

A PLEA FOR THE GRAY

From Mobile Register.
Written at the request of a lady of Mobile who stated in a letter to the author...

When the Land's Martyr, mid her tears,
Oubtrahed his latest breath,
The discord of long, festering years...

Ye, who thro' this South-land of ours,
While Faith and Love are free,
But still must cast memorial flowers...

Or Vicksburg's of Potomac's flood,
Or Pickens' lurid sky,
Old Vicksburg may be purged of blood...

O, Martyrs! of the desperate fight,
Whose shafts and broken bow,
Fruitless and furrowed brow...

From dusty a worn and wasted mound,
The voices of dead heroes sound,
"Bring 'twixt earth and God!"...

Can I hear in his sacred grave
Less fall and glorious lay,
Or fainter on fortune's fickle wave...

WASHINGTON, Nov. 6, 1881.
EDITOR STAR:—I had occasion a few days ago to refer to the census of the year 1860...

POPULATION IN 1860.
Morgantown 130
Asheville 38
Lincolnton 92
Rutherfordton 57
Salisbury 645
Huntsville 53
Rockford 47
Germantown 94
Bethany 153
Salem 226
Statesville 95
Concord 33
Charlotte 122
Hillsborough 474
University 231
Raleigh 669
Pittsborough 135
Haywood 81
Harrisburg 382
Warrenton 238
Louisburg 56
Taborville 523
Edenton 248
Wilmington 1,302
Hertford 1,302
Elizabeth City 132
Murfreesborough 253
Windsor 237
Columbin 14
Plymouth 257
New Bern 2,467
Trenton 93
Beaufort 437
Washington 601
Bath 100
Greenville 174
Kinston 107
Wilmington 1,656
Lamberton 173
Total 12,920

I regret that I omitted to take down four or five places that have ceased to exist; but their aggregate population would scarcely amount to two hundred. I omitted Elizabeth, also, which is on the southwest of the Cape Fear, and another Elizabeth, which was in one of the counties northeast of the Albemarle Sound. Oxford and Greensborough were not in existence in 1800, although they are now regarded as old towns. Milton was not in the list either, nor old Williamsborough, in Vance, formerly Granville.

The State, at the date of this census, contained 478,103 inhabitants, and its aggregate town population was less than 13,000, or 5,000 less than that of Wilmington at the present day. I doubt if there was another country in the world at that day, of equal extent and population, that did not contain a larger proportion of town population; and, notwithstanding the very considerable growth of the towns during the past eighty years, and especially within the past dozen or fifteen years, I think that it is still true that we have fewer people residing in towns than any other country in the world. We have been the most exclusively agri-

cultural of all other communities. But we are now undergoing a great change in this respect, as the recent census demonstrates, and every successive census will display an increasing ratio of development in commerce and manufactures and in the growth of the towns. After all, Wilmington has increased ten-fold during the past eighty years, while the State has gained only three-fold. None of us will be alive to see the prediction fulfilled, but I hazard it, that in the next eighty years Wilmington will have increased twice ten-fold.

In the Northern States the civic population is too great for that of the rural districts. Everybody is rushing to town. The lands are being monopolized by the rich men, and the poor are going to town to get employment, to have the benefit of the public schools, which are better than those in the country, and to enjoy the excitement of crowds and shows. This is a very unhealthy condition of the social system, and grows from bad to worse. The evil is augmented, too, by the ostentatious benevolence of the millionaires, who, at death, when they have no further use for their hoarded treasures, devote them exclusively to the erection of monuments to themselves, in the shape of hospitals, schools, libraries, &c., in the cities they inhabit, instead of distributing their millions over the country, from which their fortunes are derived. The great merchants and bankers owe their countless thousands and millions to the country, and not to the cities, and they should endow the schools, churches, and colleges of the back country, in preference to those of the city. By this means country life would be made attractive, and the people would cease to flock to the cities.

In the South a different condition of things exists. We have not enough of town and city population to make home markets for farmers and gardeners, to diversify pursuits, to encourage literature, and to give life to the people. But we are now entering on a career which will bring within a generation, all these advantages; and then, I fear, we are destined to follow in the footsteps of the North, and to find ourselves at the end of half a century laboring under the class of evils which beset that section—a state of things in which the rich have grown enormously rich, while the masses of the people have become very poor—a state of things in which the lands are all falling into the hands of the rich few, and the poor go out as "tramps," in pursuit of work, or of plunder.

I have just met with a new book from the press of Peter G. Thompson, Cincinnati, in which all intelligent North and South Carolinians, all Virginians and Tennesseans, at least, will feel a deep interest. It is entitled "King's Mountain and its Heroes," the history of the battle, and the events which led to it, by Lyman C. Draper, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Mr. Draper who is now above sixty years old, has devoted his life, from early manhood, to the study of Southern Revolutionary history. He traveled through the South, in many years ago, in pursuit of information upon the subject, from public and private sources. He is a born antiquarian, well educated, of sound head and heart, and though his home is far away in the north-west, he cherishes the memory of our Southern Revolutionary patriots and heroes with the affection of a lineal descendant. He is a clear, strong writer, and presents the history of the interesting and important events with more detail, and I venture to say, with more accuracy, than any preceding writer. A peculiar feature of the book is the effort to bring into relief the lives of many heroes of that day, of whom we have heretofore had only general and vague accounts. Including a valuable appendix, which embraces much rare matter, the book contains 593 large octavo-pages. It is illustrated by several handsomely engraved likenesses of the heroes of the battle, including Jos. McDowell and Joseph Winston, of the mountain country, with a map of the adjacent country, a picture of the mountain, Ferguson's camp and headquarters, and other interesting scenes. The whole book is got up in a style of elegant typography, and abounds in solid facts, rather than in attempts at fine rhetoric. The country, and the South especially, owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Draper for this labor of love, in which he has preserved the names of many heroes which, otherwise, time would soon have engulfed in oblivion.

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