

THE SENTINEL.

JOSIAH TURNER, Jr., Editor.
T. B. KINGSBURY, Associate Editor

WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, 1873.

THE MECKLENBURG DISCUSSION.

We publish a fourth article to-day from the pen of Mr. Goodloe. In a day or two another one will follow which completes the discussion on his side. The space we have had to give to the discussion is greater than we were led to expect in the beginning. But we do not regret the time and space devoted to the investigation, and are willing that others should be heard if they have anything new to tell. We know that many of the most highly educated and intelligent of our readers are taking a peculiar interest in the discussion which has been conducted with dignity, courtesy and ability. A distinguished gentleman wrote to us the other day requesting us to preserve all the papers for him containing matter bearing upon the Mecklenburg Declaration, stating he was greatly interested, and might possibly have something to say when the intellectual combatants now engaged had completed their arguments.

The Associate editor of the SENTINEL is also responsible for the introduction of the discussion into this paper, the Editor having nothing whatever to do with it. Mr. Goodloe had known from his early boyhood, and is glad to number him among those friends who "by adoption tried," he has ever found high-toned, honorable, and independent in his thinking. Mr. Goodloe used to be heard through the SENTINEL that he might discuss the merits of the 20th May Declaration. Wishing to believe the truth, and being fully persuaded that careful and conscientious research never yet injured seriously the truth, we told Mr. Goodloe that the columns were open to him for a brief article or two, with the understanding that the other side should have a hearing. We have hitherto presented three articles on either side. Maj. Dowd will be heard in reply if he so desires and other gentlemen who may wish to review the discussion. Hence we wrote an editorial in the beginning, headed "Audi alteram partem."

Of course we could not anticipate all the bearings of the investigation. At first, we were candid enough to state, when we had only read Mr. Goodloe's three articles, we were satisfied that he had made out his case. We are equally candid to confess now that Maj. Dowd's articles have so shaken our first convictions that we are compelled to suspend our judgment. We shall await the issue, and then re-reading the whole controversy, including all that has been said by Dr. Hawks and other writers, or that may be said hereafter, we shall then form an opinion. As before stated, we only desire to believe the truth, and no conscientious man can desire to believe anything else. Nothing so hurts as falsehood. One of the greatest and most original thinkers of this century, Thomas Carlyle, says:

"A lie should be trampled on and extinguished wherever found. I am for fumigating the atmosphere when I suspect that falsehood, like pestilence, breathes around me."

Desiring then sincerely to hold the truth in every thing, we mean to investigate this matter for our own satisfaction. Born in Raleigh, receiving whatever of education we may have at our leading schools and at our, now alas, defunct University, and reading all our days with the exception of some few months, within the State, we are as thoroughly North Carolinian as is healthful to be. We have on a dozen occasions, and in six or seven papers, defended and upheld the good and glorious name of North Carolina. But in this discussion we do not consider our patriotism or State pride in the least involved. Our State has a grand record that is above all research and all slander. We were in advance of all other States whether the final verdict of history be for or against the 20th May, for the resolutions of 31st May, 1775, remain undisputed and indisputable. But even, though our State pride was appealed to, if we be such as the great poet Laureate of England, Alfred Tennyson, describes the Duke of Wellington, then truth will be dearer to us than even love of State can be.

"Who never sold the truth to serve the hour?"

"Truth-teller was our England's Alfred named."

"Truth-teller was our English Duke."

We make these remarks, because we have noted a disposition to attack Mr. Goodloe's motives (*and possibly our own*) for publishing his elaborate and able articles. He too is a native North Carolinian, and we doubt not holds the honor of the State as dearly as any who may assail his motives or question his State pride.

The student of Niebuhr, Grote, Curtius and Mommsen, who spent their lives in exploring the rich historic mines of antiquity, know how many hitherto unexplored opinions they have thoroughly and finally exploded. Even British historians, like Macaulay, Lord Mahon, Burton, Froude, and others who might be named, have ripped up and exposed the falsehoods of past generations, even when their country's honor was involved most seriously, and when the characters of even Kings and the first men of the realm, including Marquises, Dukes, Lords and Viscounts were closely concerned. It is surely a grand sight to witness such devotion to truth. It shows what's "made of men" England and Scotland produce, who spare not the highest in the Kingdom when the truth of history is to be maintained and vindicated. He is a moral coward who fears to tell the truth.

"FALSHEOD IS COWARDICE—TRUTH IS COURAGE." Grote, the great historian of Greece well appreciated this long before he published his twelve splendid volumes. As early as 1823, we find him referring to "the entire uncertainty and worthlessness of tales to which early associations have so long familiarized the mind," and writing, "I am quite amazed to discover the extraordinary greediness and faculty with which men assert, believe, and reassess, and are believed!" A civilization is not out of the leading strings, where freedom of criticism upon public events and public men may not be indulged—and the nation would show either the despotism of an autocrat, or of an oligarchy. To see then this cultural which is quite twice the length we first intended, the Associate has given to the SENTINEL, for the discussion of an important historical question. If the advocates of the 20th May, succeed in clearly establishing the fact, as we sincerely trust they may, then we have been instrumental in strengthening the foundations and in instructing our people in a matter that concerns them. If on the other hand, the arguments and evidence advanced disprove the fact, then we have been instrumental in vindicating history, and "truth is truth to the end of reckoning."

If you were to go into many counties—excellent farming sections of that in our State, you would find scores of farms covered over with mortgages given to merchants for supplies, &c. for fertilizers, pickled pork, flour, corn meal, &c.—to enable them to make a crop of what? Of something to eat and wear? By no means, but of cotton. So each year such farmers get deeper in debt, and finally "the bitter end" is reached, and hopeless bankruptcy has come. A wise farmer will certainly raise his bread-stuffs and his food for stock. He will make, too, all the home measures he can, paying out as little for foreign fertilizers as is consistent with judicious farming.

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THE AUTHOR OF "DONALD FOX," PART X.

GEO. GOODLOE.

V. THE B-SHOP & WINCHESTER AND LOND WESTBURY.—*Saturday Review* (London).

M. THE SULTAN AND THE KHEDIVE.—*Saturday Review*. Poetry. Lay Low.—All the Year Round. Potted Spectator. The Humming Bird. James Maurice Thompson. Friendship Spectator.

OF THE ARTICLE ON GROTE.

THE AUTHOR OF "DONALD FOX," PART XII.

Graphic.

III. THE PLANET MARS. An essay by a

WEALTHY SOCIETY. Moyses.

IV. THE AUTHOR OF "DONALD FOX," PART XIII.

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