The Record

July 17, . . 1879

A. LONDON, Jr., Editor

JUSTICE TO THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

In a recently published letter from that humane gentleman and acute observer of human nature, J. H. Mills, Esq., the large-hearted Superintendent of the Oxford Asylum, occurs an allusion to one of the great evils of the day which deserves more than a passing notice. He says:

"It seems to be the fashion to depreciate the living and extravagantly eulogize the dead; simple justice to both would be better."

Every person must admit the truth of this charge, and also agree with Mr. Mills in saying that "simple justice" to both the living and the dead would be better. We have termed this an "evil," and such we believe it to be, and it is the duty of the Press, as the leader of public opinion, to denounce it and endeavor to eradicate it. Unfortunately however, we must confess that our newspapers rather aggravate this "evil." It does seem to be a part of human nature, the world over, to take delight both in heaping fulsome flattery and indiscriminate praise upon the dead, and in unjustly criticising and condemning the living. Why it is, we know not, but that it is, must be confessed by all who can hear or read.

While to a certain extent we admire the old Latin saying, "De mortuis nil nisi bonum" concerning the dead say only what is favorable and appreciate the charity intended thereby, still neither men nor papers are called upon, upon their duty, to speak falsely of any, whether dead or living. And it is as false to unduly praise the dead as to unjustly condemn the living. Why not do "simple justice" to both? To speak kindly of the dead is commendable, and it indicates a kind heart and generous mind and forgiving disposition to forget and blot out the wrong committed by those who are dead; but is it right, is it just to the living, to ascribe virtues to the dead which they did not possess? Nay, to speak of their vices as virtues, and so commingle virtue with vice that both seem one? Even ministers of the Gospel in funeral sermons, simply to please the family, frequently hold up as a paragon of perfection and as a shining saint, the departed relative, who when living, was pointed out as a sinner to be shunned! The eloquent eulogies pronounced in our Legislative and Congressional Halls in memory of deceased members have become a burlesque. The studied orations over the "distinguished dead" have become a bare formality, while the high-sounding "Preamble and Resolutions" of our multitudinous societies are read with a smile of incredulity. We believe in honoring the dead, in holding up for imitation their virtues, if they have any, but not in falsely ascribing to them virtues which they never had. This is unjust to the virtuous dead, and pernicious to the vicious living. For when eulogies are so indiscriminate, the true and false so intermingled, who can tell who were the virtuous, or who the vicious? And when a man sees and hears such eulogies pronounced over his late companion in sin, is he apt to be induced thereby to forsake his sins, which in his deceased friend are termed virtues?

But while we think this wrong, it is an error rather to be ascribed to the weakness of our human nature, and of course is not so much to be condemned as the habit of "depreciating the living." It is a sad and shameful commentary on a man (and the more shameful because true) that he takes such pleasure in depreciating and speaking ill of his fellow-men, and still worse, in speaking falsely of them. With so many men how natural to speak evil of their neighbors! How much more ready are they to do this, than to speak well of them. Instead of lending a helping hand to a struggling brother, how many there are who throw obstacles in his way, and if he takes a downward turn how quick they are to give him a helping kick! If by chance, or by superior ability and greater energy, one man in a community leaps to rise above his fellows, instead of pushing him up and encouraging him, many there are who early seek to pull him down to their level. It is much easier to keep down than to build up. It requires no exertion, no sacrifice, no generous impulse, no self-denial, to keep the deserving down, while it requires all these to help up the struggling. Why is this? We know not, but it is so, and we think it should be the duty of every man who has a generous impulse, who has a heart to feel for the struggling, who has a head to think and a tongue to speak, to throw all the weight of his influence against the destructive, in favor of the constructive."

Would it not be better to give to a man who is living a portion of that praise which is so lavishly bestowed upon him when dead? A word of encouragement of the living, a kindly word of cheer, or a friendly deed of kindness to the living brother, is far better, we think, and more truly expressive of our concern, than all the costly words of fulsome flattery and extravagant eulogy so indiscriminately heaped upon the dead.

This subject depreciation of the living and extravagant praise of the dead is true of individuals, of communities, and of nations, and has been so from the earliest ages. Is it not said of the greatest poet of antiquity that

"Seven wealthy towns contended for Homer living,
Through whom the living Homer begged his bread?"

We repeat then, in conclusion, the question, "would not simple justice to both be better?"

Arctic Exploration.

During this excessively hot weather we can scarcely believe that there is a country of perpetual ice and snow, and doubtless many of us wish it was more accessible just now. Many expeditions have been sent out at different times to attempt to reach the North Pole, and thus far all have been in vain. The latest started off on the 8th inst., and is the individual undertaking of James Gordon Bennett, the proprietor of the New York Herald. The ship selected for the enterprise is a staunch craft, and is manned by experienced officers of the United States Navy and a carefully selected crew. Although a private enterprise this expedition is more adequately fitted for the task than any government expedition ever sent on a similar mission. Bennett never does anything by halves, and the expense incurred by this enterprise is estimated at $300,000. The expedition will hardly return under three years. What a time they will spend among those Polar ice bergs! But then they will escape the extreme heat, from which we are now suffering, and do suffer every summer. Just now we would like to borrow, for a few weeks, one of those dreaded northerns, and thaw out the atmosphere in this section.

Yellow Fever.

This dreaded pestilence has again visited Memphis, and the inhabitants of that fated city are fleeing in affright from its fearful ravages. The scenes of suffering and misery that prevailed in Memphis last summer are still fresh in the minds of all, and now to have a repetition is indeed fearful to contemplate. It would seem that the severe cold weather of last winter was sufficient to freeze out the germs of this incidious disease, which again threatens death and untold sufferings to the people of afflicted Memphis. Of course the fever will spread into the surrounding towns and cities, and the sickle of death will gather in a fearful harvest. How thankful we should be that our lives are cast in more pleasant places, and that our section of country is so much more favored.

Taking the Census.

For the information of those who are inquiring about taking the census we copy the following from another paper:

"Any county exceeding 4,000 in population shall be divided into districts, so that no district shall contain more than 4,000 inhabitants. The enumerators (one for every 4,000 inhabitants) begin their duties on the first Monday in June, 1880, and must finish before July 1st—thus requiring the work to be completed in less than thirty days. The compensation will be two cents for each inhabitant, two cents for each death reported, ten cents for each farm, and fifteen cents for each establishment of productive industry. Applications for appointments as enumerators or census takers, should be addressed to the supervisors of the State, when appointed."

A Governor Presented.

Gov. Roberts, of Texas, has been presented by one of the grand jurors of the State as unfit for the position he occupies and as countenancing crime by his acts.

North Carolina Republicans.

A late despatch from Washington speaks of the family squared among North Carolina Republicans as follows:

"A war between the men and ends is raging in that State with much bitterness. The main point apparently at issue is that the outs complain that the offices are mostly filled by carpet baggers and the native-born Republicans have not a fair show. It is believed, however, that deeper than this is the question as to who shall succeed in controlling the delegation from North Carolina in the next National Republican Convention. Mr. Thomas B. Keogh, who has been chairman of the Republican State Committee for a number of years, and who has always exercised more influence over the politics of the State than any other man of his party, is said to be first for Grant and after Grant for Conkling. The Federal officials in North Carolina are with some exceptions the close friends of Mr. Keogh, and are understood to be in accord with him in regard to the next Presidency. United States District Attorney Albertson is said to be the leader of the wing opposed to Mr. Keogh, and in favor of Secretary Sherman as the next Republican nominee.

"The President, who it is generally acknowledged favors Secretary Sherman's aspirations, has had interviews with Mr. Albertson, and it has been said he has expressed the opinion that the interests of the Republican party in general and of Mr. Sherman in particular, would be much subserved by the election of Keogh's friends from the offices and the substitution of native with carpet bagger predictions. The friends of Keogh assert that he is not anxious about remaining at the head of the State committee and that he has several times offered to resign, but that the better portion of the native Republicans put him there and want him to stay there. Owing to the peculiar manner in which the Republican politics of North Carolina are run the chairmanship of the State committee is a very important influence in the making up of the delegation to the national convention, and hence the friends of Sherman will [illegible] every effort they can set Keogh's friends put out of office and substitute men of their choosing. When it is considered that the Southern delegations in the convention will be all-powerful in controlling the nomination, it is said to be worth hard work to be on the inside of the machinery."

Important Case Settled.

The long contested case known as the "Swamp Case," which has been in litigation in Richmond, Va., since 1869, has been terminated by a compromise and decree in the Chancery Court. The controversy related to the title to the property of Wm. C. Grange, a wealthy citizen of Richmond, who died intestate in 1869, leaving a brother, sisters, nephews and nieces. The case was filed by a sister against Lee Grange, of Philadelphia, who claimed his brother and sister had married Wm. C. Grange before the war. The ground of the claim was alleged by the marriage of the sister shortly before his death to Jas. George, a negro. After three trials and an appeal to the Court of Appeals, the case came back to the court and jury for the decision of such questions as the jury could find, leaving that there was a marriage, and that the Richmond claimants are the legal heirs, but decreeing such to the latter's consort, that the Philadelphia claimants shall receive one-quarter of the net proceeds of the estate.

Wants His Legs.

WASHINGTON, July 10, 1879.—A singular and pitiably sad case will be involved in a suit of replevin which is to be filed in Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. It appears that the applicant for the writ was some time since taken with a malignant malady which so far progressed that the amputation of the all and limbs became necessary. The surgeon who attended the gentleman took the amputated limbs to the Medical Museum, where they were placed in a jar of alcohol. Their owner supposed that they had been buried, but learned a few days since that they were on exhibition at the Army Medical Museum with his name pasted on a card placed at the top of the jar. This being rather offensive to him, he consulted a lawyer, who advised him to replevin them. It was reported at the Court House that should he succeed in obtaining possession of them other suits would be brought by various persons having amputated members in the museum to recover them.

Cattle Ship

The steamer Great Eastern, which has long been lying at Milford Haven, is to be fitted up with new boilers and machinery at a cost of $40,000, as a cattle ship. It is estimated that she can carry 2,200 head of cattle and 20,000 sheep. She is to trade between London and Texas.

Jeff. Davis in Luck.

Mrs. Sarah A. Dorsey, of Mississippi, who died in New Orleans last week, leaves a will bequeathing her whole estate to Jefferson Davis. This legacy of Mrs. Dorsey's will make the circumstances of Mr. Davis quite easy and comfortable.

Correspondence.

☞ WE WILL BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS ON ANY SUBJECTS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST BUT WE MUST INSIST ON A RESPONSIBLE NAME ACCOMPANYING EVERY ARTICLE AND ALSO THAT IT BE WRITTEN PLAINLY AND ONLY ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER. THE EDITOR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF CORRESPONDENTS. ☜

FOR THE RECORD.

Bynumtown Co.,
7th July, 1879.

Mr Dear Record:—Moments of leisure will come in the life of every man—often they are too frequent when, perhaps, he desires some pleasant occupation to prevent himself from lapsing into idleness. Such moments, and such a one I have now. My pleasant occupation is to give your readers a few observations made on a pedestrian tour thro' a portion of our State. I hope these may not be without interest, and may encourage some of our young men to seek a like tone. The labor and fatigue of walking is more than repaid by the pleasures and delights of the mountains. The refreshing breezes, the pure air, the beautiful and magnificent scenery, the lovely sunsets and sunrises, grand nature in expressions beneath the soft rays of the moon, the honey, the milk and butter, in abundance, the fishing and hunting, are a thousand-fold compensation for the fatigue of walking. My highest conceptions have been realized; and my experience experience me that our mode of travelling is the best. The first and walking causes soreness at first, but they soon become hardened and accustomed to the strengthening exercise. There are four in our party, each one carrying his own baggage in a knapsack strapped across his shoulders. Now, to the mountains and scenery, I expected adventures.

After reaching Nelson's, at the foot of the Blue Ridge, you ascend on a tangle-foot road for nine miles, when a signboard announces "Blowing Rock." Turning to the left and walking for an hundred yards you reach Blowing Rock, a frowning mass of rock, three to four hundred feet in height. Here you get a fine view of the mountain country—the high peaks projecting far into the skies and the beautiful valleys stretched out far below. Resuming the ascent for one and a half miles, another board announces "Fair View," and a hand points out the road. This is another bluff higher, perhaps, than Blowing Rock, with a finer view from it. Half a mile from "Fair View" is Morris's, where a good dinner and delightful water can be obtained. The water from his spring "mingles" on a board over the spring has on it, "with streams from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and New York, on the East; from the Rocky Mts. and intermediate country, on the West, and from British America and the immediate country on the North." After a course of more than twenty-five hundred miles, it joins the Gulf of Mexico in a region of almost perpetual summer. The temperature in Morganton, Ft. Bragg, Morris's, the descent has been commenced, and on descending for two miles and leaving the road for half a mile, "Raven's Rock" is reached, a bluff of the height of Blowing Rock.

The next places of interest we visited, were Valle Crucis and Dutch Creek Falls, in Watauga county. Valle Crucis is the place where Bishop Ives commenced his school for boys. The Falls are eighty-five feet high, and are very picturesque. The next place, the rumor of which had reached us, was Grandfather Mt., the elevation being 5,607 feet, in the corner of Watauga, Mitchell and Caldwell counties. We secured a guide at the base and ascended to the summit, where we spent the night, and had the pleasure of observing a lovely sunset and sunrise. It was a beautiful and sublime scene from the summit of the mountain, to watch the shadows of night fall gently and gradually upon the valleys below, and the next morning, to watch the gray streaks of the dawn, and the sun peering above the top of some giant mountain, awaking the merry birds, whose warbling alone broke the stillness and enchanted all else. We hailed long and wonderingly, until the sun was seen well above the horizon. From the Grandfather we set out for Linville Falls in Burke county. The Falls are grand. In this vicinity we spent several days, visiting a cave in limestone rock, and seeing stalactites and stalagmites; also Bynum's Bluff and Table Rock. Table Rock, when seen from a distance, resembles a table; hence the name. The view from the top is magnificent. The whole is just a country for many miles is overlooked. Two farms here and there on the mountain sides, and in the valleys, increase the picturesqueness of the scenery. As you descend or ascend the distant farms are shut out from the view, and the scenery becomes wilder and wilder.

Well, my dear Record, my few moments of leisure are spent, but not my hearty good wish for a sight of you, and your increased prosperity. A word for those of your readers who have small or no appetites and who are daily growing thinner. Come, ye, to the mountains. Send us some non-appetizer. More when leisure returns.

Yours, &c.,
J. S. M.

FOR THE RECORD.

CHATHAM COUNTY, July 10th, 1879.

MR. EDITOR:—In your issue of the 26th of June appears a communication signed "Victor", which does injustice to our county commissioners, —a body of men whom it seems fashionable to abuse, and I write this to do them simple justice. You, Mr. Editor, very properly corrected "Victor's" statement, "that the commissioners had allowed one man $15, for examining the Bynum bridge." The facts are simply these: early in the spring the bridge at Bynum's Factory was reported to the commissioners as being in a dangerous and dilapidated condition, and they appointed a committee of three to examine and report its condition. This committee, composed of three skilled mechanics, received, each $2 a day, and for one day only. After their report was made, the Magistrates were called together and decided to build a new bridge. The commissioners appointed a committee of three good bridge builders to examine the location also to examine other bridges in other townships, and to make out plans and specifications. Of this committee, Mr. Nasa Ned is the only one who has presented his account, and he was allowed $2 a day and mileage, which to date amounted to [illegible] I think was more than made.

"Victor" complained that only 50 cents a day was allowed the guards for conveying certain prisoners to jail. He did not tell that these guards had to board themselves, and that their board bill whole amounted to $90 [illegible]. Doubtless the tax payers of the county will differ with "Victor" in thinking that $1.25 cents was quite too high for them to pay for taking care of these prisoners.

Without the services of our commissioners are responsible to the people, and their acts and doings are proper subjects for criticism, yet it does seem to me that no one ever gives them credit for any good thing they may do, but every person is ready and willing to criticise or misconstrue all their actions. And it matters not who our commissioners are, it is and has been the same thing with them all. If persons who complain and grumble at everything they can were in the commissioners' place, would they do any better, nay, would they do as well?

JUSTICE.

FOR THE RECORD.

LITTLE CREEK CHURCH CONN.,
July 7th 1879.

MR. EDITOR:—You will please give this short piece an insertion in the RECORD. It was my privilege to attend a picnic at Maple Grove school house on the fourth, which was gotten up by the members of the debating society at that place in order to celebrate the day in memory of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on the fourth of July 1776.

It was one of the greatest picnics that I have attended since the war. The numbers of the Society had a sumptuous barbecue consisting of fresh meats, such as mutton, kids, hams, etc., etc., which was free to all, besides there was a great feast brought in by the people living near the place.

Everything passed off pleasantly and the people all seemed to enjoy themselves nicely. Among the treats of the day was an address, delivered by Mr. Z. G. Coley, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Mr. G. N. Hinsley, which was highly appreciated by all who were present.

The young people to enjoy themselves, had a very pleasant dance, which was very nicely conducted by Mr. R. M. Womack. I wish young men and enterprising people a great success, and I will close simply by saying Hurrah for the Maple Grove Debating Society.

SYCAMORE.

FOR THE RECORD.

MOUNT LEA, N. C.,
July 9th, 1879.

MR. EDITOR:—I heard a friend say a few weeks ago that your paper, THE CHATHAM RECORD, stated that two townships, Hadley and Centre, had carried "Prohibition." Probably you had forgotten that the Albright township had had Prohibition ever since the first Monday in May, 1874. That was a very rainy day, unfavorable for travelling, and out of sixty-eight votes sixty five were for Prohibition. We also had an election the first Monday in May, 1875, and only one vote for License. I do not suppose if an election was held now, that any opposition would be made against Prohibition. There was a Temperance Society started in the year 1852 in what is now known as the Albright township, and it is still kept up; and during this long period more than two thousand persons have signed the pledge, many of whom are scattered over different sections of the United States.

You will please publish this, in order that people in different parts of our country may know how temperance matters stand in the northwestern corner of Chatham.

Yours, &c.,
D. K. PRESCOTT.

Healthy New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, July 12.—The Auxiliary Sanitary Association makes the following statement in an official form: After a thorough investigation by the officers and members of this association, supported by the testimony of the Board of Health and the New Orleans Medical Association, we hereby declare that this city is now in a perfectly healthy condition, and that there has not been a single case of yellow fever in this city during the present summer. The city is in a better sanitary condition than for many years, and the absence of fevers, which usually precede the yellow fever, has inspired the belief that we shall escape serious sickness. The country will be officially notified should the yellow fever appear.

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I have NOW on hand, an Elegant Stock of

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may 30-tf Raleigh, N. C.

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10,000 lbs Timothy and Clover Hay,
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700 bbls White and Yellow Corn,
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10,000 lbs White and Yellow Sugars,
200 bbls Baking Powders,
Choice Messina Oranges,
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Ripe and Yellow Bananas,
Fresh Brazos Cocoanuts,
New York Prunes,
Choice Italian Apples,
Choice Patras Currants,
Mixed and Plain Pickles,
English and American Chow-Chow,
Turkey and Duck,
Imported and Domestic Catsups and Sauces,
Smoked, Boiling and Chipping Beef,
Graham Flour,
Imported and Domestic Oatmeal,
Sago, Tapioca and Farina,
Cracked and Crushed Wheat,
Rice, Flour and Corn Starch,
Nesson & Lowe's Cream,
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Cassell Pie Fruits,
Preserves and Jellies,
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dec1 6m

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800 Bushels Best seed Oats,
500 Sacks and Barrels Family and Extra Flour,
40 Barrels Sugar—White and Yellow,
35 Bags Coffees,
3 Car Loads Molasses—New Crop Cuba, New Orleans and Sugar House Syrup,
100 Sacks Marshalls Liverpool Fine Salt,
25 Barrels Early Rose Potatoes,
1000 Bags Patapsco Guano,
50 Boxes Soap,
100 Kegs Nails.

And other goods necessary to make up a full stock.

All of the above goods we will sell cheap for cash, or on time, with satisfactory arrangements. Soliciting orders.

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dec12-3m

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I have in store and to arrive, a nice collection of cheap and medium grade goods, which will be sold cheap for cash. Bureaus at $6.50, $7.50 $8.50 and up to $40, &c. Good cotton top mattresses $2.50 and $4.00 and all kinds of goods in proportion. Rep Lounges, $6.50, $7.50, and $9.00, carpet Lounges $8.50, and $10. Call and see me or write for prices of any kind of goods as I am determined to sell as cheap as the cheapest. Remember the place and name.

may8-tf JOHN T. MORRIS.