

PURCHASE OF MOUNT VERNON—  
CHEERING PROSPECTS.

We earnestly call the attention of our readers to the correspondence, appeal and official report of the Mount Vernon Association, which follows. All true patriots must rejoice at the prospect of Mount Vernon being soon secured to such a glorious destiny. We cannot too highly commend the untiring perseverance of the ladies, the generous and patriotic position which they assume towards Mr. Washington, their country, and especially towards Virginia. We call upon all our countrymen, to whom the name of Washington is a sacred word, to go zealously to work in aiding these ladies, and presenting to the world the glorious spectacle of a grateful nation, by consecrating the home of its political father, and by placing it in charge of the mother State, on his own (the next) birthday; in order that henceforth the birthday of Republican gratitude shall be the same as his.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

To GOVERNOR WISE:

Sir—It is with feelings of the deepest gratification that we enclose to you the following correspondence between Mr. Wm. P. Ritchie and Mr. J. A. Washington, which has been placed at our disposal; and we are assured that your excellency, as a patriot and a Virginian, will lend with pleasure the prospect—nay, the certainty, now—that Virginia, at no distant day, can take under her sacred charge the home and grave of Washington, with the feelings of our country to care for andabor for us as their Father, as well as her illustrious son!

In the name of all who desire, from love to his memory, or from national pride, to see the consummation of such a result, but especially in behalf of the "Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association of the Union," who have devoted themselves to its attainment, we ask your Excellency to place this correspondence before the General Assembly of your State, which meets in December next, with our petition for what further legislation may be necessary to secure a successful and speedy arrangement with Mr. Washington. His present condition of sale are, you perceive, the same as those given to Gov. Johnson nearly two years ago—While we cannot negotiate with Mr. Washington, feel that neither consistency nor personal opinions will permit him to act with any party but Virginia, we appreciate his having consented, solely to gratify others and carry over a desirable public measure, to place the estate more at the disposal of Virginia. Her position to the Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association remains substantially the same, as no stipulations are made as to the source of funds used, &c., to interfere with it.

We have asked, and obtained, the privilege, not only of presenting the "purchase money" to Mount Vernon in order to render a *National* tribute of love and reverence to him whose memory should ever live in the hearts of his beloved countrymen—but, also, of a sufficient share in its custodianship to enable present and future generations to adorn it as far as a grateful nation desires, and we have no intention of securing a less prized or gratifying position. When women ask for gold for such a sacred purpose, are men not bound to oblige them? It is well understood, therefore, that we expect, through the general patriotism of the public, to be enabled to present our "National purse" to your Excellency, in time to have it accompany your petition in our behalf to the General Assembly.

The Constitution and the Laws, made obligatory by the resolutions of the 17th, granted to the Association, on the 17th of March last, will be prepared by the legalists, and submitted for your approbation, and the Charter formally accepted as soon as circumstances, depending upon the successful resumption of our operations, and the convenience of the parties, who are to meet on the occasion, will permit.

I have the honor to be,  
With sentiments of highest esteem,  
Most respectfully yours,  
A SOUTHERN MATRON,

President of the Ladies Mount Vernon Association of the Union.

February 12, 1857.

RICHMOND, Dec. 8, 1856;

Mr. J. A. WASHINGTON:

Dear Sir: Feeling a deep interest in the future and improvement of Mount Vernon, and being impressed with the propriety and necessity of accomplishing it without delay, I am impelled to address you, to entreat that you will consider and withdraw your determination as expressed in your letter to the *Advertiser* in April last, and consent to place the estate once more at the disposal of Virginia. I do so, confident that no differences exist which cannot and will not be satisfactorily arranged; and I hope, therefore, that you will accede to the universal wishes of patriots in this matter, as your voice is decisive to place the estate under the protection of Virginia, to secure its continuance and safety in dollars.

I am, your constituents' most humble & obedient servant,

W. P. RITCHIE.

MOUNT VERNON, Jan. 1st, 1857.

Dear Sir: Being a prolonged absence from home, I did not receive your letter of December 8th, 1856, until within a few days past.

In order to ensure the preservation of your letter, I addressed it to the *Advertiser*, and directed it to be forwarded to you, upon arrival with which I believe you are already familiar.

From the action of our Legislature on the subject, I have been led to believe that the State was not inclined to acquire it on those conditions. If I am mistaken in this, and it should appear, during the next session of the General Assembly, that Virginia wished to obtain Mount Vernon, I should be quite willing to transfer it to her at the number I have heretofore proposed in a letter dated June 16th, 1854, addressed to Joseph Johnson, Esq., the late Governor of Virginia, in reply to one of June 13th, 1852, that I had the honor to receive from him.

Although you are probably informed as to these conditions, and your letter does not seem to call for a statement of them, yet, to prevent any misapprehension on the subject, I will take the liberty of calling your attention to that portion of my letter to Governor Johnson, containing them.

It is as follows:

"Should the State of Virginia desire to purchase Mount Vernon, she can obtain two hundred acres of it, embracing the Tomb of Washington, the Mansion House, and adjacent grounds, pasture, &c., &c., &c., upon the following terms, viz:

"1st. The remains of such members of the Washington family, who now are, or may be, interred buried in and around the prop-

erty vault, shall never be removed nor disturbed. And for the purposes of a family burying ground, the undersigned, John A. Washington and his heirs, shall retain the right of enclosing and ornamenting one half acre of land, including the vault at present used, with easy access to it at all times. In this burying ground, members of the Washington family, and no one else, may be interred, and the State shall preserve it from injury or desecration.

"2d. The State shall never alienate the fee simple for any lesser estate in the whole or any part of the property.

"3d. The State shall pay to John A. Washington, upon his making to her a proper conveyance and title to the property, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars in cash, or, at the option of the State, in Virginia six per cent. common stock, the principal interest whereof shall be paid in the time and manner in which such stock has usually been made payable of late years."

It may not be amiss for me to say, in conclusion, that I shall be unwilling to leave this matter unsettled beyond the expiration of the next regular session of the General Assembly of Virginia. A satisfactory arrangement of my affairs renders it necessary that I should be explicit upon this point,

I have the honor to be,

With the highest respect,  
Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. WASHINGTON.

On the reception of the above correspondence, Gen. and Mrs. Wm. caused the 1st Vice President of the Association to be informed that he was too well to give a formal reply to the Southern Matron, but that he would cheerfully comply with the request of the Association, and lay the position and the correspondence before the next General Assembly of the State of Virginia.

We will publish the address of the Southern Matron to the Sons and Daughters of Washington, next week.

*Congressional Elections.*

In the 1st District, we learn Col. Paine has declined a re-nomination on account of ill-health. The American party will hold a Convention at Edenton, on the 9th instant, to nominate a Candidate. It is supposed that the Hon. Kenneth Rayner will receive the nomination.

In the 4th District, the Hon. E. G. Readie declines a re-nomination. We learn that at the Randolph Superior Court M. Q. Waddell, Esq., of Chatham, after making a short address, announced himself as a Candidate for Congress. Jno. A. Gilmer, Esq., has been spoken off as likely to be a Candidate. A Convention is to be held next month which will decide.

In the 6th District (Puryear's) the Americans will hold a Convention this day, at Winston, to nominate a candidate to represent the District in the next Congress.

In the 7th District, the Hon. R. Craige is announced as a Candidate for re-election. At the last election we understand he stated in Salisbury that he would not again be a Candidate. Promises are like pie-crust, made to be broken.

*Kansas Affairs.*

The Hon. R. J. Walker, of Mississippi, has been appointed and accepted the office of Governor of Kansas. This appointment it is thought, will give a successful turn in favor of the South. His instructions are based on the principle that the statutes of Kansas are valid. He is principally charged to see that the people have free and independent suffrage in the affairs of the Territory; carrying out the provisions of the registry law in the election for delegates to the State Convention. The troops heretofore employed, are to be removed, and others not before implicated in the affairs of the territory, are to be substituted; but there is no expectation of any necessity to call on us.

The publishers have also favored us with a copy.

20th of May.

We believe that every North Carolinian should desire to see the 20th of May honored with becoming respect, and we have no reason to doubt that the meeting is general with the citizens of Charlotte and the old country of Mecklenburg, to give their aid to the approaching celebration, so as to render it one worthy of the occasion and the county. Few can now realize the dangers by which the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence were surrounded in 1775, and the fire brands we, instead of all the living witnesses of that great achievement, has gone to commemorate their deeds of "courage daring," and to keep alive in our citizens the spirit of liberty that burned in the breasts of our forefathers. To this end every prominent citizen of the State will be invited to be present on that occasion and many others from other States, and the friends of this State. Rec. No. 1, New York, etc., inform our readers that he is consequent to deliver the Address at the approaching celebration.

NEW YORK, March 18, 1857.

GENTLEMEN: Your very kind letter, inviting me to be with you on the 20th of May next, and to deliver an address at the celebration of the anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, reached me just now.

I feel greatly honored by your request, and deem it my duty as a son of North Carolina to do what I can to vindicate that honored instrument. If, therefore, I am able and will, I will, with God's help, be with you on the 20th of May, and will deliver an address appropriate to the occasion.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect,  
Your friend and countryman,

FRANCIS L. HAWKS.  
Member, J. W. Gibson, G. W. Calhoun, Assoc.

1857.

THE SITUATION OF GEN. WALKER.

Reports of the situation of Gen. Walker seems to be contradictory, one stating that his situation is desperate, and another that he had made a successful attack on the allies and had defeated them. The last record is perhaps true, as the report of the loss in this battle is stated by the allies themselves to be 327 killed and over 300 wounded, while Walker's loss was only 2 killed and 21 wounded. It is also reported that the allies had been defeated by Walker and had retreated to Mattox.

A public meeting for the purpose of forwarding the interests of the South in Kansas, will be held this evening at the Institute Hall, and which will be addressed by Col. Treadwell and Col. Baker of the State of Alabama, on the present condition and prospects of Kansas. The recent appointment of Hon. R. J. Walker as Governor may affect the aspect of affairs in that distant territory, and turn the tide of political affairs towards the interest of the South. We anticipate a large and enthusiastic meeting, which will prove that we are still in the field for the purpose of battling for our rights on the soil of the far west.

The proceedings of the Mayor's Court still seem to excite much lively interest

among all classes of our citizens, and the proceedings which are daily published in the *Evening News* are sought after and read with much avidity. The Court room is crowded every morning, and from thirty to forty cases are daily disposed of. The Mayor and his able and efficient police deserve all praise for the prompt and active manner in which they have discharged the onerous and responsible duties.

This lecherous old rascal, who calls himself Governor of Utah, seems determined to test the mettle of the new administration at the very outset. He presents the most extravagant demands, and to give full emphasis to them—he is said to have seized the Government archives, papers and property in the territory and burned them. He then makes on a list of officers, whose appointments he demands, his own name heading the list for Governor. He threatens and assumes the attitude of rebellion, if his demands are not complied with at once. The Pittsburgh Post from which the above is taken says:

"The Administration at Washington should meet these insolent demands by appointing some General of the army Governor of Utah, and back him with an army. A civil government is always preferable and proper in ordinary cases. But that nest of Mormon rebels requires other treatment. A civilian Governor, with no force of military to back him, could do nothing there. He would not be allowed to remain in the Territory, if he attempted to exercise any authority. Why not, then, try the military force at once? If they choose rebellion, they can be subdued, and should be."

—J. H. Whetler.

The Hon. Wm. W. Clegg, who was minister to Nicaragua, has resigned his office and returned home, and is now on a visit to his friends. He has not however forgot his penchant for public speaking, for we learn from a correspondent of the Petersburg Express, that he addressed the people of Hartford county, during Court week. He gave a history of his political contests in that District, and referred with considerable elation to one between himself and the Hon. Kenneth Rayner, and no doubt he imagined he had demolished his competitor, a second time. It is also stated that should diplomatic relations be resumed between this country and Nicaragua, Mr. Clegg will be appointed him minister, again.

—ASHLEY.

"SOLD AGAIN"—A NEW DODGE.

Last week the Schr. R. W. Brown, from New York, arrived at this port, with an asserted cargo. Among the numerous Bills of Lading were two, signed for two boxes, marked B & D, Kingsville, N. C., and B & M, Kingsville, N. C.—shipped, the former by Treadwell & Co., and consigned to Morgan & Smith—the latter by Gilbert White & Co., consigned to Smith & Gray, to be delivered in good order and condition, with expenses on the boxes amounting to \$143.75, according to custom. This amount of expenses was prepaid in New York, by the Agents of the line, to be collected of the consignees at this port, or their assigns, upon delivery of the goods.

The vessel was discharged, the two boxes stored in warehouse and advertised at owner's risk and expense.

Suspicion was aroused from the fact that the boxes were very light, and the packages were opened, and on examination the contents found to be, what would you suppose? only saw dust. We do not know whether there be such parties as Treadwell & Co., or Gilbert White & Co., in New York—at this place there are no persons doing business under the name of Smith & Gray, or Morgan & Smith. It is plain that some person has swindled the vessel out of \$143.75, for which the vessel has value received to the full amount of two pine boxes and one bushel of saw dust.

This is certainly a new way to raise the devil upon a saw dust capital. The gentleman who shipped these packages at New York, foolish \$143.75, thinking no doubt he "sold" the agent and enriched himself. We take this to be one of the latest dodges.

Would it not be well for Shipping Merchants to know the value of the goods forwarded, before expenses are prepaid, or at least know the shipping party to be reliable?

—Washington Herald.

MEETING OF THE FIRE COMPANY.

At a meeting of the Charlotte Fire Company (consisting of 51 men,) at the Court House, on the 4th instant, the following officers were elected:

JOHN RIGLER, President,  
S. A. HARRIS, Vice-President,  
P. S. WHISNANT, 1st Director,  
R. SILAW, 2d  
M. W. ROBINSON, 3d  
H. M. PHILIPS, 4th  
W. E. STITT, Secy & Treasurer.

Messrs. R. SWAN, F. J. LOWREY, JOHN RIGLER, and Wm. HARTY were appointed a Committee to prepare and report a Constitution to a meeting to be held in this place on the night of the 18th proximo.

Ordered that the above proceedings be published in the newspapers of Charlotte.

J. B. KERR, Chairman pro tempore,  
E. NYE HUTCHINSON, Secy pro tempore.

From our Correspondent.

CHARLESTON, April 1, 1857.

This is "All Fool's Day," and many a veracious one has been sold. I have escaped being made a April fool thus far (four o'clock P. M.) by keeping pretty close within doors. The day is exceedingly blustery and the dust perfectly blinding. April comes in like a lion, and we hope it will go out like a lamb, at least, that is what my mother used to tell me. The weather is rather chilly for the season in this latitude, but we do not anticipate any more frost, and if not we shall have a pretty fair fruit season.

The long looked for Russell's Magazine made its appearance yesterday with a low bow and pleasing smile upon its face, as it would like to say. "I've just dropped in to pay a call, I hope I don't intrude, sir." It has taken Blackwood for its model, and is a pretty fair duplicate of that ancient and able monthly. The mechanical department is fine, and its general arrangement and neat and tasteful appearance would seem to argue well for its favorable reception by the public, and its final success. The articles, both of prose and poetry, are written with force and ability, and only the ablest persons are enlisted in the corps of contributors.

It is from the press of Messrs. Walker, Evans & Co., and is a perfect model of superior typography and press work.

The exercises of the annual commencement of the Charleston College took place yesterday afternoon at the Institute Hall, and were crowded with the fair sex who always do justice to the efforts of young men in the field of literary distinction. They smiled, flirted and glistened most killingly, and the hearts of the young orators beat quick to the magic prompting of a blooming cheek and a bright eye. The speakers of the graduating class did themselves much credit, and exhibited some promising indications of the future orators. President Fully made his farewell address, and the President elect delivered his inaugural address, and entered upon the arduous and responsible duties of the office of President of the College. The degrees of L. L. D. were conferred on the Hon. Mitchell King, N. R. Middleton, and Henry M. Burns.

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Brigham Young.

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The Album Semanal, of Costa Rica, publishes a long address from a number of dissenters from Walker's army, to their late companions, in which they are strongly urged to follow the example which has been set them. We make an extract:

"To one and all who came with whatever expectations, or under whatever inducements, we ask what thanks or emoluments have you received, or can you expect to receive from, impoverished Nicaragua, or thankless, unfeeling Walker? Think of the horrors of the siege of Granada, where the wickedness of this perverse young American will stop. One enormity seems to be crowding on the heels of another, and every day records some new scene of outrage and crime.

A large whale was yesterday discovered

at the mouth of Sullivan's Island and the outer bar.

A number of boats started off to capture it, but it struck one of them with its