

State Library
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THE LATE BENJAMIN JOHNSON.
We begin to believe that the papers have at last found one very old man, who had passed his hundredth year considerably. There was no record of his birth, but there are facts and incidents that go to establish his very old age. Although a thorough sceptic in regard to the ordinary "cock and bull stories," we are not disposed to reject well attested cases. As we have before stated, there is not a single case of record where an English nobleman ever attained to his hundredth year: there is not a single instance in which an insured person ever reached his centennial anniversary, although for two hundred years life insurance has prevailed, and hundreds of thousands of select cases have held policies. There have been tens of thousands of Methodist preachers and but one centenarian among them all. In England, where the birth record of children is preserved, it is extremely rare to hear of a person as old as one hundred years—probably not over one in thirty millions. Among the countless lawyers who have lived in America but one has lived to reach his hundredth year, and he is still living. We do not think there is one recorded instance of such advanced age in the legal annals of the British empire. It is such well-known facts as these that render it highly improbable that people of more than a hundred years are often found in the United States. We have never been able to discover but one other well-authenticated case of a centenarian in North Carolina before Mr. Johnson. Mrs. Alston, of Granville, who died some thirty years ago, lived to 103. She has descendants living in Granville, Warren, Raleigh and other points. But to Mr. Johnson.

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AN INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.
One of the acts by which the paternal government has endeavored in the past to increase the loyalty of the South, and to excite a deeper regard for "the best government under the sun," was to refuse certain acts of justice and courtesy to the "subjugated rebels." Our own State has been a sufferer at the hands of the haters, and the gentleman who now occupies the Chair of the Chief Executive has been a special victim, having been on more than one occasion the recipient of such favors at the hands of the dominant party in the North as enemies only accord to enemies.

WAR DEPARTMENT.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1877.
To the Governor of the State of North Carolina:
Sir—I respectfully request that you will furnish this department with a complete set of the reports of the Adjutant General of your State for the years 1861-6 inclusive, for use in connection with the official records of the war of the rebellion for publication. Express charges for the same will be paid by the department. I am, your obedient servant,
Secretary of War.

Messrs. DeRoset & Co., of this city, State agents of the "Carolina Fertilizer," have been instructed by the manufacturers to add five dollars per ton to the recent price of that fertilizer. It is now entirely in order for careful calculators to determine whether the farmer or the manufacturer pays the license tax imposed by the Agricultural Bill.

THE SWITZERLAND OF AMERICA—NORTH CAROLINA AND ITS GREAT MOUNTAINS.
We confess to very great astonishment when we read the report of that eminent geographer, Professor Guyot, of Princeton College, New Jersey, upon the mountains of North Carolina. It was published as far back as 1866, and appeared in the Asheville News; but it somehow escaped our attention at the time. No one can read the number of mountains measured by Professor Guyot, and the altitude of many of them, without a feeling of wonder. He will not refuse to accept the head lines of this article as correct. We have heard men of other States, gentlemen who had seen much of the beauty and grandeur of European scenery, say that no where on the American continent, except perhaps among the Rocky Mountains, could there be seen such sublimity and wildness combined with silvan perfection and pastoral loveliness. We have no doubt that in Pennsylvania and two or three other counties, there are to be found finer scenery and more entrancing bucolic pictures than can be found elsewhere on this vast Continent. But to Prof. Guyot's figures.

He has measured more than 125 mountains. Of this number the lowest is some 2,500 feet, and the highest is 6,707 feet. There are 54 mountains over 6,000 feet in height; 45 mountains over 5,000 feet, but not as much as 6,000 feet; and 15 mountains over 4,000 feet, but not as much as 5,000 feet high.

THE LETTER OF HON. J. J. DAVIS.
We have known the Hon. Jos. J. Davis from his earliest manhood. He is one of the purest men on earth, strictly and essentially nonpartisan. We can trust him even in Washington, where the very atmosphere is filled with mephitic exhalations and noxious gases that are generated by the political cesspool, and where it is difficult for a good man to remain incorruptible and sober. What as true and intelligent a Representative of North Carolina has to say, is worth considering.

No where under the sun is there more variety of climate, soil and production within the same area, than is to be found within the borders of that tract of territory marked on the maps as North Carolina—a sort of terra incognita to the great portion of the American people.

Why then should any North Carolinian leave his home to seek his fortune elsewhere? Why should he go out among strangers to find that which lies at his door. The same industry and economy that will obtain success abroad will bring him opulence at home. We say to you, stand by North Carolina. Do what you can to develop her resources, to maintain her honor, to restore her prosperity. This is indeed a pleasant land in which to live, and labor and wait, and in which to die at the appointed time. God has been merciful to you in casting your lines in such pleasant places. Stand faithfully by your old mother.

Her's is indeed a goodly heritage—a land of noble men and of pure and lovely women. "The sun as he walks the heavens in his diurnal round" looks down upon no fairer or dearer spot, nor more blessed home—for here "the glory of his beams is rivalled by the sweet and mellowed light of humanity and love" that shines throughout our favored borders. Go where you may you will find no more delightful home. Seek the world over for a clime more favorable to health, for sans more genial and fruitful, and for nights of more unclouded beauty and splendor, and you will seek in vain.

THE WESTERN N. C. RAILROAD.
We are informed by Mayor Canaday that at a meeting of the new Board of Directors of the Western North Carolina Railroad, held on Thursday, Mr. James Wilson, late a Representative in the Legislature from Burke county, was elected President, and Mr. S. M. Finger, late Representative from Catawba county, was elected Treasurer of that road.

There is a great deal of talk in the House of Representatives, and in the Senate, of the propriety of withdrawing the troops from the States of Louisiana and South Carolina. It is a question of the highest importance, and one which will not be true to the rights of the people, if it does not adhere to the bill as it stood at the close of the last session. The popular sentiment as well as the peace of the country demands that the improper use of the military shall cease. You ask, in the connection, "Ought the House to give way to the President or ought it to stand firm?" I will answer this question by asking another: "Is this a despotic or a republican government? Is it the government of the people or of one man?" Even in England, it is the right of the Commons to grant or withhold supplies. In this country the House is the immediate representative of the people, and the Constitution confers upon it alone the power to originate bills for supplies. I trust the next House will be true to its constitutional duties, true to the rights of the people, and that it will stand firm in the right.

A SENSIBLE VIEW.
In steering on the Dead Sea of inanity and political stupidity and rant it is pleasing to the eye to rest now and then upon some island that is clothed with verdure and fruit. Now and then we are gladdened with such a prospect.

The papers have recently contained a conversation between Alex. H. Stephens and Ex-Secretary Hamilton Fish. We clipped it for publication, but it was crowded out. Mr. Stephens' views are eminently wise and statesmanlike, and they appear to have had a due influence upon many thinking people in the Northern States. The Philadelphia Telegraph has been so impressed with the wisdom of Mr. Stephens' talk that it has improved the occasion to draw a contrast between the two policies represented by the distinguished Georgian and Secretary Sherman. It places Mr. Stephens' "head and shoulders" above the Ohio Secretary "in all that goes to the making of a publicist." Sound thinking men generally will endorse this position. Mr. Sherman represents the Destructives, while Mr. Stephens represents the true Conservatives. But let us quote a paragraph from the Telegraph, a Republican paper:

Points of Marksmanship Again—North Carolina vs. Texas.
A gentleman of this city having seen the articles which have recently appeared in the STAR in reference to feats of marksmanship, comes to the front with a few which have come under his own observation. On one occasion he was in pursuit of a covey of partridges, and while following them up to get a good chance to shoot them a large hawk made a strike among them, and a successful one, too, for he mounted into the air with a partridge in his claws, and after flying about forty yards with his body out friend fired, bringing him to the ground, and cooped both hawk and partridge. Mr. Thomas J. Lee, of Ireland county, he says, killed seven deer at three shots, four at two and three at one discharge of his piece. The three killed at one shot were at a distance of sixty yards by actual measurement. The "Lone Star" can now hide its diminished lustre by taking a back seat in the shooting firmament.

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of South Carolina, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Louisiana, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Mississippi, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Alabama, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF GEORGIA.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Georgia, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Florida, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF IOWA.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Iowa, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.

THE STATE OF KANSAS.
The Hon. John Young Brown, of Kansas, publishes the following statement concerning the circumstances under which Judge Matthews and Hon. Charles Foster placed the President to a Pacific and National Southern policy. The contents of Messrs. Foster and Matthews' statements have already been published.