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FOR THE YEAR, Chronicles of the Tribe of North Carolina.

CHAPTER I.

As it came to pass in those days, the people of the thirteen tribes were held in bondage unto avarice, who dwelt on the other side the great waters, that the oppressor vexed them even past patience; and they cried unto the Lord against the oppressor, and girded their armour, and went forth to battle; and after a long and grievous war, the Lord gave them a full deliverance.

Then there was great rejoicing in the land; and the people appointed judges over them and over the cities, and entered into a covenant, that they would suffer no man to oppress them; neither would they oppress another; and when they had turned the covenant with a great oath, the man returned to his own home to inheritance.

Howbeit all of the tribes had not that time been content to dwell in peace, and exercise towards their brethren that charity which esteemeth better than themselves; but certain of the tribes had been content to write chronicles, and magnify the wisdom and valour of their kinsmen, and mighty doings of their own tribe, such that they get unto themselves a name afar off; even as the tribes of the East had magnified themselves wisest and most enlightened people the sun; and are counted to all others in the mysteries of the world, and the making and venturing of precious things called money.

But North Carolina, mine own land, had no part nor lot in any matters; but hath sat herself down in a land which produceth no precious cunning writer, nor marvels wherof to boast; and where the men care not for the writing of chronicles, and only wake from their slumber to get money and slumber again.

Indeed things be not so; for in past, a man among us wrote a chronicle, and magnified himself, saying, I have written the chronicles of this people; and he could not find to them correctly. Then another man, wise and prudent, stood forth and said, be I will write the chronicles of this people in wisdom and verity; but certain sons of Belial sent their usurers, notesavers and exchangers upon him, and vexed and said, inasmuch that he faintly of his soul died within him.

Then said I, must the wise man be good, man hold his peace at the bidding? and must he die, and in lay it to heart? Behold, I will write the chronicles of this people, and some of the doings of these sons of Belial, who, contrary to the law, and the oath which the rulers of the people swore unto one another, gotten great power and now lord of this goodly land, inasmuch that become desolate and the people, brethren, are made weary of their reason of the bondage and vex which they suffer.

Verily the time has come when wicked have rule, and our gold and silver is turned into filthy rags; and laughter of this people, despoiled of their precious ornaments, wandereth through desolate places, bewailing loss of her beauty and comeliness.

And as I have a table, a candle, a pitcher of water, a pane of bread, a little barren field, which I till, and also fall into the hands of sons of Belial or priests, and rulers who favour them, that God will send me a safe deliverance? Verily not therefore fear them.

CHAPTER II.

And it came to pass in those days the people of mine own tribe were against the oppressor, and hard set, sometimes fighting, and sometimes fleeing before him; they cultivated the ground, and lacked for raiment and victual.

And they vexed very rich; and they magnified themselves, and showed the scars they had gotten in plundering their brethren, and from those they had injured and defrauded, as tokens of their valour and prowess in battle against the oppressor, and got unto themselves a great name.

4 For their misdeeds were not set forth, because the chronicles of this tribe were not written; and because those, who might have testified against them, were dead or made very poor; and when the poor man speaketh against the rich he is not heard.

5 And this was the beginning of the sons of Belial in this goodly land; and because they were suffered to prosper then, they have since prospered a main to the great hurt and undoing of this people.

6 And when the people had sat themselves down in peace, they tilled the land; and it brought forth abundantly, and there was plenty of corn and meat and strong drink. And their servants and their cattle increased; and their sons and their daughters married and were given in marriage; and every man feasted with his neighbor on the good things the Lord had given him; and if any one, through misfortune, lacked any thing, it was made up to him, or he borrowed, and it was not received from him again.

7 The door was every where open to the stranger, and the traveller as he passed by, and he rejoiced at the hearty welcome and many good things he received.

8 Every one did that which was right, and the laws, lawyers and judges were few; that a child might write them, because of the great honesty and uprightness of the people.

9 And there was gold and silver in the land, and certain tokens which the people, in times of their distress, had esteemed as money, and which, on account of the good they had done, were still current as such, and even better than gold or silver, because they always stayed with them and reminded them of their past tribulations and present blessings, and answered all the purposes of buying and selling.

10 And when the people had waxed fat and prospered, inasmuch that no man lacked any thing by reason of the great abundance, certain sons of Belial got themselves together, and said one unto another, behold this people, among whom we dwell, have much substance, and are honest, generous, simple hearted, and given to hospitality and good faith; and when the fathers gathered one to another they pay him to his own content, asking no questions, and sometimes give him more and ask not again, because they care not for little things. And when a man profreth to go unto their Assembly, to make laws for them, saying he can do them much good, they send him thither, and when he returneth home, they count his promises perform; for each man is accustomed to trust to his neighbor without being deceived.

11 Wherefore be not this people like unto a goodly flock of sheep, who now lack the shepherds? Verily a foretime they have been clean shorn by those like unto us, and have no malice nor suspicion, but went forward honestly and prospered; and those who did unto them this kindness get unto themselves honours and great substance; and it is mete then, that they now fall into our hands.

12 Let us therefore magnify ourselves, and promise great things, father and deceive this people; inasmuch that we will obtain from their Assembly certain laws, which shall, by cunning devices, take away their substance and give it unto us. And set every man against his brother, and make them our servants forever.

13 And these things seemed good in their sight. And they magnified themselves exceedingly; and some of them were sent unto the Assembly, and a law was made, granting unto them a charter to build certain things called Banks.

14 And the people wist not what they were; and it was explained unto them in this way: behold these tokens which pass among you for money are good for nothing; give them therefore unto us, and we will give you others of less value in their stead. And as for the gold and silver ye have, there is little of it, and the merchant taketh it, and carrieth it away, and by and by it will be clean gone, and you will be very poor; and moreover, while ye have it, it profiteth you nothing while ye keep it; therefore ye make haste to lay it out for something which will stand you in more stead; and as ye be not in debt, and it passeth continually from one unto another, and abideth with no one to his profit, ye will not prosper nor know its value so long as things be so. Now these Banks be the temples of money changers, full of strong holds, into which we will put all this gold and silver, and it shall be with you and belong unto us for our good.

15 And it shall come to pass, that when a man wanteth money, he shall come unto the gate of the temple, and humble himself to the president and rulers thereof, and give them a claim upon his possessions and the possessions of his neighbors; and when this is done,

The old price was a lawful tender, and not bills which were given in its place were not.

if they deem him worthy, they shall give him certain goodly rags, ready to be lost or destroyed, with a cunning device stamped thereon, and a promise, which peradventure they may keep.

16 And these rags shall be among you for money, and he that getteth them shall pay unto us interest for them, and return them by little and little; and in default thereof, his possessions and the possessions of his neighbors shall be sold unto another.

17 Lo, these things are now lawful, and we proffer to do all this for your good, because we love you and desire to show you great kindness.

18 Make haste therefore to be rich, and come and humble yourselves and get these goodly rags abundantly, and make them current among you for money; for the more of them ye have the richer ye will be; and he that getteth them doeth a good thing, and addeth unto the riches of his brethren, inasmuch as he increaseth the quantity of money among them.

19 And the people in their simplicity did as they said, having faith in their rulers, who had acted under the covenant and the oath, and ordained that all this was for their good.

20 Nevertheless, a certain prophet, highly gifted and beloved of God, stood up and cried aloud, saying, truth not the rag; for ye need it not; and lest it be in your hand like the mark of the great beast, and ye be plagued and grieved, and find no rest for your souls by day nor night! Hearken not unto these men; for verily they be of the sons of Belial, who dwell among you and seek your hurt; and thus have deceived and led astray your rulers, even to the permitting of these temples to be builded, which be none other but the temples of Mammon and to the setting up of a shadowy image therein made by legal and magical device out of their own evil and sinful propensities, and called a body corporate, and which receiveth the ministry of a certain priesthood, called the president and rulers thereof, who shall labour continually with all manner of witchcraft and sorcery to put you under a sore and vexatious tribute, and make you their servants forever!

21 And it shall come to pass if ye hearken unto them, and humble yourselves and receive the rag, that they will get dominion over you and become your taskmasters, and ye shall become their servants; and they will exact of you more than you can perform, and ye shall be ruined and clean undone by reason of them; and ye will be so blinded by their devices and so afraid of them, that each man of you shall lay the cause of his ruin unto the brother and friend whom he loved and trusted, and no two of you shall agree together, nor dare to trust one another.

22 Your servants, your cattle and your possession shall be taken away and sold for naught, and these sons of Belial will buy them.

23 Barrenness shall clothe the fields in which ye labor, barrenness shall cover your tables, and ye shall be driven out of your inheritances, not having wherewith to go. In that day, your wives and your children, who have fared delicately, shall upraid you by reason of distress; and ye shall seek to find a friend, who will help you, but all men will flee from you and laugh you to scorn.

24 Then ye shall hate and curse these sons of Belial; but they will be strong in the land and not regard you; and ye shall cry unto the Lord against them, but he will not hear you.

25 Verily your rain shall be without remedy, and your distress without consolation; ye shall see it even afar off in the case of your neighbor, and shall not pity him; and in striving to avoid it yourselves, ye shall only hasten its approach. Your servants, your sons and your daughters shall be scattered abroad among all the tribes afar off, and ye shall esteem it happy, if two of them be found together. Your great men and your good men shall die and leave no inheritance for their children! When a child is born unto you ye shall have sorrow, fearing lest it will perish; and ye shall loath the places of your birth and the fields and mansions in which your youth delighted, and strive to flee from them, and shall not be able!

26 And ye shall say, blessed are our children and our kindred, who have fled from this land, accursed of the Lord because of these sons of Belial.

27 Ye shall then look back on the days ye now see and weep; and ye shall tell of them to those about you, and they will seem as idle tales, because those who have rule will strive to blot out all remembrance thereof, lest it testify against them.

28 And this shall be a sign unto you, that ye may know that these things have come to pass; behold when the briars and gulfies cover your desolate and barren fields, the lean dogs of poverty howl round your decayed dwellings, and ye are constrained to send unto those afar off to come and bring you a bit of meat and a morsel of bread, that ye perish; a certain priest shall rise up and write a canal book, setting forth a marvellous device, saying, give money and build a great rail road through this goodly land to carry off the great abundance ye have, and sell it unto those afar off to come and bring you a bit of meat and a morsel of bread, that ye perish.

29 And when ye shall see, that the prophet of old hath been fulfilled in you, and that ye have been deceived, and that ye have lost your substance, ye shall say, what have we done, that we have suffered all these things? Forasmuch as we have made haste to get these goodly rags, and have made them current among us for money, and have given them into the hands of those who are the sons of Belial, and have allowed them to exact of us more than we can perform, and have allowed them to take away our servants, our cattle and our possessions, and to sell them for naught, and to become our taskmasters, and to make us their servants forever; and we have allowed them to build these temples, which are called Banks, and to set up therein a shadowy image, called a body corporate, and to appoint therein a president and rulers, who shall labour continually with all manner of witchcraft and sorcery, to put us under a sore and vexatious tribute, and make us their servants forever; and we have allowed them to take away our servants, our cattle and our possessions, and to sell them for naught, and to become our taskmasters, and to make us their servants forever; and we have allowed them to build these temples, which are called Banks, and to set up therein a shadowy image, called a body corporate, and to appoint therein a president and rulers, who shall labour continually with all manner of witchcraft and sorcery, to put us under a sore and vexatious tribute, and make us their servants forever; 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