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North Carolina Legislature.

SPEECH OF MR. POTTER.

The last Raleigh Star contains the speech delivered by Mr. Robert Potter, the member from the town of Halifax, on presenting his bill to establish a Political College. This speech having produced great excitement, is now published by Mr. Potter, to correct misrepresentations, and to procure a fair construction of his motives. We commence its republication in this paper, and shall conclude it in the next. It is accompanied by the following synopsis of the bill to establish a Political College.

"This bill proposes the establishment of a central institution, upon a farm in the county of Wake, to which those counties in the State which pay into the treasury, by way of taxes, less than a thousand dollars, should be entitled to send one apprentice; those paying over a thousand, and less than two thousand, two; and those paying over two thousand, four. The number which would be furnished according to this ratio would be one hundred and seven. It also provides that the State shall have a paramount and indefeasible title to the apprentices, for six years from the day on which they enter college; during the first three years of which, they are to be carried through a course of discipline and instruction conformable to the rules of the college; and for the remaining three years, in consideration of the education they shall have received, they are to perform the duty of instructors, at such stations in the State as the rector and visitors of the college may think proper to assign them. The apprentices are directed to be selected from among all the youths of the State who shall be within six months of the age of fifteen years, and the estate of whose fathers shall not exceed in value the sum of a thousand dollars. As a fundamental rule of discipline, the bill directs that the apprentices be divided into five classes, which in turn are at all times to be actively engaged in agricultural labors on the college farm. To effect this, the bill previously directs that a rector and fifteen visitors, to be chosen as shall hereinafter be directed, be incorporated, under the name and title of the 'rector and visitors of the Political College of North Carolina.' It then directs that the visitors be chosen by a joint ballot of both Houses of the Legislature, and hold their appointments during the pleasure of a majority of the members of the same; and invests them with authority to appoint a rector, a president and four professors for the college, and prescribe their duties; to select the apprentices agreeably to rules laid down in the bill; to fix upon the time for the commencement of the operations of the college; to make all disbursements necessary for that purpose; and to carry into effect the details of the bill. It invests them, in short, with full powers of legislation, in all matters appertaining to the college, conformable to the general principles of the bill, and directs the Treasurer of the State to borrow and place in their hands the sum of 200,000 dollars; 20,000 of which to be appropriated to the purchase of a farm and construction of necessary buildings; and the remaining 180,000 dollars to be vested by the rector and visitors in a permanent fund; the interest of which to ensure forever to the benefit of the college, subject to the management and control of the rector and visitors, under the authority and supervision of the Legislature."

MR. SPEAKER: In submitting the proposition contained in that bill, a proposition so novel in its character, and, if adopted, so important in its consequences, I trust the House will bear with me a moment, while I open to them some of the arguments in favor of it, and declare to them the motives which have impelled me to offer it. To say that the object of this measure, is to elevate and dignify the character of North Carolina, and provide for the continuance of her safety, and the enlargement of her happiness, by enlightening and liberalizing the faculties of her people—that its ultimate scope is nothing less than the diffusion of education among the mass of her children, is at once to announce the magnitude of its importance. Sir, if it be mind which gives to man the dominion of the world—if it be that which distinguishes him from the brutes that perish, and almost exalts him to an equality with heaven, then the process, by which its mighty attributes are developed and harmonized, is obviously an object of paramount consideration. But forcible and undeniable as is this truth, and urged upon us from sources of oracular sacredness, North Carolina seems ever to have remained most sadly insensible to it; while many of her sister States have addressed themselves to the subject with a degree of energy and zeal, which indicate their sense of the vitality of its importance; while they have most liberally devoted their best resources to the development of the moral and intellectual energies of their people, North Carolina, in this, as in every other useful improvement, has continued to stumble and flounder on, at a lazy and a lagging pace, behind every other member of the Union. Sir, it is time she were disenchanted—it is time she was brought to a just and full sense of her degradation—it is time that the spell which has so long sealed her energies in death, should be broken, and her thoughts should be raised from the habitual contemplation of low and subordinate objects, and fixed upon her manlier and more exalted interests. Would you ask how this is to be done—would you ask how "a consummation so devoutly to be wished," is to be accomplished? I answer, educate the people—yes, let in upon their minds the light of science and of truth—confer upon them the capacity of thinking—enable them justly to appreciate their relation to their country—give them to see and understand their rights and interests, and the prevailing instinct of nature will impel them to assert and pursue them. If this proposition, bearing, as I conceive, upon its very face the impress of beauty and of truth,

should yet be deemed to require the sanction of authority, I would direct you to the sentiments of those chiefs and sages, whose valor won, whose wisdom established our liberties. The man who, when living, received the homage of all hearts, and whose name like a charm still enchants the world—whose form shadowed forth upon the wall, in the attitude of entreaty, would seem to beckon and persuade you to the adoption of his favorite maxim. That sainted sage, in the last words addressed by him to his country, in language the most earnest and emphatic, invited her attention to this subject. These are his words: "tis substantially true, that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule indeed extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it, can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric? Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."

The Congress of '76, whose deliberations were conducted in the borough which I have the honor to represent, some of whose members were then fresh from the battles of their country, and yet reeking in the blood of her enemies—whilst the fierce and furious din of civil discord shook this mighty continent, and the echoes of the ball and the sabre were sighing and shivering in their ears—resolved as fate—calm and unmoved as gods, deciding on the destinies of mortals—even amidst those terrible convulsions, they were not unmindful of this important subject; and, in the charter furnished by their deliberations, under which we are now assembled, they introduced a provision, enjoining it as a duty on the Legislature which they then created, to provide for the general education of the people. To the misfortune of the people, and the lasting shame of those who have heretofore occupied the places which we now fill, the duty has never been performed, though occasionally reminded of it by adventurous individuals of their own body, and sometimes casually invited to it in the annual messages of the executive, until our present chief magistrate, in his recent communication, has pressed the subject upon us with a solicitude and anxiety characteristic of his well known deep and virtuous sensibility to the best interests of his people. The Legislature from time to time have sported with the subject, by adopting a barren resolution in its favor; but as yet they have done nothing decisive in relation to it. They did, indeed, at the last session, provide, which they were pleased to style "The Literary Fund," but, if not added to, the present generation at least must pass away before it accumulates sufficiently to afford effectual aid to the people. Sir, this is not the way to treat this matter—it is a subject not to be dallied with. I would seize upon it with the determined energy, with which, if drowning, I would grapple a plank in the surge. I would embrace it as a measure on which depended our last, our only hope, of social improvement, or political exaltation; and if the measure I now tender you be not accepted, or some efficient system for disseminating education among our people be not adopted, I shall set down in despair, over the irreclaimable degradation of my country. But, by heavens, I will not believe it—I cannot believe you will turn away your faces, and refuse to sanction and approve this measure. I cannot believe you will thus implicitly decide that our people are incapable of virtue or excellence, and that they are only

"Born to eat, and be despised, and die,
Even as the brutes that perish, save that they
Have a more noble thought, and wider sky."

I would invoke the genius of my country to come to my side, and aid me in persuading you to the adoption of this measure. Sir, if she were indeed to appear among us—if the genius of N. Carolina were now to present herself to you, who are charged with the destinies of her people, instead of the majesty of a guardian goddess—instead of a radiant brow, and an eye flashing light and dignity on this assembly, you would mark her with a pallid front, and "sad and shrouded eye," and in the hollow a censure of despair, she would demand of you, in the language of admonition and reproof, "why sit ye here, all the while idle?" why assemble here from session to session, and expend your time upon ephemeral objects, while you neglect the very salvation of the republic? why meet you here from year to year, to scuffle over subjects, unimportant to the public, and trifling in themselves, or to squabble about the disposition of a clerkship or a judgeship, whilst the people, for whom all this is intended—for whose benefit government was established, laws enacted, and judges appointed—whilst the people are left to rust in primeval ignorance—"rotting from sire to son, and age to age," deaf as the adder, and dark as Erebus? She would tell you, you were a degraded and a despised community; but only so, because you would be so. She would tell you that North Carolina was a lion in the net, an eagle without his pinions, fixed upon the earth, and gazing at the sun in despair; and she would conjure you to make one generous, one manly effort, to redeem and disenthrall her—to take, at this moment, a firm and noble stand in support of the most sacred rights of humanity—to silence in your hear's suggestions of every selfish passion, and act with a single eye to the honor and the in-

terests of your country. She would remind you of the frailty of life, and the immortality of virtue. She would tell you, that time scoffs and huses at the grandest achievements of man, and crushes, and crumbles, the proudest monuments of his power; but that fate itself had no control over virtue; essentially eternal, it should live, like a cherub smiling above the storm, when the frail forms from which it sprung, should have returned to the clod of the valley. She would warn you that the flight of time was rapid and irrevocable; and with a voice, like the music of the spheres, she would implore you to seize upon the passing hour—to make it your own, and render it immortal, by consecrating it to patriotism. Cheerful and elevated at the effect of her admonition, her form now buoyant with hope, her brow brightening and flushing, and her eye dilating—tearing the shroud from her face, and stamping with an emphasis that should wake an echo in every cottage of Carolina, in a tone of encouragement and command, she would exclaim to you, as she retired, "Arise, thou canst and must." Yes, to be great, North Carolina has only to will to be so. She has moral and intellectual energies, which, if put into action, would command for her an honorable and an enviable elevation in the Union—an elevation, where the proudest should conceive themselves honored in her smile. She has, indeed, though all unknown to the world, names dear alike to genius and to science—names, which the all-enduring hand of fate will inscribe upon the proudest pillar of her temple, and over which the most approving smiles of virtue have been poured. The virtues of Henderson alone, might atone for the errors of a vicious age, and win from heaven a pardon for its frailties and its follies. Like a proud tower of other days, time-worn, but unyielding, that lifts its brow to heaven, itself the image of eternity, standing amidst desolation, he stands, in all the grandeur of intellectual solitude, upon a soulless waste, over whose dreary and cheerless bosom the eye of the mind searches elsewhere in vain for shelter and a resting place. If there should prevail every where else a dearth of feeling and of thought, to him would I repair, as did the way-farers of Israel to the moral fountain, so sublimely typified in the rock of the desert. To him would I repair, to renovate, refresh, and sustain my spirit, as to an exhaustless source of truth, of virtue and of wisdom. But though we have such men of might among us, they continue here in the background of life, their noble energies lost to their country, and expended, chiefly, on mere private professional pursuits. Such is the deplorable absence of high feeling and patriotic pride among our people—such their profound ignorance, not only of what concerns their honor and their rights, but their interests merely, that instead of arming and sending forth their strong men to the battle, they seem content to entrust the conduct of their political ranks to the merest niggards of the community. It is a fact, justly mortifying to the pride of every enlightened lover of his country, that though among our delegation to the National Legislature, there be several worthy gentlemen, yet many districts of our people have selected, as the guardians of their political interests, and the champions of their political honour, men who are known to have no honour of their own, and no ability to defend it, if they had it. Well may it be said of them, "The ass knoweth his owner, and the ox its master's crib; but Israel doth not know, my people do not consider." The people do not indeed know, or consider what they do. They do not consider, that the national government, having from the time of its organization, been invested with a strong control over most of the important objects of legislation, is now fast attracting, and drawing within the verge of its power, every essential interest of the people; and, consequently, that the thirteen men, deputed by them to the national legislature, are probably every day called upon to decide questions bearing more decisively and vitally upon their rights and welfare, than do the whole body of measures, which we here at home have to act upon in a six-weeks' course of legislation. It is not less appalling than disgusting, to reflect on the magnitude of the trust, and the imbecility of the trustees.

While we sit here engaged in listening to petitions for gates, petitions for divorces, and petitions to legitimate bastards, they are carrying on stupendous operations, and expending millions of money, drawn from the pockets of the people; and how expending it? Aye, how expending it? Why, the money raised from honest, laborious, and self-devoted North Carolinians, is expended in other States. It is transferred to those States who do themselves the justice, to send to their National Legislature, not toppers, and fools, and vagabonds, but men—men whose characters and talents command the preponderance there. North Carolina, the 6th State in the union, in numbers and intrinsic resources, is yet the very last in political dignity. She exercises less influence and control over the measures of the national government, than the little State of Delaware, with a single representative. In the appropriate and emphatic language of one of the few men in our national delegation, of whom we may be justly proud, North Carolina is the Ireland of the Union. Yes, sir, we are

the tributaries of the union. "In the sweat of our faces do we earn our bread," and pay to our masters what they demand of us; and the only benefit which we derive from it, with some honorable exceptions be it spoken, is the privilege of sending a few cattle to Washington, to be stalled and fattened there during the winter, on a part of the proceeds of our own labour. If ever we disturb the silence of the hall of Odin, and mingle in the din of its gladiators, our voice is like that of one from the wilderness, whom no one heareth." The expression of our wishes is met with bitter scorn, or with calm contempt, and cold neglect, from the National Legislature, and National Government. Why? Because the organs through which, in a great measure, we choose to communicate with them, are not entitled to respect themselves, and cannot, therefore, command it for us. But if, in "these piping times of peace," they are utterly inadequate to the great trust confided to them, it is dreadful, it is horrible to reflect, what our people may suffer from their impotency, in great and dangerous emergencies. And can we be so infatuated as to indulge the hope, that we are to be left forever to the calm and undisturbed enjoyment of our rights, rights, to establish which, the wealth of our fathers was exhausted, and their best blood poured forth like water? Believe me, no! Liberty is a divinity, whose favor, as it is not to be won, so neither can it be kept, by the offerings of dullness and luxury. Wisdom and virtue alone can propitiate her smiles; and never does her votary appear so lovely in her eyes, as when his glove of mail is dyed in gore. Sir, the time will come—nay, the time is coming, when, without the most heroic mildness, magnanimity, and forbearance, not this State only, but this mighty Union, is to be shaken and convulsed to its very centre; and it is in these halls—it is in the halls of legislation, rather than "the tented field," that questions are to be decided, involving national liberty, or national slavery—national existence, or national death. In such an event, when that crisis shall arrive, when the storm that is now silently collecting its wrath, shall actually burst upon us, what will be our attitude? Aye, what will be the bearing of North Carolina, with such men in her national council, as Daniel Barringer, Willis Alston, and Lemuel Sawyer? Will they protect us? can they protect us? 'Tis notorious, they neither have the sagacity nor the energy to do it. They have not the soul to stand up in

presence usually classed, and in their faces, but boldly, assert our rights, and advocate our interests. Pardon me, sir, I do not regard this as a proper place to bandy vulgar epithets. I have too much respect for the gentlemen with whom I am associated, and before whom I now stand—I have too much respect for myself, wantonly to indulge here, in expressions of personal hostility. I cherish none towards either of those unfortunate men; but I feel indignant and disgusted at the degradation of my country, and it is under a sense of public duty that I speak, when I say that one of them, is not only without talents and without character, but without free-agency—that he is not only a slave to mean and low propensities of his own, but a pimp and a caterer to the selfish and the sordid passions of a malignant villain, and a vile slanderer. Yes, he is governed by a fellow, who is himself governed by the Federal Government, who holds a sinecure under the Federal Government, and in the last three years has pocketed ten thousand dollars from the treasury of the union, without having rendered a single act of service for it; but has continued here at home, lounging about the courts of the country, and slandering our most virtuous and useful citizens, only because they were honest men than himself, and because, here at home by their country, who knew them both, they had been more honorably noticed and advanced. One might have expected better things from his age; but the whiteness of his hair, bleached by the frosts of fifty winters, forms a singular and a sad contrast to the darkness of the thoughts that roll below. But I forbear. It is a sufficient punishment to him, to be what he is. Let it not be supposed, that because I thus allude to the characters of mean men, who hold high stations in the country, that I am the less regardful of the honor of my country. I love my country and would die for her. Yes, sir, if the offering of my poor life could in aught advance her interests, or her honor, heaven knows I would lay it down, as promptly and as cheerfully, as ever gallant entered the bower of consenting maidens; but though "with all her faults I love her still," I will not flatter those faults—I will not flatter her rank vices and follies—I will not "bend her rank idolatries a patient knee, nor cry aloud, in worship of an echo;" but rather hold a mirror up to her, which by reflecting her moral deformities full in her face, shall teach her, if possible, to turn away, in shame and terror from them. It is right—it is necessary, she should see how she is gulled and dishonored. She does not know it—she does not feel it—and all the ills she bears, are to be traced to her profound insensibility to her political character and political rights. I affirm, that such a sentiment, as an enlightened regard to the dignity and the interests of their country, does not exist among the mass of the people of North Carolina; and, in the name of God, I would ask you who are assembled here, under the sacred and respon-

sible obligation to guard their honor, preserve their rights, and provide for their welfare, if you will continue to sit quietly here, with your arms folded and wait for heaven to inspire them with it? The days of inspiration are no more, and it will be vain and idle in us, to expect our people to become wise and virtuous, until we give an impulse to their slumbering energies. To impart that impulse, is the object of the measure I now tender you.

To be concluded next week.

From the American Farmer.

THE RIGHT TIME TO FELL TIMBER FOR RAILS, buildings, and agricultural uses generally, is when the sap is in full flow; when the bark ceases to peel freely, the felling should be stopped. In support of this opinion, it is alleged, that the operation is performed at the time that timber will season the soonest—becomes harder and firmer, in consequence of quick seasoning—the pores, being then full of sap, the drying of which leaves behind something of a gluey kind, having somewhat the benefit of oil paint—being harder and firmer than if felled in the winter; the worm is longer deterred from commencing its depredations, which is the main cause of the decay of all timbers.

To fell timber when the bark does not peel freely, is at a time of the year which takes a longer period to season, in consequence of which, and the absence of the sap, it never becomes so hard and solid; hence the worm, the great destroyer of timber, commences earlier its depredations. In most of the newly settled timbered countries, it was the general practice to leave valuable timber trees standing in the fields, which were girdled, or deadened—this operation being performed when the bark did not peel, the tree would stand up several years longer than if done when it did; and hence arose the opinion that the winter was the right time to fell timber, to insure durability. If girdled when the sap is in full flow, the sudden stoppage leaves the trunk full of sap, a fermentation or sourness takes place, the bark prevents the escape of the moisture, the wood becomes soft and the worm soon commences—not so if the operation is done in the winter.

A large beech tree may be girdled in the month of February, and one of the same character in every respect in the following May—the latter will stand longer than the former; and so it would be of two trees felled at the same periods, and left with the bark on; but if made into rails (the bark taken off) or for other purposes, the latter would be much the most durable.

Poor House & Work House.
PROPOSALS for the purchase of one hundred acres of good pine Land, in a healthy situation, within two miles of Fayetteville, and for erecting suitable buildings and improvements for a Poor House and a Work House, agreeable to an act of the General Assembly, will be received by the Wardens of the Poor of Cumberland County, until the County Court in March.

Plans and specifications may be seen at the Post Office in town, where persons disposed to contract are requested to leave their proposals.
COLIN MACRAE,
S. T. HAWLEY,
JOHN MACRAE, } Committee.
February 21.

H. Bradford & Co.,
HAVE just received an additional supply of DRY GOODS, which they will sell cheap, wholesale or retail.
Also, 1 pipe pure HOLLAND GIN, and 1 pipe of MADEIRA WINE, 15 boxes Window GLASS, On the River, 10 bbls refined Newark CIDER. In Store, 20 doz. Weeding HOES.
February 21. 7c.

Sugar, Molasses, &c.
15 hhds. New Orleans Sugar,
30 bbls. Cider Brandy,
20 hhds. Molasses,
For sale by
February 21. CHARLES T. HAIGH,
7 2w.

For Sale,
50 Barrels prime Jamaica SUGAR,
20 casks Unsalted Thomas TOWN LIME,
10 hhds. Molasses,
50 Kegs White Lead,
10 bbls. Train Oil,
20 bbls. Irish Potatoes.
JOHN HUSKE.
Feb. 21, 1827—73c

The Charleston Observer,
PUBLISHED every Saturday, in the City of Charleston, S. C. on a large imperial sheet, at \$3 in advance, or \$3 50 at the expiration of three months. This paper has received the approbation of the Synod of South Carolina and Georgia; and the names of the Rev. Drs. Palmer, Leland and Henry, and Messrs. McDowell, Baird, White and others are pledged to aid its columns with original matter.
B. GILDERSLEEVE, Editor.
JOHN MACRAE, P. M. Fayetteville, Agent.
February 14. 6c.

JUST RECEIVED AND FOR SALE BY
L. FITZHARRIS:
25 Lbs Nutmegs,
21 bbls. Mulletts,
30 do. Rye Whiskey,
9 hhds. Molasses, &c. &c.
February 14. 6c.

Horne's Introduction
TO the critical study and knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. One copy of this celebrated work may be had at this Office, at the subscription price, if early application be made.

Blank Bills of Exchange,
Approved form, just printed and for sale, together with a great variety of other Blanks, at the Observer Office.
Feb. 21.

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