

Henderson survived Duffy many years, and obtained the first standing at the bar of this State. He was devoted to his profession, and upon the whole, was the most perfect model of a lawyer that our bar has produced. It was late in life before he turned his attention to polite literature, and he never acquired a good style in composition. Yet his style and manner of speaking at the bar were extremely impressive. I shall here speak of him as I did in a sketch of his character published shortly after his death. In him the faculties of a fine mind were blended with exalted moral feelings. Although he was at all times accessible, he seemed to live and move in an atmosphere of dignity. He exacted nothing by his manner, yet all approached him with reverence and left him with respect. The little quarrels and contests of men were beneath him; his was the region of high sentiment, and there he occupied a standing that was preeminent. The constitution and jurisprudence of his country, were his favorite studies. Profound reflection had generalised his ideas, and given to his political and legal learning a scientific cast. No man better understood the theory of our government; no man more admired it, and no man gave more practical proofs of his admiration. The sublime idea that he lived under a government of laws, was forever uppermost in his mind, and seemed to give a coloring to all his actions. As he acknowledged no dominion but that of the laws, he bowed with reverence to their authority, and taught obedience no less by his example than his precept. To the humble officer of justice he was respectful; the vices of private character were overlooked, when the individual stood before him clothed with judicial authority. In the County Courts, where the Justices of the Peace administer the law, he was no less respectful in his department, than in the highest tribunal of the State. He considered obedience to the laws to be the first duty of a citizen; and it seemed to be the great object of his professional life, to inculcate a sense of this duty, and give to the administration of the laws an impressive character. He was conscious of his high standing, and never committed himself, nor put his reputation at risk. He always came to the trial of his causes well prepared; and if the state of his health, or his want of preparation were likely to jeopardise his reputation, in the management of his client's cause, he would decline the trial until a more favorable time. The courts in which he practised, and his brother lawyers, understood the delicacy of his feelings upon this point so well, that they extended to him the indulgence he required; and a knowledge of this part of his character, gave confidence to his clients and attracted crowds of people to hear his speeches. When he rose at the bar, no one expected to hear common place matter; no one looked for a cold, vapid or phlegmatic harangue. His great excellence as a speaker consisted in an earnestness and dignity of manner, and strong powers of reasoning. He seized one or two strong points, and these he illustrated and enforced. His exordium was short and appropriate; he quickly marched up to the great point in controversy, making no manoeuvre as if he were afraid to approach it, or was desirous of attacking it by surprise. The confidence he exhibited of success he gradually imparted to his hearers; he grew more warm and earnest as he advanced in his argument, and seizing the critical moment for enforcing conviction, he brought forth his main argument, pressed it home and sat down. As he advanced in life, he seemed more and more anxious that the laws should be interpreted and administered by the rules of common sense. He lost his reverence for artificial rules; he said the laws were made for the people, and they should be interpreted and administered by rules which they understood, whenever it was practicable: that common sense belonged to the people in a higher degree than to learned men, and to interpret laws by rules which were at variance with the rules of common sense, necessarily lessened the respect of the people for the laws, and induced them to believe that courts and lawyers contrived mysteries in the science merely for the purpose of supporting the profession of lawyers. He said the rules of pedantry did not suit this country nor this age; that common sense had acquired dominion in politics and religion, and was gaining it in the law; that judges and lawyers should have the independence and magnanimity to strip off the veil of mystery from every branch of the science, and simplify and make it intelligible, as far as possible, to the understanding of the common people.

In all free States, eloquence has preceded poetry, history and philosophy. By opening the road to wealth and fame, it subserves the purposes of avarice and ambition; society is led captive by its charms, and sometimes bound in fetters by its powers. In this State, the Bar and the General Assembly have been thus far the theatre for its display. It is the branch of literature which we have cultivated with so much success, and in which we have not been far behind any of our sister States. Not long after Davie left the House of Commons, there appeared in that body another man, whose genius we have all admired and whose misfortune we all deplore. I hope I may be permitted to speak of him, although he be still living: Providence has withdrawn him from public view, and he has been followed by the regrets and tears of his countrymen. I speak of John Stanly, Esq. For more than twenty years he has been the ornament of the Bar and of the House of Commons. Small in stature, neat in dress, graceful in manner, with a voice well modulated, and a mind intrepid, disciplined and rich in knowledge, he became the most accomplished orator of the State. His style of eloquence was more various than that of any of his predecessors. Such were the versatility of his genius and the extent of his acquirements, that he could at pleasure adopt the lofty, flowing style of Davie, or the plain, simple, energetic style of Moore. He could rouse the noble passions, or amuse by his wit and pleasantry. He excelled in appropriate pauses, emphasis and gesticulation. No speaker was ever more fortunate in accommodating his manner to his subject; and on all important subjects he had a greatness of manner which small men seldom acquire. He resembled Moore in the quickness of his perceptions and the intuition of his judgment. His talents and knowledge were always at command, and he could bring them to bear with force and effect as occasion required, without any preparation. His mind was so well disciplined and so happily toned, that it was always ready for action. He possessed the rare talent of conversing well; his conversation was the perpetual flow of sober thought or pleasant humor, and was heightened in its effect by his happy style and gracefulness of manner. He was among the few orators of this or any country, whose style and manner in conversation equalled his style and manner in public speaking.

Few of the men whom I have named had the advantage of a liberal education: they rose to eminence by the force of their genius and a diligent application to their studies. The number of our literary men has been small, compared with our population; but this is not a matter of surprise, when we look to the condition of the State since the close of the revolutionary war. When the war ended, the people were in poverty, society in disorder, morals and manners almost prostrate. Order was to be restored to society and energy to the laws, before industry could repair the fortunes of the people; schools were to be established for the education of youth, and congregations formed for preaching the gospel, before the public morals could be amended. Time was required to effect these objects; and the most important of them, the education of youth, was the longest neglected. Before this university went into operation, in 1794, there were not more than three schools in the State, in which the rudiments of a classical education could be acquired. The most prominent and useful of these schools was kept by Dr. David Caldwell, of Guilford county. He instituted it shortly after the close of the war, and continued it for more than thirty years. The usefulness of Dr. Caldwell to the literature of North Carolina will never be sufficiently appreciated; but the opportunities of instruction in his school were very limited. There was no library attached to it; his students were supplied with a

few of the Greek and Latin classics, Euclid's Elements of Mathematics, and Martin's Natural Philosophy. Moral Philosophy was taught from a syllabus of lectures delivered by Dr. Witherspoon in Princeton College. The students had no books on history or miscellaneous literature. There were indeed very few in the State, except in the libraries of lawyers who lived in the commercial towns. I well remember, that after completing my course of studies under Dr. Caldwell, I spent nearly two years, without finding any books to read, except some old works on theological subjects. At length, I accidentally met with Voltaire's history of Charles the twelfth of Sweden, an odd volume of Smollett's Roderic Random, and an abridgment of Don Quixote. These books gave me a taste for reading, which I had no opportunity of gratifying until I became a student in this university in the year 1796. Few of Dr. Caldwell's students had better opportunities of getting books than myself; and with these slender opportunities of instruction, it is not surprising that so few became eminent in the liberal professions. At this day, when libraries are established in all our towns, when every professional man, and every respectable gentleman, has a collection of books, it is difficult to conceive the inconveniences under which young men labored thirty or forty years ago.

But has the number of our distinguished men increased as the facilities of instruction have increased? They certainly have not. Of the number of young men who have been educated at this university, how few have risen to eminence in any branch of literature! Their number bears no proportion to the increased means of instruction which they have had. To what causes is this to be attributed? The causes are numerous, but we will notice only a few of the most operative. In the first place, the plan of education in all our schools, particularly in our preparatory schools, is radically defective: too much time is spent upon syntax and etymology; the time of the student is wasted and his genius frittered away upon words, instead of being developed and polished by the spirit of the writer. Instead of directing the study of the Greek and Latin classics to the development of his faculties and the improvement of his taste, his time is taken up in nice attentions to words, arrangement of clauses and construction of periods. With his mind thus injured, he enters upon the study of the physical and moral sciences, and long accustomed to frivolous investigation, he never rises to the dignity of those sciences, nor understands the methods by which their truths are illustrated. In the next place, too many studies are crowded upon the student at once; studies which have no analogy nor connexion. In the third place, the time allotted for completing a course of scientific study is too short; the student's mind flags under the severe labours imposed upon it. The elasticity of the mind ought never to be weakened; if it be, the student thenceforward hobbles through his course, and is often broken down before he gets to the end of it. In the fourth place, too many studies are pursued, and none pursued well: the student acquires a smattering of languages and sciences, and understands none of them. This encyclopedical kind of learning is destructive of the powers of the mind, and unfits it for deep and severe investigation. In the last place, the multitude of books is a serious injury to most students. They despair of reading many of them, and content themselves with reading reviews of the most celebrated. At length the valuable books are placed away carefully in a library, and newspapers, pamphlets and other fugitive productions take up all their time for reading. There is nothing in this course, which teaches youth how to think and investigate. The great object of education is to give to the mind activity and energy: this object can never be attained by a course of studies which distract its attention and impair its elasticity.

The evils which I have mentioned are not confined to the schools of North-Carolina; they exist in nearly all the schools of the Union. Massachusetts has taken the lead in correcting them, and introducing methods of instruction founded upon the philosophy of the mind. The state of science and of literature among her people, shews the happy effect of these changes. The trustees of this university have resolved to make similar changes, to remodel the plan of studies, and introduce new methods of instruction. But whatever changes may be made in our plans of education, young men, who are desirous of being either useful or eminent in active life, should recollect this truth, that the education received at a college or university, is intended only as a preparation of the mind for receiving the rich stores of science and general knowledge, which subsequent industry is to acquire. He who depends upon this preparation alone, will be like a farmer who ploughs his land and sows no grain. The period of useful study commences, when a young man finishes his collegiate course. At that time his faculties have acquired some maturity from age and some discipline from exercise; and if he enter with diligence upon the study of a branch of science and confine his attention to that branch, he soon becomes astonished at his progress and at the increase of his intellectual powers. Let him avoid reading or even looking into a variety of books. Nine tenths of them are worse than useless; the reading of them produces a positive injury to the mind; they not only distract his attention, but blunt his faculties. Let him read only works of men of genius; read but few books and read them often. Take two young men of equal minds and similar genius; put into the hands of one, Shakespeare's Plays, Milton's Paradise Lost, Don Quixote and Gil Blas; and into the hands of the other, all the hundred volumes of dulness which fill our libraries; and at the end of twelve months, mark the difference between them. The first will be like the high spirited steed that is ready for the course; the other will be encumbered with a load of useless ideas, his faculties weakened and the bright tints of his genius obscured.

The next great object after the improvement of the intellectual faculties, is the forming of a moral character. This is by far the most difficult part of education: it depends upon the doctrines of morals and the philosophy of the passions and feelings. Little success has heretofore attended it, either in the schools of Europe or this country. The moral character of youth has been generally formed by their parents, by friends who gained their confidence, or by their pursuits in active life. The morality thus taught is purely practical; it has reference to no abstract truths; it looks only to the passions, and feelings of our nature under the variety of circumstances in which we may be placed in society, and the duties which thence result. The science of Ethics taught in our schools is a cold, speculative science; and our youth are misled by substituting this for practical morality. It is to be regretted, that we have no work on moral philosophy, which treats of Ethics purely as a practical science; and it is remarkable, that, notwithstanding the great improvement that has been made within the last century in metaphysical and physical science, and the liberal turn of philosophical enquiry which has been introduced, the science of Ethics remains stationary. The question, "what is the foundation of moral obligation," is not more satisfactorily answered now than it was two centuries ago. And until the principles of Ethics shall be disentangled from the speculative doctrines of Theology, interwoven by the schoolmen and monks in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and those principles be traced to the constitution and condition of man, having for their object the development of his social rights and duties, we shall have to regret that the most sublime of all the sciences remains imperfect. It seems to be reserved for the philosophers of Scotland to trace those principles and make this development; and we wait with impatience for the promised work of Dugald Stewart on this subject. But any system of morals which we may study as a science, will never have much effect in forming our moral character. We must look to our constitutional temperament, to our passions and feelings as influenced by external circumstances; and for rules of conduct, we must look to the sermons and parables of Christ; they are worth more than all the books which have been written on morals; they explain, and at the same time apply that pure morality which is founded upon virtuous feeling.

As you have conferred on me the honor of delivering this first public Address under your joint resolution, I hope you will permit me, before I sit down, to say a few words upon a subject connected with the usefulness of your Societies and the interests of the University. I speak to you in the spirit of fellowship, and a long acquaintance with your Societies enables me to speak with confidence. I well know the influence which your Societies can exercise in maintaining the good order of this institution, in sustaining the authority of the faculty, in suppressing vice, and promoting a gentlemanly deportment among the students. Every respectable student, of proper age, is a member of one or the other of your Societies, and feels more mortification at incurring its censure than that of the faculty. This feeling is the fulcrum on which the power of the Societies ought to be exerted. Let me entreat you, therefore, more particularly as you propose hereafter to occupy a higher ground than you have heretofore done, to exert that power in sustaining the discipline of the University, in encouraging industry and good manners, and in suppressing vice. The united efforts of the Societies can do more in effecting these objects than the authority of the trustees or faculty. A high responsibility rests upon you, your honor and the welfare of the University demand its faithful discharge.

In a short time you will complete your course of studies at this place, and bid adieu to these Halls, to act your parts upon the great theatre of active life. Your friends and your country have much to hope, much to expect from you. Devote yourselves with diligence to your studies. When you shall have finished your course here, remember that your education is just commencing; I mean that education which is fit you for acting a distinguished part upon the theatre of your country. The pursuits and the honors of literature lie in the same road with those of ambition; and he who aspires to fame or distinction, must rest his hopes upon the improvement of his intellect. Julius Cesar was one of the most accomplished scholars of Rome, and Napoleon Buonaparte of France. In our own country, we lately have seen one of our most eminent scholars raised to the Chief Magistracy of the nation, and the greatest orator of the age made his prime minister. I speak not in terms of politics; literature has no factions; good taste no parties. Remember, my young friends, that most of the men who thus far have shed a lustre upon our country, had not one-half the opportunities of education which you have enjoyed. They had to rely upon their genius and industry. Genius delights to toil with difficulties; they discipline its powers and animate its courage; it contemns the honors which can be obtained without labour, and prizes only those which are purchased by noble exertion. Wish not, therefore, for a life of ease; but go forth with stout hearts and determined resolution. As yet you little know what labour and perseverance can effect, nor the exalted pleasures which honorable exertion gives to an ingenious mind. May God take charge of you; lead you in the ways of uprightness and honor; make you all useful men, and ornaments to your country.

New-York, July 14.

The packet ship New-York, did not sail, it seems, till the 8th ultimo, instead of the 1st (her stated day) from Liverpool. We have received by her, London papers to the 5th; and by the Cortes, from London, to the 7th ultimo, inclusive.

On the 1st of June, Mr. Canning, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, brought forward his Budget, which he explained in a clear and business-like speech. The deficiency in the income for the year is about two millions sterling, or nine millions of dollars—a sum nearly equal to our whole ordinary annual expenditure, (not including redemption of debt and payment of interest.) This deficiency Mr. Canning proposes to remedy, by Exchequer bills, rather than by a new loan. It seems that the Exchequer bill of £100, bearing an interest of only 3 per cent. is a premium in the market of 2½ per cent.

Bell's Weekly Messenger, referring to Mr. Canning's speech says, "This is his first appearance as a finance minister, and if not brilliant, it was, at least, respectable. A subject so dry as figures, affords few opportunities for meritment—there is no jangling with the national accounts. The debt still adheres to us, and is felt with all its incumbering weight and galling pressure upon the springs of our industry, and the scantiness of our means, and cannot be displaced or lightened one atom of its burden by tropes of rhetoric, or sallies of pleasantry. With respect to the budget itself, it is clear, frank, and unpretending; and this we think, is its greatest merit. It is not the gaudy dash which was annually exhibited by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer; flaunting in prostitute robes and false colors, and deceiving and deluding the nation with a gay and hollow show of prosperity. Mr. Canning far surpasses most of his predecessors in real talent, as he excels them in that plainness and simplicity which would scorn to exhibit our national account in any manner than a sworn witness, giving evidence in a Court of Justice."

A vote of £500,000 sterling was to be asked, to meet the expense of the troops in Portugal. This, honest John Bull seems somewhat to growl at, and thinks it hard that he should buy freedom for Portugal with his money, and maintain it with his blood.

On the 1st June, the House of Lords went into committee on the bill for amending the Corn Laws, when a proposition by the Duke of Wellington, "that bonded corn should not be taken out of bond for home consumption until the average should reach 66s." was carried, in opposition to the wishes of Lord Goderich, by 78 to 74. This vote completely destroyed the principle of the bill, as it came from the House, which was one of the free admission at all times of foreign corn, subject to duties graduated according to the ruling prices; and it was stated by Lord Goderich that, if retained the bill would be abandoned. The House of Lords was again engaged on the 6th, in this bill, which was then recommitted—the amendment of the Duke of Wellington would probably be reconsidered. It is not very creditable to the fairness of Lord Wellington that he should, from the mere circumstance of being now out of the Cabinet, have thus thought to embarrass, if not defeat a bill which was matured, when he was in the Cabinet.

New-York, July 13.

We have been favored with a copy of the "R. Conciliator, Extra." of June 20th—the title of a new paper printed at Caracas. It contains a letter from Vice-President Saúl, dated at Bogota, April 30th, in the Liberator, urging his immediate return to the capital, for the purpose of resuming the Executive duties, and of allaying the difficulties that exist. This is followed by a reply of Mr. Revenga, Secretary of State, dated Caracas, June 19, informing the Vice-President that the Liberator will, with all possible expedition, set out for the seat of Government, &c. The remainder of the paper is occupied by a Proclamation of Bolivar, of which the following is a hasty translation:

Proclamation of Simon Bolivar, Liberator, President, &c. &c. Columbians! Your enemies are threatening destruction, to Columbia—it is my duty to save it. Fourteen successive years have found me at your head by the unanimous vote of the People. During all the periods in which glory and prosperity have fallen to the Republic, I have renounced the supreme command in the purest sincerity. I have no stronger wish than to avoid the use of the instruments of tyranny, which I abhor more than ignominy itself. But ought I to abandon you in the hour of danger? Would this be the conduct of a citizen and a soldier? No; Columbians, I am resolved to face it all, in order that Anarchy may not usurp the place of Liberty, and rebellion that of the Constitution. As a citizen, as Liberator, as President, my duty involves the glorious necessity of sacrificing myself for you. I will march, then, to the Southern confines of the Republic, to expose my life and my glory, to liberate you from the perfidious wretches, who, after having triumphed on their most sacred duties, have raised the standard of treason, to invade the most loyal Departments, and those most worthy of our protection. Columbians! The will of the nation is opposed by the many wretches who have taken upon themselves to dictate the law to the sovereign whom they ought to obey. They have arrogated to themselves the supreme right of the nation; they have violated all principles—in fine the troops which once were Columbians, the Allies of Peru, have returned to their country, to establish a new and extraordinary government on the ruins of the Republic, which they outrage with more insolence than our old oppressors. Columbians! I appeal to your glory and your patriotism. Rally round the national standard, which has waved in triumph from the mouth of the Orunoko to the summit of the Potosi. Love it, and the nation will preserve its Liberty. The cry of Colombia is for the great Convention. It is her most urgent want. Congress will, doubtless, convolve it. And in the basis of Congress will place the staff and sword which the Republic has entrusted to me, both as Constitutional President and Supreme Extraordinary Chief, constituted by the People. I will not deceive the hopes of the country. You have acquired liberty, glory, and have against your former enemies. Liberty, glory, and life, will be procured in spite of atrocious anarchy. Head-Quarters, Caracas, 19th June, 1827.—Independence 1745. HOLLAND.