

**DECLARATION AGAINST ILLITERACY.**

Address to the People of North Carolina, by Conference of Educators, Held in the Governor's Office in Raleigh, February 13th, 1902  
—The Names of the Signers.

Profoundly convinced of the prophetic wisdom of the Declaration of the Fathers, made at Halifax in 1776, that "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged"; and cognizant of the full meaning of that recent constitutional enactment which debars from the privilege of the suffrage, after 1908, all persons who cannot read and write; and relying on the patriotism and foresight of North Carolinians to deal with a great question which vitally concerns the material and social welfare of themselves and their posterity, we, in an educational conference assembled in the city of Raleigh, this February 13, 1902, are moved to make the following declaration of educational facts and principles:

1. Today, more fully than at any other time in our past history, do North Carolinians recognize the overshadowing necessity of universal education in the solution of those problems which a free government must solve in perpetuating its existence.

2. No free government has ever found any adequate means of universal education except in free public schools, open to all, supported by the taxes of all its citizens, where every child regardless of condition in life or circumstances of fortune, may receive that opportunity for training into social service which the constitutions of this and other great States and the age demand.

3. We realize that our State has reached the constitutional limit of taxation for the rural schools, that she has made extra appropriations to lengthen the term of these schools to 80 days in the year. We realize, too, that the four months' term now provided is inadequate, for the reason that more than 20,000,000 children of school age in the United States outside of North Carolina are now provided an average of 145 days of school out of every 365; that the teachers of these children are paid an average salary of \$48 per month, while the teachers of the children of North Carolina are paid hardly \$25 per month, thus securing for all the children of our sister States more efficient training for the duties of life. And we realize that, according to the latest census report and the report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, for every man, woman and child of its population, the country at large is spending \$2.83 for the education of its children, while North Carolina is spending barely 67 cents; that the country at large is spending on an average of \$20.29 for every pupil enrolled in its public schools, while North Carolina is spending only \$3 or \$4, the smallest amount expended by any State in Union. And still further do we realize that the average amount spent for the education of every child of school age in the United States is approximately \$9.50, while North Carolina is spending \$1.78.

These facts should arouse our pride and our patriotism, and lead us to inquire whether the future will not hold this generation responsible for the perpetuation of conditions that have resulted in the multiplicity of small school districts, inferior school houses, poorly paid teachers, and necessarily poor teaching; that have resulted in twenty white illiterates out of every 100 white population over ten years of age; in generally poor and poorly paid supervision of the expenditure of our meagre school

funds and of the teaching done in our schools; and, finally, in that educational indifference which is the chief cause of the small average daily attendance of about 50 pupils out of every 100 enrolled in our public schools.

We believe the future will hold us responsible for the perpetuation of these unfavorable conditions, and, therefore, we conceive it to be the patriotic, moral, and religious duty of this generation of North Carolinians to set about in earnest to find the means by which all our children can receive that education which will give them equal opportunities with the children of other sections of our common country.

4. Viewing our educational problems and conditions in the light of educational history and experience, we declare it to be our firm conviction that the next step forward for North Carolina, in education, is to provide more money for her country public schools, making possible the consolidation of small school districts, the professional teacher, and skilled supervision of the expenditure of all school funds and of the teaching done in the schools.

The history of the adoption of the principle of local self help by our 35 graded school towns and cities must surely be an inspiration and an example to every village and rural community in North Carolina. Those towns and cities have adopted the only means at hand for the adequate education of their children. In adopting this principle, local taxation, they secured: first, adequate school funds; second, competent supervision; third, skilled teachers. Lacking any one of this educational trinity no community has ever yet succeeded in establishing the means of complete education for its children.

Those 35 towns and cities within our borders have followed the lead of other sections of the United States in adopting first the means of education, local taxation. The fact that 69 per cent. of the total school fund of this Union is now raised by local taxes, while North Carolina raises only 14 per cent. of her funds by that means, and lags behind all her sister States in every phase of public education, has both its lesson and its warning.

5. Remembering that in the last year nearly thirty communities in North Carolina, some of them distinctly rural, have adopted the principle of local taxation for schools, we think this time most auspicious to urge a general movement of all our educational forces in that direction, and, therefore, we appeal to all patriotic North Carolinians, men and women, who love their State, and especially that part of their State which is worth more than all its timber, lands, mines, and manufacturing plants, to band themselves together under the leadership of our "Educational Governor" and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, aided by the Southern Education Board, to carry forward the work of local taxation and better schools, to the end that every child within our borders may have the opportunity to fit himself for the duties of citizenship and social service.

And, finally, heartily believing in the Christlikeness of this work of bringing universal education to all the children of North Carolina, we confidently rely on the full co-operation of all the churches of the State, whose work is so near the hearts of all the people, and, therefore appeal to the pulpit to inculcate the supreme duty of universal education. Charles B. Aycock, Governor of North Carolina; T. F. Toom, Superintendent of Public Instruction; John Duckett; Charles D. McIver, President State Normal and Industrial College; F. P. Venable, President University of North Carolina; George T. Winston, President College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts; Charles E. Taylor, President Wake For-

est College; Edwin Mims, Trinity College; Henry Louis Smith, President Davidson College; Charles H. Mabane, President Catawba College; J. O. Atkinson, Elon College; T. D. Bratton, President St. Mary's College; R. T. Vann, President Baptist Female University; L. L. Hobbs, President Guilford College; C. G. Vardell, President Red Springs Seminary; J. D. Carlyle, Wake Forest College; J. L. Kesler, Baptist Female University; J. Y. Joyner, The State Normal and Industrial College; D. H. Hill, College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts; L. W. Crawford, Jr., Rutherford College; J. I. Foust, The State Normal and Industrial College; M. C. S. Noble, University of North Carolina; Henry Jerome Stockard, Peace Institute; F. P. Bobgood, President of Oxford Seminary; Robert Bingham, Bingham School; J. A. Holt, Oak Ridge Institute; Hugh Morson, Raleigh Male Academy; D. Matt Thompson, Superintendent Statesville Public Schools; C. L. Coon, Superintendent Salisbury Public Schools; E. P. Moses, Superintendent Raleigh Public Schools; R. J. Tighe, Superintendent Asheville Public Schools; T. R. Foust, Superintendent Goldsboro Public Schools; E. P. Mangum, Superintendent Wilson Public Schools; E. C. Brooks, Superintendent Monroe Public Schools; Alexander Graham, Superintendent Charlotte Public Schools; Frank H. Curtis, Superintendent Burlington Public Schools; Harry Howell, Superintendent Washington Public Schools; W. D. Carmichael, Durham Public Schools; W. S. Long, County Superintendent of Alamance; J. A. Anthony, County Superintendent of Cleveland; J. A. Butler, County Superintendent of Iredell; J. E. Kay, Superintendent of the School for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind; E. McK. Goodwin, Superintendent of the School for the Deaf and Dumb.

**Bucklen's Arnica Salve.**

The best and most famous compound in the world to conquer aches and kill pains. Cures Cuts, heals Burns and Bruises, subdues Inflammation, masters Piles. Millions of Boxes sold yearly. Works wonders in Boils, Ulcers, Felons, Skin Eruptions. It cures or no pay. 25c. at Spruill & Bro's., store.

**GIFTS.**

Give a man a horse he can ride,  
Give a man a boat he can sail;  
And his rank and his wealth, his strength and health,  
On sea nor shore shall fail.

Give a man a pipe he can smoke,  
Give a man a book he can read;  
And his home is bright with a calm delight,  
Though the room be poor indeed.

Give a man a girl he can love,  
As I, O my Love, love thee;  
And his heart is great with the pulse of Fate,  
At home, on land, on sea.

**Important to Farmers.**

In view of the fact that it is not generally understood that the Rice Crop is highly protected from foreign competition by an import duty and that the crops raised in this United States have every year fallen much below the home consumption the CAROLINA RICE MILLS of Goldsboro, N. C., in order to encourage the cultivation of Rice on a larger scale than has heretofore been done, is now prepared to make contracts with planters in North Carolina for their crops of Rice they may raise during the year 1902 on the most liberal terms.

Parties interested, who wish to avail themselves of this offer, can communicate with us and we will take pleasure in giving full particulars. Respectfully,  
CAROLINA RICE MILLS,  
ap 23 Goldsboro, N. C.

**NOTICE.**

North Carolina, Washington County Superior Court. Before Clerk.

Pursuant to an order of the superior Court made in a special proceeding entitled Hannah, Louis and Wm. Norman and others of the collateral heirs of Andy Norman, deceased, vs. Erly Norman and W. S. Davenport on the 18th day of Feb. 1902, I shall sell by public sale at the Court House door in Plymouth, on the 7th day of April, 1902, at 12 o'clock M. the lands described in said order, lying in Skinnersville township, adjoining the lands of J. F. Davenport, Wm Bishop and others, on the old sound side patent, being the land purchased by Andy Norman from B. B. Phillips by deed dated Oct. 7th 1873, Reg. book Y., page 361 and from C. L. Pettigrew by deed dated March 1st 1886, Reg. book A. A. page 78, containing 20 acres more or less. Terms of sale made known on day of sale.

This the 26, day of Feb. 1902  
H. S. WARD,  
Commissioner.

**A Little Scrapping**  
took place at  
**W. C. AYERS' STORE**  
Among the Ladies this week.

1,600 yds of Calico was put on the market at 3 1/2 c. yd.

For the next 30 days I will sell:

- 150 Children's Toques, all wool 15c.
- 30 inch all wool Flannel 25c.
- Machine Thread 4c.
- Misses Heavy ribbed Hose, 8 to 9 1/2 10c.
- Heavy Bed Comforts, satine covered, only \$1.75
- Ladies' Bl'k Hose, regular made, only 5c.
- Fine Kid Shoes, Ladies' sizes, at 60c.
- " Laundered Shirts 40c.
- " Silk Velvet and Plush, per yd. 25c.
- Hamburg Edging, 3 in. wide, 4c.
- Children School Shoe, 13 to 2, 60c.
- A 20c. Pearl Button for 10c. doz.
- All Linen Table Damak, 58 in. 35c.
- All Linen Crash, 6c.
- A 10c. Pearl Button for 5c. doz.
- 36 in. Percals, 6c. yd.
- Ladies' Kid Gloves, 50c. pr.
- Bl'k Stainless Hose, heavy weight, 12 1/2 c. pr.
- Heavy Dress Goods, 34 in. 10c.

In connection with above prices I will continue to sell the remainder of the P. W. Brinkley stock at and below cost.

Give me a trial and I will convince you that I can save you from 20 to 40 per cent. in your purchases.

Very truly, yours to please,

**W. C. Ayers.**

**Kodol**  
**Dyspepsia Cure**  
Digests what you eat.

This preparation contains all of the digestants and digests all kinds of food. It gives instant relief and never fails to cure. It allows you to eat all the food you want. The most sensitive stomachs can take it. By its use many thousands of dyspeptics have been cured after everything else failed. It prevents formation of gas on the stomach, relieving all distress after eating. Dieting unnecessary. Pleasant to take.  
**It can't help but do you good**  
Prepared only by E. C. DeWitt & Co., Chicago  
The 2 1/2 bottle contains 2 1/2 times the 50c. size.

**WANTED!**

Reliable man for Manager of a Branch Office we wish to open in this vicinity. Here is a good opening for the right man. Kindly give good reference when writing.  
**THE A. T. MORRIS WHOLESALE HOUSE,**  
CINCINNATI, OHIO.  
Illustrated catalogue 4 cts. stamps.  
Feb 28

**NOTICE.**

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Jno. A. Norman, deceased, notice is hereby given to all those having claims against said estate to present them within one year from the date hereof or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All those indebted to the said estate will please make immediate settlement.  
This Jan'y. 6, 1902.  
G. V. NORMAN,  
Administrator.

PARLATA, ILLS., NOV. 16, 1893.  
Gentlemen:—We sold last year 600 bottles of "ROBEY'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC" and have sold three gross already this year. In all our 25 years of 14 years, in the drug business, have we sold an article that gave such universal satisfaction as your Tonic. Yours truly,  
ASBURY, CARR & CO.

**S. J. BARCO,**

Undertaker and Carriage Maker,  
Coffins, Caskets and Burial-cases of all styles, grades, sizes and prices.  
Cloth Lined Cases a Specialty.  
Special attention given to orders from a distance. If it should be your misfortune to need anything in this line, call on me.  
I have as nice a line of open and top vehicles as has ever been shown in this section. In work and prices I defy competition. Examine my stock before placing your order.  
I have secured the services of a first-class trimmer, and all work is executed in a thorough, workman-like manner.  
S. J. BARCO,  
ap 1-1f ROPER, N. C.

**STOP**  
**WE MEAN**  
**WHAT WE SAY**  
**WE GUARANTEE**  
**COOCH'S MEXICAN ROOT PILLS**  
To cure SICK HEADACHE, HABITUAL CONSTIPATION, and all diseases arising from indigestion. They will purify your blood and make your complexion as FAIR AS A LILY. They are gelatin coated. PRICE 25 CENTS.

Why were 25,000 BOTTLES OF ROBERTS' TASTELESS 25c. CHILL TONIC sold the first year of its birth? Answer: Because it is the BEST AT ANY PRICE, guaranteed to cure, money refunded if it fails, pleasant to take, 25c per bottle. It is sold and guaranteed by