The Lenoir Topic.

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Wallace

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August 27th, 1884.

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ANSWERED.

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BROWN'S IRON BITTERS, however, does not cure in a minute. Like all other thorough medicines, it acts slowly. When taken by those in the first stages of health is renewed energy. The muscles then become firmer, the digestion improves, the bowels are active. In women the effect is usually more rapid and marked. The gray begin at once to brighten; the skin clears up; healthy color comes to the cheeks; nervousness disappears; functional derangements become regular, and if a nursing mother, abundant sustenance is supplied for the child. Remember Brown's Iron Bitters is the ONLY iron medicine that is not injurious. *Physicians and Druggists recommend it.*

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CLINTON A. CILLEY,

Attorney-At-Law,

Lenoir, N. C.

Practice in All The Courts.

THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD.

BY THEODORE O'HARA.

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo ;
No more on life's parade shall meet
The brave and daring few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards with solemn round
The bivouac of the dead.

No answer to the foe's advance
Now swells upon the wind,
No troubled thought at madnight haunts
Of loved ones left behind ;
No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms :
No baying horn nor screaming fife
At dawn shall call to arms.

Their shivered swords are red with rust ;
Their plumed heads are bowed ;
Their haughty banner, trailed in dust,
Is now their martial shroud ;
And plenteous funeral tears have washed
The red stains from each brow,
And their proud forms, in battle gashed,
Are free from anguish now.

The neighing steed, the flashing blade,
The trumpet's stirring blast,
The charge, the dreadful canonnade,
The din and shout, are past ;
Nor war's wild note, nor glory's peal,
Shall thrill with fierce delight
Those breasts that never more shall feel
The rapture of the fight.

Like the dread northern hurricane
That sweeps the broad plateau,
Flushed with the triumph yet to gain,
Came down the serried foe.
Our heroes felt the shock, and leapt
To meet them on the plain ;
And long the pitying sky hath wept
Above our gallant slain.

Sons of our consecrated ground,
Ye must not slumber there,
Where stranger steps and tongues resound
Along the heedless air.
Your own proud land's heroic soil
Shall be your fitter grave :
She claims from war his richest spoil,
The ashes of her brave.

So 'neath their parent turf they rest,
Far from the gory field ;
Borne to a Spartan mother's breast,
On many a bloody shield.
The sunshine of their native sky
Smiles sadly on them here,
And kindred hearts and eyes watch by
The heroes' sepulcher.

Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead!
Dear as the blood you gave ;
No impious footsteps here shall tread
The herbage of your grave.
Nor shall your glory be forgot
While fame her record keeps,
Or honor points the hallowed spot
Where valor proudly sleeps.

Yon marble minstrel's voiceless tone
In deathless songs shall tell,
When many a vanquished age hath flown,
The story how ye fell.
Nor wreck, nor change, nor winter's blight,
Nor time's remorsless doom,
Shall dim one ray of holy light
That gilds your glorious tomb.

The soldier-poet, Theo. O'Hara, was born in Danville, Ky., Feb. 11, 1820. A child of misfortune and disappointment, the pressure of a narrow fortune, combined with the aspirations of a noble ambition, conspired to make his life singularly erratic. After receiving a thorough classical education at Bardstown, he read law, but in 1845 accepted a position in the Treasury Department at Washington, from which he was appointed to a Captaincy in the U. S. regular army, and served through Mexican War with such distinction as to be brevetted Major. Resigning his commission, he practiced law in Washington until the breaking out of the Cuban fever, when he embarked in that ill-starred enterprise as colonel of one of the regiments, and was badly wounded in the battle of Cardenas. He now turned his attention to journalism, and as editor of the *Mobile Register*, the *Louisville Times*, and the *Frankfort Yeoman* displayed signal ability. He was often called on by the Government to conduct diplomatic negotiations of importance with foreign nations. and his services were specially valued in the Tehuantepec Grant business. Entering the Confederate service as Colonel of 12th Alabama regiment, he was subsequently on the staff of Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, and it was into his arms that his great chief fell when he received his death-wound at Shiloh. He was then made chief-of-staff of Gen. J. C. Breckinridge, his old fellow-student in law. The close of the war left him penniless, but he struggled bravely against poverty until his death in Alabama, June 6, 1867. In 1874 the legislature of Kentucky caused his remains to be brought to Frankfort and there reinterred with appropriate honors in the State cemetery. Like Gray, his fame rests chiefly upon one poem—The Bivouac of the Dead, which alone is sufficient to make his name immortal. "The hold of this elegy upon the popular heart grows stronger and more enduring. It is creeping into every scrap-book ; it is continually quoted upon public occasions. Every year or two it makes the round of the American press, and recently it has excited enthusiastic admiration in England. One stanza of it was inscribed upon a rude memorial nailed to a tree upon the battle field of Chancellorsville ; another was engraved upon a military monument at Boston, Mass., and still another adorns a memorial column that marks the place where occurred one of the most bloody contests of the Crimean War. It will gain the high place in literature that it merits, and there it will remain."—*G. W. Rhanck's "O'Hara and His Elegies." Baltimore: Turnbutl Brothers.*

DISPUTED WAR HISTORY.

Gov. Vance and President Davis---A Tribuis to North Carolina.

Baltimore Sun.

Hon. Z. B. Vance, United States Senator from North Carolina, was in this city for a short time recently, and while here met quite a number of his old friends and acquaintances. The commanding presence and robust stature of the distinguished Senator are well known to Baltimoreans, who have often heard his eloquent voice in their midst, and his genial and amiable disposition has won the affection of all those with whom he has become acquainted.

In the charges and counter-charges that have been made in the pending controversy between Gen. Sherman and Jefferson Davis the name of Senator Vance has frequently been mentioned. General Sherman, in a speech made not long since in St. Louis, Mo., said he had seen a letter written by Jefferson Davis to a Governor of a Southern State, (meaning Senator Vance, who was then Governor of North Carolina,) in which Mr. Davis threatened the coercion of any Southern State that should attempt to secede from the Confederacy. Mr. Davis has denied emphatically that he ever meditated such a measure, but Gen. Sherman, in a letter deposited in the archives of the War Department, has attempted to make good his charge by asserting that there was talk about the camp "of the desire of Gov. Vance and other State officials to take North Carolina out of the Confederacy, but they were afraid of Jeff. Davis and wanted protection."

How well and faithfully Senator Vance served the Confederacy every one knows who was in its service. His own people wonder that any one questions his loyalty to the Southern cause. When the question of dissolving the Union arose to distract the Southern people he identified himself with those that were against secession. During his services in the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth Congresses, immediately preceding the event, his eloquent voice was often heard in defense of the Union. At every step he met the rabid secessionists with the logic of his great mind, pleading for the preservation of the Union he loved. He urged upon the South measures of forbearance, and to the North appealed for compromise. He continued his labors in behalf of unity until the secession of North Carolina, on May 21, 1861, disclosed that he was in the minority, and then, like Stephens, B. H. Hill and many others, he yielded his individual convictions and gave unqualified allegiance to his State. He at once, in May, 1861, entered the Confederate army as captain, and in August of the same year was made colonel. In August, 1862, he was elected Governor of North Carolina, and re-elected in August, 1864. During all this eventful period he served his State and the Confederacy faithfully, honestly and devotedly, as he then understood it.

Upon being asked to explain his relations with the Confederate President at the time mentioned by Gen. Sherman, he replied in the most positive manner that no letter containing such a threat as asserted by General Sherman was ever received by him from Jefferson Davis, and as evidence of this fact he said : "All letters from him to me of any nature are to be found copied in the letter-books of the Executive Department of North Carolina, now in the War Department at Washington." He added : "It is well known that in regard to many of the details of administration I was at variance with the authorities of the Confederate government ; but it is equally well known, I hope, that after my own honor was engaged and the honor of my native State, there never was an hour during all that unhappy time in which I did not give every energy of my body, mind and soul to the success of the cause to which I had pledged my allegiance. Gen. Sherman in his letter to the War Department holds out the idea that I was disaffected while Governor toward the cause for which I was ostensibly fighting, and that I was anxious to separate myself and State from the Confederacy, but was restrained by fear. He commends me for this, but I want no man's respect or good will based on the supposed virtues of treason to my country and the desertion of my associates. The good will of a man who would respect these traits in another is not worth picking up from the dust of the common highways."

Senator Vance says he never disobeyed any legal order that the President of the Confederacy made. He differed very materially with Mr. Davis on several questions that came up during the war, particularly the enforcement of the conscription act and the suspension by the President of the writ of habeas corpus. He always discussed these differences with Mr. Davis very frankly and independently, and the President always conceded his points. He never threw any obstacles at any time in the way of the Confederate authorities, and the relations of Mr. Davis and himself were always of the most friendly character.

Upon calling his attention to the statement of General Sherman that "Gov. Vance had sent commissioners to meet him as he approached Raleigh," and that they had told him that Governor Vance "wanted to make separate terms for the State, but was afraid of Jeff. Davis, he replied : "I do not believe it to be true. They never told General Sherman or any other living man that I was afraid of opposing Mr. Davis. They knew I differed with him, and that I was faithful to the Confederacy." In this connection the following statement of Senator Vance, which has already appeared in print, will be of interest : On the 10th of April, 1865, Gen. Sherman advanced towards Raleigh, Gen. Jos. E. Johnston retreating before him. I had alread shipped away westward the principal military stores of the State, together with the principal archives of the Departments. About the 10th or 11th of April rumors reached me of the surrender of Gen. Lee and his army. Knowing that the operations of Gen. Johnston were mainly to secure the best terms possible for his command, I spoke to him about the propriety of sending commissioners through his lines to meet Gen. Sherman, with instructions to make the best terms I could for the protection of the State capital and people. He advised me to do this, and shortly after went West to meet President Davis at Greensboro', N. C., leaving General Hardie in command, with whom I likewise had a conference, and who gave me the permit to send the embassy. I appointed ex-Governor Wm. A. Graham and ex-Governor David L. Swain commissioners to visit General Sherman, and gave to them a letter to him, requesting that he would grant protection to the capital, and stating that these gentlemen were authorized to treat with him for that purpose. A copy of that letter as it appears, was not entered on my official letter-book. and I have not been able to obtain it ; but that was its purport, to save the capital from the fate of Columbia, which had just been burned. Dr. Edward Warren, Col. James G. Burr and Maj. John Devereaux accompanied the commissioners as an escort. Leaving Raleigh in a special train with a flag of truce, they passed through the rear-guard of the Confederate army, commanded by Gen Wade Hampton, but before they got within the Federal lines they were stopped by a dispatch from General Johnston, who was with President Davis at Charlotte, N. C., and ordered to return to Raleigh. They reversed the engine and started on the return, but the enemy's troops having swept by them, they were made prisoners by Kilpatrick's cavalry. After being plundered by Sherman's "bummers" they were marched to his headquarters. Dr. Warren, who was with the embassy, in a recent communication, says : "The commissioners, both of whom had been warm Union men, spoke to Gen. Sherman freely of Gov. Vance's position. While the Governor had originally been opposed to war, he was tenacious in his adherence to the Confederacy, and refused to act separately for the State, a fact which they deprecated. Both of them thought that a great deal might have been accomplished for North Carolina by this conference had not Governor Vance limited their powers to pleading for the safety of Raleigh, and been so determined to do nothing whatever that would seem like deserting the general cause. For he considered it his duty to stand by it to the last extremity. Gen. Sherman received the commissioners with great civility, and the promised protection was given in the following letter to Gov. Vance :

"*Headquarters Military Division of the Mississippi*, in the field, Gulley's Station, N. C., April 12, 1865. —Sir : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and inclose to you a safe-guard for yourself and any members of the State government that choose to remain in Raleigh. I would gladly have enabled you to meet me here, but some interruption occurred to the train by the orders of General Johnston after it had passed within the lines of my cavalry advance ; but as it came out of Raleigh in good faith, it shall return in good faith, and will in no manner be claimed by us. I doubt if hostilities can be suspended as between the army of the Confederate government and the one I command, but I will aid you all in my power to contribute to the end you aim to reach—the termination of the existing war.

"I am, truly, your obedient servant. "W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

"To his Excellency, Z. B. Vance, Governor of North Carolina."

At the same time Gen. Sheridan issued the following order to his command : "All officers and soldiers of this army are commanded to respect and protect the Governor of North Carolina, and the officers and servants of the State government, the mayor and civil authorities of Raleigh, provided no hostile act is committed against the officers and men of this army between this and the city."

Senator Vance says the commissioners were expected to return to Raleigh by 4 o'clock that afternoon, but for some reason unknown to him the engine was retained until next morning. In the meantime it was reported to him that the engine and commissioners had been captured. "The city having been evacuated by the Confederate forces, I retired with two volunteer aids, and stopped eight miles from the city in the camp of General Hoke, commanding a North Carolina division. The commissioners arrived next morning in Raleigh, took possession of the State House in my absence, and made all arrangements for the protection of the city in accordance with the promise of Sherman. Soon after ex-Governor Graham attempted to deliver to me at Hillsboro' the letters and orders of Gen. Sherman, but owing to the difficulty of getting horses and the constant skirmishing going on between the two armies he did not overtake me until Friday following, at his own house, in Hillsboro'. Mr. Graham gave me official intelligence of Lee's surrender, and put in my hands an invitation from Sherman to return to Raleigh, which I declined to accept. About the same time I received an urgent dispatch from President Davis to meet him in Greensboro', and on the following morning set out on horseback. Arriving at Goldsboro' I found that he and his cabinet had gone to Charlotte, and I moved on to join him. I had an interview with him in the presence of General Breckinridge, Hon. John A. Reagan and other members of his cabinet. The conversation was long and solemn. Mr. Davis appeared still full of hope, and discussed the situation exhaustively. Finally, at the suggestion of Gen. Breckinridge, he advised me to return to my position and its responsibilities, do the best I could for my people and share their fate, whatever it might be. After a very little more conversation I arose and offered my hand to President Davis to bid him good-bye. He shook it long and warmly, saying : "God bless you, sir, and the noble old State of North Carolina." I returned to Greensboro', and after the second and final convention was agreed to between Gens. Sherman and Johnston for the surrender of the latter's army I went to General Schofield and offered my surrender, but he declined to accept it, and told me I was at liberty to go home." The assassination of President Lincoln changed the condition of affairs, and Governor Vance was not permitted to resume his position at the head of the State. He was soon after arrested at Statesville by Gen. Schofield and conveyed under guard to old "Carroll Prison" at Washington, and the strife and bitterness of reconstruction followed in the State. His companions in prison were Governor Brown, of Georgia, Governor Letcher, of Virginia, Gen. Edward Johnson, and Mr. Lamar, banker, from Savannah, Ga. After being in prison several months he was released on July 6, 1866.

Senator Vance says North Carolina did all she could to avert the failure of the Southern Confederacy. She gave her sons and resources unstintedly. She trenched upon the cradle and the grave for fighting material ; she furnished some of the most brilliant military capacity of the war, as well as her share of the most conspicuous heroism. As an evidence of his loyalty during the war to his State and the government which it had assisted to establish, he says : "By the general industry and thrift of our people, and by the use of a number of blockade-running steamers—the A. D. Vance, the Banshee, the Elspetch and others—carrying out cotton and bringing in supplies from Europe, I had collected and distributed from time to time, as near as can be gathered from the quartermaster's department, the following stores : Large quantities of machinery supplies, 60,000 pairs of hand-cards, 10,000 grain scythes, 200 baarrels bluestone for the wheat growers, leather and shoes for 250,000 pairs, 50,000 blankets, gray woolen cloth for at least 250,000 suits of uniforms, 12,000 overcoats, (ready made), 2,000 best Enfield rifles, (with 100 rounds of fixed ammunition,) 100,000 pounds of bacon, 500 sacks of coffee for hospital use, $50,000 worth of medicines at gold prices, besides many other supplies. Not only was the supply of shoes, blankets and clothing more than sufficient for the supply of the North Carolina troops but large quantities were turned over to the Confederate government for the troops of other States. In the winter succeeding the battle of Chickamauga I sent to Gen. Longstreet's corps 14,000 suits of clothing complete. North Carolina also furnished the First Maryland Infantry Regiment with arms, and gave the carpets in the Governor's mansion and State House to make blankets for the First Maryland Artillery. At the surrender of General Johnston, the State had on hand, ready made in cloth, 92,000 suits of uniform, with great stores of blankets, leather, &c. I was told by General Joseph E. Johnston that when his army was surrendered, he had in the depots of North Carolina, gathered in the State, five months' supplies for sixty thousand men, and that for many months previous Gen. Lee's army had been almost entirely fed from North Carolina. In relation to the number of troops furnished to the Confederate government, I make the boast that North Carolina furnished absolutely more than any other State. The official records show that she furnished the armies of the Confederacy a grand total of all grades of 121,038 men. These were organized into 71 regiments, 20 battalions and 20 unattached companies. All these were raised out of a white population, in 1860 of 629,942, or one soldier to every six souls ! At Appomattox and at Greensboro', North Carolina surrendered twice as many muskets as any other State. Her dead on the battlefields of Virginia, in the majority of cases, were twice as great as those from any other State, and in more than one of Lee's great battles they exceeded the dead from all the other States put together. She was less exhausted when the end came than any other State, and could have continued the struggle two years longer if she had been supported. The last to begin the fight, she was the last to leave it !"

SPLIT OPEN BY EARTHQUAKE.

The Ground in Beaufort County, N. C., Trembles and a Chasm Forms.

New York World.

RALEIGH, N. C., Oct. 3.—There is great excitement in Longacre township, Beaufort county, in regard to an alarming natural phenomenon which is rapidly developing itself. On the night of Sept. 18 shocks of great violence were felt in that vicinity. The scene of the disturbances is in the vicinity of Shiloh Church. A reliable colored man who lives near by and who has awake on the night above mentioned says he felt the trembling of the earth very perceptibly, and on the following morning it was discovered that a mysterious chasm had made its appearance directly across the road near the church, measuring a foot in width and 100 yards in length. The surroundings seemed to be in an unsettled condition. In a short time it was observed that the chasm was gradually widening and extending its course, showing that some unusual convulsion of nature was in progress. As there was no further violent agitation at that time, the affair remained little known.

The so-called rent or chasm is now again assuming very serious proportions, and is continually widening and lengthening, and actually threatening the surrounding section. It has deviated from its former course, which was an easternly to northernly direction, crossing a smll embankment and running in a zigzag direction about fifty yards from the church. Several attempts have been made to obtain an idea of its depth, but they have been unsuccessful, owing to the shape in which it runs. There are various conjectures as to the origin of such an unusual state of things. Some attribute it to an upheaval of the earth caused by earthquake shocks.

Cedar Valley Letter.

CEDAR VALLEY, Oct. 6.

To the Editor of The Lenoir Topic:

As it is your desire to make THE TOPIC interesting to all we drop an item from our pen as it may interest some of your many readers.

Some wheat is sown ; fodder all gathered ; sorghum is being boiled; watermelons nearly all gone, some fine ones at Mr. McLeod's yet and it is so nice to think that the boys are not one bit stingy. Heavy frost yesterday morning, some tobacco injured, but not serious.

M. Deal has been confined to his bed for two weeks with a severe attack of rheumatoid arthritis which we fear will leave him an ankylosed joint.

Miss Anna Healan has been visiting friends here.

On last Sunday morning about 8 o'clock the family of one of our neighbors were somewhat frightened at the noise (apparently of an earthquake) but on reparing to the house of another neighbor from whence this rumbling seemed to come found that it was only the report in a contest between a man and a bucket of water, down a flight of stairs—think the man beat the water and bucket, as he arrived head foremost—apparently on fast mail train. G. E. F.

"Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud ?" There is no definite reason in the world for it unless it be that he has humbugged his wife into thinking there isn't another man in the world like him.

F. WIESENFELD,

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