

# GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

"THE IGNORANT AND DEGRADED OF EVERY NATION OR CLIME MUST BE ENLIGHTENED, BEFORE OUR EARTH CAN HAVE HONOR IN THE UNIVERSE."

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THE

## GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

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### COMMUNICATIONS.

"Do still remember, if you mean to please,  
To break your point with modesty and ease."

FOR THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.  
NORTH-CAROLINA N. IX.

#### LEARNING.

"Extended views a narrow mind extend."

I come to consider the condition of North-Carolina in regard to Learning. I propose being a bit more diffusive on this topic than I have been on former ones, because, if possible, this is more important than any of them.

Though the state of education in North-Carolina is wretched enough, and partakes in a measure, of the common gloom that clouds our prospects, yet I do not think that we are here and there a few spots, which has a more enervating effect on the spirits, from the strong contrast it bears with surrounding darkness; and still happier should I be, could I see a rational prospect that these luminous circles would gradually widen, till they come to encompass the whole State, and to enlighten every intellect with their cheering effulgence. But when I consider how much the advancement of learning depends on the policy of the government, and the general prosperity of the community; and recollect the retrograde motion which our State has taken, I can scarcely exclude from my mind the painful and melancholy reflection, that learning itself will degenerate; and that we shall retrograde in respect to intellectual improvement, to the knowledge, as well as the wealth and power of the State shall be engrossed by a privileged order. Things are unfortunately tending to this issue.

Learning joined with religion, is the last hope of North-Carolina. If there is a redeeming spirit in the State, these only can call it into action. Whilst learning enlarges the mind, and develops its faculties, religion curbs the licentiousness of the passions. Learning gives boldness and adventure to the mind, and produces extensive and liberal views; religion, by purifying the morals, insures soundness of principle. These form a basis for true greatness: the superstructure erected on these must possess grandeur. Religion and learning are intimately connected. Where that most abounds, this is most cherished. My present understanding leads me not to treat of the influence which religion has on the destiny of a State, nor of the condition of religion in North-Carolina. I will, therefore, only add, that it sends forth a precious fragrance, and favorably affects all who come within its contact. Knowledge and liberty of mind, are, however, necessary to regulate it, and prevent it from degenerating into superstition.

In our observations on the subject of education, we shall not wait to discuss and decide the question, whether the intellectual faculties of all are equally capable of improvement. It is sufficient for our purpose, that all who are not idiots, are susceptible of acquiring a useful education. It matters nothing whether all are equally capable or not, provided all are capable, and it is necessary all should be educated.

All men, and all women, in every sphere of life, have certain duties to perform. The more they become acquainted with their duties, and the importance of performing them aright, the better qualified, and the more disposed, they will be to perform them. In no other way can any one become acquainted with what he owes to himself, to his fellow men, and to his Creator, so well as by reading the Holy Scriptures, and other judicious writings. But in order to do this, he must first be able to read. A man, there is no one, to whom it is not important to be able to maintain an epistolary correspondence with a distant friend, or man of business; nor is there any one, who is not interested in casting up and keeping accounts accurately; but these things cannot be done without an acquaintance with writing and figures. Therefore, it is not only important, but even indispensable, that every member of the community should be able at least to read, write, and cipher. With a knowledge of these rudiments, any one might soon and easily acquire all that would be absolutely indispensable to the performance of his duty, and to

the acting of his part with propriety and advantage. To these rudimentary branches might be added whatever other ways a person's leisure, taste, talent, inclination, or avocation might suggest or require. I use the less reasoning on these important points, because they are generally understood, and not disputed; and it is a waste of words to demonstrate that which is universally known and admitted.

But besides these considerations, which render education indispensable, there are several others, which render it very important, especially to the citizens of a free and popular government. Of this kind are the following:

1st. Education enlarges the mind, fits it for comparing, reasoning, reflecting, and contemplating, and invests it of erroneous prepossessions.

2dly. It furnishes an innocent, a rational, and a pleasing entertainment for our hours of vacation from business.

3rdly. It qualifies a man for exercising, with discretion, the privilege he possesses as a member of a popular government.

4thly. It increases and directs enterprise.

1st. Education enlarges the mind, &c. The perceptions of an illiterate man are indistinct, contracted, and obscure; and his ideas are few and barren. His views of men and things are very partial, and his sentiments are often very illiberal. His prejudices are absurd and deeply rooted. But learning replenishes the mind with perceptions, and brightens and fertilizes the ideas. It develops the mental faculties; and opens a vast field for the mental powers to exert themselves in. The faculties of the mind, like the muscles of the body, acquire size and vigour proportioned to the use that is made of them. By reading and study the mind becomes capable of extending its views, of widening its range of thought, of combining and comparing its ideas; and thus it improves, if it does not acquire, its capacity of reflection. The studies which have the happiest effects in liberating the sentiments, and expanding the views, are Geography and History. A knowledge of these is so easily acquired, that any one who can read, is qualified to enter upon the study of them.

2dly. Learning furnishes us with an innocent, a rational, and a pleasing entertainment for our hours of vacation from business. There is no man whose life is so filled up with cares and business, that he has time to devote to relaxation. Now these hours of relaxation, if spent in entire vacancy, are more irksome than even those of business; and if some innocent entertainment is not at hand, the mind is empty, and therefore open to the allurements of vice; and the man is subject to be drawn into vicious company and loose practices; where habits ruinous to health, reputation, and prosperity are acquired. How important, therefore, that every one should have some resource for filling up his hours of exemption from business, which may unite innocence and utility with pleasure. Learning is calculated to effect this in an eminent degree. What can be more harmless than reading good books? What more rational than the studying of useful arts? or more delightful than the acquisition of knowledge? Food is not more grateful to the hungry, nor repose to the weary, than this to the longing mind of man. O, knowledge! how has my soul panted after thee! How has the pursuit of thee refrained my feet from the path of vice!

3rdly. It qualifies a man for exercising, with discretion, the power vested in him as a member of a popular government. In monarchical and despotic governments, in which common men have nothing to do with State affairs, nor any duty to perform concerning them, except acquiescence and obedience to a much more limited portion of knowledge will suffice, than in a popular government, in which every man is a sovereign, and holds, in some degree, the destiny of the commonwealth in his own hands. Where such is the case, every freeman ought to possess an enlightened mind. He should be capable of judging for himself, what measures are necessary for promoting the security and prosperity of the State; what are the plans best adapted to carry those measures into operation; and who are the men best qualified for filling the important trusts of legislation. Without this capacity of judging for himself, a man, possessing political impunities, is obnoxious to become the dupe of any designing knave, who may approach him under the specious guise of friendship, or with the insidious sweets of flattery upon his lips; and to be rendered the instrument of his own damage. A very considerable portion of knowledge is requisite to qualify a man for citizenship, in a free and popular government.

4thly. It increases and directs enterprise. The mind, by being habituated to study, acquires the capacity of combining and comparing its ideas, of reasoning in connexion, and of conceiving more accurately any intricate subject or proposition. Now, within the limits of possibility, whatever the mind conceives with clearness, the hands can perform with facility. Accordingly, we find nations and individuals enterprising and inventive, in proportion as they are enlightened.

We might multiply reasons, exhibiting the importance of education to the citizens of North-Carolina; but it would be a reflection on the ingenious reader not to suppose that when his attention is directed to this subject he can easily supply these reasons.—We arrive at this conclusion that on some accounts a portion of learning is indispensable to every individual of either sex and in every condition in life; that, on other accounts, it is highly important, especially to the citizens of a popular government.

POLYDOR.

FOR THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

### A SPECTACLE!!!

MR. EDITOR:—Enough to make the heart of humanity bleed, and the face of the patriot blush with shame!

Not long since, a large company of our fellow beings were driven through our streets, in nearly the same manner, and for precisely the same purpose, that the Tennesseans or Indianaans drive their horses to our markets, by a few soulless Dealers in human flesh, who are still permitted to pollute our highways with their infamous and Heaven-daring traffic—the Internal slave-trade of our country. This hell-fought traffic in the nates, and "souls of men," is still tolerated in the open face of day, to the disgrace of our political and religious institutions; in opposition to the commands of HIM, whose words remain a perpetual ordinance; and in direct violation of the principles of Right, acknowledged by all civilized nations. If any thing is sufficient to make the feelings of humanity swell beyond their natural bounds, it must be the transaction of scenes similar to this! What parent is there, whose heart has not become callous like the nether millstone, in transposing circumstances with these poor outcasts of human society, but must feel, in the inmost recesses of his soul, a compound of pity, sorrow, disgust, and indignation? or a brother, a son, or any other relative that would not feel keen sensations of sympathetic anguish, in taking such a prospective view? Methought I saw a pensive matron, whose appearance bespoke depression of spirit, and severity of toil, slow marching along, who, from her downcast countenance and solitary look, was bending more under a load of grief, than a burthen of years. She, perhaps, had felt the pledges of her tenderest love betrayed, in all the agonizing pains of a bereaved parent—any worse; for then her offspring had been out of the power of the cruel oppressor; but now she has a double cup of sorrow for her portion. Torn from the bosom of her fondly cherished hopes, and driven like a beast far from all that tended to nourish the sparks of fond desire; clothed with wretchedness, and treated with scorn; and perhaps bereaved of the soft embrace of partner in woe, she is now hurried on, with her other companions in distress, by the relentless march of the slave-trade, to the market of human booty.—Ah! Hope did I say? What hope, this side of the grave, can those have, whose limbs in society are all outraged by the shackles of slavery, and that fall a prey to the blasting touch of those *Land-torpides* who ravage them with all their temporal enjoyments? Her husband—O what dismal fate! By the cruel lash of the driver she was torn from his tender embrace. Could death have been more cruel? or could the grave have been more awful! Nay perhaps they courted these, that they might both have lain down and died together. Sorrowful indeed, is the condition of these poor creatures; and dismal the tale of woe they could tell. But O! who will lay these things to heart!

A grope of little lads and lasses, next attracted my attention. Some of them might possibly have had a sympathizing relative along, to participate in their hardships and degradation; and help a little to cheer the long and tedious walk; but many of them looked mournfully sad. Snatched from beside a fondling mother, or a doting father, they are now marching on by the compulsion of their driver, to a far land of strangers unknown: not to be put under the superintendance of a fostering friend, or an affectionate relative; but in all probability, to be sold like oxen or sheep, to iron-hearted task-masters, to drudge in servile employment throughout the remainder of their miserable existence, for the sole purpose of aggrandizing, and pompering in luxuriant gratification, the lazy drones who hold them in wretchedness, and oppression. And what may be said of these two characters, may also be said in a greater, or less degree, of the whole company. Then what an enormous amount of mental and bodily suffering, is caused, to serve the sinister, and corrupt motives of a few low-spirited slave-dealers! Add to this, ten thousand such circumstances as the one I have been describing, (which is a calculation by far too small,) together with a constant series of privations, degradation, and misery, through all the other parts of their ignoble bondage, and who could calculate the amount of suffering produced by the heart-rending, and soul-chilling crime of slavery?

Ye parents in every station in society, look at the picture! Taste, for a moment, the bitter cup that many a parent has drunk all his days, and then make their case your own.

Ye youth of the present age, look at the picture! "Teach your hands to war and your fingers to fight" against this hyena of human happiness—This voracious MONSTER that has drunk the blood of thousands, and slain that of the innocent!

Ye Religious of every denomination, but especially, ye MINISTERS of the Gospel of HIM whose ushering into the world was with "Glory to God in the highest, on earth, PEACE, and GOOD WILL to men," let your voice be heard far and near to plead the cause of the oppressed, and those who have no tongue of their own. Endeavour by example, as well as by precept, to rouse up the sparks of humanity, "and cherish the things that remain and are ready to die."

Ye Governors, Counsellors, Legislative Bodies, and all leading Characters among the people, rouse up; rouse up your associates to a due sense of the iniquity, and impolicy of slavery; and let the cause of Freedom be animated by your warmest exertions.

Ye sovereign People of the United States, rouse up, and be awakened out of your slumbers. Consider your responsibility as free Agents, and as a people under the protection of a Republican form of Government. Consider that upon the execution of your will, depends the nature and operations of your laws. Remember also, that the "Justice of God cannot sleep forever." View slavery in all its bearings; both as it relates to the oppressor, and the oppressed; to time, and to eternity: Therefore I say again, be awakened out of your slumbers!

TRUTH TELLER.

Greensborough, February 1, 1830.

FOR THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

In reply to a subscriber (whose name is taken in a past number) who wishes his paper discontinued at the end of the "present year," on account of the editor's admitting a free discussion on the "Question of Slavery," it may be briefly said, *he is a fool*—He is doubtless a fool if his wish is occasioned by his ignorance of the evil and impolicy of slavery; and if his eyes are open to these plain facts, he is not only a single but a double made fool for desiring its continuance.

PLAIN ENGLISH.

FOR THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

Remarks on the new method of teaching the English Grammar.

This is an age pre-eminently for improvement. Scarcely a year revolves in which the people are not astonished with something new, and wonderful for power and utility—with something, which, half a century ago, would have been esteemed visionary and impracticable. Facts and demonstrations have earned incredulity; national vanity is flattered, and we are ready to say, behold the exalted heights to which human nature can ascend! But immorality is incident to humanity; and man destined to drink of a mixed cup. Every good which he enjoys is obnoxious to perversion; and perverted good is often the worst of evils. Novelty has charms; and change is agreeable to the inconsistency of our nature. Whilst the arts of the earth are multiplying, and the public mind to be imposed upon. Unprincipled ingenuity, incited sacred flames, and has no failed, in more instances than one, to avail itself of this state of things; and to convert specious imposture into self involvement.

These thoughts have been elicited by a review of the new and short method of teaching the English Grammar. It is scarcely necessary to inform the public, that men have been traversing this section of the country, offering, for a good bounty, to teach the English Grammar to perfection in fifty days; nor is it more necessary to mention that they have been employed. These things are but too generally known. We were lately invited by certain of our fellow citizens to examine a class of scholars, who had attended a school of this description the proposed length of time. To this call we attended, prompted alike by curiosity and a desire of doing good. We were desirous, if we should find the class adequate grammarians, to promote the system by recommending it to public patronage; if we should find the scholars very deficient in grammatical knowledge, we were willing to expose the imposture; and this is our motive, as well as apology, for giving so great publicity to the result of our examination. Having no interest in the result, but ore common to our fellow citizens, we entered upon the examination with all the impartiality of candour, free from any bias except incredulity may be so denominated.

After a patient and arduous examination we arrived at the following conclusions, viz. that the scholars had acquired much valuable grammatical knowledge, having made a good beginning; that they possessed a smattering of many things pertaining to the subject;—but that in many things their knowledge appeared superficial; of many others they appeared entirely ignorant;—and candour compels us to say they were by no means adequate grammarians. Comparing their progress with what we have generally witnessed of scholars taught in the ordinary way, we believe we have seldom, perhaps never, known scholars improve so much as these were, in so short a period; but we had never before examined scholars to whom the teacher had devoted his whole time; and it is thus we account for their greater advancement. Accordingly, we are of an opinion that scholars might be advanced as much in fifty days on the common plan were a judicious teacher to devote his whole time to a Grammar class alone.

If we have been correctly informed these pretenders have undertaken to teach a complete knowledge of the English Grammar, in fifty days, to any person who has been previously taught to read; the degree of application, being preparation, and the pretension may be said to have IMPOSTURE in glaring Capitals on its front. It resembles the quack's nostrum, which represents as a specific for every ailment to which the human body is subject. The power and the belief of magic are with the years beyond the flood; and strains the credit of moderns; cannot we suppose, be applied to the infusion of knowledge into the mind. We unhesitatingly pronounce the pretension of these new grammarians to be a *very bad imposture*, not only practiced for the impolicy, but also for the ignorance and credulity of our good citizens; or, in other