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GOVERNMENT WAS INSTITUTED FOR THE GOOD OF THE GOVERNED.

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sented.

[From the Raleigh observer.]

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF

THE OFFICERS OF THE NEW

GOVERNMENT.

ZEBULON B. VANCE,

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE.

ZEBULON VANCE was born in Bun-

combe county on the thirteenth day of

May, 1830, and no man in the State can

boast a better lineage than he.—

His father, David Vance, was a man

of high character and intelligence and

one who though he preferred the quiet

walks of private life and never engaged

in politics, was a most excellent and

estimable citizen. His grandfather,

Col. David Vance, the elder, was a

Revolutionary hero who fought and

was wounded at King's Mountain.—

After the Revolutionary war he was

Clerk of the Superior Court of Bun-

combe until his death in 1812. No

man was his superior in accuracy in

business and strict discharge of duty,

in social temper, hospitality, integrity

and piety. Governor Vance's uncle,

Robert Vance, at one time a member

of Congress from the Mountain Dis-

trict and who fell in a duel with Hon.

Sam P. Carson, was also a man of rare

promise and popularity. Nor was his

maternal ancestry of less note, he be-

ing a grandson of Colonel Zebulon

Baird, one of the best citizens of Bun-

combe county, honored and respected

all his days and for many years a

member of the General Assembly.

But notwithstanding he may boast

such lineage, Governor Vance is a self-

made man and owes to his own tal-

ents and energy, his rapid advance-

ment in life. He inherited but little

more than a library, but that library

he used to the greatest advantage, so

that at the early age of sixteen the

accuracy of his knowledge, especially

in the English classics, as is stated by

one well qualified to judge, was most

astonishing. In the year 1850 he be-

came a student at the University.—

Shortly after his return home the next

year, and shortly after obtaining li-

cence to practice law, he was elected

Solicitor for his county. But Zebulon

United States Court for North Caroli-

na. Colonel David Coleman and W.

W. Avery, Esq., of Burke, both Dem-

ocrats, became candidates to fill the

unexpired term caused by General

Clingman's resignation. As soon as

the contest had waxed sufficiently

warm, young Vance came forward as

a Whig candidate. Coleman with-

drew, but it was too late; a fatal

breach had been made in the Demo-

cratic party and Vance was elected.—

In 1859 he was a candidate for re-

election for the next full regular term,

and having firmly established himself

in the affections of the people of the

District, was able to defeat his old

opponent, Colonel Coleman, one of

the best, purest, ablest and most pop-

ular men that ever lived in the moun-

tains. He served in Congress until

March 1861. His course in Congress

was eminently conservative. He la-

boored hard to stay the tide of North-

ern fanaticism and carefully refrained

from language calculated to increase

sectional feeling. He sought rather

to allay it. While a candidate for re-

election in 1861, the Ordinance of Se-

cession was passed by the Convention

on the 20th of May. Preparations for

war were already on foot, and Vance

was no laggard in war. He respond-

ed, and at once, to the very first call

to arms. He had not favored the seces-

sion movement, but he was a true

North Carolinian, and ready to obey the

behests of his State at all hazards—at

the hazard even of his life. Before

the end of May, indeed on the very

day the Ordinance of Secession was

passed, he was Captain Vance, and

had his company in camp at Raleigh.

The call of President Lincoln upon

North Carolina for troops to make war

upon her sister States had been suf-

ficient for him. It needed not to wait

for an ordinance of secession. His

company was one of those that formed

the Fourteenth Regiment, first com-

manded by that gallant soldier, Gen-

eral Junius Daniel. Captain Vance

served with his regiment in Virginia

until late in the fall or early winter,

when he was elected Colonel of the

Twenty-Sixth Regiment, in command

of which he fought at the battle of

Newbern and in the fights around

Richmond. In August, 1862, he was

elected Governor, and having resigned

his colonelcy was inaugurated in the

fall of that year, under a special or-

dinance of the convention fixing the date

of the beginning of his term of office.

In 1863, he was re-elected Governor

of the State. His vigorous, earnest

efforts for successful prosecution of the

war are matters of common history.

In April, 1865, he left Raleigh with

General Joe Johnson's army, went to

Greensboro, and from thence to Char-

lotte, where he joined President Davis.

From Charlotte he went to Statesville,

in Iredell county, to which place he

had previously removed his family for

safety and refuge. There he remained

until some time in May, 1865, when

he was arrested and carried to Wash-

ington City, and imprisoned in the old

Capitol, where he was confined for

several months. It was while there that

he gave one of his characteristic replies

to the question asked, we believe, by

old Tom Gorwin, of Ohio, "What are

you doing here Vance?" "I am here

for debt." "You see," said he, "at

the beginning of the war Holden said

he would get in the last ditch, and

vote the last man and the last dollar

to whip the Yankees. I went his se-

curity and as he won't pay, they have

taken me with a ca. sa. and here I am."

Mrs. Vance having fallen very ill, Gov-

ernor Holden, at the solicitation of

Governor Vance's friends, and in tardy

recognition of the protection ex-

tended to him when the raid was made

by Confederate troops on his printing

office in Raleigh, wrote to President

Johnson in his behalf, and he was per-

mitted to return home on parole, and

was finally released. Towards the

close of the year Governor Vance re-

moved to Charlotte and resumed the

practice of the law.

Of course, during the war of recon-

struction, as it may well be termed, it

was impossible for Zebulon B. Vance

to be an idle spectator. Although a

banned man, he took, we believe, an

active part in every stage of the strug-

gle; ever maintaining and upholding

the rights of the people of North Car-

olina. In every section of the State

was his voice heard, exhorting the peo-

ple to courage, and to patience, and to

hope, and that, too, doubtless, at a

great sacrifice of his private interests.

Finally, in 1870, when honest men

once more controlled the Legislature,

it was thought the time had come to

make an adequate reward for such long

and faithful service in field, in camp,

and in the council chamber. Accord-

ingly, on November 29th, 1870, he

was elected by the Legislature to be

United States Senator, to succeed Gen.

Abbott. The Federal Senate, after

delusive hopes held out by its mem-

bers, refused to remove his disabilities,

and on the 2nd of January, 1872, his

resignation was sent in to the Senate

of North Carolina. Thereupon Gen-

eral Matt W. Ransom was elected in

his place, and was enabled, by person-

al appeals to Senators, to secure the

passage of a bill removing his disabili-

ties. During the campaign that fol-

lowed, Governor Vance took an active

and distinguished part, canvassing

both the Eastern and Western portions

of the State. Everywhere he went he

was received with the most cordial and

enthusiastic welcome.

Governor Vance's disabilities being

now removed, the great mass of the

people everywhere were turned to him

as the man to fill the vacancy caused

by the expiration of John Pool's term

in the United States Senate, but their

expectations were not fulfilled. The

recollection of the senatorial contest

in 1872 is fresh in the memory of us

all. Everybody knows that Governor

Vance was the regular nominee of the

Conservative party, and that he was

Polly's Christmas Society.

AS TOLD BY ONE OF ITS MEMBERS.

What started the thing, I don't re-

member. Oh, I believe Nell Taintor

proposed it; anyway it was splendid,

and I'll tell you all about it.

We girls had a society, you know,

and we hadn't anything in particular

to do; and Nell proposed that we should

make something for Polly Stephens' Christmas.

Polly's a real nice girl, and used to

go to our school, but she fell on the ice

last winter and hurt her back, and she

had to lie down all the time; she can't

even stand up a minute.

Well, we used to go and see her as

often as we could; but, of course, we

had our lessons, and practicing, and oth-

er things, out of school; and so she

used to get awfully lonesome, Nell said,

because she couldn't do much of any-

thing, and she had read every book

Nell had—Nell lived next door and

used to run in. And she staid alone

ever so much, because her mother's a

dressmaker, and has to go out, and she

didn't have things very comfortable;

the doctor's bills were so large that her

mother had as much as she could do to

get along.

When Nell told us about her we felt

ashamed that we hadn't been to see her

more, and so we just got a plan to give

her a surprise. We gave our society a

new name, "Polly's Christmas society,"

or "P. S. Society," in public, so that

everyone should not know what it was,

and we all went to work for her.

Kate Woodbury was president—

splendid girl Kate is. She said she

would make a nice wrapper for Polly,

out of a blue dress of her own that she

had burned a hole in; she knew her

mother'd let her have it. Mattie Har-

ker said she would give her a quilt, or

spread, that she was making out of

bright bits of silk. It was log-cabin

pattern, and real pretty. Alice Bur-

nett said she would make her a pretty

rug to lay before her lounge; the floor

was bare, and it would look so pretty.

She knew how to make one out of round

pieces of black and red and white wool-

en. You've seen them? A black one

about as big as a teacup at the bottom,

a red one, a little smaller, laid on that,

and a quite small white on top; all

tied together with a tuft of red thread

in the middle of the white one. Then,

when she had lots of these made, she

sewed them all on an oval piece of old

sacking, and it was real bright and pret-