

Western Carolinian.

SALISBURY, N. C. TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1827.

[VOL. VIII.....NO. 373.]

MR. MURPHEY'S ORATION.

The Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies of the University of North-Carolina, having resolved "that some individual who had been a regular member of one of the literary Societies established in the University, should be chosen every succeeding year to deliver a public Oration in the College Chapel on the day preceding each Anniversary Commencement"—the following Oration was delivered in Person Hall, on Wednesday the 27th June, 1827—under the appointment of the Dialectic Society—by the Hon. Archibald D. Murphey, and published by order of said Society.

The Literary Societies of this Institution, have resolved that an address be delivered before them annually by some one of their members. This resolution, if carried into effect in the spirit in which it has been adopted, will be creditable to the Societies and favourable to the general Literature of the State. It is now more than thirty years since these Societies were established, and all the alumni of this University have been members of one or the other of them. Upon these alumni and upon others who shall go forth from this University, our hopes must chiefly rest for improvement in our literary character; and their zeal for such improvement cannot fail to be excited by being annually called together, and one of them selected to deliver a public discourse upon the progress and state of our literature, or some subject connected therewith. The Societies have conferred on me an unmerited honour by appointing me to deliver the first of these discourses. I accepted the appointment with pride, as it was an evidence of their esteem; yet with humility, from a conviction of my inability to meet public expectation; an inability of which I am conscious at all times, but particularly so after a painful and tedious illness.

Little that is interesting in the history of literature can be expected in the infancy of a colony planted on a Continent three thousand miles distant from the mother country, in the midst of a wilderness and surrounded by savages. Under such circumstances civilization declines, and manners and language degenerate. When the first patent was granted to Sir Walter Raleigh to land the English Language had received considerable improvement. Spencer had published his Fairy Queen, Shakspeare his Plays, Sir Philip Sidney his Arcadia, Knolles his General History of the Turks, and our Theology had been enriched by the eloquent writings of Hooker. This improvement was not confined to the learned; it had already extended itself to the common people, particularly in the towns and villages, and the language of the first colonists, no doubt partook of this improvement. But these colonists were all adventurers; they joined in Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition only for the purpose of making fortunes, and their chief hope was, that they would quickly find Gold in abundance, and return home to enjoy their wealth. This delusive hope continued for many years to beguile adventurers; who not finding the treasure they came in quest of, became idle and profligate, and abandoned a country in which they had met with nothing but disappointment. Sir Walter Raleigh, after expending a large part of his estate in attempts to settle a colony, assigned to Thomas Smith, of London, and his associates, the privilege of trading to Virginia and of continuing the colony. Thomas Smith was already famous in the annals of chivalrous adventure, and was destined to receive an increase of fame by new adventures upon this Continent, in his wars with the Indians and in his deliverance from death by Pocahontas. Under the advice of Raleigh, he directed his efforts to the waters of the Chesapeake, and there planted a colony which became permanent, and from which Virginia and Carolina was peopled. A new charter was granted to Thomas Smith and his associates, usually called the London Company, in 1606, and enlarged in 1609. This Company continued with many vicissitudes of fortune until the year 1626, when it was dissolved. The history of the colony to the time of this dissolution was written by Thomas Smith, and also by Stith. They were cotemporary with Lord Clarendon, who wrote the history of the Rebellion and Civil War in England: "Their style and manner of writing, and the public papers published by the President and Council of the colony during this period, evidence great improvement in our language. The chaos in which it lay in the early part of the reign of Elizabeth, gradually gave way to the order and method which good sense introduced into every pursuit; the pedantry and conceits which disfigured our literature in the reign of James the first, yielded to the influence of good taste.—Sir Walter Raleigh published his history

of the world, Lord Bacon his historical and philosophical works, and moral essays, and our poetry was adorned by the writings of Milton, Dryden, Butler, and Otway. Shortly afterwards, came Sir William Temple, Archbishop Tillotson and others, who gave facility and grace to composition. These were new beauties, and pleased the nation more as they gave to style the charm of polished conversation.

Whilst the literary taste of the nation was thus improving, religious intolerance drove from England a great number of Quakers, Presbyterians and other sectarians, who sought refuge in the Virginia colony. They there soon met with the same persecution which had driven them from their native country. They were compelled to leave the colony; and Providence directing their course through the wilderness, they settled near Pasquotank and Perquimans, and formed the germ of the Carolina Colony. Many of them were Quakers, and their descendants continue to occupy that district of country to this day.

In the year 1663, Charles the Second granted the soil and signiory of Carolina to eight Lords Proprietors; who, to encourage emigration, held out favourable terms. They promised adventures gratuitous in land according to the number of their respective families, and the most perfect freedom in the exercise of religion. A civil government was established purely representative; a circumstance, to which may be attributed, in a great degree, the republican feelings and opinions which soon characterised the colony, and which led to the plan of civil polity under which we now live. When the Lords Proprietors discovered that the colony was likely to become numerous and powerful, they endeavoured to restrain its civil and religious liberty which they had promised to emigrants; they established a new form of government, declaring their object to be "to make the government of the colony agree as nearly as possible with the monarchy of which it was a part, and to avoid erecting a numerous democracy." This plan of government was the joint work of Lord Ashley and the celebrated John Locke; and its chief aim was to appoint orders of nobility, establish a powerful aristocracy, check the progress of republican opinions and manners. A more ridiculous plan for the government of the colony could not have devised. The people were accustomed to equality and self-government; a rank of nobility was odious to them, and they disregarded laws which they had not been consulted in making. The prosperity of the colony declined, public morals relaxed, the laws lost their energy, a general spirit of discontent grew up and ripened into rebellion; the governors became corrupt, and the people idle and vicious. The attempt to give effect to the new plan of government entirely failed, and the Lords Proprietors abolished the plan as unsuited to the condition of the colony. Two factions then arose; one that wished to establish a high-toned prerogative government; the other consisted of high Churchmen, who gained the ascendancy, and by their violence brought the government into contempt. Their object was to deprive all dissenters of the right of voting, to restrict their civil rights, and render their situation so oppressive as to compel them to leave the colony. A party of French Hugonots had emigrated to the colony, to enjoy that liberty of conscience and of worship which was denied to them in their native country. These people, entitled by their sufferings no less than by their Protestantism, to the friendship and hospitality of the colonists, were treated with a cruelty that disgraced the high church party.—Being aliens, they were incapable of holding lands until they were naturalized; and this party having the ascendancy in the Assembly, not only refused to naturalize them, but declared their marriages by ministers not ordained by Episcopal bishops, illegal; and their children illegitimate. The progress of this violent, persecuting spirit, was checked by the wise and conciliating measures adopted by Governor Archdale. He assumed the government of the colony in 1695; he was a Quaker, and possessed in an eminent degree the philanthropy and command of temper, for which this sect has been distinguished. He was one of the Proprietors of the Province and by the mere force of his character overawed the turbulent, and restored good order.—To this excellent man our ancestors are indebted for that tolerant provision in their militia law, which we still retain as a part of our Code, for granting exemption to men who were restrained by religious principles from bearing arms.

The religious intolerance of the High Church party was exerted with new energy, after the departure of Governor Archdale from the Province. This party passed laws, which the Lords Proprietors ratified, to establish the Church of England, and to disable dissenters from being members of the Assembly. This was in direct violation of the chartered rights of the colonists. The dissenters remonstrated to the House of Lords; and Queen Anne, upon the advice of that body, caused these laws to be repealed. But the High Church party, steady to their purpose, varied their mode of attack; the spirit of intolerance grew with the growth of the Province; emigrations from the Virginia colony and the patronage of the Lords Proprietors, gave to this party a decided majority in the Assembly; they levied a tax on each precinct for the support of a minister, and built churches. Protestant dissenters were only permitted to worship in public, and there to be subject to the rules and restrictions contained in the several acts of Parliament. Quakers were permitted to affirm instead of swearing; but they could not hold an office of profit or trust, serve as jurors, or give evidence by affirmation in any criminal case. This contest between the high church party and the dissenters, produced an hostility of feeling which time has softened, but which the lapse of more than a century has been insufficient to allay. This contest however, promoted freedom of thought and enquiry among the people; it sharpened their understandings, and in a great degree supplied the place of books for instruction. At that time there were few books in the colony; the library of a common man consisted of a bible and a spelling book; the lawyers had a few books on law, and the ministers a few theological subjects; and sometimes a few of the Greek and Roman classics; for they, particularly the Presbyterian ministers, were generally school-masters—and with them the poor young men of the colony, who wished to preach the Gospel or plead the law, received their humble education. The turbulent spirit of the colonists, their leaning towards republicanism and sectarianism, had induced the Lords Proprietors to forbid the establishment of Printing Presses in the colony; and Sir William Berkeley, who had the superintendance of this colony in 1661, gave thanks to Heaven that there was not a Printing-Office in any of the Southern Provinces.

What improvement in literature could be expected among a people who were thus distracted by faction, destitute of books, and denied the use of the press? Notwithstanding all these discouragements and disadvantages, however, the literature of the colony evidently advanced. The public papers of that period are written in a perspicuous, nervous style, corresponding in force of expression, purity of language and perspicuity of arrangement, with similar writings in the reigns of Charles the Second, King William and Queen Anne. The intelligence of the common people and the ability and learning of the men who managed the affairs of the colony in that period, are matters of surprise and astonishment to any one acquainted with the disadvantages under which the colony labored. The Assembly and the Courts of Justice, set in private houses; the acts passed by the Assembly were not printed they were read aloud to the people at the first Court after they were passed. They were in force only for two years, and every biennial Assembly was under the necessity of re-enacting all that were thought useful. There was no printing press in the colony before the year 1746, at which time the condition of the statute book required a revision, and the public interest called aloud for the printing of it. The learning and literature of the colony were confined to the lawyers and ministers of the Gospel, most of whom were educated in England; and it was owing to this circumstance chiefly, that the literature of the colony advanced so steadily with that of the mother country.

The legislation of the colony began to assume form and system in the reign of Queen Anne; and in the year after her death, 1715, the Assembly passed sixty-six acts, most of which had been frequently re-enacted before. Many of these acts remain in force to this day, and are monuments of the political wisdom and legal learning of that time. In style and composition they are equal to any part of our statute book; they are the first statutes of the colony that have come down to our time.

In the year 1729, the Lords Proprietors, with the exception of Lord Granville, surrendered to the Crown their right to the soil and signiory of North-Carolina; and from that time the population and prosperity of the colony rapidly increased. But in a few years, the great contest commenced between the prerogative of the Crown and the liberty of the colonial subject; which contest eventually terminated in the

American Revolution. This contest gradually introduced into North-Carolina and into all the British colonies which took part in it, a style in composition which distinguishes this period from all others in English or American literature; a style founded upon and expressive of exalted feeling. Education embellished it and gave to it new beauties; but its force and impressive character were perceptible in the writings and speeches of ordinary men. What age or nation ever produced compositions superior to the addresses of the Continental Congress? When or where shall we find a parallel to the correspondence of General Washington and the General Officers of the American Army? The style of these addresses and of the correspondence, is the style of high thought, and of lofty, yet chastened feeling; and reminds the reader of the finest specimens of composition in Tacitus, and of the correspondence of Cicero and his friends after the death of Pompey.

There is something in the style and sentiment of the writings of this period which gives to them a magic charm, and seems to consecrate the subjects on which it is employed; a something connected with the finest perceptions of our nature. The reader is every moment conscious of it, yet knows not how to explain it. The high moral feeling, and the noble sympathy which characterized the American revolution, have given to it a hallow-edness of character. It is fortunate for us that Chief Justice Marshall has written the history of this revolution. Whatever may be the defects of his work, the history of our revolution will never be so well written again; no work on that subject will ever appear, so well calculated to produce a useful effect upon its readers. Marshall was a soldier of the revolution, and possessed the finest genius; he was the personal friend of the Commander in Chief; he partook in all the feelings of the officers of the army; and he has transfused into his work that exalted sentiment which animated his compatriots in arms. This sentiment is strongly portrayed in the writings of the Marquis de Castelleux and Count Rochambeau, two French general officers in the American service, and in the correspondence of the Commander in Chief and the American general officers. But it can never be embodied into an historical work, by a man who did not feel it in all its force in the American camp. Literary elegance disappears before such moral beauty. There is no historical work in any language, that can be read with so much advantage, such moral effect, by American youth, as Marshall's Life of Washington. They should read it with diligence, and read it often. They will never rise from the perusal of it, without feeling fresh incentives both to public and private virtue.

The progress of the style which marked the period of the American revolution, may be traced in North-Carolina from the administration of Governor Dobbs. It had become the common style of the leading men of the colony, before the meeting of the Continental Congress in 1774. The correspondence and public papers of Samuel Johnston and Joseph Hewes of Edenton, of William Hooper and Archibald McCaine of Wilmington, of Thomas Caswell of Kingston, of Thomas Burke of Hillsborough, of Francis and Abner Nash of Newbern, upon the great subjects which then engrossed the public attention, do honor to the literature of North-Carolina at that time. They wrote upon matters of business; business which concerned the welfare of the nation; they wrote as they felt; and their compositions coming warm from the heart, are free from affectation or pedantry, and equally free from that prolixity which is the vice of modern composition.

When these men disappeared, our literature in a great degree disappeared with them. The war had exhausted the resources of the State, and ruined the fortunes of many individuals; we had no schools for the education of our youth; few of our citizens were able to send their sons to the northern colleges or to Europe to be educated. Two individuals, who received their education during the war, were destined to keep alive the remnant of our literature, and prepare the public mind for the establishment of this University. These were William R. Davie and Alfred Moore. Each of them had endeared himself to his country by taking an active part in the latter scenes of the war; and when public order was restored, they appeared at the bar, where they quickly rose to eminence, and for many years shone like meteors in North-Carolina. They adorned the courts in which they practised, gave energy to the laws and dignity to the administration of justice. Their genius was different, and

The terms of the Western Carolinian are, \$3 per annum—or \$1 50, if paid in advance—but payment in advance will be required from all subscribers at a distance, who are unknown to the Editor, unless some responsible person of his acquaintance guarantees the payment. No paper discontinued, (except at the option of the Editor) until all arrearages are paid. Advertisements will be inserted at fifty cents per square for the first insertion, and twenty-five cents for each subsequent one. All letters addressed to the Editor, must be post-paid, or they may not be attended to.

LIST OF LETTERS

REMAINING in the Post-Office at Lexington, N. C. on the 1st of July, 1827.

Frederick Billings	Isaac Kinney
John Billings	Leonard Kinney
David Bodenhamer	Elijah Lanier
Palm Connelison	John Lookbell
George Cross	Henry Miller
Melchor Dan	Philip Mock
John Ellis	James May
Benjamin Farabee	Keskiel Pariah
Philip Frank	John Riley
John Ford	Burwell Rush
Christian Frank	Isiah Russell
Ignatius Goldsberry	Joseph Spence
Jacob Gam	Leonard & Geo. Smith
Henry Grab	Sarah Smoot
Philip Hederick	Thomas Lawler
John Hyatt	William B. Toomy
Stuffle Hepler	Nathan Wallis
Henry Hill	Henderson Wilson
Henry Harrison	Jesse Whitlow
John Inles	Peter Woods
Henry Kely	Caty Young.

73 B. D. ROUSAVILLE, P. M.

LIST OF LETTERS

REMAINING in the Post-Office at Statesville, N. C. on the first day of July, 1827.

Augustin M. Allin	James Moyghan
Fankston Avoit	John Mathison
Geen Badger	Sec'y. Mount Moriah
Christopher Barringer	Lodge
Moses Gamohns	Littlebury Murphey
William Cummins	John Mayhew 2
John Campbell	Joseph McLain
Patrick Clark	John Nesbet 2
John S. Carson	Isiah Pool
George Upchurch	Ezekiel Pearce
Abner Dudley	Joseph Stevenson
Ruth Fields	Benjamin Schofield
Forrest Gaither	Henry Smith
Edward Grac	James Smith
Robt. H. Hill	Jeremiah Sloan
James Hare	Josiah Teay
Adam Hoffman	Isaac Tenneson
David Holeman	Serah Tucker
Thomas James	Henry Tegue
William Johnson	Martin Vankannon
Agnes Knox	Amos Weaver
Thomas C. Leach	Wm. Wayne or
Thomas Leach	George Deal
James Lach	Joel Warren.
Wm. C. Nore	

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A Swindler! A Swindler!!

RAN away from Salisbury, on the night of the 9th inst. a fellow who said his name was French; (but would not tell his first name, and from that it is suspected French is not his right name) he is a house painter by trade, and a consummate hypocrite and plausible swindler by practice. He boarded with me, and by hypocritical and villainous pretences, induced me to board him without security; and then, regardless of common honesty, left me and the rest of his creditors in the lurch. He is 3 feet 8 or 9 inches high, rather stout built, dark hair, dark eyes, dark complexion, with a countenance indicative of a disposition to "touch and take;" has lost his upper front teeth, talks precipitately, with some little impediment in his articulation. He has made several states in the Union the theatre of his dexterities; and if report be true, his hand has visited many secret places. He says he was raised in Boston, and has worked in Augusta, Geo. Yorkville, S. C. Statesville, N. C. &c. &c. says he has been a merchant in Augusta, and tells many tales of chilling perils and hair-breadth escapes, the result of his rascality. This fellow is a would-be beau, and cuts a figure ridiculous enough indeed. All honest men are warned against having any thing to do with him. Any information of his place of residence, directed to the subscriber at Salisbury, N. C. will be gratefully received.

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July 14, 1827. N. B. It is believed two young men of this place went off with said French, (or whatever his name may be) one a shoe-maker, the other a piece of a coach-maker by trade. And the public are cautioned against any denial they may make of the facts above stated. J. K.

Ten Dollars Reward.

If in the STATE, \$15 if out of the STATE. RAN away from the subscriber, on the night of the 14th inst. an apprentice boy by the name of John Maisie, 20 years of age; blackish hair, short and bushy, but middling long over his forehead, 5 feet 6 or 7 inches high, well made to his height; carried away with him a frock coat, flowered with red and some other dark color; a dark one of a reddish-brown, home-made lining; a pair of new dove-colored pantaloons; also, a pale blue pair; also, stole and carried away with him, a blue broadcloth coat, with yellow buttons to it. He will I believe, also for Annon county, or Alabama. Any person that will apprehend and secure said boy, shall receive the above reward. The subscriber lives in Guilford county, 54 miles north-west of Greensborough.

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July 16, 1827. N. B. He may, perhaps, offer to work at the cabinet making, or house joiner business; he is middling good at the former. W. A.

Ran Away

FROM the subscriber, in September last, a bound apprentice to the Tailoring Business, by the name of Edward Brotherton. All persons are forbidden to harbor, trust, or employ him. FRANCIS MOREAU, Willcboro', 1826. 373