C.