

THE SENTINEL
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EDITORS.

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THE PEOPLE'S INDEBTEDNESS
The people of this State have been so engaged in the immediate necessity of making bread, to supply the urgent wants of those dependent upon them, and to raise funds to pay Federal, State and local taxes, that the subject of paying old debts has not concerned, deeply, the masses, because of its impossibility, except among those who have been pressed to pay, and those few who are so favorably situated as to have some surplus with which to pay. Yet it is a matter which necessarily gives every honest man deep concern, when he reflects that he owes a just debt and cannot see how he is to pay and yet live.

This state of things develops important questions, which every man who claims to be honest must settle for himself, and which must be settled aright, in order to enjoy a clear conscience and future comfort.

There is nothing about which men are so sensitive as their personal integrity, and yet it is incontrovertible that there are many who claim to be honest, whose language and conduct indicate that they have set up a very poor standard as the test of their own honesty, while they do not fail to use the more to their brother's eyes. Many who quote with approbation, as a guide for all the golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you," forget that it is a rule for all, yet only those who have attained to the highest style of Christian morality say that law or rule. And many who quote, with the highest approval, Pope's declaration,

"As honest man's the noblest work of God," fail to discover its elevated meaning. If we can assist such, we shall be glad.

First, then, let it be understood, once for all, that no honest man will feel himself either legally or morally released from paying a just debt, simply because he has been unfortunate. If a man has not the means or ability to pay, that alone does not release him from the obligation, which less justify his making no effort to pay or becoming indifferent to the obligation. Indifference or neglect to use the effort to pay renders payment perhaps impossible, and constitutes the debtor an offender against the law of honesty.

Secondly, there is no crime in neglecting to pay when you cannot; nor can any man be charged with criminality who says "I can't pay," if he tells the truth. Not with the man who says "I won't pay, because I cannot," the case is not so clear. His tone is not of that elevated cast which belongs to an honest honorable man. Moreover, every honest man will carefully investigate his condition, before he says "I can't pay." If it is certain that very few can pay, if they are determined to maintain their family on the same scale that they did before their misfortune. The question is, what are you pay and yet live? To be poor is bad, but not by a thousand fold as bad as it is to be dishonest.

Thirdly, while the results of the war left our people in debt, and deprived them of the means of paying, still the fact that they were deprived of their substance is not, of itself, a release from the obligation to pay. The creditor is the law must be satisfied. The creditor is so much a party in the contract as the debtor, and while the debtor's misfortune does not release him, yet it does constitute a reason and an obligation, on the part of the creditor, why he should not be exacting, but merciful and forgiving.

Every creditor of the Southern debtor ought to see this and feel it. The full payment of Southern indebtedness, by the present debtors in the South, to their children to the second generation, is an impossibility. Deprived by the government, in obedience to Northern sentiment, of the means and resources with which to pay and for which much of the indebtedness was created, how is it possible? Some, comparatively few, have paid and will pay, but so long as the payment of a debt makes the debtor poorer and less able to relieve himself of the balance due, or forces him to create new debts, where is the prospect of final relief? Much calculation was made last year upon the cry of this State, to pay debts. The evidence is that that hope has perished. The indebtedness of the people is greater now than it was last year, and the ability to pay less. This is proven by the excessive scarcity of money—it is far more scarce than last year. The indebtedness may have been shifted from one to another, and some few may have been relieved, while others are more pressed. This must be so, since it is clear that our money is gone, not for the payment of debts, but for the purchase of those articles we needed and without which we could not live.

And this will be the course of things for the next ten or twenty years. So long as we continue to import into the State more than we send out to pay for, in, how we shall be getting poorer.

What should be done? The first thing, to get honestly out of debt. To do this, we must turn to the land and make more. We must give up the idea of retaining what we have, and bring us in further time. Our surplus lands must be worked by additional labor, or we must dispose of it in small tracts to those who will cultivate it. Finally, if we see a chance of relieving ourselves by light taxation, industry and better management, every man should be tempted, if the conditions will enable him, to sell his land, and go into the army or navy, or to some other place where he will not compromise to go into bankruptcy, and let the law do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

The Denville Times says: "We are willing to support General Grant for President. We are not, but we are all in the hands of a brass and gunpowder soldier."

ruply, and let the law do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. It is not possible to do, I. E. get out of debt. Our indebtedness is an incubus, under which we cannot move. The South must be rid of it, before recuperation can be effected. Badly and heavily as the load of debt is, it is lighter and less crushing than reputation would be. Indeed, if that were possible, and we deem it impossible, it would require a total change of population, before the South could ever throw that intolerable load from its shoulders.

"NORTH CAROLINA'S PET"
We have been accustomed to hear the University spoken of as the pride of North Carolina, to hear of the devotion of its friends, and of the liberality bestowed upon it, and some of its enemies have taken special pains to have it understood, among the masses, that "the University is the pet of the State and especially of the Legislature."

Do such persons know whereof they speak? The University is over seventy years old. At the inauguration of the movement, some provision was made for the establishment of the University, but it was a meagre one. Some years after, the Legislature voted it \$100,000, and two years ago it voted it \$7,000. Thus this pet of the State and of the Legislature has received, from the public treasury, in sixty years, just \$117,000, to meet emergencies. A great pet indeed! During that period, the University, when prosperous, made a clear income of about \$100,000, from which it has enlarged its operations, relying upon this continued prosperity, when the late Bank of North Carolina went into operation, it subscribed for 2,000 shares, but was never able to pay the full amount due, on account of the war. The State Convention, under President Johnson's reconstruction policy, by its action, which it deemed forced upon it, broke the Banks of the State, by which the University lost all it had invested, lost all its stock, and to effect a compromise with the Bank, the Trustees agreed to pay it \$25,000 as a final settlement. To secure that debt, the Trustees mortgaged the property of the University, worth at least \$100,000.

These facts have been repeatedly published, but we reproduce them to show the extent of the pride, the devotion manifested by the State and the Legislature to its pet institution. Nor have the people of the State shown any higher appreciation. When they have patronized it, it has been with the assurance of receiving, in return, the *quid pro quo*. The gifts, donations or legacies from the people of the State, have been shamefully deficient. During the last third of the existence of the University, the people of the State have contributed about \$400,000 for the establishment of Davidson, Wake Forest and Trinity Colleges, belonging to their leading denominations, while the people and the State of North Carolina have not given in any form, to their pet, more than \$24,000, including donations and legacies, in sixty years. When people therefore speak of the University as a pet of the Legislature and State, it is at least due to the University, that they should show how much its pet has cost the State within the last fifty of sixty years.

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, commenting upon Gen. Pope's recent extraordinary letter to Gen. Grant, in which he advocates a wholesale system of exile and deportation, says: "Nothing which the unhappy demoralization of the times has evolved for the sad contemplation of men addicted to free government, compares for blindness and monstrous advocacy of power against right, with this extraordinary effusion. In connection with the amiable inclinations of this illustrious man, the following extract from Swinton's 'History of the Army of the Potomac' may be read with interest:

"As for Pope, it is hardly possible to feel for him less than pity, in spite of the bombastic pretensions with which he set out. The record already given does not justify the assertion that he was not obeyed by his subordinates; but it cannot be denied that the estimate of his character held by the officers under his command was not of a kind to elicit such a zealous and energetic cooperation for the effective conduct of great military operations. He had the misfortune to be, of all men, the most dishonest."

Certainly no sane man will believe in his "dishonesty" policy.

THE NEW ORLEANS PIONEEER says that it is the intention of the Mexican authorities to hold the body of Maximilian as a subject for negotiation, with the view of filling, or in some degree replenishing, their empty Treasury.

THE LAST—It is definitely settled, we are authorized in saying, that General Pope has sent a preceptory order to Governor Jenkins to stop the payment of the \$5,000 per annum guaranteed by the State to its University at Athens. Reason: A young gentleman of the college, a member of the junior class, and an honest, manly, earnest soul, made a speech at the recent commencement of that institution in defense of the Constitution, the laws, and of liberty under those laws. This much, and no more, was his offense!—*Masson Journal*.

MARSHES' PREFERENCE—Ned. Tate, a freed man of this district, who was arrested some time ago on the charge of carrying a deadly weapon, in violation of the order of General Sherman, that no arms, has been tried, found guilty and sentenced to be confined at hard labor for two months. The sentence of the military court in this case has been approved by General Pickens, and will be carried out under the directions of Major Lynn.—*Yorkville Enquirer*.

BEYOND THE FRONTIER—A gentleman from Rockingham informs us that three thousand and forty dollars to W. M. Smallwood, of Northampton.—*Pvt. Index*.

FURNISHING OUT—In a lengthy article in the *Washington Chronicle* attacks the internal revenue system as a stupendous evil of fraud, and advocates making the Bureau a separate department.

In a fashionable church, at Pittfield, Mass., says the *Home Journal*, strangers are seated according to their dress. Note antique and Houston close to the pulpit, manly hair up on the side, and last year's bonnet back by the door.

STATE ITEMS
Great complaints are being made in various sections of the State relative to the manner in which Registration is conducted. So far as the Registrars for this County are concerned, we have heard no objection made as to their disposition to deal fairly and justly by all classes. So far as we have been able to ascertain, the only serious mistake they have committed has been in allowing persons to register, without sufficient interrogatories.

The *Wilmington Journal* says that persons who, previous to the war, held Commissions in the State Militia, are not permitted to register by the Registrars in that City. This is broadly and openly in violation of law.

But, in Goldsboro, according to a correspondent of the same paper, the law was in danger of being still more glaringly outraged. Upon the opening of the books, notice was given that all persons who had borne arms in the service of the Confederate States, or had in any manner voluntarily given aid and comfort to the "rebellion" would be rejected, with the exception of those placed by the Board upon the general acts of Congress, and the director of General Sickles. Upon a representation of these facts to Major Campion, Commanding the Post, the matter was adjusted, and registration proceeded properly.

The *Wilmington Post* says that, on Monday morning, a large steamer apparently from eight or ten feet long, was discovered among himself in the river at the foot of Orange street, apparently intent upon making the most of his trip to town. Several shots were fired at him, after each one of which he would disappear, returning after the lapse of a few moments, to be made a target of again. He was not killed.

The publication of the *Charlotte Guardian* has ceased. Mr. Britton, the Proprietor, assumes charge of the mechanical department of the *Daily News*, which is to be the name of the new paper, to be issued on Monday next, by Messrs. Jones & Johnston, the purchasers of the *Times*. From what we know of these gallant gentlemen, we feel sure that the *News* will be an able and spirited journal, and as commend it and them, in advance, to a liberal patronage.

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY
I beg to leave to offer a practical suggestion to your body, as to one mode of extricating from its difficult position, of which you have the charge.

There are, doubtless, many opinions as to the causes that have prevented the bestowment of patronage upon the University. It is to be hoped, however, that all are agreed in this, that the appointees, signify their willingness to accept the positions tendered, upon condition that a proper support is provided. Then, let an appeal be prepared and addressed by your Secretary to each Trustee and to each Alumnus, and to every other friend of the University, stating the above facts, and soliciting aid. There are now, I understand, about thirty students at Chapel Hill. Their tuition money will, I presume, adequately support the four Professors now there. This would leave only money to be raised to support a President and one or more Professors. Within the State of North Carolina, there are not ten men who will give two hundred dollars each to the University? Are there not fifty others who will give one hundred? Are there not one hundred others who will give fifty dollars each? If, however, a pure donation be thought impracticable, let your body issue bonds receivable in payment of tuition fees, the bonds to be of such denominations as may be thought proper, and only a certain proportion receivable each year. As the most conservative year does not begin until July, 1905, there is ample time to make appointments and issue bonds, and test the experiment.

I am a man of limited means, but of my necessities I propose to be one of ten to give \$200 each, and one of fifty to give \$100 each, or I will take a proportional amount of bonds if the donation plan be deemed unadvisable. Before the money thus obtained will be used up, I think the University will be self-supporting, as all other similar institutions in the South.

TREASON WARNING—The New York *Free Press*, ultra radical paper, warns the colored people of the South, and especially those of Virginia, against the suicidal policy of banding themselves into a party exclusively against the whites, and suffering themselves "to be kept in a constant ferment" by a few white men, who are using them for their own profit and advantage. And it tells them that the only way to get on is to get on as they would for a year or two, it might be the end and recall upon those who are playing it. It says, the *Nation*, "there is scarcely a State, except South Carolina, which can be controlled by the colored vote alone for more than two or three years. Certainly Virginia is not one of that class. The white vote will constitute a majority whenever they choose to set together, and they will probably increase far more rapidly than the other. Immigration will soon flow in that direction, and this, of course, will be exclusively white, and in great part friendly to the colored people." This is the warning not to "rebels" or "seces" "fit of a warm, dogged friend to the radical view, and the power of the colored vote."

EXPORTS TO AFRICA—A young lady who has been the recipient of a letter from her mother, and who is now growing rather scarce, and afraid of being her hair cut, has been advised to go to Africa, where she can get a good education, and where she can make her eyes, and where she can get a good education, and where she can make her eyes, and where she can get a good education, and where she can make her eyes.

THE UNIVERSITY
The Standard, in one of its random blows, a while ago suggested that this institution ought to be re-organized "from turret to foundation stone." What degree, or kind of change was meant is by no means clear; for in these much valued articles so sweeping given. Still the best friends of the institution, who have watched its recent history, are very generally persuaded that a change somewhat in the nature of that suggested, is needed. As it had been open through the war—in this it was alone among Southern Colleges—it was thought to be in a better condition than others, and more likely to rise on the returning tide of prosperity which it was hoped would come. But the years have passed, and the number of students has been diminished to such an extent, that it is difficult to encourage for a while those who desired its success, but not enough to keep it, for any length of time, even in working order. 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