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ASHEVILLE, N. C. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1845.

WHOLE NO. 257.

THOS. W. ATKIN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Letters to the Editor must come free of postage, to insure attention.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA. Prepared for the Anniversary Meeting, June 4th, 1845.

The Secretary, in the performance of what he has deemed one of the duties attached to his office, begs leave to submit the following Report:

A distribution of the matter under the two heads of what has been accomplished by the Society, and what it may reasonably calculate upon as its prospect for the future, it has been thought will give proper method to its arrangement.

For the purpose of comparing what has been done by the Historical Society with that which was anticipated in its formation, it will be necessary to revert to the professed objects of the Institution as they were succinctly stated in the first publication, which appeared under its auspices. It was there said that—
"This Society has been established, first, for the purpose of endeavoring to excite such interest in the public mind, in regard to the history of the State, as may induce the Legislature to adopt early and efficient measures, to obtain from England the most interesting documents in relation to the Royal Government, together with such papers as may be found to reflect light upon the obscure history of the Proprietary Government of North Carolina; and secondly, to collect and arrange at the University, as far as may be possible, one or more copies of every book or pamphlet, and newspaper published in this State since the introduction of the Press among us in 1740; all books published within the State, or our own or foreign countries, in the History of Carolina, and especially all the Records, documents and papers to be found within the State that may tend to elucidate the history of the American Revolution."

To any one who bestows thought upon the subject, it must appear singular, and indeed almost unaccountable, that down to the present day, when seventy years have elapsed since North Carolina took her stand as an Independent State, no Institution having in view an object similar to this has flourished within her borders. The antiquaries and patriots of the Revolutionary story, to which may well be applied the *longinqua tabula perfracta* of Lord Bacon, lie confusedly scattered in every direction over the scene of the late storm. Owing to this fact, many manuscripts, of great importance to the illustration of the War, have been irretrievably lost. To prevent the progress of an evil, which so far as it has yet gone, is irreparable, is a principal object of this Society. It can scarcely be expected that our diligences so dilatorily awakened, shall be rewarded by an elucidation of our Revolutionary annals, to what has taken place among the more active, Northern members of the Confederacy; yet it is hoped that, by bringing together and reducing to some more indestructible form the materials of a generation whose place upon the scene of our history is fast fading, we shall in some degree acquit ourselves of debt to the past and posterity.

From deficiencies, such as those existing among the records of our own State, it must be evident, that a history of the American Revolutionary war whose merits are commensurate with the importance of that great struggle, is yet to be written. Narratives have appeared, without doubt, ranking high as literary productions, or, for the most part, as authentic accounts of whatever facts they may pretend to relate; but as general histories of the several campaigns, it will be found that they are essentially, although perhaps, not unaccountably deficient. It could hardly be expected that an accurate collection of the journals and other memoranda of a war, which extended over three hundred and sixty thousand square miles comprehended by the limits of the thirteen original States, could be made by a gentleman residing as most of our historians do, in one part of the Union. This fact has impressed itself strongly upon our Revolutionary annals. Whilst the events of Middle portions of the Confederacy, have been fully recorded, that part of the narrative which extended through Carolina and Georgia, is strikingly imperfect. No history has yet appeared, which does not discover, simultaneously, the progress which distinguished the rest of the Kingdom of Chaldaea; although

its head and breast are composed of gold and silver, its lower extremities being made of an unmingled compound of iron and clay. The duty of pointing out and remedying these deficiencies, must necessarily devolve upon gentlemen at the South. In appropriating this task, the Historical Society has determined, that although it cannot consider itself at all committed to the labor of preparing such a stable record of Revolutionary events as is understood by the term history, yet the simplest form of its duty will be to render accessible to the historian, whoever he may be, as far as possible, all the facts which may be connected with the war in North Carolina.

In attempting to make a collection of these facts, it was clearly necessary to succeed, that the general attention of the State should be aroused to an appreciation of our important undertaking. The degree of curiosity and interest already excited among distinguished portions of our fellow-citizens is held to be plausible proof that this enterprise is by no means premature or unaccountable; and the amount of material already contributed may be assumed as a fair precursor of a greater degree of success than had been anticipated in the organization of the Society. In the opening Message of Gov. Morehead to the Legislature, at the commencement of its last Session, the subject of the "History of the State" was urged on the attention of that body in a very decided manner; and so strongly was it impressed with a sense of its importance, that on the 23d of December, it formed the matter of a special communication, in which was suggested the collection by public authority of those Revolutionary "memorials" which are scattered over the State, and gradually disappearing; and which, like the leaves of the Sibyl, are rising in value as their numbers decrease. Action was taken by the Legislature in accordance with the suggestions contained in this message, and a considerable sum was appropriated for the purpose of carrying them out. Since that time, Gov. Graham, who has entered into the scheme with great spirit and cordiality, has been assiduously engaged in performing the duty imposed upon him by these Resolutions.

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The Printer's Epitaph.
Here lies his form in peace,
Beneath this book with brains overgrown;
How many errors for his sins he's done,
'Neath some impaling stone!

No censure points our loss—
No sculptured caps his history do;
Although he had a follower of the cross,
And member of the bar,

The golden rule he prized,
And left it as a token of his loss,
And all his debts, corrected and revised,
Are now stored above.

The copy of his wrongs—
The proofs of all his piety—are there;
And the fair title which to truth belongs,
Will prove this title fair.

Though now in death's embrace,
A glowing heap his luckless brother lies!
He'll appear on Gabriel's royal class,
And frisk to the skies.

RALEIGH, N. C. Sept. 12.
The Crops.—We rejoice to learn that the crops of corn in this county, and several of the adjoining ones, will be fully an average one; indeed, some of our Farmers have told us, that they will make more of this grain this season than they have done for several preceding ones. The only corn suffered greatly from the drought, and yielded very poorly; but the late Corn, owing to the propitious "autumn rains," and the low ground, will amply make up the deficiency of the early crop.

By a recent letter from Burke county, we learn that their upward corn has turned out wretchedly, but the low land has yielded very well, and they will be able to make enough for their own consumption, and some to spare for their suffering neighbor counties.—*Register.*

New Flour is selling at this market at \$4 50 to \$5 00; superfine, \$5 50, and old corn at \$2 50 to \$3 00 per barrel. This does not look much like suffering herabouts for bread stuffs, at all events.—*Ibid.*

Execution of Green.—We learn from the Albany Argus that this wretched young man, convicted of murder the most revolting and unchristian, paid the forfeit of his crime at Troy on Wednesday. He was hung at ten minutes past 4 o'clock in the afternoon, in the usual manner in the prison. It is said that recently the air of swagger and indifference has been changed for apparent repentance, and he is said to have been much engaged in prayer with the clergymen in attendance. It is also confidently stated that to them he made a confession, though to Wyatt, brother of the murdered wife, whom he kept for, and whose forgiveness he craved and obtained, he refused, although strongly urged to make any confession of explanation.

"It has hitherto been maintained that the curl in a pig's tail is more for ornament than use. The position is no longer tenable. A large sow was seen walking down Broadway yesterday forenoon with a piece of red tape attached to the mid curl, and suspending a card on which was written 'Patrick Doonan's pig tail.'"

Pedigree.—A gentleman passing through our "dog market" in Wall street, a few days ago, saw a man and a boy each carrying in their arms a Newfoundland pup. Observing a paper tied about the neck of the one which the boy carried, he inquired its object. "Och!" said the boy, "that tells all about his relations."—*N. Y. Com. Adv.*

The way to be Happy.—Happiness it always to be found if we only condescend to pick it up by the road. As none of its ingredients should be thought too minute to be gathered and added to our store, so none should be deemed too insignificant for distribution to others. Occasions for conferring great benefits do not often occur, and when they do they may not be in our power to bestow them; but the little services and gratifications which are within the reach of the humblest member of society will constitute, if we all throw our share in the common stock, no inconsiderable aggregate of human enjoyments and mutual good will.

Do you smoke? not exactly, but our kitchen chimney does confoundedly.—*Punch.*

"A splendid triumph of science," said Mr. Higgins to his wife, "a Mr. Hartford, has given a boy a penny tip, which he took from his pocket."

"That's nothing, Pa. I saw a new doctor take two from our Party's check the other day, and the operation did not seem to be painful either."

The Putnam Democrat records a most appalling accident, which occurred a few days since, at South East, in Putnam county. A Mr. Elwell, of that town, directed his son, a lad about ten years of age, to take a scythe, go into the lot and cut barbedoes; a few minutes after he told another son of his about 6 years old to go to the field to follow his brother and pick up the barbedoes; and while in the act of picking them up, his brother brought about the scythe with considerable force, striking him directly under the chin, cutting his throat in the most shocking manner, of which would he instantly died.