

# North Carolina Argus.

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## TREASURES OF THOUGHT.

We would like to grasp the hand that wrote this little poem. A pleasant thing it is to meet a man whose mind is not made drunken by the spirit of this selfish age. His verses are worth more than a nugget. Reader, treasure them: it is no shame to allow a flower of sentiment to fill a corner in the business heart. Business becomes a murderous tyrant when it crushes out human nature's finer instincts and susceptibilities.

If thou hast thrown a glorious thought  
Upon life's common ways,  
Should other men the gain have caught,  
Fret not to lose the praise.

Great thinker, often thou shalt find,  
While folly planders fame,  
To thy rich store the crowd is blind,  
Nor knows thy very name.

What matters that, if thou uncoil  
The soul that God has given,  
Not in the world's mean eye to toil,  
But in the sight of Heaven?

If thou art true, yet in thee lurks  
For fame a human sigh;  
To nature go, and see how works  
That handmaid of the sky.

Her own deep bounty she forgets  
Is full of germs and seeds,  
Nor glorifies herself nor sets  
Her flowers above her weeds.

She hides the modest leaves between,  
She loves untrodden roads;  
Her richest treasures are not seen  
By any eye but God's.

Accept the lesson. Look not for  
Reward: from out thee chase  
All selfish ends, and ask no more  
Than to fulfil thy place.

[From the Spirit of the Age.]

## SOME STARTLING TRUTHS.

We earnestly commend the following communication to the perusal of every man in the State, who has wheat, corn, bacon or any of the necessaries of life to sell, whether he has raised the same, or purchased it to sell again. We cannot set forth in stronger colors than our Correspondent has done, the condition of affairs in our country. He certainly has depicted them in the most glaring light; and they are based on his own observation and experience; and we know the writer to be a man whose statements may be fully relied on.

The statements he makes should strike terror and alarm into the hearts of all who are withholding the necessaries of life from the people, or are exacting such enormous prices for them that the poor are almost sure to starve, for they cannot raise the money to pay such exorbitant demands. The corn, and wheat, and bacon, and other necessaries are in the country in abundance. The people know this, and yet they suffer for the want of them! It is the strongest evidence of the law abiding character of our people. But they will not allow their wives and children to starve, when they know their rich neighbors' barns and meat houses have plenty and to spare, and yet they refuse to let the people have of their abundance. There is a point where forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and then woe to extortioners and those who hoard up the necessaries of life.

We have no doubt but our Correspondent states truly the cause of many desertions from our armies. Many who do so, are true to their country and brave as lions. They are willing to remain in the army and fight for liberty and independence; but when their wives, mothers and daughters write to them of their suffering condition; and appeal to them to come home and keep them from starving to death, it is almost more than human nature can bear; and if they desert under such circumstances, the blame rests more on those who let soldiers' families suffer around them, than on him who yields to the strongest and most touching appeal that can reach a human heart.

What can men mean or hope for, who are thus entailing want and starvation on their own neighbors and fellow citizens? Laying aside the grievous sin before God of which they are guilty, (for such beings "neither fear God nor regard man,") what good will their treasures of money or produce do them, if they pursue this course much longer? The enemy or some other judgment will overtake them, and it will enable and perish in their sight. The eye of God already abideth on them; and

He has said—"he that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him;"—and who can withstand the avenging hand of God and man.

If our armies are thinned by deserters coming home to look after their families, they will have bread and meat for them, money or no money. And if the people become exasperated against those who are the cause of the suffering around them, who can tell what the consequences will be!

What our Correspondent says of the condition in the west, is our condition here and everywhere. It is alarming, truly. With an abundance in the land, want, suffering and starvation stare us in the face everywhere. Is there no remedy? Can nothing—will nothing be done? If not, we are a ruined, conquered, subjugated people.

As our Correspondent intimates, we must regard each other as brothers, united in one common cause, and bound to one destiny, for weal or woe—and all contribute to the aid and support of one another—then all will be well. But if not, then all is lost—liberty, property and everything.

## OUR CONDITION.

MR. EDITOR:—The affairs of our State at present are in a deplorable condition; and instead of any prospect of things getting better, they seem to be growing worse daily. If we are overrun by the yankees, and are made to become mere vassals and tributaries to the unprincipled vandals of the North, the people of North Carolina, and especially the grain producers and capitalists of the State, will have to bear most of the blame. I know that some of the secular papers of the State have contributed a great deal towards the present condition of things; but their part is comparatively small with that of the corn, wheat, bacon and money speculators. These are the leeches which are draining out the life blood of our Confederacy, depreciating our currency, disbanding our army, filling our mountains with deserters from the soldiery, and converting hundreds of our less informed back-woods men into Tories and bushwhackers. They are doing this by withholding the prime necessities of life from the soldier's families, or exacting such enormous prices, that the poor women and children of our brave soldiers are not able to procure these commodities; thus causing the wives and mothers of soldiers to write to their friends in the army and beg them to come home and keep them from suffering. These things I know to be so. Standing the other day in a depot in Western North Carolina, as the train was about leaving with some deserters for the army, I heard an old mother say to her son whom they were carrying back to the army, "You must go my son, but come back as soon as you get there, and bring your gun with you. Tell all the boys to bring their guns and come home, for we will all perish here if they don't come home and kill the speculators;" and then turning to me with tearful face she said, "Mr. A. ought they not all to come home! for we poor women folks here cannot get one bushel of wheat or corn for our money, and we must perish." Said I, "Madam, your son is needed in the army; and unless our country is a unit on this subject, we will be a ruined people." Said another lady, "We know that; but what are we to do? Not one pound of salt can we get for love nor money; not a pound of meat or a bushel of corn will the people sell to us for our money; and in the name of God must we perish that the South may be established?"

I left these women with 30 or 40 standing on the platform, some praying for peace, and some cursing the war.

Now sir, the above is the state of things in the mountainous portions of our State; and unless the people who have the grain will suffer their patriotism to predominate, the coming result is palpable. The soldiers will desert and come home to the rescue of their families, when they learn such things from their mothers, wives and sisters at home.

The great majority of the army are poor men, who have nothing at home but their families, to fight for. They are wise enough to know that they are exposing themselves for the property and slaves of the capitalists

and rich planters. Now, when they learn that the former of these have made the money of their wives and their children, valueless, and that the latter will not sell their families bread, what may we expect? I heard a man say the other day that he had hundreds of bushels of wheat, but he would not sell a bushel now. "Why not, Mr. —," said I? "Because I can't get but \$7 per bushel now; but before spring, wheat will bring \$15 per bushel." I am a religious man, but I confess to my sin in saying that, at that moment I felt like shooting the wretch, though I said not a word.

Will the good and just God ever let us prosper while we treat our fellow creatures in this manner? Will he allow a government to be successful in forming itself, and in being recognized by the nations of the world, as free and enlightened, whose very elements are sinners of the darkest grade? Never, never. Is there any consistency in laboring, bleeding and suffering to gain the national freedom of a people who are daily riveting the chains of severity upon their fellows, and brethren in the manner above mentioned! Nay, indeed.

We believe in the justness of the Southern cause, and that we shall ultimately prevail over our enemies; or that they will become willing to let us leave them and become an independent government. But unless our people repent of their multitudinous sins, and especially of the sins of selfishness and extortion; of lust and neglect of religion and the requirements of the gospel, the present generation will sleep in the dust ere this happy result will be accomplished.

It is time for all to awake to our interest in this matter. Editors may write, ministers may preach, politicians may talk, generals may command, armies may fight, good men may pray, infidels may sneer, but till we become a better people than we now are, the great God will not give us an honorable, lasting peace. A nation cannot succeed in the accomplishment of its purposes, when many of its most prominent members are using the morals, blood and happiness of the other portion of its members, in making immense fortunes for themselves, and their children.

These are plain words, Mr. Editor, and they are true. Something must be done for our noble State, and that speedily, or she will ruin herself and endanger the Confederacy. Do they not see it? Will not the farmers and planters hear before it becomes too late? In the name of all that is dear, what do the people mean? It will be too late when the Yankee hordes have overrun our whole State and we are chained upon our backs like poor Maryland.

Every man among us ought to value Confederate money as gold; and every one who holds the prime commodities of life, should regard every other man in the South, his brother and act accordingly. Then sweet peace would soon revisit our bleeding land, and God would bless us abundantly.

PHILO.

## Happy Home, N. C.

HONEY.—A correspondent says that the Medical Director of Ewell's corps, a successful surgeon and practitioner, has discovered by frequent trial, that honey, applied by a light brush or other convenient means of the kind, is a most effectual remedy to prevent fly blows in wounds. It is at the same time very soothing and grateful to the wounded part; and as this question has often been discussed during the war, hospital nurses and those entrusted with the care of the wounded soldier, should preserve the recollection of this simple and convenient remedy.

The flag of truce boat arrived at City Point on the 15th, bringing three hundred and fifty paroled convalescent prisoners.

The Baltimore Republican has been suppressed by order of Gen. Skeneck, and the editors and proprietors sent across the lines, with peremptory orders that if they returned during the war they would be treated as spies.

Recruiting having failed to fill up the quota of Ohio, an order has been received from Washington to enforce the draft.

THE FIRE.—In consequence of the late hour at which we closed yesterday morning to put to press we were not able to give as minute a statement of the conflagration and its consequences as we desired to place before our readers.

It appears that the origin of the fire, after weighing very carefully all the circumstances was purely accidental.

During the prevalence of the fire, and commencing very early after the alarm was given; the gentlemen engaged in the Navy Department, in its various branches of mechanism, labored faithfully, efficiently and successfully, in subduing the devouring element and preserving property. They are entitled to the thanks of this community.

The Georgia troops that had arrived in Charlotte at 10 o'clock, P. M., as a body also rendered valuable service.

Our colored population who manned the fire engines worked faithfully, and nobly contended to emulate the superior class in their determination to arrest the destruction of property. That is more than the "mud sills of Northern societies" ever engaged in with a heart.

The effort of these three communities—the fire department, the Georgia troops, and the few citizens who did assist; were crowned with great success.

Much private property was destroyed and pilfered, but for a proper system, which we, as a people, have not properly matured.

Messrs. Young, Wriston & Orr have lost some valuable goods, valued at about three thousand dollars; Mr. Moore who occupied the Mansion House, and his boarders, have also lost much; the consequence of a lack of police system, for which our city fathers are responsible. A reorganization is absolutely necessary, for we have no proper head in the mayoralty (the Mayor pro tem. being absent) and being deficient of a Marshal.

As regards the destruction of property by the fire, we are pleased to state that it was not so great as we had apprehended, only the kitchen, dining room and bed apartments over both were destroyed. But Mr. Moore's loss will not fall short of twenty-five thousand dollars, upon which there is no insurance; but Moore has much, if not more left, and will do his best to accommodate his friends and patrons.

The proprietor of the Mansion House, Mr. Wm. Treloar, has sustained a large loss in the destruction of the property named, upon which he has an insurance of only about nine thousand dollars. He cannot replace the buildings and make good his contract with Mr. Moore for a less sum than thirty-three thousand dollars.

Scenes were enacted at the close of the fire which should not have occurred. Some of the sufferers were most badly treated and some of our best citizens were assaulted by drunken men, who, because they were not supplied with liquor, attempted to murder as a revenge. The actors in this scene were not North Carolinians nor were they South Carolinians.

We drop the curtain, but urge upon our fellow citizens confidence and protection. [Charlotte Bulletin.]

INFANTICIDE.—We learn that yesterday morning the body of a new born white female infant was found in the Cape Fear River just above the wharf of the Wilmington & Weldon R. R. Co. It was wrapped in a new piece of flannel, neatly trimmed, with a piece of flannel round its neck, also a rope to which was attached a piece of iron, which proved not sufficient to keep the body down when it swelled and thus became buoyant. We have not heard of any particulars that have been discovered leading to its identification, but the circumstances, especially the rope or cord and the iron weight attached as a sinker, leave no doubt of foul play. The infant could not have been over forty-eight hours old. An inquest was held by Coroner Perkin, but no fact elicited beyond those connected with the finding of the body. Indeed no witness appeared or could be found, save those by whom the body was discovered.

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