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New Series--Vol. 4 No 26--

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C., MAY 10, 1876.

Old Series, Vol. 56.

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Nov. 14, 1876.

## SPEECH OF HON. J. J. DAVIS.

In the Debate in the House of Representatives on April 29th, on the general appropriation bill, Mr. Davis, the member for this district took part upon the question of adding an appropriation of \$4000 for the establishment of an assay office at Charlotte. We quote so much of the debate in which Mr. Davis engaged.

Mr. Davis. I move to amend by adding, after line 945, on page 39, the following: Assay office at Charlotte North Carolina; For assayer, \$1,800; for melior, \$1,200; for labor, fuel, lights, acids, chemicals, repairs, and other necessities, \$1,000; in all \$4,000.

M. Davis. Mr. Chairman, my friend and colleague [Mr. Ashe] who represents the Charlotte district, in which this assay office is established, is necessarily absent, but he has furnished me with some facts to which I desire to call the attention of the House and which I hope will secure the adoption of this amendment. This assay office is the successor to the old mint established at Charlotte in 1835. The mint went into operation in 1838. It was destroyed with all its machinery in 1844; was soon rebuilt, and continued in successful operation till 1861. With very great advantage to the country round about it. It was extensively patronized and of great benefit to the public until the war put an end to its operation. During this period, sir, there were coined at this mint between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 in gold, the production of North Carolina. There was also during the same period coined at the Mint in Philadelphia about the same amount of gold from the same region.

The gold-bearing region of North Carolina is not appreciated by this country. There are very few persons who understand its extent or its value. There is on the southern border of the State an area of about five hundred square miles which abounds in gold. Charlotte is the center of this section. There are also in my own district rich gold mines. There are the Ports mines, the Ransom's Bridge mines, and the Arrington mines in the counties of Franklin and Nash, which have yielded over a million dollars of gold, and have not been half worked or half developed.

There have been recently discovered in the county of Chatham a county rich in mineral wealth, in iron, in copper, and in coal gold mines that promise to rival any in the State. They are now being worked.

It is a fact perhaps not generally known that between the year 1864 and the year 1867 all the gold derived from mining throughout the whole United States was furnished by the State of North Carolina; and during the period from 1864 to 1868 she furnished at least one-half of the gold supplied from the mines on the Atlantic slope. The Atlantic States, so contradistinguished from the Pacific States, devalued at the mints from 1869, in exact figures, \$19,457,275.55. Of this amount the State of North Carolina deposited \$9,278,627.57; passed into manufactures and commerce about the same amount; making the yield of the Atlantic States up to the year I have named about \$40,000,000, of which North Carolina furnished about one-half, or say \$20,000,000.

Now for various reasons which I have not time in a five-minute speech to enumerate, the mines of North Carolina have not been half developed. They have not been thoroughly worked. But is not this an interest of sufficient importance to attract the attention of Congress? Even with this exhibit, is there not enough in it to demand the fostering care of the United States Government, especially at a time when we desire to resume specie payments with an amount of gold in the Treasury entirely inadequate for that purpose?

A gentleman near me asks if this is the Centennial town of Charlotte. Yes, sir, it is the old town of Charlotte, in North Carolina, where the standard of independence was first raised on this continent, and the first declaration of independence made, as we in North Carolina assert and are prepared to maintain, even against my friend the chairman of the committee, who comes from within a stone's throw of the noble old Independence Hall of Philadelphia. Charlotte is the county-seat of Mecklenburgh.

[Here the hammer fell.]

Mr. Holman rose.

Mr. Davis. I ask if the gentleman from Indiana will allow me a little more time?

Mr. Holman. I yield two minutes of my time to the gentleman.

Mr. Davis. I am informed that the mere fact of the establishment of this mint at Charlotte stimulated the mining interests of North Carolina, increased greatly the production of the mines there, and gave an impulse to them which was felt and continued to be felt down to the late unfortunate war. When the war broke out there were tributary to the mint at Charlotte at least one hundred mines. Many of these were remunerating their owners with handsome returns. The mine at Gold Hill yielded \$2,500,000; and many

others ran gold from ten thousand dollars to three-quarters of a million. The production of these mines was greatly increased and the value produced from them more than quadrupled by the introduction of improved machinery.

Since the war, for the want of capital and labor, (everybody knows how depressed our section of the country has been,) these mines have not been returned to their former degree of productiveness. And, besides the want of labor generally, there have been in the last two years two railroads completed, one from Wilmington to Charlotte, and one from Charlotte to A. Hanta in the State of Georgia, which draw off a large amount of labor that would otherwise have found employment in those mining sections. These railroads are now completed and this labor will soon return to its old channel, and then capital will seek investment in mining lands.

The continuance of this assay office at Charlotte will be of immense value. It will give confidence. It will direct and fix the attention of capitalists and encourage investments. It will stimulate the production of gold; and not only that, but it will furnish the means the greatest advantage of having at their own doors, of having at hand ready and convenient means of ascertaining the value of their bullion; and it will not be open to the objection of my friend from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Kelley] who does not believe in mints, because the mint is sent abroad and becomes an article of commerce. All we want is that there shall be, convenient of access to this people, an assay office by which they can ascertain the value of their bullion, and put it in the market, and let it go as an article of commerce.

We wish to have this assay office if we cannot now get the old mint, which will be re-established some of these days when the bright and golden future of North Carolina shall render it of sufficient importance to demand it. At every session of Congress since the war except the last an appropriation was made for this office. At the first session of the next Congress there was an appropriation made of \$4,500. The necessary buildings are all there, and we only ask for this small sum of \$4,000. And I desire to say just here, because I believe it to be true, that there is not perhaps a State in all this Union which has been, relatively speaking, the recipient of so few favors and so few appropriations from the Government as the old State of North Carolina. The Director of the Mint, Dr. Linderman, recommends this appropriation of \$4,000. I have his letter, which I desire to be read at the Clerk's desk. And now let me ask for North Carolina, a State which has asked very few favors at the hands of the Government, that this appropriation be made. I trust the Committee of the whole will adopt the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Office of the Director of the Mint, Feb. 22, 1876.

DEAR SIR: Acknowledging your letter of the 21st instant, in reference to the necessity of continuing the assay office at Charlotte, I have the honor to state that while the condition of the gold mining interest of that locality is not such as would justify the establishment of an assay office if it were an original question, I am of the opinion that it would be proper to continue assaying there on a limited scale, and for which an appropriation of \$4,000 would be sufficient.

Very Respectfully,

H. R. LINDELMAN, Director.

Hon. Thomas S. Ashe.

Mr. Randall. Is there no other assay office recommended there? Let us get them all in stone.

Mr. Holman. This plastic gentleman who presides over the mint department is a source of great embarrassment to the Committee on Appropriations. We had taken it for granted that the assay office at Charlotte was finally disposed of. I wish to call the attention of the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. Davis] to a few facts.

The assay office at Charlotte, North Carolina, was kept up until last year, and the report we had from Charlotte under the full appropriations was a deposit of bullion to the amount, all told, of \$6,662.12. That was the entire deposit at that mint during the last fiscal year. No appropriation was made for the fiscal year, for Congress saw that he could not afford to keep up an assay office where the amount of bullion deposited was so small.

Now, what were the expenses of that establishment for that same year? The expenses of salaries were \$4,340.54, or, in other words, the expenses of the office were within \$2,000 of the whole amount of bullion taken there to be assayed.

Mr. Davis. I desire to say, in answer to what the gentleman from Indiana has said, one thing; and it is this, that we are just beginning to work there. I have already called his attention to the fact that the workers formerly at work there had gone to build these two railroads; but they will return to their work in the mine this

year if you will give us this appropriation; and if we do not furnish triple and quadruple next year what we did last year, then in behalf of North Carolina I will say that you may strike out the appropriation.

Mr. Holman. The argument from year to year in favor of keeping up this assay office has been the same, except as to railroads. We have appropriated at least \$40,000 for this mint within the last eight years; and there never has been much more bullion deposited there in any one year than the amount I have stated. We planned it last year, because any assay office certainly ought not to be kept up for the purpose of assaying \$6,000 in bullion. Now my friend asks for \$5,000.

Mr. Davis. No, \$4,000.

Mr. Holman. Well, that is, within \$2,000 of all the bullion in gold and silver that would go there, according to the report made by the Director of the Mint. I am willing that you shall have all the gold and silver bullion that you can get out of the mines there, but to ask Congress to appropriate four or five thousand dollars to keep up the mint at a point where so little bullion is deposited is asking too much. It seems to me that my friend must observe that there is really no excuse for keeping this mint or assay office.

Mr. Randall. If I recollect rightly, last year we proposed to give this assay office to the State for educational purposes; that is my recollection of it really no necessity for an assay office there. I would now like to have a vote.

The question was taken on the amendment of Mr. Davis; and on a division, there were--ayes 69, nays 69; no quorum voting.

## THE MAN WHO DRINKS.

The man who drinks is no ver, in the end, the man who laughs. He is generally the one who weeps, or for whom others must shed bitter tears. He is, also, a member of no particular class of society. You meet him everywhere, from the lowest to the highest place in this world, and always find not only himself worst enemy, but the unconscious enemy of all who trust him.

If among a band of hard working mechanics you find one who, on wages others deem sufficient for decent clothes, tidy rooms and comfortable dinner, is always out at the elbows, always at loggerheads with his landlord, and always complaining of hard times, ten to one, he is the man who drinks.

If, on the Judge's bench, you meet a man who deals unjustly, who judges unrighteously, who is factious in the presence of misery, and makes crime a jest, and the sentence of some poor wretch an excuse for stupid puns and vulgar wit, there, also, you may know the man who drinks--in his own snug little room, perhaps not openly; but all the same.

If you see a woman worn, pale and wretched from some unknown cause, fear in her eyes and anxiety in her voice, youth gone too early, and daily duties were sad burdens, ten to one her husband is the man who drinks; for who ever knew that man to keep his vow and love and cherish and protect his wife?

The beggar children in the gutters, ignorant and vile and wretched beyond description, are his offspring. The jail opens to let him in. The gallows sometimes ends his life.

## A BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.

A naval officer being at sea in a dreadful storm, his wife sitting in the cabin near him, filled with alarm for the safety of the vessel, was so surprised at his serenity and composure that she cried out:

"My dear, are you not afraid? How is it possible you can be so calm in such a dreadful storm?"

He rose from his chair, dashed it to the deck, drew his sword, and pointing it at the breast of his wife, exclaimed:

"Are you not afraid?"

She immediately answered, "No."

"Why?" said the officer.

"Because," replied the wife, "I know that sword is in the hands of my husband, and he loves me too well to hurt me."

"Then," said he, "I know in whom I believe, and that he who holds the sword in his hand is my Father."

Atkinson County and some is being introduced into Charlotte as building material.

This is leap year. But show us the man who has had a single proposal.

The man who does not get himself up too high will not get hurt when he falls.

A hint is as good as a kick, but there are men who will never take one till they get the other.

The more our girls are pinned back the more forward they seem.

A young girl, who had an offer of marriage which she wished to accept, submitted the matter to her father, who advised her against matrimony, using as an argument the quotation from St. Paul, 'They who marry do well, but they who do not do better.' 'Well,' said the damsel, 'I love to do well, let those do better who can.'

The Alta Californian says that it is as useless to try to keep the American adventurers out of the Black Hills as to keep a woman out of a dry goods store.

## DON'T LEAVE THE FARM.

Come, boys, I have something to tell you; Come near, I would whisper it low-- You are thinking of leaving the homestead Don't be in a hurry to go-- This city has many attractions-- But think of the vices and sins-- When once in the vortex of fashion, How soon the course downward begins.

You talk of the mines of Australia, They're wealthy in gold, without doubt; But ah! there is gold in the farm, boys, If you will but shovel it out.

The mercantile life is a hazzard, The goods are first high and then low, Better stick the old farm a while longer, Don't be in a hurry to go.

The great stirring world has inducements, There is many a gay, busy mart, But wealth is not made in a day, boys, Don't be in a hurry to start!

The bankers and brokers are wealthy, They take in their thousand or so; Ah, think of their frauds and deceptions-- Don't be in a hurry to go.

The farm is the safest and surest, The orchards are budding to-day; You're free as the air of the mountain, And monarch of all you survey; Better stay on the farm a while longer, Though profits should come rather slow; Remember you've nothing to risk, boys-- Don't be in a hurry to go!

## GOOD TEMPLERS' MEETING.

Mr. Editor:--Your correspondent left Hillsborough Saturday afternoon for a flying visit to the Company Shops, at which place he reached at 3 o'clock, and found everything progressing finely. Wheat and oats looking as well as could be wished for. As for apples and peaches, from what we could learn there will be enough of the latter for eating use, if Jack frost will only keep away. The Providence Sunday school give a Pic-Nic at their Church on Saturday, and from what we were told it was a grand success, and all present seemed highly delighted. Everything delicious to the taste and sparkling to the eye, was bountifully spread. We had the pleasure of attending the Good Templars' meeting at the Shops on Saturday night. This Lodge is in a flourishing condition, and is rapidly increasing, and bids fair to become the banner Lodge of the State. Hoping it may still continue to prosper I remain with the best wishes for its success.

## A SAFE INVESTMENT.

A colored resident of Detroit who occasionally lends a few dollars on good security was the other day invited to lend a neighboring cobbler \$30 on a note of hand running thirty days.

"Suppose dat note comes due and you haven't de cash?" inquired the capitalist.

"But I will have."

"But suppose you haven't?"

The cobbler couldn't get over that, and he was looking very serious when the capitalist got a bright idea and said:

"We kin fix dat. You make de note, you see. You may be good, or you may not be. I'm good, and re boof knows it, 'cause here's de cash right here. You make de note and I'll back it, I know myself, you see, and de capitalist who won't lend money on his own 'Account bain't no business head on him!"

And they fixed it that way.

## THE SOUL.

"Sam, did you eber hear dat preacher discourse about de soul?"

"No. What did he say?"

"Said de soul is a prisoner dat always kills its jailer when it makes its escape."

"Werry beautiful! But who did he say was de jailer?"

"He didn't say, but I's poss it is de thread dat de shoe is sewed wid."

When is a fowl's neck like a bell? When it is wrung for dinner.

The proverb says, "Laugh and grow fat." What a saving of corn it would be if pigs could laugh!

"I take my 'tex dis mornin,'" said a colored preacher, "from dat portion of de scriptures whar de Postal Paul pinta his pistol to de Fessions."

"Do they ring two bells for school?" asked a gentleman of his ten year old daughter who attends "a select institution for young ladies." "No, papa," she replied, "they ring one bell twice."

It is said that circumstances make men, but it is nearer the truth to say that a man makes circumstances.

If done at all, let the request of another be granted with your whole heart--it doubles its value to the receiver.

What little trifles sometimes ruffle the temper: A spirit of continual watchfulness is needed to prevent our yielding to the tendency.

That is the happiest home where loving courtesies are habitual with every member of the family.

Why is a young lady like a bill of exchange? Because she ought to be settled when she arrives at maturity.

A little girl who wanted to be very good during Lent proposed to give up going to school.

## AN INCIDENT OF THE REVOLUTION.

While engaged in overhauling some old Historical Records, I came across the following account, which I had never before seen or heard of:

Toward the close of the Revolutionary War Capt. John Curtis, of Salem, commenced cruising in a sloop of about sixty tons, mounting six carriage guns and two swivels, and called the Lincoln Gally. Mr Askins, who subsequently resided in Thomaston, Me; was his lieutenant. Capt. Curtis cruised along the eastern shores with a view to protect our coasters, and one day he received information from a fisherman that several American vessels had been captured, and carried into Annapolis Royal, a port on the Nova Scotia coast. Thither Capt. Curtis at once steered. He arrived off the harbor in the night, and ordered Askins to man the boat, with twelve picked men, and reconnoitre the harbor, and, if practicable, to surprise and take the fort.

Mr. Askins was a cool, clear-headed, brave man and so well did he acquit himself of the important trust that he effected a landing without discovery, and proceeding directly to the fort he completely surprised the guard, made the governor a prisoner in his bed, and, astonishing as it may seem, he not only, by bold stratagem, succeeded in capturing the fort, with eighteen guns, and upwards of a hundred and fifty prisoners of war, but he also captured the town.

At daylight, Askins hoisted his signal at the fort, on which Captain Curtis ran up with his vessel to the town, and executed a capitulation. Askins had secured and paraded the prisoners, spiked and disabled the cannon, and brought off the public stores. By this gallant and almost unexampled achievement, a hundred and fifty American soldiers, who were prisoners at Halifax, were released on exchange. Among these prisoners was Captain Potter, whose daring privateering exploits had made him famed, and who had harassed the British on those shores exceedingly. This officer the enemy, for awhile, strenuously refused to give up; but the governor was held a prisoner until they finally, and with great reluctance, yielded up Captain Potter in exchange.

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