

# The Raleigh Minerva.

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## RALEIGH, (N. C.)

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## RELIGIOUS.

### THE EPISTLE.

From the Yearly Meeting, held in London, by the Yearly Meeting of the 21st of the 18th month, October 27th, of the year 1817.

**DEAR FRIENDS,**  
The love of our Heavenly Father has prevailed in this our annual assembly. It has united us in the fellowship of the gospel, and has extended to our dear absent brethren. Under this influence, our confidence has been renewed, the foundation upon which the righteous in all ages have built their faith and their hope is forever immutable. Notwithstanding our own infirmities and the discouragements which surround us, we have felt the consoling persuasion that the Lord is still mindful of us. He who has blessed us and our forefathers with many tokens of his divine regard, is yet waiting to show himself gracious—and, by the Spirit of his Son, is calling us to purity of heart and to holiness in all manner of conversation. May we then consider the sacred duties which devolve upon us as Christians; the awful responsibility we are under as to a right use of all those gifts and talents, with which we have been entrusted; and the necessity of becoming a more spiritually-minded people.

In turning our attention to the state of the society as it has been now laid before us, the proper employment of the first day of the week, the day more particular set apart for public worship, is a subject that has claimed our serious attention. It is no small privilege to be living in a country where much regard is paid to this duty, and it highly becomes us to be careful that our example in this respect be consistent with the profession we make to the world. We desire that heads of families, and our young friends also, may closely examine whether they are sufficiently solicitous to improve that portion of this day which is now allotted to the great duty of meeting with their friends for the purpose of divine worship. To those who are awakened to a due sense of the eternal interests of the soul—and of the fact that these were the case with all—we believe that these intervals have often proved times of much religious benefit. Many have derived great increase of strength both at these and other times, from retiring to wait upon the Lord; from reading the Holy Scriptures with minds turned to the Divine Author, in desire that he would bless them to their comfort and edification, and from perusing the pious lives and experiences of those who have gone before them. But we avoid prescribing any precise line of conduct; believing that if the attention be sincerely turned unto the Heavenly Shepherd, his preserving help and guidance will not be withheld.

Those of the class whom we have just been addressing, may sometimes feel that their faith is low, when about to attend their meetings in the course of the week, it may be, under great outward difficulties. These sacrifices of time, and opportunities of withdrawing from worldly cares, have been blessed to many; they have proved in seasons of deep trial and discouragement, times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. The waiting dependent mind has thus been enabled to put on strength to persevere in the Christian course, and under the pressure of many troubles and perplexities to experience an increase of faith in the merciful and omnipotent care of our great creator. Be encouraged, then, dear friends, not to neglect your meetings, however small; but to believe that by a diligent attendance of them, and a right engagement of mind therein, you will be strengthened to fill up your stations as faithful and devoted Christians.

In a well ordered family, short opportunities of religious retirement frequently occur, in which the mind may be turned in secret aspiration to the author of all our blessings; and which have often proved times of more than transient benefit. It is our present concern, that no exception to this practice may be found amongst us; whether it take place in a reading a portion of the sacred volume, or when we are assembled to partake of the provisions with which we are supplied for the sustenance of the body. On these latter occasions, may the hearts of your young friends, also, be turned in gratitude to God, who thus liberally provides for them. May the experience of us all be such, that we can adopt the words of the Psalmist:—“Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray.”—Ps. lv. 18.

In our last year's epistle we had to remark the failure of some of our members in paying their just debts. We have been again deeply pained on finding that some disgraceful cases of this kind have again occurred. Whilst we lament the condition of such as have thus abandoned their own peace, and brought condemnation on themselves, we also feel very tenderly both for the near relatives of those,

and for their creditors who have suffered through them. In advertent to these cases, it is our solicitude that the misconduct of those to whom we allude, may be a caution to others.—At all times, but more particularly in the present depressed state of trade and commerce, it will be very useful for Friends frequently to inspect into the state of their own property, to keep their concerns within proper bounds, and so to confine their wants within the limits of Christian contentment, that should any unforeseen reverses be experienced, they may look back with feelings of conscious integrity. And we would especially recommend to Friends of discrimination and sound judgement, in kindness and love, to watch over their brethren for good. Great advantages would result from early, repeated and private advice to young tradesmen, who, from temporary success and inexperience may be in danger of exceeding their capital, and of imprudently extending their business.

Our sympathy is much excited for those who, after fair prospects, have from a sudden depreciation of property, been subjected to many difficulties. We wish kindly to encourage such of these as have it still within their power, to a timely contraction of their domestic expenses. And we desire that their trials may be lightened by beholding in their off-spring a disposition to industry and economy, and a willingness that their expectations should not exceed those limits which become a Christian character; this we believe would ultimately tend to their greatest good. Before we quit this subject, we would remind our friends of the former advice of this meeting, that where any have injured others in their property; the greatest frugality should be observed by themselves and their families; and although they may have a legal discharge from their creditors, both equity and our Christian profession demand that once, when they have it in their power, should rest satisfied, until a just restitution be made to those who have suffered by them.

The amount of sufferings reported this year for titles and other ecclesiastical claims, and a few demands of a military nature, is upwards of fourteen thousand four hundred pounds. We have received epistles from all except one of the yearly meetings on the American continent. From these we observe with pleasure, that besides a watchful care to support the testimonies of our own Society, our brethren beyond the Atlantic are engaged in various acts of benevolence for the welfare of their fellow-men.

Dear young friends, our hearts are warmed with love to you. We desire, that it may be your frequent concern to seek for an establishment on the only sure foundation, and to wait in humble watchfulness for the teaching of the heavenly instructor. If conflicts of mind should attend you, and prove painful and humbling in this nature, this is no cause for dismay. Those who steadily pursue the path of a true disciple will, through the goodness of the Lord, at times be permitted indubitably to feel, that they are the objects of his paternal regard. Thus they will have cause to acknowledge the great benefit of patient, religious exercise. They will, from their own experience, know an increase of true faith in the power and perceptible support of the Holy Spirit. Ascribing this to the free gift of God in Christ Jesus our Lord, they will become firmly persuaded, that the tender power of redeeming love, though undervalued by too many, is above all things precious. We are consoled in the belief, that the feet of many of our beloved young friends, have been turned into this path. And it is our earnest desire, that neither the fear of man, the offence of the cross, an aversion to the simplicity of the truth, nor the activity of their own wills, may interrupt their progress, but that they may through the unfoldings of divine counsel, come to know an establishment in that faith, which gives the victory.—1 John. v. 4.

And, dear friends, you who love the truth, and who are in the vigor of life; feeling, as you must, the many blessings of which you have been partakers, and the privilege it is to be employed, in the smallest degree, in the service of the Lord, let it be your concern to offer your hearts to his disposal, and under his sacred guidance, to become devoted to the support of his cause.

May our dear elder brethren and sisters, though often depressed on various accounts, be by continued watchfulness and prayer, endowed with capacity to trust in God. May they receive that divine support which will enable them acceptably to endure the remaining trials of time; and being preserved in lowliness and meekness of spirit, be prepared to enter into rest everlasting.—Farwell.

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting, by  
**WM. DIL VORTH CREUSDON,**  
Clerk to the meeting this year.

**NEW STORE—YANCEY & BRAME, OXFORD, N. C.** offer for sale, a good assortment of DRY GOODS, QUEENSWARE, HARDWARE and GROCERIES, which being well laid in, they can dispose of on reasonable terms for cash, or on credit to punctual customers. They will be grateful for a share of custom.  
October 21, 1817. 25-41.

**NOTICE—All those INDEBTED** to the subscriber by bond, note or book account, are requested to call and settle the same with Alexander McRae, of Sneedsborough; who is fully authorized to settle and give discharges.

**JOHN M'RAE,**  
Late of Sneedsborough, N. C.  
26-41st

## RURAL ECONOMY.

**Agriculture**—With much pleasure we extract the following interesting report of the *Brighton exhibition*, from the *Boston Centinel*. Agricultural pursuits are the true interest of our hardy yeomen, and we are gratified to observe their attention roused and their emulation excited by public spirited fairs and premiums. Countless blessings await these exhibitions, in the cultivation of lands, the improvement in the breed of horses, horned cattle and sheep.—*N. Y. Ec. Post.*

**Brighton cattle show**—An authentic report of the proceedings and awards at the late Brighton exhibition is preparing for the press by a committee appointed for the purpose. It is not yet ready for publication.

**The ploughing match** on Wednesday prolonged the interest of the show. A suitable field was marked out in quarter-acre lots; and eleven or twelve competitors started for the premium precisely at the same moment. The ploughs were of all the constructions in use; and all of them but four, were drawn by four oxen—the four had only two. All the teams had drivers, save one—the owner of which did the duty of holder and driver. One of the four ox ploughs finished in 30 minutes and 23 seconds, by the watch we saw; another performed the task in ten seconds more; and others in very quick succession. The farmer who drove his own team, performed the task in 43 minutes, and appeared to be the favorite of the field. This first contest of the kind in America, (the official particulars of which will be published) excited a very lively interest, gave universal satisfaction, and will be productive of much good.

In addition to the foregoing particulars, respecting the Brighton cattle show we select the following statement of premiums, &c.—*Minerva.*

**For the fattest ox**—1st premium of \$50 to Col. Chapin—2d do. \$40 to Col. Chapin—3d do. \$25, Mr. Harrington.

**For the best Bull**—1st premium, \$40 Hon. Samuel Dana.—2d do. \$25, Mr. Harrington.

**For the best Cow**—[1st premium of \$40 would have been awarded to Dr. Stearns—but as his cow was not entered in season, no premium was allowed.]—2d do. \$30 to John Welles—3d do. Mr. Harrington.

(Several persons attracted particular attention. One containing two fat oxen (Maximus and Magnus) from Hamden county.—One of these is estimated to weigh over 3000 wt. having weighed 2716 lbs. in August, 1816; and to exceed in weight the famous Durham exhibited in England. Another, containing Heifer or Calf 17 1/2 months old, weighing 1520 wt. and girthing six feet four inches. This was of the famous Bakewell breed of English cattle.—It was calved at Westbrook near Portland; its mother gives twenty-four quarts of milk daily, and has now a calf, four months old, which weighs over 400 wt.)

**For the best Bour**—1st premium \$10, Nathaniel Jagersell.—3d do. \$5, Stephen Robbins.

The premium of \$40 for the greatest crop of wheat was awarded to a gentleman from Worcester county, who raised 26 and 1-6th bushels on an acre of 4 1/2 rods.

The premium of \$40 for the greatest quantity of Potatoes, to a gentleman of D. Cham, who raised upwards of 450 bushels on an acre.

The same was allowed to a gentleman who in the same space raised over 700 bushels Carrots.

**FROM THE BOSTON DAILY ADVERTISER.**  
**Malaga Wheat.** A single head of this wheat was brought to Exeter, N. H. in 1810, by a man who plucked it from a field in Malaga; from various accidents only a few quarts were obtained until 1816—but the present season it is estimated that there were 100 bushels raised of it. It is believed to be superior to any in America, to weigh 67 1/2-20lbs. to the bushel; and has never been known to be affected by scab.

**Vermont best**—A wheat was raised the last season in the garden of Messrs. W. and A. Chapman, in Middlebury, Vt. which weighed, including the top, 16 lbs. 14 ounces.

**Beat this who can!**—An English Turnip has been raised this season in the garden of Col. Joshua Little, of Newbury, which measures thirty-three inches and three quarters in circumference; and weighs 12 pounds without the top.—*SALEM GAZ.*

## FOREIGN.

**FROM LADY MORGAN'S "FRANCE."**  
General La Fayette has not appeared in Paris, since the return of the Bourbon dynasty to France. And I should have left that country, without having seen one of its greatest ornaments, had not a flattering invitation from the Chateau La Grange enabled me to gratify a wish, long and devoutly cherished, of knowing, or at least of beholding, its illustrious master. Introduced by proxy to the family of La Fayette, by the young and amiable Princess Charlotte de B... we undertook our journey, to La Grange with the same pleasure as the pilgrim his first unwearied steps to the shrine of sainted excellence.

In the midst of a fertile and luxuriant wilderness, rising above prolific orchards and antiquated woods, appeared the five towers of

La Grange-Blessneau, tinged with the golden rays of the setting sun. Through the holes of the trees appeared the pretty village of Aubepierre, once, perhaps, the dependency of the castle, and clustering near the protection of its walls. A remoter view of the village of D'Hierres, with its gleaming river and romantic valley, was caught and lost, alternately, in the serpentine mazes of the rugged road; which, accommodated to the grouping of the trees, wound amidst branches laden with ripening fruit, till its rudeness suddenly subsided in the velvet lawn that immediately surrounded the castle. The deep moat, the drawn-bridge, the ivied tower, and arched portals, opening into the square court, had a feudal and picturesque character; and, combined with the reserved tints and fine repose of evening, associated with that exultation of feeling which belonged to the moment preceding a first interview with those, on whom the mind has long dwelt with admiration of interest.

We found General La Fayette surrounded by his patriarchal family—his excellent son and daughter-in-law, his two daughters (the sharers of his dungeon in Almutz) and their husbands; eleven grand children, and a venerable grand uncle, the ex grand prior of Malta, with hair as white as snow, and his cross and his order worn, as proudly as when he had issued forth at the head of his pious troops, against the "pagan Joe," or Christian enemy. Such was the group that received us in the salon of La Grange; such was the close knit circle that made our breakfast and our dinner party; accompanied us in our delightful rambles through the grounds and woods of La Grange, and constantly presented the most perfect unity of family interests, habits, taste, and affections.

We naturally expect to find strong traces of time in the form of those with whose name and deeds we have been long acquainted; of those who had obtained the suffrages of the world, almost before we had entered it. But, on the person of La Fayette, time has left no impression; not a wrinkle furrows the ample brow; and his unbent and noble figure is still as upright, bold, and vigorous, as the mind that informs it. Grace, strength and dignity still distinguish the fine person of this extraordinary man; who, though more than thirty years before the world, engaged in scenes of strange and eventful conflict, does not yet appear to have reached his climacteric. Easing and active in his farm, graceful and elegant in his salon, it is difficult to trace in one of the most successful agriculturists, and one of the most perfect fine gentleman that France has produced, a warrior and a legislator. The patriot, however, is always discernible.

In the full possession of every faculty and talent he ever possessed, the memory of M. La Fayette has all the tenacity of unworn youthful recollection; and, besides, these, high views of all that is most elevated in the mind's conception. His conversation is brilliantly enriched with anecdotes of all that is celebrated, in character and event, for the last fifty years. He still talks with unwearied delight of his short visit to England, to his friend Mr. Fox, and dwelt on the *witchery* of the late Duchess of Devonshire, with a most boyish enthusiasm. He speaks and writes English with the same elegance he does his native tongue. He has made himself master of all that is best worth knowing, in English literature and philosophy. I observed that his library contained many of our most eminent authors upon all subjects. His elegant, and well chosen collection of books, occupies the highest apartments in one of the towers of the chateau; and, like the study of Montaigne, hangs over the farm-yard of the philosophical agriculturist. "It frequently happens," said M. La Fayette, as we were looking out of the window at some flocks which were moving beneath, "it frequently happens that my *Minerva*, and my *hazard*, dispute my attention with your *hume*, or our own *Voltaire*."

He spoke with great pleasure on the visit paid him at La Grange some years ago, by Mr. Fox and General Fitzpatrick. He took me out, the morning after my arrival to show me a tower, richly covered with ivy!—"It was Fox," he said, "who planted that ivy! He has taught my grand-children to venerate it."

The chateau La Grange does not, however, want other points of interest.—Founded by Louis Le Gros, and occupied by the prince of Lorraine, the mark of a cannon ball is still visible in one of its towers, which penetrated the masonry, when attacked by Marshal Turenne. Here, in the plain, but spacious *salon-amanger*, the peasantry of the neighborhood, and the domestics of the castle, assemble every Sunday evening in winter, to dance to the violin of the *concerge*, and are regaled with cakes, and *cau-sucree*. The *concert* is usually, and his family are *always*, present, at these rustic balls. The young people occasionally dance among the peasantry, and set the examples of new steps, freshly imported by their Paris dancing-master.

In the summer this patriarchal re-union takes place in the park, where a space is cleared for the purpose, shaded by the lofty trees which encircle it. A thousand times, in contemplating La Fayette in the midst of his charming family, the last years of the life of the Chancellor de l'Hopital recurred to me,—he, whom the *nai ve* Brantome likens to Cato; and who, loving liberty as he hated faction, retired from a court unworthy of his virtues, to his little domain of Vignay, which he cultivated himself,