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The Law Of Force And The Force Of Law.

Nowhere has the difference between the spirit of evil and the spirit of good been more strikingly shown than in two expressions which have recently come from the battle fronts. In addressing his army last Saturday the German Kaiser said:

"If the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace to the world by battering in with the iron fist and the shining sword the doors of those who will not have peace."

This is a Christmas message from the great apostle of Force. Having robbed his unoffending neighbors of their lands, standing with his heel on the broken homes of those whom he had covenanted to protect, with his hands still red with the blood of innocent women and children, this prince of ruthlessness boldly proposes to subdue the world with his "iron fist and shining sword."

On the same day a dispatch from London reports that General Allenby, Commander-in-Chief of the British force in Palestine, sent the following Christmas message to General Pershing in France:

"The British troops in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve send to their American comrades a message of greeting and of hope that through the achievement of their common purpose the law of force may yield to the force of law and peace and good will reign at length on earth."

One side is proposing to batter the world into submission with the "iron fist and the shining sword," to establish "the law of force," and a reign of terror the world over, including these United States. The other side proposes to subordinate brute force to righteousness and to establish "the force of law" and a reign of peace and good will for all the earth. Which shall succeed? There can be but one answer. The doctrine of brute force must perish among the nations of the earth, as it has perished among individuals, and he who has put his faith in "the iron fist and the shining sword" will perish by the same.

Reluctantly, but with courage and determination this nation cast its lot on the side of righteousness and "the force of law." With the zeal worthy of a great people we will pursue our course to a victorious end. There will be no faltering, no turning back. This world must be ruled by the "force of law" instead of "the law of force," or else God is a delusion and the devil will possess the earth. We must have peace based on the law of righteousness as the supreme force among men, or civilization is lost and the human race will relapse into barbarism.

It is the supreme hour for every man, woman and child in this nation to unite in the achievement of our great purpose. —State Journal.

Dr. And Mrs. Knight Hosts.

Tuesday evening, Dr. and Mrs. Knight entertained at dinner at their home on Main Street, Misses Fannie Myrt Manning, and Frances Knight, Messrs. Frank Saunders, Luke Lamb, Duke Critcher and E. P. Cunningham with the hosts composed the party at the elegantly appointed board, which was laden with turkey, salad, pickles, jellies, breads, chocolate, cake and wine.

Big Fire At Robersonville

Monday morning about 4 o'clock, fire was discovered in market house of Bryan & Everett at Robersonville, which was located in the hotel block near the depot. The bucket brigade was soon at work and confined the fire to the block. J. H. Roberson & Co., general merchandise, lost heavily in goods and building, H. L. Rives Drug Co., saved part of stock. J. C. Keel, barber, complete loss; R. T. Purvis, general merchandise, complete loss; Bryan & Everett, market, complete loss; Beulah Hotel, complete loss; Jenkins & Roberson and the City Furniture Company, whose buildings were near, moved their stock and thereby suffered considerable damage.

J. H. Roberson & Company is one of the largest firms in the county, and the fire will greatly hinder in serving the trade though temporary quarters have been secured. It is estimated that about 40 per cent of the loss was covered by insurance, and the loss will approximate \$100,000.

The people of the entire county sympathize with Robersonville in its first great loss, and trust that upon the ruins will be erected nobler structures in which will be conducted a larger business in that progressive town.

The Real World's Series And May America Win!

It opened in Bleeding Belgium, with the Kaiser at the bat. He won the game at Liege and thought he had the series pat. Then Johnny Bull went in to pitch, and stopped the foe's advance.

While a feature of the game became the fielding work of France.

Russia went in to pinch-hit, along the Eastern Front.

While Italy and Roumania each laid down a perfect bunt.

They trimmed old Bill at Vimy Hill—with woe they filled his cup;

While out along the foul line Uncle Sam is warming up.

Your Uncle Sam is warming up to mount the pitching bill, And show such speed and curves that he will strike out Kaiser Bill.

That war machine to conquer worlds will know the very worst

When he hit one down to Hindenberg and beat his throw to first.

When Sims goes up to bat and sweeps the subs from off the sea,

And Pershing, sliding into third, spikes the Crown Prince on the knee.

Yes, Uncle Sam is warming up, and after he goes in We'll be building baseball diamonds in the city of Berlin.

Williamston's Banks

At the close of December 31st, 1917, the three banks in Williamston show loans and discounts amounting to \$1,049,369.32; total deposits, \$1,182,167.01; total resources, \$1,467,597.97. The local institutions are keeping pace with the general prosperity in North Carolina as shown by the bank statements. No town of like size in the county and many larger ones cannot show banks with the splendid resources of these local institutions, and two of these banks are not a year old yet. Rating Williamston by its banks, it occupies an important place in the financial world.

Mr. John H. Ayers.

Again death comes and takes from our midst the soul of J. H. Ayers. He died early Thursday morning, January 3rd, 1918, after an illness of only one hour. The day previous to his death, he was seemingly well, and full of the joy of living. That night when he retired, he told his wife that he felt very peculiar. About 3 o'clock, she heard him making a noise, and calling him, received no response. She awoke her daughter, who was in an adjoining room, who phoned for a physician and several neighbors. Everything was done for him that could be done, but nothing availed and at 4 o'clock, his spirit passed into the Great Beyond. He was the victim of heart trouble, and his death was not a surprise, though the shock was not one bit less.

He was born December 28th, 1851, in Martin County, where he has always lived; on November 27th, 1879, he married Miss Courtney Rogers, who with six children survive him. These are, Calvin and A. B., of Bear Grass, J. Staton, of Everetts, M. D. at Camp Jackson, and Mrs. C. E. Jenkins, who lives with her mother.

For twenty-five years he had been a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, having been baptized by Elder John N. Rogers. He remained a faithful Christian and was constant in attendance upon the services of the Church. Believing in making a living by the sweat of his brow, he labored earnestly to provide for his loved ones; he was a loving husband, a kind father and an accommodating neighbor.

How he will be missed! But we grieve not as one who has no hope, for we believe that God took him to that Heavenly Rest prepared for His saints from the foundation of the world.

His body was laid to rest Friday afternoon in the family cemetery at the home of J. N. Rogers. Services were conducted by Elders John N. Rogers and Ben Cowing.

Hon. R. H. Salsbury.

As we go to press, the news comes that Hon. Robert H. Salsbury, of Hassell, Martin County, died suddenly at Richmond, this (Friday) morning.

LOCALS

The Cotillion Club gave the last dance of the season at the Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening. The Jazz Band, of Kinston, furnished the music.

During the cold weather some one cut a large oak tree in the Episcopal Church yard and hauled it off. Evidently an act of applied Christianity.

The office has been brightened by the addition of a handsome calendar, the gift of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which is ever on the progressive side.

A very beautiful calendar was hung in the office this week by J. E. Pope, Cashier of the Savings & Trust Co. This institution is on all lines which mark progressiveness, and is up-to-the-minute in banking and insurance.

Last week in naming the working force of Harrison Bros. & Co., the name of Roy T. Griffin was inadvertently left out. Mr. Griffin has been book-keeper for the firm for some time, and will remain with them for another year, though he had a splendid offer to go elsewhere.

Benefit Of Hamilton Red Cross

An old-fashioned birthday party was held at the Masonic Hall, Monday evening, Jan. 8th, 1918. The inclemency of the weather did not prevent men, women and children from enjoying all the old time games. The hall was beautifully decorated with the Stars and Stripes; and the Gypsy tent was visited quite often by those who wished to learn of their future happiness as told by the Gypsy Queen fortune teller. Besides something nice to eat, in store for all, was a musical treat.

The neat sum of \$50 was raised, and the promoters felt very much repaid for their efforts. Hamilton has long since realized that prosperity is smiling upon its people, and that life to them is a bed of roses compared with what our soldier boys are enduring; so when a call for help comes, the Hamilton folks are ever ready to stand shoulder to shoulder in meeting all conditions that require our support.

As chairman of the Christmas Drive for new members of the Red Cross, I wish to thank each and every one for assisting in securing \$111.00 for this great work, and we are ready to cease saying: "Doing Our Bit" while our boys are doing "Their All!" Mrs. N. W. Grimes, Secretary.

May Pave Streets

The City Fathers met this week, and considered paving the street in the business section. The condition of the street since the freeze would put some kind of plans in the heads of folks. Usually Main St., is in splendid shape, as it dries very quickly, but pavements would improve things. But there are many things to be considered, and it is evident that the Fathers will move with caution. But a paved street would look mighty good during a rainy spell.

Weekly Receipts for the Armenian and Syrian Relief Fund

For week ending Jan. 10th.	
W. C. Manning	\$5.00
J. J. Manning	3.00
A. J. Manning for Macedonia Church	11.94
Wilson G. Lamb	5.99
C. H. Jordan for Episcopal Church Sunday School	4.82
Mrs. W. W. Griffin	3.00
Previously reported	131.50
Total	\$163.56

I have sent this entire amount to Mr. Cleveland H. Dodge, American Treasurer of this fund, 1 Madison Ave., New York City. Sylvester Hassell.

Home Guard Drill

Almost the full complement of the Martin County Home Guards was here Tuesday, and assembled at the Brick Warehouse for a drill. The band was here also and enlivened the occasion with inspiring music. Captain Manning will go to Raleigh in the near future to secure full equipment for the company.

Julius H. Purvis and family have located here and are occupying the residence owned by Albert Perry on Church Street next to the Methodist parsonage. Mr. Purvis has rented his large farm near Spring Green and is offering for sale all his farming implements, stock, etc. on the 22nd instant.

A Recruiting Officer arrived here yesterday to remain several days.

Jarvis-Ward

On Monday evening at the residence of Hon. Hallet S. Ward in Washington, N. C., Miss Hattie Lou Ward and Mr. Thomas Jarvis were married. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Ward, of Williamston, and one of the most attractive young women in the town. Mr. Jarvis is from Belhaven and is a most successful business man. At the present time, he is in the United States Army, having been in the selective number. He was at home on a furlough and he and Miss Ward decided to be married at the home of her uncle in Washington on Monday evening.

Robbed Store

Last week, burglars entered the store of J. Rogers & Bro., and Cowin Bros., at Bear Grass and carried away a lot of merchandise. Bloodhounds tracked them to the Dennis Simmons Lbr. Co. camps which were located near, and later two negroes were caught by Sheriff Page and placed in jail here. They had the goods and no doubt will join the road force later on.

Health Report

Dr. W. E. Warren Health Officer reports the following contagious diseases for the month of December, 1917, in Martin County:

Meningitis, James Edwin Harrell, Williamston.	
Measles, Francis Woolard Peale, Williamston.	
Diphtheria, John H. Mizell, Williamston.	
Typhoid fever, Annie Belle Brown, Williamston, Ed Roscan, Garland Anderson, David C. Caltrain, R. F. D., Randolph Bell Oak City, Edna B. P. O. City, Williamston, Day of Jan. 1st, Williamston, R. F. D.	

Statement of Brick Warehouse Co.

The Directors of the Brick Warehouse Company met in the Company's Office on Jan. 4th, and went over the 1917 season's operations as submitted by Mr. W. A. James, Manager, whose report showed that the Company sold 1,132,103 pounds for \$392,464.72, and had made a net earning of 41 per cent.

The directors declared a 25 per cent dividend and carried 16 per cent to the undivided profit acct. The stockholders meeting was called for Friday, 18th at 2 o'clock.

Two Residence Burned

While supper was being prepared at the home of Mr. Joseph Early near Oak City, on Wednesday fire was discovered and soon the building was a mass of ruins. Many of the contents were saved, and Needham Hyman in trying to save something in an upper room, was badly burned. The residence had recently been fitted with water and light at a cost of \$1,500, and the loss is partially covered by insurance.

The home of Mr. Seth Hardison in the Jamesville section was totally destroyed on the night of the 10th. The family retired early and neighbors saw the blaze and aroused the family. The building was large and comfortable, but there was not one cent of insurance on it.

J. D. Ray, of Scotland Neck, was in town yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Stubbs have returned from Wake Forest.

What the Teacher Can Do

In case of an outbreak of some contagious disease in school, the teacher can, in the first place, report the case to the county quarantine officer; she can teach the children as to the ways and methods of preventing the disease, and give them the free health literature treating that particular disease which is supplied by the quarantine officer; she can exclude the children from school on being exposed to cases or having symptoms of illness according to the rules governing the various diseases; she can and should observe daily the pupils for disease symptoms such as colds and sore throats. This can be done by taking the child to the light, having him to open his mouth deep and wide, and noting if there is any undue redness or inflammation of the throat.

When a teacher observes these rules and precautions, she not only helps to keep down infection in her own school, but in the community, and in the State.

Education Pays Farmers

Some years ago Warren and Livermore of the Cornell University faculty made a study of 1303 farmers in Tompkins County, New York state.

The average annual labor income of these farmers was found to be as follows: 1007 with common-school education \$318 280 with high-school education 622 16 with college education 847 High school training, you see, nearly doubled, and college culture nearly trebled, the earning power of ordinary farmers on New York farms.

High-school and college culture would do even more than this in any Southern state.

For instance, in Texas in 1903 twenty-six ten-year graduates of the University were earning an average of \$2,943 a year.

The Money Value of Education Federal Bureau Bulletin, No. 22 (1917).

Notice

School will open Jan. 21, if the weather will permit it. Beginning on this date we hope to continue to the end of the term without any intermission. All pupils are requested to be present on the opening day so no time will be lost.

EDGAR E. BUNDY, Supt.

Hamilton Items

Prof. John B. Rucker has returned from his home in Ruthfordton.

Sergeant J. Waldo Grimes has returned to Camp Storey, Cape Henry after visiting relatives here for several days.

Mrs. E. A. Council has returned to her home in Morehead City.

Mrs. Pattie Johnson is visiting her daughter Mrs. P. L. Salsbury.

Mrs. R. B. Watkins and Miss Lillie Floyd left Monday for Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.

W. A. Peel left Friday for Camp Sevier, Greenville S. C. to visit his son Paul P. Peel.

Mrs. Asa Johnson has returned home after spending some time in Scotland Neck.

Miss Fannie Gladstone is visiting in Scotland Neck.

C. D. Perkins spent Friday night in Greenville.