

# The North Carolina Whig.

"Be true to God, to your Country, and to your Duty."

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THOMAS J. HOLTON,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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### Poetry.

Brother, Take my Arm.

When grief is heavy on thee,  
Or a small fever's arm,  
Then, brother, lean on me—  
My brother, take my arm,  
There's many a load of trouble  
That I wish to be thy care,  
When one would be quite double  
Beneath the heavy arm.

My grief were mine to sorrow,  
A grief that I could not share,  
To carry in all my sorrow,  
"O, brother, give me arm"  
As I let me feel another  
Will weep with me in woe;  
A brother, yes, a brother,  
My arm will be thy stay.

### Miscellaneous.

#### THE DIAMOND RING; OR, THE ASTROLOGER'S STRATAGEM.

A TALE OF BOSTON IN 1775.

BY OLIVER OPTIC.—CONCLUDED.

CHAPTER X.  
CONCLUSION.

On the morning succeeding Robert Devrie's startling discoveries, Colonel Powell and his daughter were seated in the parlor of his house in Queen Street, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the astrologer. He had engaged to reveal the locality of the precious ring, and though the intelligent officer gave no credence to the mysticisms of the science, his curiosity was excited. The seer had certainly made some astonishing disclosures. There was a wonderful vision in the man, obtain it whatever source he might.

Amelia thought not of the juggling pretensions of the astrologer; she looked upon him as the character and mind of her lover, laboriously obtaining the means of washing the stains on his name. She thought not of the juggler—only of the loved—the abused, the persecuted lover. She regretted the decision he was compelled to practice, but it was in a good cause, and even her sensitive nature could pardon it.

"The stars have been favorable," the evoked knowledge had been revealed to him, and he was ready to point out the hiding place of the ring. Amelia trembled at the boldness of the astrologer—she felt that he had promised more than he could perform. With nervous anxiety she anticipated the result of his ministrations.

"Well, Mr. Rahab, reveal the locality; and as we are not likely to be impressed by the mysticisms of your art, you omit the usual trickery, and come directly to the point," said Colonel Powell, with a good natured laugh.

"We must go to the shop of the goldsmith first," returned the astrologer. Colonel Powell, having no objection to this arrangement, but rather thinking it desirable, the carriage was called, and the party were driven to Newberry Street.

Mr. Waldeck was seated at the work table. Of course he manifested a great deal of pleasure at the visit.

"The stars have at last been favorable," said Colonel Powell, after the customary salutations had been interchanged; "if they restore my daughter's ring, I shall be exceedingly obliged to them."

"Never mind the blood; where is the ring?" said Colonel Powell.

"The ring," added Waldeck.

"I see it still, but it is red with blood," continued Rahab, pointing to a spot, in which, he said, the ring was concealed.

Waldeck, with more deliberation than suited the Colonel, examined the place indicated, but no ring was there.

"The blood confused me," said the astrologer, in apology for the error.

Again he pointed out a spot, but it proved to be wrong, and a third time, with the same result.

"Enough of this," said Colonel Powell. "We are greater fools than you, Mr. Rahab, to listen to your nonsense."

Mr. Waldeck laughed in derision at the apparent discomfiture of the wise man—Amelia was so agitated at what she deemed the failure of the scheme, that she could with difficulty conceal it from her father.

The watchful eye of the astrologer, however, noticed it, and he whispered a stolen word of encouragement in her ear, which did much to restore her.

"Colonel Powell, I must beg your indulgence for concealing from you a circumstance which came to my knowledge last night. I have discovered the ring; and without any aid from this miserable impostor," said Waldeck, taking from his pocket the ornament.

Amelia trembled again with agitation, but a glance of intelligence from Rahab restored her composure.

"Ha! the ring!" exclaimed the astrologer, with a well acted gesture of astonishment.

"Yes, the ring," answered Waldeck—"how are the stars now?"

"The stars are red with blood; there is good reason for the failure of my experiment."

"No doubt of it, Mr. Rahab," said Colonel Powell, examining the ring he had just taken from Waldeck; "no doubt of it, the best taken in the world."

"May I look at the ring?" asked the astrologer, extending his hand.

"Certainly you may, if you will promise not to run away with it," said Colonel Powell, handing him the ornament.

"It is red with blood," said Rahab, with a tragical gesture.

"Fool idiot!" exclaimed Waldeck, whose nerves seemed to have a decided antipathy to the mention of blood.

"There is murder here," continued the seer, regardless of the goldsmith's epithets.

"Let us drive the fellow out, Colonel Powell," said Waldeck, trembling with alarm.

"O no, don't be harsh with him; he is a harmless fellow; besides, there has been murder here, you know."

Mr. Waldeck did not know it, but he very graciously neglected to notice the remark.

"There is a corpse here," continued the astrologer, holding out the ring at arm's length, and regarding it with a tremendous horror.

"Where is it?" asked the officer quietly.

Mr. Rahab performed sundry fantastic feats, and then with a strangely marked effect exclaimed—

"Buried under the bottom of the cellar, in the northwest corner."

Waldeck breathed more freely, and expressed his contempt for the prediction, but at the same time suggested that an examination be made. Colonel Powell opposed it as folly. A look from the astrologer brought Amelia to the rescue, and she begged her father to favor the search.

To the astonishment of the whole party and to the utter dismay of Waldeck, the wall in front of the vault came down with a crash, almost burying the astrologer in the mass!

"Good Heavens! What is this?" exclaimed Colonel Powell.

Waldeck, overcome by the sudden and unexpected revelation of his fatal secret, was speaking; Amelia was startled, but her hopes supported her fears, and she waited with tremulous anxiety for the denouement of Rahab's plot. The contents of the vault were only partially exposed, and the astrologer, leaping into the aperture, threw his-ter and thither the various bags and keys, and carried up the body of John Devrie, so that it could be seen by all the party.

Calling the laborers to his assistance, the corpse was conveyed from its concealment to the open cellar.

"The stars are indeed propitious!" muttered the astrologer, as he bent over the body.

"This is astonishing," said Colonel Powell; but Rahab, how knew you this? No more of the stars, scoundrel! I suspect you are an accomplice."

"Ay, an accomplice," stammered Waldeck.

"An accomplice!" thundered the astrologer to Waldeck, "Villain! Murderer! In the presence of Heaven, I charge thee with the murder!" and Rahab's eyes flashed fire to the goldsmith's confused gaze.

"Oh, father! let us go out of this place," said Amelia, thrilled with horror at the ghastly sight which the body of the goldsmith presented.

Colonel Powell assisted Amelia up the stairs, followed by Waldeck, the astrologer, and the laborers.

"This is strange," said the officer, when they had reached the shop.

"Very strange!" repeated Waldeck, ghastly pale with fear. "This man must have been concerned in the murder!"

"Mr. Waldeck," said the seer in a mild tone, "concealment is useless; you, you are the assassin!"

"Pshaw! man," remarked Colonel Powell, "you are mad; you know not what you say."

"Where did he get the ring?"

"I found it in the shop," answered Waldeck, striving to recover his composure.

"Liar!" exclaimed the astrologer. "You took it from the finger of the corpse! Ay, you cut off the finger for the purpose of obtaining it!"

"It is false! false as hell!" replied the goldsmith.

"That can be easily determined," said Colonel Powell, descending to the cellar.

He had scarcely disappeared, when Waldeck made a sudden movement towards the door.

"No, villain!" shouted the seer, seizing him rudely by the collar, "you shall not escape."

"By heavens! he is right. The finger is gone!" exclaimed Colonel Powell, convinced of the truth, as he hastily entered the shop from the cellar. "Now I see, my excellent Mr. Waldeck, why you were so willing that Robert Devrie should escape the hands of justice."

"You wrong me, Colonel Powell, on my soul you do," pleaded Waldeck; "I will explain the means by which the ring came into my possession; and the miserable man related the interview he had had the preceding night with Robert Devrie."

"He must have amputated the finger himself and concealed the ring in the shop!"

"And you happened to find it immediately," sneered Colonel Powell, upon whom the goldsmith's ghastly face, and shaking form had produced a strong impression. "I am satisfied, and the money you procured for me was obtained from that villain! But, Mr. astrologer, who are they who seem to be so familiar with this body business?"

"I am Robert Devrie," and the pretended astrologer threw off his disguise. Heaving the white wig and long beard, he went to a washstand, and effaced the stains from his countenance.

"By heavens! so it is," exclaimed Colonel Powell.

Waldeck glanced at him, but his shattered nerves and wildly throbbing heart had overcome him, and he sunk fainting upon the floor from which he was removed by the laborers.

An examination of the circumstances convinced the officer that Waldeck was undoubtedly guilty.

"Young man," said he to Robert, "I have wronged you; but the circumstances were against you."

"I know it, sir; I acquit you of every unworthy motive," replied Devrie.

"You are a good fellow, after all, if you are a rebel," and Colonel Powell extended his hand, which was readily accepted by the other.

"Amelia," said Robert, "I have proved my innocence."

"Thank God! Robert, you have," and the next moment the lovers were clasped in a fond embrace, which Colonel Powell did not attempt to prevent.

The carriage still awaited them, and the party returned to Colonel Powell's mansion. Rahab gave a minute explanation of the means by which he had been implicated in the murder, and the course he had taken to criminate Waldeck.

Though every stain was removed from the character of Robert Devrie, Colonel Powell could scarcely consent to the proposed union of his daughter with a rebel. Robert was now the heir of all his uncle's immense wealth, and thus in this respect, rendered a fit match for his daughter.

Separate them, he could not; therefore he determined to permit his visits, while he withheld his consent to their union—an accommodation which the lovers interpreted as an unqualified permission.

Waldeck, unable to endure the loss of his fellow-men, died by his own hand, a few days after the burial of John Devrie, his remains were consigned to an unheated grave.

In the battle of Banker Hill, which occurred shortly after the events we have narrated, Robert Devrie and Colonel Powell were in the ranks of the combatants. But both escaped unhurt. Before the evacuation of Boston, the latter was seized with an epidemic fever, which, notwithstanding the devoted care of his daughter, carried him off and left her with no protector in a foreign land. Robert, in disguise, visited the city, and contrived to convey her with her own consent, to the house of a relative in Cambridge. After the departure of the British, they were married.

In the war of the Revolution, Robert Devrie was an active participant, and at its close, was a colonel in the Massachusetts forces, having attained to his honors with his own good sword. When the din of battle was no more heard in the land, he retired to private life to reside in the love of his devoted wife, who appears on her finger the precious jewel which established her husband's innocence—the "Diamond Ring."

Passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina, at the Session of 1854-55.

### CAPTIONS OF THE LAWS.

#### ACTS.

1. An act to amend the constitution of the State, as follows:  
Whereas, a large number of the people are disfranchised by the freehold qualifications now required of voters for members of the Senate.

Sec. 1. *There is to be enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* (three-fifths of the whole number of the members of each house concurring,) that the second clause of the third section of the first article of the amended Constitution, ratified by the people of North Carolina, on the second Monday of November, in the year of our Lord, 1835, shall be amended to read as follows:

Every free white man of the age of twenty years, being a native or naturalized citizen of the United States, and who has been an inhabitant of the State for twelve months immediately preceding the day of any election, and shall have paid public taxes, shall be entitled to vote for a member of the Senate for the district in which he resides.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted,* that the Governor of the State be, and he is hereby directed to issue his proclamation to the people of North Carolina, at least six months before the next election for members of the General Assembly, setting forth the purport of this act, and the amendment of the Constitution herein proposed; which proclamation shall be accompanied by a true and perfect copy of the act, authenticated by the certificate of the Secretary of State; and both the proclamation and the copy of this act, the Governor of the State shall cause to be published in ten newspapers of the State, at least six months before the election of members to the next General Assembly.

2. An act to protect wild fowl, &c.

3. An act in relation to Elizabeth City.

4. An act emancipating Jerry, a slave.

5. An act to incorporate the town of Roxboro.

6. An act to provide for the issue of additional stock by the Seaboard and Roanoke R. R. Company.

7. An act authorizing the Nantahala and Tuckasee Turnpike Company to build a toll bridge.

8. An act concerning the Justices of the Peace in the counties of Randolph, Alamance and Wake. [Twenty Justices to form a quorum.]

9. An act to pay the Wardens of the Poor in Mecklenburg county.

10. An act to authorize the Trustees of the Louisiana Female Academy to convey land, &c.

11. An act to authorize the paying of Wardens of the Poor for their services.

12. An act to amend the act incorporating the Fayetteville and Northern Plank Road Company.

13. An act to incorporate Union Academy.

14. An act to protect live stock from malicious destruction.

15. An act to encourage wolf killing in Jackson county.

16. An act concerning Haw River in Alamance county.

17. An act to number the West Regiment in Madison county.

18. An act to pay Wardens of the Poor in Alamance and Duplin.

19. An act to amend an act of 1852, entitled "An act concerning the place of trials for civil processes before Justices of the Peace."

20. An act to incorporate the Wilmington Steam Tug Company.

21. An act to appoint commissioners to lay off a road in Rowan county.

22. An act concerning public roads in Watauga county.

23. An act to authorize the collection of arrearages of taxes in Jackson county.

24. An act to authorize the Wardens of the Poor in Pasquotank and Yancey to sell certain lands.

25. An act to incorporate the two Academies in Asheboro.

26. An act to emancipate John Good, a slave.

27. An act to provide for the improvement of the road from Wilkes by Mead Camp Creek to the Tennessee line.

28. An act to authorize the creation of a Court House in Ireland county.

29. An act to amend an act incorporating Neuse River Manufacturing Company.

30. An act to amend the several acts chartering Asheville and Greenville Plank Road Company.

31. An act to hold Court two weeks in New Hanover county.

32. An act to incorporate the Chapel Hill and Morrisville plank road and turnpike company.

33. An act to alter the times of holding the Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of Hyde county.

34. An act to incorporate the Fair Bluff and Conwayborough Railroad company.

35. An act concerning the Trent River navigation company.

36. An act to amend the act of 1850, for the better regulation of the town of Wilson.

37. An act to amend the charter of the town of Charlotte.

38. An act to amend an act, preventing the obstruction to fish in Blount's creek.

39. An act to incorporate the female benevolent society in Newbern.

40. An act to incorporate Yadkin Institute.

41. An act to incorporate the Whitesville and Iron Hill plank road company.

42. An act to incorporate the town of Warsaw.

43. An act to amend the act for the better government of the city of Raleigh.

44. An act for the relief of the citizens of Ireland county.

45. An act to amend the act of 1840, incorporating the town of Statesville.

46. An act to change the times of holding the County Courts of Beaufort county.

47. An act to prevent the falling and putting of timber in Haw River and Great Alamance river.

48. An act to amend the act incorporating the town of Clinton.

49. An act to amend the act incorporating the town of Plymouth.

50. An act to amend the 7th section of an act entitled an act to establish a bank in the town of Washington.

51. An act to incorporate the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of North Carolina of free and accepted Masons.

52. An act to amend the charter of the Western plank road company.

53. An act to lay off and establish, out of a portion of Cumberland, a new county, to be called Harriet.

54. An act to incorporate the Greenville, Tenn., and French Broad railroad company. [Provides for a railroad from the Point Rock, on the French Broad river, through the counties of Madison, Buncombe and Henderson, and to intersect with such South Carolina road as the stockholders may designate. The road is to have the same gauge of the North Carolina railroad. The State extends no aid to the company.]

55. An act to incorporate the Hillsborough and Chapel Hill plank road company.

56. An act to incorporate the Chatham and Randolph plank road company.

57. An act for the protection of sheep against dogs.

58. An act concerning the Wilmington and Raleigh railroad company.

59. An act to incorporate the Columbia and Charlotte magnetic telegraph company.

60. An act to establish the town of Magallowa.

61. An act for the better regulation of the town of Franklin.

62. An act to incorporate the New River and Wilmington and Popsail Sound plank road company.

63. An act to incorporate the Iron Hill and Atlanta plank road company.

64. An act to authorize the construction of a toll bridge across the Yadkin near Jonesville.

65. An act to incorporate the Waccamaw and Shallotte railroad company.

66. An act to amend an act to incorporate the town of Edenton.

67. An act for the better regulation of the town of Elizabeth.

68. An act to incorporate the Sulphur Springs and Paint Rock turnpike company.

69. An act to incorporate the Statesville and Wilkesborough plank road company.

70. An act to incorporate the Richlands and New River plank road company.

71. An act to establish a ferry across Black river in New Hanover.

72. An act to extend the corporate limits of the town of Beaufort.

73. An act to incorporate the town of Jefferson, Ashe.

74. An act to authorize the commissioners of the town of Salisbury to subscribe for stock in the Western railroad company.

75. An act to authorize the corporation of Charlotte to subscribe to certain roads.

76. An act to extend the limits of the town of Asheboro.

77. An act concerning the Revenue of the State. [Imposing the following taxes for State purposes: On all real or landed property, twelve cents on every hundred dollars valuation; on poll, white and black, forty cents per poll; on each toll-gate of a turnpike ten dollars; three dollars for gates across a highway, a tax equal to five times the largest toll by the owner demanded upon every public ferry, and ten dollars on every toll bridge; on every stage, horse or jacksack five dollars, unless the highest season-price shall exceed that sum, in which case a tax to that amount, to wit, the highest season-price; on property descending or falling upon collateral relatives, one, two and three per cent, to wit, one per cent when such collateral shall be a brother or sister of the deceased, or any descendant of a brother or sister—two per cent when such collateral shall be a brother or sister of the father or mother of the deceased—three per cent when such collateral shall be in any other degree of consanguinity to the deceased than is above described, or shall be a stranger in blood—provided that no tax shall be imposed on property falling to the widow of the deceased, nor upon any devise or bequest to the wife or widow of the husband of a deceased wife, &c., on every dollar, more than six dollars, of net dividend or profit, upon money vested in steam vessels of twenty tons or upwards, or in stocks of any kind, or in shares of any incorporated or trading company, whether in or out of the State, and herein shall be included all Bank dividends, bonds

and certificates of debt of any other State or country, or of any public corporation, created by this or any other State, a tax of three cents; on every hundred dollars employed in buying and selling slaves, twenty-five cents, and upon every hundred dollars in every other species of trade, not in this chapter specially taxed, ten cents; on each sulky, gig, buggy, barouche, carriage, and other pleasure vehicles used by the owner, or by his consent, of the value of fifty dollars and under a hundred dollars, fifty cents—of the value of one hundred and under two hundred dollars, one dollar—of the value of two hundred and under three hundred dollars, two dollars—of the value of three hundred and under four hundred dollars, three dollars—of the value of four hundred dollars and upwards, four dollars; on all gold and silver plate and ornamental jewelry worn by females, of as great value as fifty dollar, one per cent on the value; on each gold watch in use, one dollar, silver watch in use, twenty-five cents, each harness in use, two dollars, each piano forte in use, one dollar, every pistol, except such as are used for mustering, and every bowie knife, one dollar; on dirk and sword canes, fifty cents—such arms only to be taxable as have been worn or used during the year;

on all retailers of wine, cordials, or spirituous liquors, twenty dollars; on every keeper of a common inn, ordinary or tavern, requiring license, ten dollars; on each billiard table one hundred dollars, except when there are two in the same room, and then fifty dollars on the additional one; on each bowling alley, twenty-five dollars; on each playing stable, ten dollars; on each pack of playing cards, twenty-five cents on all peddlers of patent soap, medicines for the killing of roaches, clinkies and other vermin for the curing of headaches, toothache, or corns, and of all patent medicines, and razors and razor strops, a tax of five dollars in every county in which they may be sold; on each mortgage deed and deed in trust made to secure debts or liabilities, and on each marriage contract, one dollar; on every merchant, merchant tailor, or jeweler, a tax of one-fourth of one per cent upon his capital; on every merchant apothecary, druggist, or other dealer, consignee or agent selling at wholesale or retail, spirituous liquors, wines, or cordials, five per cent upon the capital so employed; on every merchant or apothecary selling drugs, medicines, or nostrums, as agent of the owner, if a non-resident, twenty-five per cent of the value; on every commission merchant one per cent of his commissions; on every auctioneer, one-fourth of one per cent upon the value of goods sold by him; on all distillers of turpentine, two dollars and fifty cents on each distillery of capacity of ten barrels and under; three dollars and fifty cents on that between ten and fifteen barrels; five dollars on that between fifteen and twenty barrels; and ten dollars on that larger than twenty barrels; on all persons in each county offering, to sell or peddling in said county any riding vehicle not of the State, thirty dollars; on all horses and mules brought into this State for sale, a tax of ten dollars in each county where sales may be made; on every establishment for the sale of riding vehicles, any part of the wood work of which is not of the manufacture of this State, one hundred dollars; and fifty dollars when the vehicles are of the manufacture of this State; provided, that no person who is a manufacturer of such vehicles in this State, shall be taxed if he sells only in his own county; on every person exhibiting, selling or offering to sell, by simple, any goods, wares, or merchandise not of the manufacture of this State, fifty dollars in each county, to be good for one year; on peddlers of whatever articles, thirty dollars in each county; provided, that persons may sell, or peddle live stock, (except horses and mules) vegetable, oysters, books, charts, maps, and the like; on all brokers one hundred dollars; on surgeons dentists, practicing physicians and practicing lawyers, and all other persons (ministers of the gospel excepted), whose practice, salaries or fees, on all of them, together, shall yield an annual income of five hundred dollars, three dollars for the first five hundred, and two dollars for every additional five hundred, until such income shall exceed five hundred, and then five dollars of every additional five hundred above that amount; or attorney's license ten dollars; on all insurance companies incorporated in this State, one hundred dollars per annum, and on all incorporated out of the State, one hundred dollars per annum for the first, and fifty dollars for every county in which an agency shall be established; on all agencies of banks being incorporated out of this State, five hundred dollars; on each express company two hundred dollars; on every company of circus riders, and on every menagerie, an annual tax of fifty dollars in each county in which they exhibit; on theatrical players, sleight of hand performers, rope dancers and the like, thirty dollars; on every company or person selling, dancing, singing, or every person who lectures for reward, five dollars, unless the whole proceeds be dev'd to some literary or scientific use in the State. Every thing upon which taxes are imposed, to be lifted within the last twenty working days in July in every year. The balance of the act is merely composed of provisions for putting it in operation. It is provided, among other things, that the several County Courts, at the term when they shall appoint justices to take the tax lists for the year 1855, and at the same term every five years thereafter, shall appoint two respectable freeholders, to be associated with said justices and these three shall be a board of valuation, and shall accurately estimate the real value of lands and improvements thereon, and return said estimate to their respective County Courts. It is also provided that the Sheriff shall specify in their receipts the amount of State tax, and also the amount of county tax, separately.

78. An act concerning the Public Printing. [Provides for the biennial election, on the second day of the session, of a State Printer, who shall execute the public printing at the following rates, to wit, for every one thousand cuts of plain work sixty-two and a half cents for every one thousand

ems of rule and figure work, one dollar and twenty-five cents, and sixty-two and a half cents per token for press work. The State to furnish all paper, and to pay for folding, stitching, and binding. The act further provides that in case of any vacancy in the office of State Printer, during the interval between the meetings of the Legislature, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Governor. The act is a part of the