

THE ROANOKE BEACON.

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We appeal to every reader of THE ROANOKE BEACON, to aid us in making it an acceptable and profitable medium of news to our citizens. Let Plymouth people and the public know what is going on in Plymouth. Report to us all items of news—the arrival and departure of friends, social events, deaths, serious illness, accidents, new buildings, new enterprises and improvements of whatever character, changes in business—indeed anything and everything that would be of interest to our people.

Subscription price, \$1.00 per year. Advertisements inserted at low rates. Obituary notices exceeding ten lines, five cents a line. Count the words, allowing eight to the line, and send money with MS, for all in excess of ten lines. The editor will not be responsible for the views of correspondents. All articles for publication must be accompanied by the full name of the writer. Correspondents are requested not to write on but one side of the paper. All communications must be sent in by Thursday morning or they will not appear. Address all communications to THE ROANOKE BEACON, Plymouth, N. C.

BILL ARP'S LETTER.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

"Say nothing unkind concerning the dead—speak no evil of the dead," is the translation of a Latin maxim that is more than two thousand years old. Nevertheless, history is made up of the character and deeds of notable and great men, and it is our duty to study them and profit by their example. That Latin maxim was intended no doubt to apply to our neighbors who had recently died and not to the great public men whose acts and deeds made up history. The world had a perfect right to analyze and criticize the characters of Alexander and Caesar and Cromwell and Bonaparte and Benedict Arnold, but even these were not settled until a century or more had passed after their death. Bonaparte is not settled yet and English, French and American historians are still hammering away at his character and his deeds. That he was a scourge to mankind and the age in which he lived and a traitor to his devoted wife and all to gratify his selfish ambition, no reflective man can doubt. The disposition to idolize great warriors handicaps all young historians and captivates the people when one of these fighting men offers for office. It was this that elected Taylor and Harrison and Jackson. How Roosevelt will get along with his war record for killing bears remains to be seen, but I reckon he is relying more on being a historian and slandering men after they are dead. He will lose nothing up north by telling lies

on Jefferson Davis. He belongs to the same school of historians that Professor Goldwin Smith does—that lying Englishman who wrote a history of the United States that was taught in northern colleges and said that the first settlers of Virginia were renegades from England—mostly convicts who were given choice of the gallows or of exile to Virginia, and strange to say they chose the exile.

But I was ruminating about those last words of Daniel Webster, who in my opinion was the greatest man the country ever produced, not the greatest, but the grandest—the most god-like. He made many great speeches, but the greatest of all was that delivered at Capon Springs, where he was brave enough to qualify all his previous utterances concerning the rights of the States and to declare that any state had the right to withdraw from the union when it was unjustly treated and that the state was the sole judge of that. For this he was denied the privilege of speaking again in Faneuil hall. For this he was sacrificed in verse by Whittier. For this that speech was left out of his published works—the publishers saying that it would greatly damage their sale to have it in. This brings me to the text I started to write about, for I have received three letters from cultured gentlemen who tell me that "I still live" were not Webster's last words, but there were two more that the editor suppressed, and those two were "more brandy." These gentlemen concur in saying that Webster was very fond of brandy and in his last days indulged too much and during his last illness his physician kept him alive on brandy. The morning he died his physician called and, finding him alive, but apparently unconscious, said to the attendant, "He cannot live but a little while, but if he should live until 8 o'clock give him some brandy." When the clock struck 8 Mr. Webster roused up and pointed to it and whispered, "I still live—more brandy." The last two words are left out of the biography and may not have been said. Nevertheless this version has paralyzed much of my sentiment and all I can do is to leave it in doubt. I remember that it was said of Mr. Webster that he was overfond of his brandy toddies. Brandy was a gentleman's drink, whiskey was for the common people and rum was for egg-nog and for the yankees to ship to Africa to buy niggers with. Even in my young days the gentlemen drank brandy—peach or apple, or cognac. It was kept on the sideboards and was always offered to visitors. When I was about fourteen years old John McPherson Berrien came to our little town of Lawrenceville to attend court. He was considered a very great man. He was our United States Senator and had been attorney-general of the United States under Jackson. After I had swept out the store I walked down to the hotel to get a glimpse of him. He had just gotten up and came out on the piazza in his shirt sleeves to take a wash. After that the landlord brought him out a bottle of brandy and some sugar and the great man took a liberal toddy. It was a revelation to me to see how suddenly a great man could come down to the level of common people. But it must be remembered that Mr. Berrien was from Savannah.

Now here is another letter in which I take peculiar interest and commend to the veterans of Georgia. For years I have lamented that we have no record roll of our Confederate soldiers. I alluded to this not long ago in one of my letters, and it has provoked an old friend to write to me upon the subject and give me encouragement. The letter is from Hon. Walter Clark, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and who was recently nomi-

inated for Chief Justice. He has recently finished the history of the North Carolina Regiments, in five volumes, having been chosen for this work by the Confederate Veterans' Association. These volumes are not a roster, but a history of the acts and deeds of every regiment (eighty-four in number). Twenty years ago that grand old State published a roster, in four volumes, wherein in recorded the name of every officer and private, and what became of them. North Carolina was the ban-

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Postmaster Palmer

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