

The North Carolinian.

CHARACTER IS AS IMPORTANT TO STATES AS IT IS TO INDIVIDUALS; AND THE GLORY OF THE STATE IS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF ITS CITIZENS.

H. L. HOLMES, Editor and Proprietor.

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TERMS. \$2 50 per annum, if paid in advance; \$3 if paid at the end of six months; or \$3 50 at the expiration of the year.

TO SILK GROWERS. THE subscribers, on behalf of an association of gentlemen interested in the propagation of the Chinese Mulberry, and in the production of Silk, GIVE NOTICE.

MULBERRY TREES. THE subscriber offers for sale 5000 Morus Multicaulis Trees, warranted to be of the genuine stock.

MORUS MULTICAULIS 3000 Morus Multicaulis Trees are offered to the public, at fifty cents per tree, warranted genuine, and in a good state of preservation.

COCOONS WANTED. THE subscriber has about two thousand very fine MORUS MULTICAULIS TREES, not far from 5 to 8 feet high, one-half of which he is willing to sell.

J. & J. KYLE, HAVE just received by the late arrivals from the North a large and splendid assortment of DRY GOODS.

REDUCED PRICES. by wholesale or retail. September 30, 1839.

STOP HIM!!! THE Subscriber's Horse was stolen last night. He was purchased in July, 1838, from Mr. Wm. Carman, and is well known about town.

Imported Blatterer. THIS Splendid English Race Horse, has been transferred to, and will make the ensuing season at Warren race-course in Warren county, N. C. at \$50 the season, and \$1 to the groom, under the management of THOMAS W. RAINEY.

NOTICE. THE Justices of the peace for the County of Cumberland are requested to meet at the Court House in Fayetteville, on Thursday of March Court next, at 12 o'clock, M. for the transaction of public business.

From the United States Gazette. Athenian Institute.—Mr. Read's Lecture. A numerous and respectable audience were assembled on Tuesday evening last at the Musical Fund Hall, on the occasion of John M. Read, Esq.'s lecture on The Early History of America.

He introduced his subject by alluding to that want of maritime skill which confined the voyages of the ancients principally to the narrow and inland seas; and when venturing into the ocean, restrained their discoveries to those great continents which could be reached by sailing within sight of land.

The ancient Europeans appear to have had four great channels of communication with India and the East: the principal by way of Egypt and the Arabian Gulf; another by the Persian Gulf, the Tigris, and the Euphrates, and by caravans to the shores of the Mediterranean; another by the Indus, thence by camels to the Oxus, down the stream of which they were carried to the Arab and European seas, and thence distributed, partly by land carriages and partly by navigable rivers, through the different countries, bounded on the one hand by the Caspian and on the other by the Euxine sea; and lastly, a caravan route from the frontier of China to the borders of the Euxine and the Mediterranean.

Under the rule of the Romans, the knowledge of the countries east of the peninsula of Hindostan and of the isles of the Indian Ocean was much extended, and by means of the great caravan route through the centre of Asia, some accurate information was obtained by them of a portion of China.

But with the gradual decline of the Romans, their commerce also waned, and the rise and progress of the religion and arms of Mahomet, "the great apostle of temperance," entirely changed the face of the eastern and African world; hastened the downfall of the great Roman empire, which was sinking by the weight of its own vices; and gradually excluded all direct trade from Europe with India, by its usual channels, and made, therefore, the discovery of a new route to the rich countries of the East—the problem of the day—the solving of which was eminently aided by the knowledge of the globular form of the earth, the inventions of printing and gunpowder, and the discovery of the polarity of the magnet, with the improvements of the astrolabe, and the wonderful but partially true stories of Marco Polo and Mauderville of the immense extent, populousness, and wealth of India, Carthage, and the distant island of Apango—all of which tended to excite the strongest spirit of adventure in the men who were just emerging from the barbarism of the Middle Ages, and feeling the refining influence of learning and civilization, and who retained much of that chivalrous spirit which had poured the Crusaders of Europe upon the Infidel possessors of the Holy Land in the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

The Portuguese, from their vicinity to Africa, were induced to bend their whole force in that direction; their exclusive right to discoveries in which, was secured by a papal bull; and recognized by Spain in the treaty of 1479; and in 1486 they desecrated the southern promontory of that great continent. At this period appeared Christopher Columbus, the Genoese, one of those wonderful men whose genius and energy stamp their character upon the age, and, by a single stroke of his intellect, open hidden sources of thought and action, which influence the fortunes of the human race in all after time.

scheme to the Senate of Genoa, who unwisely rejected his proposal, as the mere project of a visionary dreamer? His next overture was to the sovereign of Portugal; but a dishonorable effort having been made by the King's counsellors to use his information clandestinely, he left the kingdom in disgust, and in 1491 repaired to Spain, where he finally induced Queen Isabella to favor the expedition, and to cause a fleet of three small vessels to be fitted out under his command, with which he set sail from the little port of Palos on Friday, the 3d of August, 1492, and on Friday, the 12th of October following, saw the island of San Salvador, and subsequently the great islands of Cuba and Hispaniola; and leaving a small colony on the latter, he embarked in January, 1493, for Europe, and after a stormy voyage arrived at the port of Palos on Friday, the 15th of March, 1493, having been absent seven months and eleven days.

Three other voyages were accomplished by Columbus, in the second of which he discovered terra firma on the 1st of August, 1498, thus entitling himself to the glory of being the first to set foot on the great southern continent.

In his last voyage he pushed to the south, still with the grand object of discovering a passage into the Indian Ocean, but he was compelled, by the fury of the elements and the discontent of his men, to abandon his enterprise; and after being wrecked on the Island of Jamaica, he finally reached the little port of San Luca on the 7th November, 1504. His different voyages and discoveries occupied a little more than twelve years.

In 1513, Vasco Nunez De Balboa crossed the Isthmus of Darien, and discovered the great Southern Ocean; and in 1519, Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese, in the service of Spain, embracing the theory of Columbus, sailed to the south, passed through the strait which bears his name, and crossed the Pacific; and his companions, after visiting Borneo and other islands in the Indian Ocean, followed the course of the Portuguese by the Cape of Good Hope, and arrived at San Luca on the 7th of September, 1522—having sailed round the globe in the space of three years and twenty-eight days.

Thus, in little more than thirty years from the first voyage of western discovery, a great continent was added to the knowledge of the civilized world, and by a practical demonstration of its truth, the theory of the circular and diurnal motion of the earth was fully sustained and vindicated.

The conquests of Mexico by Cortez and of Peru by Pizarro introduced the Spaniards to a knowledge of the only two nations on the continent of America which had made advances beyond the first stages of savage life. They had permanent habitations, established forms of government and religion, records and traditions, and were the innocent possessors of unknown wealth in the native gold and silver, which, in its shape of bullion or coin, has formed in all ages and countries a recognized medium of exchange.

The Spaniards were poor, and sometimes illiterate, but the value of precious stones and metals was known to all classes, and the immediate object of the later voyages was the accumulation of riches—not by continued labor, but by the spoils of conquered infidels, whose wealth they regarded as their own. These circumstances, with their warlike temper, gave a character of ferocity to their earlier intercourse with the Indians of America, which the mild dictates of christianity could neither soften nor temper.

The natives of Mexico and South America were, however, too numerous to be displaced by the comparatively feeble colonies of Spaniards, and were secured from the wanton oppression of their conquerors, by the regulations of Charles Fifth in 1542, by which the Indians were reputed freemen, and entitled to the privileges of subjects.

The Indians, the Metizos, the Mulattoes, and the Blacks formed a very large proportion of the population of Spanish America, and however little political power they may have enjoyed prior to its separation from the mother country, they were too large a portion of its inhabitants to be treated with disregard or contempt. The early, stern, and unbending policy of Spain—its jealousy of foreigners and foreign traffic—the censorship of the Inquisition—the despotic maxims of its monarchy—the gradual decay of its agriculture, commerce, and manufactures—the decline of literature—the neglect of education—and the extinction of its naval and military glory, retarded and prevented the natural improvement of the human mind in the southern parts of this continent; and the gradual amalgamation of all its races in the new republics and governments of that hemisphere, have placed it several centuries in the rear of even the aged monarchies of Europe.

Republicanism is the fruit of early habits of freedom of thought and action, of education, and of the practical enjoyment of equal rights and equal privileges. These were denied to the Spanish colonist at all periods during his connection with Spain, and the natural consequence is, that since he has been loosed from the leading strings of the mother country, he has been tottering under the unaccustomed regulation of his own weight.

The lecturer next directed the attention of his audience to another division of his subject the discovery and settlement of the English provinces of North America. He noticed the expeditions of Jehu Cabot, a Venetian, and his son, Sebastian Cabot, a native of Bristol, for whom it has been claimed that, sailing under a patent from King Henry the Seventh of England, they discovered the con-

inent of North America, on the 24th of June, 1497, fourteen months before Columbus beheld the continent, and two years before the lucky Florentine had been west of the Canaries. In 1501, Gaspar Costereas, in the service of Portugal, ranged the whole coast of North America for a distance of 600 or 700 miles, and within seven years of the discovery of the continent, the fisheries of Newfoundland were known to the hardy mariners of Brittany and Normandy. A French expedition was sent out in 1524 by Francis the First, and being followed up by others, resulted in the discovery and settlement of Canada and Nova Scotia.

The lecturer stated the manner of the discovery of Florida. Ponce de Leon, an aged cavalier, desirous of engaging in some new and profitable enterprise, and seduced by a belief in an ancient tradition that in the Isle of Bimini, one of the Lucayas, there was a fountain whose waters were capable of conferring the gift of perpetual youth, embarked at Porto Rico with a squadron of three ships, fitted out at his own expense, for a voyage of discovery.

On Easter Sunday, in the year 1512, land was seen, and it received the name of Florida, from the day on which it was discovered; and its government was the reward of Ponce, coupled with the dangerous condition that he should colonize it; in attempting to effect which he was wounded by an arrow, and returned to Cuba, only to die.

All the intermediate expeditions to Florida are sunk in the interest which has been thrown around the disastrous invasion of Ferdinand De Soto, who, captivated by the false reports of its riches, led a powerful and disciplined corps, by a toilsome march of three years, across the Mississippi, in whose waters their valiant commander found his last resting place.

A number of other early voyages and discoveries were mentioned, and in particular the discovery by the gallant Sir Walter Raleigh of Virginia, and his unsuccessful attempts to colonize it; the discovery of Cape Cod, and of Nantucket, by Gosnold, in 1602; the exploration of the coast of New England, from Maine to Martha's Vineyard, in 1602, by Martin Ping.

Hitherto all attempts at colonization had been entirely unsuccessful, and although we must pity the fate of the unfortunate colonists of Raleigh at Roanoke, yet we cannot regret that the final settlement of the North American provinces was delayed until the seventeenth century, when the minds of Englishmen were insensibly adopting the largest principles of rational freedom and practical republicanism.

The gradual destruction of the feudal power of the nobility, and the constant elevation of the third estate by the spread of the commerce, the extension or the powers of the House of Commons, and above all by the daily exercise of the invaluable right of trial by jury, gave England a liberty of thought and action unknown to the other kingdoms of Europe.

The reformation aided in weakening the power of its kings. Queen Elizabeth stayed the torrent of political and religious liberty, which, at length breaking down the barriers of tyranny, the work of centuries of ignorance and oppression, overwhelmed the throne of the hypocritical Charles, and for a short time gave to England the forms of a republic.

The colonists of America brought with them the rights of Englishmen, and such portions of the English laws as were adopted to the wants of a new country. The practical effect of this principle was to cast off all the aristocratic and monarchical features of the English constitution and laws, and to adopt all those which regarded the people as the constituent body of the State, and entitled by their representatives to the legislative power of the country.

In 1606, a charter was granted to Sir Thomas Gates and his associates by James the First. The associates were divided into two companies. The Virginia or London Company was required to settle between the 34th and 41st degrees of north latitude, and the Plymouth Company between the 38th and 45th degrees of north latitude, but not within one hundred miles of the prior colony. The charter of the Virginia colony was successively altered. In 1609, and 1612, and in 1619, a General Assembly was called, composed of the representatives of boroughs, there being then no counties in Virginia, from which it derived its name of the House of Burgesses. In 1624, the corporation was dissolved, and Virginia became a royal government until the period of the Revolution.

On the 3d of November, 1620, King James granted a new charter to some of the northern company, by which its limits were extended in breadth from the 40th to the 45th degree, and in length by all that breadth throughout the mainland from sea to sea. To this territory he affixed the name of New England. In 1629, the Plymouth colonists obtained a patent from this company under the last charter of 1620.

In March, 1627, the same company made a grant to Sir Henry Roswell and others, who in 1628 obtained a charter from King Charles, creating the associates a body politic, by the name of "The Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in N. England." These charters subsisted until 1684; and in 1691, a new charter was granted by William and Mary, under which the united colonies of Massachusetts and New Plymouth and other territories became known as a province, and continued to act under this charter until after the Revolution.

In 1630, King Charles granted unto Sir

Robert Heath, his Attorney General, all the territory between the Southern boundary of the Virginia colony and the river St. Martha, or St. John's, in East Florida, extending from ocean to ocean, and including the Bahama Islands.

The title to this patent in the Coxe family, whose descendants are amongst our most valuable citizens, who, in 1769, released all their rights to the crown, and received from it as a recompense, a grant of 100,000 acres in the then province of New York.

We thus see that, by these parchments, in the first thirty years of the seventeenth century, the whole territory of the original thirteen States, was disposed of to two inconsiderable companies, and one private individual.

The lecturer now gave a brief history of the peculiar circumstances attending the settlement of each individual state; but our space will not permit us to follow him into the details, nor even to glance at any of them except Pennsylvania and Delaware.

In 1682, William Penn laid the foundation of the great State of Pennsylvania, upon the broad platform of civil and religious freedom, imitating and excelling the benevolent examples of Calvert and Williams.

After the trial of three successive forms of government, a new charter of government was, with the consent of the General Assembly, established in October, 1701, which continued to the period of the American Revolution. The three lower counties, now forming the State of Delaware, were purchased from the Duke of York by Penn, in 1682, and by the name of the Territories, were united to the Province of Pennsylvania.

In 1703, the territories were finally separated from the Province, and down to the American revolution, were governed by a separate Legislature of their own.

In 1600, there was not an English settlement in North America. In 1688, the twelve oldest States of the Union contained about 200,000 inhabitants, and in 1840 the whole forms one great nation, comprising twenty-six States, three Territories, and vast bodies of unoccupied land, with a population of at least sixteen millions of souls, living under the freest government recorded in the pages of history.

POLITICAL.

Speech

Of Mr. Watterson, of Tennessee.—In the House of Representatives, January 16, 1840.—on the subject of Abolition petitions.

MR. SPEAKER.—Differing as I do from a portion of my colleagues upon this subject, I feel that it is my duty to state some of the reasons which influence my course. I did hope, sir, that on the exciting and important question now under consideration, it would be my good fortune to battle, arm to arm and shoulder to shoulder, with all the Representatives from the State of Tennessee.—It is to me a source of deep mortification that any Southern man should hesitate a moment in regard to the proper disposition of Abolition petitions, much less pursue a course which, in my judgment, is playing into the hands of those miserable fanatics. The resolution offered by the gentleman from Louisiana, [Mr. Chinn], proposing to receive and refer to a committee all memorials and petitions relating to the abolition of slavery in this District, in the Territories or in the States, concedes every thing the Abolitionists are contending for at this time, and I must be permitted to express my great astonishment at the source from which it originated. Coming as he does from one of the largest slave-holding States in the Union, I regard the move as extremely unfortunate; but not more so than the zealous and able support which it has received from some of my colleagues and others of the same political party, who hail from the South. Sir, are not the votes of every Abolitionist in the House recorded upon the journal in favor of suspending the rule, for the purpose of adopting it? Did not the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, [Mr. Adams], when a similar proposition was suggested by one of my colleagues, [Mr. Bell], arise in his place and declare that it was all he desired? Well do the Abolitionists know that the goal of universal emancipation cannot be reached, but by degrees—that the ramparts of the Constitution cannot be torn down in a day nor a week; and that if they can gain a single point at a time, they may ultimately succeed in eradicating slavery, not in the District of Columbia alone, but in the several States—and at the same time under the cords that bind together this glorious Union. Sir, I would rather these conspirators against the perpetuity of this Republic, and the rights and tranquility of its citizens, should prate about grievances, which, if they exist at all, cannot affect them, to the end of time, than to acknowledge by my vote, that I am bound to receive, refer, and treat with common respect their petitions, which ask me to violate the Constitution of my country, which I have solemnly sworn to support. If we are to have peace upon such terms only, I, for one, am against peace. But have we so soon forgotten the past? Does not every gentleman upon this floor recollect, that the same argument was used in 1836, in favor of the reference of these petitions to a committee—that then, as now, it was contended, that such reference would be the most effectual mode of tranquillizing the public mind, and staying all further agitation of the subject on the part of the Abolitionists? Under this delusive hope, such a committee was raised, on the motion of a distinguished gentleman

from South Carolina, [Mr. Pickney.] That committee went to work, and made an able report against the prayer of the petitioners, and what was the effect? Was the voice of Abolition hushed? Did their insulting and infamous petitions cease to pour into this House? Were the rights and feelings of the South any more respected? Let your journals for the last three years answer.—Session after session are we called upon to repel their assaults against our domestic institutions, our homes, and our firesides.—Instead of allaying, as it was alleged would be the case, it has increased their exertions. Shall we, then, resort to an experiment, which has already so signally failed? To do so would be nothing but downright madness. Better, far better, to stand firm like men, and give way on no part of the ground. If we once commence retreating, they will never cease their demands, until they have accomplished their unhallowed purposes.—But the Abolitionists and their apologists contend that to refuse acting on these petitions is a violation of that article in the Constitution, which prohibits Congress from passing any law abridging the "right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." This I deny. Have we passed any law, or are called upon to pass any law; abridging this right? Surely not. The people are at liberty to "peaceably assemble" at any time, and to petition upon any subject; but when it is presented here by an honorable member, by the rules of the House which we have adopted for our government, he has to state its contents; and after hearing such statement, are we not prepared to say whether it is of such a character as would justify us in rejecting it at once? By way of illustration, suppose the fanatics of Massachusetts, or any other State, should take it into their heads to send petitions to the Legislature of Tennessee, asking them to pass a law authorizing and empowering our slaves to cut all our throats by a given time, would it be a denial of the right of petition not to receive and refer them? Again suppose the hot-headed Southerners, believing that the venerable ex-President, who sits across the way, was most essentially deranged upon the subject of slavery, and that by his course in this House their lives and their property were endangered, should ask Congress to enact a law sending him to some place of confinement the remainder of a long and eventful life; would not the gentleman himself admit, that this was an abuse of the right of petition; or, in other words, that we would not be bound to receive and consider it? Gentlemen declare if we will only receive and refer Abolition petitions, it is all they wish; the House can then put the "broad seal" of condemnation upon them as soon as they please. Such declarations resolve themselves into this: that to refuse to receive and refer their petitions, is a gross insult; but the moment after reception and reference, we may commit them to the flames, without offence! Most logical and happy thought, truly! But I am not willing to trust them. Let us mark our indignation at the objects they have in view, by a prompt and decisive vote at the threshold. Let us say to them that we have no power to legislate on the subject; and if we had, it could not be exercised, without tearing down the fairest fabric that human wisdom ever reared, and spreading havoc and ruin where there is now peace and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, by refusing to receive these petitions after we have heard their contents stated by the introducer, or by laying them on the table without any further action upon them, we avoid debate on this distracting subject. Sir, every debate may kindle the fires of insurrection in the South. Let me ask, how can debate be prevented, if we receive, and refer them to a committee? The moment that reference is made, a member rises in his place, holds up a resolution in his hand, and demands its adoption. What is it? It is a resolution instructing the committee to report in favor of the prayer of the Abolitionists. He has the floor; no other member can get it in order to move the previous question; and he proceeds for hours, if not days, to plead the cause of these incendiaries. Every word he utters, through the secret agency of the Abolitionists, finds its way to the ears of the slave population of the South, and may excite them to rebellion and massacre. But sir, suppose you succeed in applying the previous question at the close of this speech; cannot another member, and another, and so on, until the whole number is exhausted, bring forward resolutions of the like kind, and in that way keep up an everlasting debate in this House, and an everlasting disturbance out of it? This must be the inevitable result of receiving and referring such papers to a committee. Unlike my two colleagues, [Messrs. Gentry and Bell], I can never consent to such a reception and reference. It must lead to interminable discussion; and discussion here, I fear, will lead to the most direful consequences.

The gentleman from the city of New York [Mr. Munroe] has declared that the battle of Abolitionism must be fought at the North.—Must be fought in the North, and by whom, sir? The political party (Whig) to which he is attached? If so, I have solemn apprehensions that our rights will be in peculiarly bad keeping! Sir, were they fighting the battles of the South, when they were supporting a notorious Abolitionist [Mr. Bradish] for Lieutenant Governor of New York, when they gave him about nineteen thousand votes in the city, and near one hundred and fifty thousand