

# The Orphans' Friend.

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## GOV. GILMER ON THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION.

The following are extracts from Gov. Gilmer's "Sketches of Georgia," a book printed by the Appletons in 1855, but now out of print:

"The Saxon Scotch emigrated in such numbers to the fine country in the North of Ireland during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as to form a distinct race from the native Celt. These women were the prettiest in person and the purest in character of European ladies, and their men were equally distinguished for enterprise, intellectual capacity, and love of liberty. The inferior station assigned by the British Government to Irishmen in the public service induced most of those who could to emigrate to the American colonies. In the early part of the eighteenth century several Scotch-Irish Presbyterian congregations settled on the fertile territory of North Carolina, between the Catawba and Yadkin rivers. The arbitrary dominion of Great Britain followed the emigrants to their new homes. They were forbid to take the evidence of any existing debt in the form of a promissory note, or buy a pound of tea without first paying the Government for the privilege. A large British army crossed the Atlantic to compel them, and others like them, to do what they would not voluntarily. The colonists were obliged to choose between submission and resistance. The rumors about the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill so excited the Scotch-Irish of Mecklenburg, that on the 19th of May, 1775, they assembled in the little village of Charlotte to agree what they would do. They made the following declaration of their opinions and purposes."

## THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION.

[The Centennial of which will be celebrated at Charlotte to-morrow.]

Resolved, That whosoever directly or indirectly abetted, or in any way, form or manner countenanced the unchartered and dangerous invasion of our rights as claimed by Great Britain, is an enemy to this country, to America and to the inherent and inalienable rights of man.

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Mecklenburg county, do hereby dissolve the political bonds which have connected us with the mother country, and hereby absolve ourselves from all allegiance to the British Crown, and abjure all political connection, contract or association with that nation, who have wantonly trampled on our rights and liberties and inhumanly shed the blood of American patriots at Lexington.

Resolved, That we do hereby declare ourselves a free and independent people; are, and of right ought to be, a sovereign and self-governing association, under the control of no power other than that of our God and the General Government of the Congress to the maintenance of which independence we solemnly pledge to each other our mutual cooperation, our lives, our fortunes and our most sacred honor.

Resolved, That as we acknowledge the existence and control of

no law, nor legal office, civil or military, within this country, we do hereby ordain and adopt as a rule of life, all, each, and every of our former laws; wherein, nevertheless, the Crown of Great Britain never can be considered as holding rights, privileges, immunities, or authority therein.

Resolved, That it is further decreed that all, each and every military officer in this county is hereby retained in his former command and authority, he acting conformably to these regulations; and that every member present of this delegation shall henceforth be a civil officer, viz: a justice of the peace, in the character of a committeeman, to issue process, hear and determine all matters of controversy, according to said adopted laws, and to preserve peace, union and harmony in said county, and to use every exertion to spread the love of country and fire of freedom throughout America, until a general organized government be established in this province."

## THE BEARER OF THE DECLARATION.

"A voice from the crowd called out "three cheers," and the whole company shouted three times, and threw their hats in the air. The resolutions were read again and again during the day, to different companies desirous of retaining in their memories sentiments so congenial to their feelings. There are still living (1855) some whose parents were in that assembly, and heard and read the resolutions, and from whose lips they heard the circumstances and sentiments of this remarkable declaration. When the chairman of the meeting put the question, "Who will carry our resolves to the Congress of the Confederation?" James Jack, a bold, enthusiastic man, answered, "I will!" immediately after, a lone horseman might have been seen, with intent look, pressing his horse on through the country towards the north. When James Jack arrived in Philadelphia, he attended the Congress and delivered his message to some of its members. That body took no notice of it in its proceedings. The majority were not then prepared to jeopard their lives and property by doing what was treasonable. Whilst the Declaration of Independence, made by the Congress of the Confederation on the 4th of July, 1776, has been upon the lips of every American, upon every return of its anniversary, the Declaration of Independence made more than a year before by the Mecklenburg people remained for a long time unknown to fame. The fact that such a declaration had been made was unnoticed in history, unknown to the public, and denied when asserted, until placed beyond dispute by the production of two copies, which have continued in the possession of the descendants of persons present when it was made, and by the finding of a copy, which was sent to his government by some British officer in the Southern colonies and deposited in the colonial office of London. When liberty triumphed James Jack removed from North Carolina to Georgia, and finally settled in Elbert county, near Broad river.

His first son, Wm. Jack, was for a long time merchant in Augusta, Ga., of the firm of Jack & Ennis. Patrick Jack, the second son of Jas. Jack, was a Colonel in the Eighth Infantry during the war of 1812. Leroy M. Wiley, formerly of New York, and in 1854 reputed to be one of the richest men in the world, was a nephew of James Jack, and Alexander Bowie, formerly Chancellor of Alabama, married Jas. Jack's niece.

## A BRAHMIN ON THE BIBLE.

At the opening of a reading-room in one of the cities in India, a Brahmin asked leave to speak, and leave being granted, he proceeded to eulogize the missionaries for the blessings which they have secured to India.

He asked, What makes them do all this for us? *It is their Bible!* I have looked into it a great deal, at one time and another, in the different languages which I chance to know. It is just the same in all languages. The Bible!—there is nothing to compare with it, in all our sacred books, for goodness, and purity, and holiness, and love, and for motives of action.

"Where did the English-speaking people get all their intelligence, and energy, and cleverness of power? It is their Bible that gives these things to them; and now they bring it to us, and say, 'This is what raised us, take it, and raise yourselves.' They do not force it upon us, as the Mohammedans used to force their Koran; but they bring it in love, and translate it into our languages, and lay it before us, and say, 'Look at it, read it, examine it, and see if it is not good!'"

"Of one thing I am convinced—do what we will, oppose it as we may, it is the Christian's Bible that will sooner or later work the regeneration of this land."

The missionary who relates the incident, says, "I could not but be surprised at this testimony thus borne. How far the speaker was sincere, I cannot tell; but he had every appearance of a man speaking his honest convictions. I had known him somewhat before, but was not prepared to see him come out in the presence of such an audience with so pointed testimony to the power and excellency of the Bible. My earnest prayer is, that not only may his intellect be convinced, but that his heart may be reached by the Holy Spirit, and that he may soon become an earnest follower of the cross of Christ.—*N. Y. Evangelist.*"

Mr. Wood, who under the patronage of the English government, has been for several years employed in excavating the ruins of the great Temple of Diana at Ephesus, related to a New York audience recently his interesting and chequered experience. He thinks the Temple was opened to the sky, the statue of the goddess having been sheltered by a canopy. He found alternate layers of charcoal and a sort of putty, in all eleven inches, on which the huge walls of the magnificent edifice once stood.

## The Power of Love.

A teacher was giving a lesson on metals and minerals to a class of children. They were told that gold could be melted—that all metals could be melted. Then the teacher asked: "Can stone be melted?"

"Yes," said a little boy; "stone is melted in volcanoes."

"That is true; and now, can you tell me what can melt a heart as hard as stone?"

After a few minutes' thought, the little boy replied: "I think it is God only who can melt a hard heart."

"I think so too, my child; but how does God melt the heart?"

"It is by his love."

"Yes, the love of God melts the stony hearts. 'We love him because he first loved us.'"

## A BOY THAT TELLS THE TRUTH.

—Little Henry Manly came in just now with a tin funnel in his hand. He sells them for 75 cents. One of our citizens was about paying him the money for one to-day, when he asked Henry if he wouldn't take any cheaper, and Henry told him no. He then asked him how much profit he made on the funnel, and Henry, manly like, had the truth in him, spit it out, and told him 25 cents. The citizen then refused to buy the funnel. A young man near by remarked to Henry, "Confound it boy, you ought to tell what you make, tell'em ten cents." "No sir," said Henry, "I shall tell the truth if I don't make a cent." Stick to that, my boy. Telling the truth gives you this notice, and the notice is worth a dozen funnels though you may have failed to sell because you were honest enough to confess your profit.—*Raleigh Sentinel.*

Rev. Dr. Kidd was a Scotch minister of some prominence, and very eccentric, and one who had his own way of doing things. One of his parishioners says: I was busy in my shop, when, in the midst of my work, in stepped the doctor. "Did you expect me?" was his abrupt inquiry, without even waiting for a salutation. "No," was the reply. "What if it had been death?" asked he; when at once he stepped out as abruptly as he came, and was gone almost before I knew it.

What a thought for every one of us!—Does not death come to most, if not all, as unexpectedly as this? And does not the inquiry impress the lesson from our Saviour's lips—"Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh?"

The practical operation of the compulsory education law in New York has developed the fact that most of the absenteeism in the public schools is caused by truancy.—Teachers are instructed to report all absentees to the truancy department, and an agent specially employed for the purpose investigates every case. The result is an increased attendance at all the public schools.

—The sword of "Capt. Black Bill Alexander," of Revolutionary fame, hangs in the Library of Davison College. It will be on exhibition at the Centennial.

## SPEAK GENTLY.

Speak gently! it is better far  
To rule by love than fear;  
Speak gently! let no harsh words mar  
The good we might do here.

Speak gently! Love doth whisper low  
The vows that true hearts bind:  
And gently friendship's accents flow—  
Auctioneer's voice is kind.

Speak gently to the little child;  
It's love be sure to gain;  
Teach it in accents soft and mild,  
It may not long remain.

Speak gently to the young, for they  
Will have enough to bear;  
Pass through the world as best they may,  
'Tis full of anxious care.

Speak gently to the aged wise;  
Grieve not the care-worn heart;  
The sands of life are nearly run;  
Let such in peace depart.

Speak gently, kindly to the poor;  
Let no harsh tone be heard;  
They have enough they must endure,  
Without an unkind word.

Speak gently to the erring; know  
They may have toiled in vain;  
Perchance unkindness made them so;  
Oh! win them back again.

Speak gently; He who gave His life  
To bend man's stubborn will,  
When elements were fiered in strife,  
Said to them, "Peace be still!"

Speak gently; 'tis a little thing  
Dropped in the heart's deep well;  
The good, the joy that it may bring,  
Eternity shall tell.

There are some things which cannot be postponed to a more convenient season; they must be done *now* or *never*. There are opportunities of doing good which, if not improved as they are presented, *now*, pass by for ever. Save that young man, that young woman now, it may be *now* or *never*. We must improve this moment *now* or *never*.—*Christian's Pathway.*

Trees have been found in Australia which exceed the giants of California in height, though not in circumference. One fallen tree in Victoria measured 420 feet in length, and another 480, while the highest yet discovered in California reaches only 450 feet, the average being from 300 to 400.

A year ago two men at Orange, N. J., made a bet as to the quantity of liquor a certain other party could drink. Within the year the men who made the wager and the keeper of a saloon in which the liquor was drank have died suddenly, and a boy who carried the liquor has committed suicide.

"Has your grandson an ear for music?" asked a professor of an old lady who had sent for him to instruct her pet in the tuneful art.

"Waal, re'ly I don't know Per-fesser. Won't you just take the candle and see?" serenely replied the old lady, clicking away with her knitting pins.

A traveler was lately boasting of the luxury of arriving at night, after a hard day's journey, to partake of the enjoyment of a well cut ham, and the left leg of a goose. "Pray, sir, what is the peculiar luxury of a left leg?" "Sir, to conceive its luxury, you must find that it is the only leg left."