

# The Late Judge David M. Furches

Following is the address of William F. Bynum, Jr., presenting to the Supreme Court a portrait of the late Chief Justice, David M. Furches, on May 11:

"May it please your honors: I have the pleasure of presenting a portrait of David M. Furches late Chief Justice of this court. In selecting me to perform this friendly office, Judge Furches showed a personal confidence and regard which I keenly appreciate and which I shall endeavor to justify by using such plainness and directness of speech as I think he would approve if I were here. Many of his contemporaries at the bar and on the bench knew him longer and better perhaps than I and could speak more fittingly of his professional and official career. My only qualification is an intimate acquaintance and association with him during the last years of his life and a sincere recognition of his sturdy qualities as a lawyer, a judge, and as a man.

"The biography of Judge Furches has already been written. I need not repeat it here or refer to it further than to recall some important events which throw light upon his career. Indeed his life throughout was so plain and unpretentious, so free from display and the pomp which usually attends the noisy honors of ambitious public life, that its record is little more than the simple story of a steady country lawyer who, by unremitting industry and the practice of the principles of strict integrity and virtue, won his way surely and steadily to the highest judicial office of the State. This was the ambition of his life; this he set out to attain, and his earnest desire to discharge his duties faithfully and acceptably to all of his fellow-citizens.

"The ancestors of Judge Furches were from Delaware. His grandfather came to North Carolina from that State about the close of the revolution. A relative of the family had died unmarried in that part of Rowan which is now Davie county and left his estate to a kinsman, the Judge's great-grandfather, of Kent county, Delaware; and a son of that legatee was sent here to look after the property. He found it and what was better, he also found for himself a wife among the daughters of Rowan and decided to make his home among her people. This settler named one of his sons Stephen Lewis, after the old bachelor relative who had bequeathed his estate to the ancestor in Delaware, and this Stephen Lewis Furches, a country gentleman noted for his generosity and kindness, was the father of the Judge, the eldest child, who was born April 21, 1813.

"The future Chief Justice was a typical country boy. He helped his father on the farm; in the winter he attended such schools as the community afforded, and when he grew older he was sent to the high school or academy for three years, and that completed his education. He had already chosen his profession, and at the age of 24 passed from the academy to the law school of Judge Pearson at Richmond Hill. There he remained for the usual period and at the age of 26 received his license and established an office in Mocksville, the county seat. His legal ability, as well as his hold upon the confidence of his fellow-citizens, was attested by his election to the office of solicitor of the County Court, a position most helpful and stimulating to the young lawyer. That position, with the exception of a few months during the reconstruction period, he continued to hold until the county courts were abolished in 1868.

"Judge Furches was one of the Confederate army only about one month. The shortness of his service there was due to two things: First, the office of county solicitor which he held exempted him from the provisions of the conscript act; and second, having three brothers and four brothers-in-law in the army, to use his own words, he concluded to stay out."

"When the war was over and the work of restoring the State to its former relations with the Union was begun, Judge Furches was sent as a delegate from Davie county to the constitutional convention, which met for that purpose in Raleigh in October, 1865. In that convention, composed of the ablest men of the State, he was an active and influential member. His work was done thoroughly and is now familiar to every one. Among other ordinances which it adopted were those abolishing slavery, declaring the ordinance of secession null and void from the beginning, and repudiating the debt contracted in the prosecution of the war. It provided for the organization of a State government by calling an election for members of the General Assembly, Governor and other State officers and also for the election of members of Congress, and thus placed the State in a position to resume at an early day its practical relations with the Union. Other seceding States in similar conventions merely declared the ordinance by which they attempted to sever their connection with the Union null and void. North Carolina alone declared her ordinance void from the beginning. The said supposed ordinance, the convention resolved, is now and at all times hath been null and void. This was the view held by Mr. Lincoln and afterwards announced by the Supreme Court in Texas vs. White.

"Mr. Lincoln, in his first inaugural address, declared that no State upon its mere motion could lawfully get out of the Union and that resolves and ordinances to that effect were legally void. And in his last speech, April 11, 1865, referring to certain criticisms on account of the fact that his mind seemed not to be definitely fixed on the question whether the seceding States, so-called, were in the Union or out of it, he declared that such a question was practically immaterial—a mere pernicious abstraction which it were better not to decide or even to consider. "Finding themselves safe at home," said he with his usual aptness of expression, "it would be utterly immaterial whether they had ever been abroad."

"Mr. Sumner, on the other hand, held that the effect of secession was the destruction of the States, and Thaddeus Stevens was firm and bitter in the contention that the result of the war left them in the humiliating position of conquered provinces to be dealt with as the conqueror pleased; while Congress regarded them as disorganized communities which had forfeited all civil and political rights and privileges under the constitution and which could be restored thereto only by the permission and authority of the constitutional power against which they had rebelled and by which they were subdued.

"Our convention of 1865 held the

view that North Carolina had never ceased to be a State and a State of the Union; that the ordinance of secession being void ab initio, the State, having never ceased to be a member of the Union, had the right and would be allowed to resume her relations with it upon complying with the terms and conditions set forth in the President's proclamation of May, 1865; and accordingly, in addition to passing the ordinance required by the President, the convention provided for the speedy reorganization of civil government in all its branches in this State and also for the election of members of Congress, fully believing that when these things should be done the State would be accorded full recognition as a member of the Union. This had been the wish and plan of Mr. Lincoln and the same was adopted by Mr. Johnson soon after his accession to the presidency.

"Governor Worth and his party were equally pronounced in the same opinion, and in his inaugural address in December, 1866, he declared that they were 'astounded by the proposition, then advanced, that North Carolina, one of the original thirteen, was no longer a State and that he would never assent to any scheme or compromise based on the idea that North Carolina was not a State of the American Union.'"

"That position was held to be correct by the Supreme Court of the United States two years later in the case of Texas vs. White—to late, however, to prevent the mischief which the opposite view had brought upon us. Did Texas during the war cease to be a State? asked Chief Justice Chase in delivering the opinion of the court in that case. Or if not, did the State cease to be a member of the Union? Answering these questions, he continued: 'The Union of the States never was a purely artificial and arbitrary relation. . . . Not only, therefore, can there be no loss of State and independent autonomy to the States through their union under the constitution, but it may be not unreasonably said that the preservation of the States and the maintenance of their government are as much within the design and care of the constitution as the preservation of the Union and the maintenance of the national government. The constitution in all its provisions looks to an indissoluble union composed of indestructible States. . . . The ordinance of secession adopted by the convention and ratified by a majority of the citizens of Texas and all the acts of her Legislature intended to give effect to that ordinance were absolutely null; they were utterly without operation in law. The obligations of the State as a member of the Union and of every citizen of the State as a citizen of the United States remained perfect and unimpaired. It certainly follows that the State did not cease to be a State nor her citizens to be citizens of the Union. . . . Our conclusion, therefore, is that Texas continued to be a State and a State of the Union.'"

"After the convention Judge Furches returned to his duties as solicitor and to the practice of his profession generally. To him the arena of practical politics was never very enticing. His ambition was always along the line of his profession, to which in all he devoted nearly fifty years of his life. He attained his majority in the expiring days of the old Whig party, of which he was an enthusiastic adherent and from which the transition was easy and natural to the Republican party, in a measure, its successor. Loyalty to his party and loyalty to his friends was a governing principle of his conduct. Though frequently he did not agree with the policies of the one or the other of the other, his party frequently honored him with its nominations for high and responsible offices. Twice he encountered the Democratic giants of the west as a candidate for Congress—Major Robbins, in 1872 and Judge Campbell, in 1880, and, though the champion of the opposition, each time he reduced his opponent's majority more than half. For three years he was a Judge of the Superior Court, where he presided with patience, firmness and ability. In 1888 he was again called into party service as a candidate for Associate Justice of the court and again four years later as a candidate for Governor, but the common fate of all Republican candidates befell him, and he, with the others on the ticket, was each time defeated.

"That these successive defeats are not to be attributed to any lack of confidence on the part of the public in the position which he sought; on the contrary, it is a marked degree of respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens throughout the State. They recognized his ability and integrity, and were satisfied that he was capable of filling with entire acceptability any of the offices to which he was uniformly elected, and often as they ran for public office. The reasons for this are not hard to discover. It was no fault of theirs nor of the rank and file of their party in this State. But the majority of the white people of North Carolina had not forgiven the national Republican party for its stupendous blunders in the reconstruction of the State government in 1867—their rejection of Mr. Lincoln's plan and the enforcement of that of Congress—placing in power in the State men who, in many instances, were distasteful to the people and wholly unfit for leadership in such a crisis. These blunders Judge Furches and many other patriotic Republicans like him in North Carolina opposed and tried to prevent. The constitutional convention of which he was a member had readily complied with what the people of this State understood to be the demands of the President and the people of the North as necessary before the State should be permitted to resume its relations with the Union. The members of the State government had been taken from the hands of those who had adhered to the Confederacy and placed by a loyal electorate in the hands of those who had renounced their allegiance to the United States. The great body of the people had accepted the offered amnesty, the elections had required and voted the changes were made, the State government thus restored, was already performing its functions smoothly and satisfactorily, and peace and order prevailed.

"The presence of the State in the Union had been emphatically recognized by submitting to its Legislature the thirteen amendment for ratification, and the Legislature had promptly and almost unanimously approved it. Another recognition of

our statehood, equally emphatic, so far as the executive department of the national government could make it, had come when, on June 16, 1866, the Secretary of State of the United States formally transmitted to the Governor of this State the fourteenth article of amendment proposed to the constitution of the United States, to be by him submitted to the Legislature for adoption or rejection. To the original conditions to be complied with before the Southern States should be permitted to resume their relations with the Union, the ratification of that amendment was added. It was vastly more far-reaching and objectionable to the South than the other. The people of the South were, nevertheless, expected to face about, to turn their backs on the men they had trusted and followed and adopt the lead of those who had no magnetic hold on their hearts or minds. This they would not do, and it was unreasonable and unnatural to expect them to do it. The Legislature, by the vote of the majority, refused to ratify or adopt that amendment.

"Then, without further reason, the government of this State, which has been duly acknowledged by the President of the United States, and which had been organized and in existence for more than twelve months and in the regular and peaceful performance of its functions, along with the governments of other Southern States was declared to be null and void, and for the protection of life or property and virtually abolished by Congress, and the Governor and other State officers who had been duly elected by the people and were in the exercise of their public duties were subsequently removed and in their stead were placed other officers elected largely by the vote of the freedmen upon whom the elective franchise had recently been bestowed.

"The majority of the intelligent people of the State felt outraged and offended by these arbitrary and unconstitutional proceedings. They looked with displeasure upon the government and the officers thus thrust upon them against their will. To them the action of the government was irksome and sure to lead speedily to disorder and trouble. It was unnatural and impossible for it to last. Men like Judge Furches were not to blame for it. They opposed this scheme of Congress from the beginning and acquiesced in it only in the hope that their fears and misgivings might be allayed. They truly believed that reorganized political government with proper security for person and property could not exist in the State unless those who were, by their intelligence and character, the natural leaders of the people and who would surely lead them by and by, were permitted to lead them in that crisis. And time has proved the correctness of their view.

"Nor were such men of the South alone in that belief. Many Republican leaders in the North agreed with them and urged the adoption of such a policy by Congress as the only proper solution of the grave difficulty then confronting the nation. The sentiments and apprehensions of the Republicans were never so truly and prophetically expressed as they were in the address of Governor Massachusetts in his caudillary address to the Legislature of that State in January, 1866, more than a year before the first reconstruction act was passed. Said he: 'The Southern people . . . fought, toiled, endured and persevered with a courage, a unanimity and a persistency not outdone by any people in any rebellion. They were not a mere army of territory abandoned to the Union while it could be held by arms. There was never a rebel regiment, surrendered to the Union arms until resistance was overcome by force. . . . The people of the South, men and women, soldiers and civilians, volunteers and conscripts in the army and at home, followed the fortunes of the rebellion and obeyed its leaders, so long as it had any fortunes or any leaders. Their young men marched up to the cannon's mouth, a thousand times, where they were mowed down like grain by the reapers when the harvest is ripe. . . . And since the President and himself agreed to let in the great army of the South, and to participate in the business of reorganizing the rebel States, I am obliged also to confess that I think to make one rule for the richer and higher rebels and another rule for the poorer and more lowly rebels is impolitic and unphilosophical.

"When the day arrives . . . when an amnesty substantially universal shall be proclaimed, the leading minds of the South, who are the natural leaders of opinion in the South, if we cannot gain their support of the just measures needed for the work of safe reorganization, reorganization will be delusive and full of danger. . . . It would be idle to reorganize those States by the colored vote if the popular vote of the white race is not to be had in favor of the guarantees justly required, then I am in favor of holding on just where we are. I am not in favor of a surrender of the present rights of the Union to a struggle between a white minority, aided by the freedmen on the one hand, against the majority of the white race on the other. I would not consent, having rescued those States by arms, to be had in hand to turn them over to anarchy and chaos. We ought to extend our hands with cordial good will to meet the proffered hands of the South; demanding no attitude of humiliation from any, inflicting no acts of humiliation upon any; respecting the feelings of the conquered. . . . The stubborn refusal of Northern Republican leaders in Congress to heed such warnings and to follow such advice and to the arbitrary and unreasonable enforcement of a contrary policy may be justly attributed, in my opinion, the political solidity of the South and the misfortunes of the Republican party in that section from that day to this. There, in my judgment, was the prime mistake, the inexcusable blunder. Other mistakes, it is true, may have been, and, indeed, were made; other offenses undeniably were committed here in the South where social and political chaos ensued, and the influence and effect of them remain with us to this day. But the origin and cause of these troubles were not wholly in the South and

## HERE AND THERE

**Southern Republicans were not altogether responsible nor are they the only proper apologists for them.**  
"The same also has been true with respect to the management of Republican affairs in the South down to the present time. Not all of the blunders, not all of the bad management and mistakes, have been made here; just as frequently, just as persistently, and just as disastrously, have they been made at Washington. And wherever and whenever and by whomsoever they have been made, those who have suffered most by them politically have been Southern Republicans of the type and standing of Judge Furches.

"But happily we are now assured of the arrival of a better day in which the unfortunate policy heretofore pursued towards the South shall be abandoned and reversed; when, in the language of Governor Andrew, the co-operation of the strongest and ablest minds and the natural leaders of opinion in the South will be sought and, let us hope, will be secured; when the wishes of her people are to be consulted and no effort spared to find out the facts in respect to the character of all proposed appointees to Federal positions, and when, in the language of the President, the only eligible and the best of the character and reputation and standing in the community commend them to their fellow-citizens as persons qualified and able to discharge their duties well, and whose presence in important positions will remove, if any such thing exists, the sense of alienism in the government which they represent.

"It remains for me to refer to the most important part of the Judge's life—his career at the bar and on the bench. In 1866 he moved from Mocksville to Stateville and soon acquired a lucrative practice in Iredell and the adjoining counties. He met as antagonists such men as Armfield, Folk, Clement, Bailey, McCormick, Watson, Linsay and others, among whom he was numbered as one of the wisest and the best. As an adviser and counselor, he was careful and safe; as an advocate he was earnest, forcible and convincing. He never trusted a client or even a brother lawyer to prepare his cases; he prepared them himself, and thus not only performed a duty, but furthered justice and enhanced his chance of success.

"He was scrupulously faithful to his clients, but remembered that good for the client can be rendered only if he has faith in one's own conscience, and that however desirable it may be to be known as a successful and great lawyer, it is even better to be known as an honest man, and that there is no incompatibility whatever in the possession of both of these titles. The asserting of truth, the accomplishing of right, the doing of what is just, these he believed to be grander and better than the transitory victories sometimes questionably won in the controversies of the courts. Above all, he was honest; he was honorable in the practice of his profession as in his dealings with his fellow-men, and this gave him a power far superior, more pervasive and permanent than mere skill and strategy. He spoke to the jury or the judge his argument carried the weight of sincerity, his eloquence the strength of his convictions.

"His elevation to the bench was directly in accordance with his tastes and desire. I have said that he was for three years judge of the Superior Court from 1875 to 1878. In 1894 he was elected an Associate Justice of this court, and acted as such until January, 1901, when his cherished ambition was gratified by his appointment as Chief Justice. After holding that office for two years he retired to private life, carrying with him that which he ever so highly prized—the love and respect of his brethren, the confidence of his fellow-citizens, and the consciousness of duty faithfully and courageously performed.

"On the bench Judge Furches was patient, hard-working and thorough in his investigation of questions on which the court was called upon to pass. While making no pretense to polish or finished style, his written opinions are clear, forcible and incisive. He always speaks to the point and when that has been reached and explained he is content.

"He was fond of the society of the bench and bar and was delightfully and familiarly familiar with all his personal and political friends. He believed in standing by the old landmarks and the old decisions and had unbounded admiration for the great judges who preceded him as members of this court.

"In presenting his portrait to the court I have said of him only what all who knew him will readily concede. I render to his memory such tribute as when I portray him precisely as he was—a true and brave and downright honest man. His heart was always open and sincere. He was plain, straightforward and unostentatious in everything he did and in everything he said. In private and in public life he always sought the path of rectitude, and righteousness and nothing pleased him so thoroughly as to be able to perform his duty well. He made no claim to erudition or brilliancy, but he possessed the richer endowment of saving common sense and 'stood foursquare to all the winds that blow.' He was what Carlyle calls sincere; he was what he seemed to be, no sham or make-believe, but a real genuine man in all his relations he was just and charitable. His love and devotion to his wife and kindred were remarkably tender and beautiful. Surrounded by them, in the full possession of his faculties and the love and respect of his neighbors, he gently passed away in the early morning hours of June 8, 1908, leaving a name unblemished and the record of a useful and well-spent life. Here where justice reigns supreme, in the company of so many of those whom he venerated and loved, may his honest, rugged features ever receive a hearty welcome from those who frequent and abide in this place.

**What Is Reform?**  
In politics, turning the government over to the tender mercies of people who imagine that if the police were only honest and fearless, hades might be raided "most any night and the devil put out of business."

In theology, making, from time to time, such advances on the old order as will enable the fit to survive without having to give up their pews.

In business, discovering at the psychological moment, an adequate scapegoat, and sending him forth laden with those of our sins that are no longer commercially profitable.

In nearly all fields of human endeavor, something of a convenience. For there is almost always that element of sincerity in it which will make it a stalking-horse to cover designs needing to be covered.

## The Vanguard of the Revolution

(This poem, which was written by Rev. Dr. Walter W. Moore, pastor of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., won the \$50 prize offered by the State for the first time on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20th, 1865.)

To Piedmont Carolina, where virgin prairie soil  
Bespoke abundant harvests to reward the tiller's toil,  
From homes beyond the ocean there came in days of old  
A band of sturdy heroes, a race of yeoman bold.

On all Catawba's uplands—there they found their rest,  
These woods and wide savannas fulfilled their longing quest.  
They reared their modest dwelling, they built the kirk and school,  
For well they knew how danger grew from skeptic and from fool.

Behind the walls of Darry their fathers' faith in God  
Had filled their souls with courage to defy the tyrant's rod,  
'Twere folly then to fancy that sons of sires like these  
Would bear a yoke of bondage or obey unjust decrees.

Their heirloom was a Volume which taught the rights of man,  
And made the least a king and priest free from despotic ban,  
The people are the sovereigns, with rights inalienate,  
The people make the government, the people are the State.

This truth was taught by Craighhead, thus Mecklenburg believed,  
And when oppressive measures passed, her sons were not deceived.  
While others talked of redress as subjects of the crown,  
They boldly broke the tyrant's yoke, and flung the gauntlet down.

From seven congregations in which they preached and prayed,  
From woodlands and plantations, in horsepan garb arrayed,  
These yeoman rode to Charlotte, these men of men sedate,  
While high emprise shone in their eyes—they came to found the State.

And there these dauntless statesmen, in ringing words and high,  
Declared their independence—"We'll win it or we'll die,  
With lives and sacred honor, with fortunes great or small,  
We will serve the cause of freedom, we will break the Briton's thrall."

Next year the nation followed where Mecklenburg had led,  
To all the world, with flag unfurled, her high resolve she read,  
'No more shall sons of freedom endure the tyrant's rod,  
This land shall be as freedom free, or we forswore to God.

Through flaming broil of battle where Britons bravest stood  
On field and flood, by blade and blood, they made their pledges good,  
And now, where'er their banner floats over land and sea,  
With grateful lays the people praise the men who made us free.

Then up with granite column inscribed with lofty phrase,  
Let Mecklenburg's achievements resound through endless days,  
Her sons were first to utter the disenfranchising word,  
Let men proclaim their deathless name till all the world has heard.

Of course, Mr. Taft would be pleased to see some of the Southern States wheel into the ranks of the Republican party and he will do all in his power to bring this to pass, and do it in an honorable way, too. He would like to see the South set up shop for itself. His Southern policy will be voted for by thousands who have not voted for him. He is going to do the rest of the country. That is the right thing to do and he knows it as well as we do.

He will have a big time on his visit to North Carolina. The Charlotte people will do the occasion to a fine brown and the welcome accorded our great President will be heartily good cheer and he will in no wise mind at the same time, it is by no means improbable that when he comes to North Carolina again it may be to thank the people for its electoral vote.

These pleasant spring evenings appear to have an atmosphere especially adapted to enhance the sweetness of the community. A correspondent of The Charlotte Observer suggests that the community appoint a certain day for the return of all borrowed books, without apology, for we are "all sinners." Some very interesting experiences of such a day are given, and there is little doubt that such a custom would be a welcome relief in every community. The writer has in mind a book that is now in the old home, which he borrowed from a neighbor across the street more than thirty years ago, that he has never had the "face" to return. It was "Pilgrim's Progress," too.

**Borrowing Books.**  
Nashville American.

The Party He Belonged To  
Universal Leader  
A matron of most determined character was encountered by a young man reported on a country paper as being sent out to interview certain persons as to their politics. "May Mr. ———" she asked of a stern-looking woman who opened the door of the house. "No, you can't see the matron dearest," but I do know what party he belongs to," pleaded the girl. "Well, take her tall figure," she said, "in the he belongs to me."

**PURE SUGAR CANE SYRUP.**  
ALAGA SYRUP is the choicest product of fine Alabama and Georgia Ribbon Cane and is prepared by the old-fashioned open kettle process. It retains the natural sugar and strengthening qualities of the pure cane juice, and has a delicious flavor.

For the table use ALAGA is best alike for old and young. It is easily digested and most nourishing, besides having a REAL "Syrupy" flavor.

A claim is easily made—hard to prove. We claim ALAGA is the best home syrup and its fine qualities substantiate our claim.

ALAGA SYRUP is put up in sealed, air-tight, germ-proof cans, each of which bears the Government Pure Food Label. At all First-Class Grocers.

ALABAMA-GEORGIA SYRUP COMPANY,  
Montgomery, Alabama.

**COMING TO CHARLOTTE MAY 20TH?**  
We will be mighty glad to have you call and see us while in the city. Come in and see where The Observer publications are made. We will give you great pleasure to show you through our publishing house. Make our office your headquarters. We will be pleased to be your service during your visit to this big celebration.

**Why Inheritance Tax Preferred.**  
Tampa Times.

The inheritance tax commends itself to the Republican politicians in preference to the income tax because the dead can't kick and the heirs are in a thankful frame of mind that keeps them quiet.

**Notice-- Sealed Bids**  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY.  
Charlotte, N. C., May 11, 1909.

Sealed bids are asked by Mecklenburg County, bids to be opened on Saturday, the 22d day of May, at 12 o'clock m., for the erection of a Steel Bridge over Catawba River at Rozzell's Ferry. Specifications include four spans of 155 feet each; roadway 16 feet wide. Bids are asked on wood and concrete floors separately. Masonry and piers are furnished by the county.

Plans and specifications are furnished by the county and are open for inspection at the Court House, in Commissioners' room. Bidders are required to accompany their propositions with a certified check of \$1,000.00. The successful bidder will be required to give bond in the sum of \$5,000.00 for the faithful performance of the contract. Privilege is reserved to reject any and all bids.

W. M. LONG,  
Chairman Board Commissioners,  
Mecklenburg County.

## The Vanguard of the Revolution

(This poem, which was written by Rev. Dr. Walter W. Moore, pastor of Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va., won the \$50 prize offered by the State for the first time on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, May 20th, 1865.)

To Piedmont Carolina, where virgin prairie soil  
Bespoke abundant harvests to reward the tiller's toil,  
From homes beyond the ocean there came in days of old  
A band of sturdy heroes, a race of yeoman bold.

On all Catawba's uplands—there they found their rest,  
These woods and wide savannas fulfilled their longing quest.  
They reared their modest dwelling, they built the kirk and school,  
For well they knew how danger grew from skeptic and from fool.

Behind the walls of Darry their fathers' faith in God  
Had filled their souls with courage to defy the tyrant's rod,  
'Twere folly then to fancy that sons of sires like these  
Would bear a yoke of bondage or obey unjust decrees.

Their heirloom was a Volume which taught the rights of man,  
And made the least a king and priest free from despotic ban,  
The people are the sovereigns, with rights inalienate,  
The people make the government, the people are the State.

This truth was taught by Craighhead, thus Mecklenburg believed,  
And when oppressive measures passed, her sons were not deceived.  
While others talked of redress as subjects of the crown,  
They boldly broke the tyrant's yoke, and flung the gauntlet down.

From seven congregations in which they preached and prayed,  
From woodlands and plantations, in horsepan garb arrayed,  
These yeoman rode to Charlotte, these men of men sedate,  
While high emprise shone in their eyes—they came to found the State.

And there these dauntless statesmen, in ringing words and high,  
Declared their independence—"We'll win it or we'll die,  
With lives and sacred honor, with fortunes great or small,  
We will serve the cause of freedom, we will break the Briton's thrall."

Next year the nation followed where Mecklenburg had led,  
To all the world, with flag unfurled, her high resolve she read,  
'No more shall sons of freedom endure the tyrant's rod,  
This land shall be as freedom free, or we forswore to God.

Through flaming broil of battle where Britons bravest stood  
On field and flood, by blade and blood, they made their pledges good,  
And now, where'er their banner floats over land and sea,  
With grateful lays the people praise the men who made us free.

Then up with granite column inscribed with lofty phrase,  
Let Mecklenburg's achievements resound through endless days,  
Her sons were first to utter the disenfranchising word,  
Let men proclaim their deathless name till all the world has heard.

**Borrowing Books.**  
Nashville American.

The Party He Belonged To  
Universal Leader  
A matron of most determined character was encountered by a young man reported on a country paper as being sent out to interview certain persons as to their politics. "May Mr. ———" she asked of a stern-looking woman who opened the door of the house. "No, you can't see the matron dearest," but I do know what party he belongs to," pleaded the girl. "Well, take her tall figure," she said, "in the he belongs to me."

**PURE SUGAR CANE SYRUP.**  
ALAGA SYRUP is the choicest product of fine Alabama and Georgia Ribbon Cane and is prepared by the old-fashioned open kettle process. It retains the natural sugar and strengthening qualities of the pure cane juice, and has a delicious flavor.

For the table use ALAGA is best alike for old and young. It is easily digested and most nourishing, besides having a REAL "Syrupy" flavor.

A claim is easily made—hard to prove. We claim ALAGA is the best home syrup and its fine qualities substantiate our claim.

ALAGA SYRUP is put up in sealed, air-tight, germ-proof cans, each of which bears the Government Pure Food Label. At all First-Class Grocers.

ALABAMA-GEORGIA SYRUP COMPANY,  
Montgomery, Alabama.

**COMING TO CHARLOTTE MAY 20TH?**  
We will be mighty glad to have you call and see us while in the city. Come in and see where The Observer publications are made. We will give you great pleasure to show you through our publishing house. Make our office your headquarters. We will be pleased to be your service during your visit to this big celebration.

**Why Inheritance Tax Preferred.**  
Tampa Times.

The inheritance tax commends itself to the Republican politicians in preference to the income tax because the dead can't kick and the heirs are in a thankful frame of mind that keeps them quiet.

**Notice-- Sealed Bids**  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY.  
Charlotte, N. C., May 11, 1909.

Sealed bids are asked by Mecklenburg County, bids to be opened on Saturday, the 22d day of May, at 12 o'clock m., for the erection of a Steel Bridge over Catawba River at Rozzell's Ferry. Specifications include four spans of 155 feet each; roadway 16 feet wide. Bids are asked on wood and concrete floors separately. Masonry and piers are furnished by the county.

Plans and specifications are furnished by the county and are open for inspection at the Court House, in Commissioners' room. Bidders are required to accompany their propositions with a certified check of \$1,000.00. The successful bidder will be required to give bond in the sum of \$5,000.00 for the faithful performance of the contract. Privilege is reserved to reject any and all bids.

W. M. LONG,  
Chairman Board Commissioners,  
Mecklenburg County.

**HOME OF THE OBSERVER PUBLICATIONS**  
THE CHARLOTTE DAILY OBSERVER  
THE SUNDAY OBSERVER  
THE SEMI-WEEKLY OBSERVER  
THE EVENING CHRONICLE  
THE SATURDAY EVENING CHRONICLE