

GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

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

VOLUME I.

GREENSBOROUGH, N. C. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1830.

NUMBER 41.

THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

Printed & published every Wednesday morning, by WILLIAM SWAIM.

Two Dollars per annum, payable within three months from the date of the first number, or Three Dollars will be invariably exacted immediately after the expiration of that period.

Each subscriber will be at liberty to discontinue at any time within the first three months, by paying for the numbers received, according to the above terms; but no paper will be discontinued until all arrearages are paid, and a failure to pay a discontinuance will be considered a new engagement.

Those who may become responsible for Ten copies shall receive the 11th gratis.—An allowance of ten per cent will also be made to authorized agents for procuring subscribers and warranting their solvency or remitting the cash.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not exceeding 12 lines, will be neatly inserted three times for one dollar—and twenty-five cents for each succeeding publication—those of greater length in the same proportion.

All letters and communications to the Editor, on business relative to the paper, must be POST-PAID, or they will not be attended to.

COMMUNICATIONS.

"I will remember, if you mean to please, press your point with modesty and ease."

FOR THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.
NORTH-CAROLINA No. X.
STATE OF COMMON SCHOOLS, &c.

The playful children just let loose from school.

GOLDSMITH.

I have said that North Carolina, in regard to learning, does not exhibit all that gloom and desperation which it presents, when contemplated from other points. His cheerful enough when passing through the country, to see the smiling "schoolboy, with his satchel, and his shining morning face," not indeed "freezing like a rod unwillingly to school," but bounding along in native, republican glee, the beauty of the present, and the hope of the future. It is pleasant to enter one of our primary schools, under the superintendence of a judicious, well educated instructor;—to see the healthful and glowing countenances of the rising generation,—flushed with hope,—untouched with care; to see the budding of genius,—the assiduity of some, the emulation of others. The contemplation of scenes like these, (and some such the country offers) affords us joy, while, looking behind us, we recall the past, with its bright reminiscences and endeared associations of our juvenile delights and companions, or, looking before us, we anticipate the time when these novices shall be enlightened citizens on the stage of active life, some perhaps at the helm of State. Here we can find a moment's respite from the anxiety of life,—the melancholy forebodings from the distracted affairs of the commonwealth. Again, it is a source of cheerful hope, upon entering almost every dwelling in certain sections of the State, to find, that at least one newspaper pays its weekly visit, and pours out its tribute of intelligence from all quarters of the globe, enlightening every member of the family, and assisting to prepare him for acting his part on the stage of public life;—to see on the shelf or the bureau, the small library of useful and much used books; among which the Holy Bible justly stands pre-eminent. But even in regard to this subject, there is much, very much to deplore.

The exertions of individuals, (I mean of such as are able and willing to make any exertions,) are altogether incommensurate with the great task of disseminating learning and intelligence all over the State; and the State itself has never lent its aid to the diffusion of general intelligence. The consequences are,

- 1. That certain portions of the State are measurably destitute of primary schools.
- 2. That in parts partially supplied, the schools are in a miserable condition.
- 3. That in the most highly favored sections, there are certain classes of children to which the benefits of these schools do scarcely extend.
- 4. That certain portions of the State are measurably destitute of primary schools, is a fact that cannot be denied by any one of much observation. To know the extent of this destitution, is a desideratum not perhaps in the possession of any individual in the State. It is probably greater than many are aware of. It is not hazarding too much to say that large portions of North-Carolina are sunk in ignorance and immorality; that the people, besides being ignorant and vicious, are shiftless, unenterprising, and wretched, with a state of society close bordering on barbarity.

But in other portions of the State, partially supplied with schools, these schools are in a miserable condition. The teachers employed are an ignorant set of pretenders, who have never "drunk deep of the Pierian spring," nor wasted the midnight oil in penetrating the recesses of knowledge; but such as having got a smattering of education, and being too indolent to labor, have been employed as teachers; sometimes for the want of better, but often over the heads of their superiors, merely because their being of less value, they have offered their services at a lower price. The discriminating parents have given them a preference for no better reason.

Then again, the hovels prepared for the reception of the scholars, are miserable substitutes for houses—either open to the admittance of Boreas, or close against the entrance of the rays of light; without any adequate accommodation of seats and tables. The children too are poorly furnished with book, paper, and necessaries for promoting their studies. They are sent so irregularly, that one portion of the time the teacher is without scholars, and the other he is overruled; especially, as from the variety of books, it is next to impossible to form a class.

Moreover, the children are vicious and insubordinate. They cost the teacher immense pains to discipline them, if he ever undertakes it at all. In these attempts he is thwarted by the prejudices and imprudent interference of parents; some being in favor of lax, others, of strict discipline. Some being influenced by false philosophy, reject the rod altogether; but would introduce some wretched, incompetent substitute. Not that I would advocate a system of cruel discipline; but there is a mean in all things, and it is absurd, in avoiding one extreme, to rush headlong into the other.

There is a set of loungers—haters of learning—who sometimes go to school for mere mischief. These, at all times troublesome to the teacher, are particularly annoying towards Christmas, when the infection of mischief spreads from them to most of the school; learning is suspended, and disorder usurps its place. The practice of turning out teachers is but too notorious. The unwarranted lengths to which the practice is carried, is a strong reflection on the morality and civilization of the country. It exhibits a bad taste, and a deadly hate to learning. The scene of turning out is more than an embryo riot, and fosters a spirit of disobedience to salutary restraint and discipline. It is a conspiracy to mob the obnoxious individual, and that, too, for the purpose of compelling him, perhaps against principle, to do a deed for doing which voluntarily, any man ought to be severely punished; that is, to treat a collection of children with ardent spirits. Query: Is the person of a schoolmaster, as that of another citizen, sacred from violence? Is he under the protection of the laws? or does he, by engaging in that humble vocation, render himself an outlaw, liable to be mobbed, or even drowned, with impunity, by any impudent fellow who may have the outrageous bravery to want sport and a dram? Does the circumstance of their being pupils, protect them from punishment, in the perpetration of such enormities? If such be the condition of a teacher, what is it better than that of a slave? If he may be compelled to do a deed which his principle, perhaps his conscience, and most certainly his better judgment, condemns, where is the wonder, that few men of noble independence can be prevailed on to teach? If there is any law in force in North-Carolina to punish pupils for conspiring together, and mobbing their teacher, then the practice of turning out ought to be set forever at rest, by a judicial decision. If no such law exists, then one ought to be spoken into existence by an act of the legislature. Too often have I seen young men of genius, principle, and sensibility, forced by a lawless mob, to do a deed from which their noble natures shrunk; and to desert the useful occupation of teaching for which they were eminently qualified, rather than be again subjected to the like humiliation. There are many parents who encourage their children to turn out their teacher; and applaud them for doing it adroitly; and are violently incensed against a teacher for making successful resistance. Generally, through the country, under the most favorable circumstances, the condition of a teacher who feels the importance and responsibility of his calling, is one of great solitude. The children give him much uneasiness; and their parents yet more. Besides encountering all these difficulties, his nominal wages are less than can be earned by any mechanic, and are paid the most reluctantly of all debts;—whence it happens, that few men who can do any thing else, or are qualified to earn a livelihood in any other way, can be employed as teachers. Certain neighborhoods furnish exceptions, but the picture here drawn is a fair representation of the general condition of what are termed *old field schools*.

But in places most highly favored, there is a portion of the rising generation still destitute, that is, the children of indigent parents. Whether the poverty of the parents originates in misfortune, slothfulness, improvidence, or intemperance, the consequence to the children is, that they are brought up in ignorance. The unhappy orphan, and the still more wretched illegitimate, are found in this class. These poor children of every description, possess as much talent and genius as an equal number of any other class. Therefore, what the community suffers from a defect in their education is incalculable.

POLYDORE;

FOR THE GREENSBOROUGH PATRIOT.

MR. EDITOR:—Among so many readers as you have, there are doubtless some well skilled in parsing the English language. Let critics try their ingenuity on the following lines. I understand the construction has received the sanction of the *new school*.

TYRO.

I'll prove the word that I have made my theme,
Is that that that may be doubled without blame;
Or that that that that troubled you may use;
Or that that that that critics may abuse,
May be correct; but further the don to bother,
Five that may closely follow one another.
For he it know that we may safely write,
Or say, that that that that that man said was right;
Nay, even that that that that that that followed.

Tho' six repeat, the grammar rules have followed;
Or even that that that that that that began,
Repeated seven times, is right;—

SELECTIONS.

"I did 'tis the sad complaint, an I almost true,
What e'er we write, we bring forth nothing new."

The stranger. In a remote period of antiquity, when the supernatural and the marvellous obtained a readier credence than now, it was fabled that a stranger of extraordinary appearance was observed pacing the streets of one of the most magnificent cities of the east, remarking with an eye of intelligent curiosity every surrounding object. Several individuals gathering around him, questioned him concerning his country and his business; but they presently perceived that he was unacquainted with their language, and he soon discovered himself to be equally ignorant of the most common usages of society. At the same time, the dignity and intelligence of his air and demeanor forbade the idea of his being a barbarian or a lunatic. When at length he understood by their signs that they wished to be informed whence he came, he pointed with great significance to the sky; upon which the crowd concluded him to be one of their deities, were proceeding to pay him divine honors. But he no sooner comprehended their design, than he rejected it with horror; and bending his knees and raising his hands towards Heaven in the attitude of prayer, gave them to understand that he also was a worshipper of the powers above.

After a time, it is said that the mysterious stranger accepted the hospitalities of one of the nobles of the city; under whose roof he applied himself with great diligence to the acquirement of the language; in which he made such surprising proficiency, that in a few days he was able to hold intelligent intercourse with those around him. The noble host now resolved to take an early opportunity of satisfying his curiosity respecting the country and quality of his guest; and upon expressing this desire, the stranger assured him that he would answer his inquiries that evening after sunset. Accordingly, as night approached, he led him forth upon the balconies of the palace, which overlooked the wealthy and populous city. Innumerable lights from its busy streets and splendid palaces were now reflected in the dark bosom of its noble river; where stately vessels laden with rich merchandise from all parts of the known world, lay anchored in the port. This was a city in which the voice of the harp and of the viol, and the sound of the millstone, were continually heard; and craftsmen of all kinds of craft were there; and the light of a candle was seen in every dwelling; and the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride were heard there. The stranger mused awhile upon the glittering scene, and listened to the confused murmur of mingling sounds.—Then suddenly raised his eyes to the starry firmament, he fixed them with an expressive gaze, on the beautiful evening star which was just sinking behind a dark grove that surrounded one of the principal temples of the city.

"Marvel not," said he to his host, "that I am wont to gaze with fond affection on yonder silvery star. That was my home: yes, I was lately an inhabitant of that tranquil planet; from whence a vain curiosity has tempted me to wander. Often had I beheld with wondering admiration, this brilliant world of yours; ever one of the brightest gems of our firmament; and the ardent desire I had long felt to know something of its condition, was at length unexpectedly gratified. I received permission and power from above to traverse the mighty void, and to direct my course to this distant sphere. To that permission, however, one condition is annexed, to which my eagerness for the enterprise induced me hastily to consent; namely, that I must thenceforth remain an inhabitant of this strange earth, and undergo all the vicissitudes to which its natives are subject. Tell me, therefore, I pray you, what is the lot of man; and explain to me more fully than I yet understand, all that I hear and see around me."

"Truly, Sir," replied the astonished noble, "although I am altogether unacquainted with the manners and customs, products and privileges of your country, yet, methinks, I cannot but congratulate you on your arrival in our world; especially since it has been your good fortune to alight on a part of it affording such various sources of enjoyment as this our opulent and luxurious city. And be assured it will be my pride and pleasure to introduce you to all that is worthy the attention of such a distinguished foreigner."

Our adventurer, accordingly, was presently initiated in those arts of luxury and pleasure which were there well understood. He was introduced, by his obliging host, to their public games and festivals; to their theatrical diversions, and convivial assemblies; and in a short time he began to feel some relish for amusements, the meaning of which, at first he could hardly comprehend. The next lesson which he became desirous to impart to him, was the necessity of acquiring wealth, as the only means of obtaining pleasure. A fact, which was no sooner understood by the stranger, than he gratefully accepted the offer of his friendly host to place him in a situation in which he might amass riches. To this object he began to apply himself with diligence; and was becoming in some measure reconciled to the manners and customs of our planet, strangely as they differed from those of his own, when an incident occurred which gave an entire new direction to his energies.

It was but a few weeks after his arrival on our earth, when walking in the cool of the day with his

friend in the outskirts of the city, his attention was arrested by the appearance of a spacious enclosure, a car which they passed; he inquired the use to which it was appropriated.

"It is," replied the nobleman, "a place of public entertainment."

"I do not understand you," said the stranger.

"It is the place," replied his friend, "where we bury our dead."

"Excuse me, sir," replied his companion, with some embarrassment, "I must trouble you to explain yourself yet further."

The nobleman repeated the information in still plainer terms.

"I am at a loss to comprehend you perfectly," said the stranger, turning deadly pale. "This must relate to something of which I was not only totally ignorant in my own world, but of which I have, as yet, had no intimation in yours. I pray therefore, to satisfy my curiosity; for if I have any clue to your meaning, this, surely, is a matter of more noble concernment than any to which you have hitherto directed me."

"My friend," replied the nobleman, "you must indeed be a novice amongst us, if you have to learn a matter we must all, sooner or later, submit to take our share in these dismal abodes; nor will I deny that it is one of the least desirable circumstances which appertain to our condition; for which reason it is a matter rarely referred to in polished society, & this accounts for your being hitherto unacquainted with the subject. But, truly, sir, if the inhabitants of the place whence you came are not liable to any similar misfortune, I beseech you to betake yourself back again with all speed; for we are assured there is no escape here; nor could I guarantee your safety for a single hour."

"Alas," replied the adventurer, "I must submit to the condition of my enterprise; of which, till now, I little understood the import. But explain to me, I beseech you, something more of the nature and consequences of this wonderful metamorphosis; and tell me at what period it most commonly happens to men."

While he thus spake, his voice faltered, and his whole frame shook violently; his countenance was pale as death, and a cold dew stood in large drops upon his forehead.

By this time his companion, finding the discourse becoming more serious than was agreeable, declared that he must refer him to the priests for further information; this subject being very much out of his province.

"How!" exclaimed the stranger, "then I cannot have understood you;—do the priests only die?—are not you to die also?"

His friend evading these questions, hastily conducted his unfortunate companion to one of their magnificent temples, where he gladly consigned him to the instructions of the priesthood.

The emotion which the stranger had betrayed when he received the first idea of death, was yet slight in comparison with which he experienced as soon as he gathered from the discourses of the priests some notion of immortality; and of the alternative of happiness or misery in a future state. But this agony of mind exchanged for transport when he learned, that by the performance of certain conditions before death, the state of happiness might be secured; his eagerness to learn the nature of these terms, excited the surprise and even the contempt of his sacred teachers. They advised him to remain satisfied for the present with the instructions he had received, and to defer the remainder of the discussion till the morrow.

"How!" exclaimed the novice, "say you that that death may come at any hour?—and what if he should come before I have performed these conditions? Oh! withhold not this excellent knowledge from me a single moment!"

The priests suppressing a smile at his simplicity, then proceeded to explain their theology to their attentive auditor; but who shall describe the ecstasy of his happiness when he was given to understand, that the required conditions were, generally, of easy and pleasant performance; and that the assiduous difficulties or inconveniences which might attend them, would entirely cease with a short term of his earthly existence.

"If then, I understand you rightly," said he to his instructors, "this event which you call death, and seems in itself strangely terrible, is most desirable and blissful? What a favor is this which is granted to me, in being sent to inhabit a planet in which I can die!" The priests again exchanged smiles with their other; but their ridicule was wholly lost upon the enraptured stranger.

When the first transport of his emotion had subsided he began with some uneasiness to reflect on the time he has already lost since he arrived.

"Alas, what have I been doing!" exclaimed he, "This gold which I have been collecting, tell me, sacred priests, will it avail me any thing when the thirty or forty years are expired which, you say, I may possibly sojourn in your planets?"

"Nay," replied the priests, "but verily you will find it of excellent use so long as you remain in it."

"A very little of it shall suffice me," replied he, "for consider, how soon this period will pass; what awaits it what my consideration may be for so short a season? I will take myself from this hour, to the grand concerns of which you have charitably informed me."

Accordingly, from that period continues the legend, the stranger devoted himself to the performance of those conditions, on which, he was told, his fu