

The North Carolina Standard.

THOMAS LORING,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION OF THE STATES—THEY "MUST BE PRESERVED."

VOL. IX.—NO. 442.

RALEIGH, N. C. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1843.

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

TERMS.

THE NORTH CAROLINA STANDARD

IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT
THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.
Those persons who remit by Mail (postage paid)
\$5, will be entitled to a receipt for \$6, or two
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those who advertise by the year.

Letters to the Editor must come free of postage,
or they may not be attended to.

Office on Hillsborough street, south side, between
McDowell and Dawson streets.

LIST OF LETTERS

Remaining in the Post
ending 31st
Office, Raleigh, Quarter
March, 1843.

A. George King,
Mrs. Polly Andrews,
Lynn Adams,
James Allen,
David Allen,
Samuel Anderson,
William Ashe,
Preston Brooks,
Miss Willia Betts,
George W. Bishop,
P. B. Burt,
James Harvey Bond,
James Burrows,
William Blacklock,
William Bryson,
Susan Brock,
Hon. A. P. Bagby,
Mrs. Nancy Bynum,
Mrs. John Bevel,
James L. Bryan,
James T. Blakeney,
Burrell Bell,
Joseph J. Bell,
Burt Brown,
Berl Brown,
John Beves,
Stratford Baily,
T. Pollock Burgwyn,
Jesse M. Cole,
Joseph Cook,
John R. Cooper,
James N. Crosby,
Miss Mary J. Creery,
Isaac J. Colier,
David Carter,
Leverett Conish,
Thomas Conard,
W. C. Chamberlin,
James Champen,
William Cornell,
John Colwell,
N. P. Carson,
Charles Campbell,
John H. M. Clatch.

B. James S. Rhodes,
Mrs. Lelesia Row,
Edward Riggsbee,
Dorris Ross,
John Rabon,
Fred Rex,
James M. Rogers,
Isaac Rowland,
Mrs. Nancy Reeves,
John J. Roberts,
A. M. Rockwell,
Charity Rowe.
C. Miss Sarah A. Niae,
Mrs. Mary Nunn,
George W. Norwood,
Jerimiah Nixon.
D. David Outlaw,
Hager Outlaw.
E. P. A. Prindle,
H. Porter,
Richard Patterson,
William D. Patterson,
Miss Thena Phenton,
Solomon Phillips.

F. James S. Rhodes,
Mrs. Lelesia Row,
Edward Riggsbee,
Dorris Ross,
John Rabon,
Fred Rex,
James M. Rogers,
Isaac Rowland,
Mrs. Nancy Reeves,
John J. Roberts,
A. M. Rockwell,
Charity Rowe.
G. Eldridge Smith,
Burbon Smith,
Samuel B. Smith,
James Stewart,
John Stewart,
William A. Shepard,
Man Stephenson,
Peterson Spikes,
Mrs. Aga Stell,
Alves Strel,
Miss Ann E. Strebeck,
Samuel Sutherland,
William H. Simons,
To the State Senator
from Charleston dis-
trict.

H. Richard Stiles,
John Sator,
John S. Cane,
W. Slade,
Hon. R. Strange,
arah Jau Shauk,
E. H. Skaggs,
Leely Saunders,
Miss Julian Scott,
John Shaw, Administra-
tor.
I. Miss Catharine Tombs,
Alexander Taylor,
Mr. Olvar Taylor,
Samuel Taylor,
Wm. H. Thompson,
Mrs. P. Thompson.
J. Samuel M. Whitaker,
Col. Spier Whitaker,
Dr. Wm. H. Williams,
Maj. Morgan Williams,
Henry Williams,
R. H. Williams,
William M. Williams,
Robert Wynn,
Peter Wynn,
Mrs. Francis J. White,
Charles White,
Robert White,
Elisha Wade, Tobacco-
nisi.

K. Ezra Wilber,
Gaston Watson,
William L. Whitehead,
Elizabeth Ann Warren,
Kimberl Wethers,
James Weathers,
William O. James Wal-
ton,
George Waller's Heirs,
Robert Williamson,
William Whitlow,
P. H. Winston,
S. Wedding,
Eugen Wolsenholme,
H. M. Whittenden,
K. Charles R. Kinney,
4 Messrs. Wilson and
Dr. J. Kuhl,
4 Dr. John Y. Young,
3 Edward King,
2 Dr. Smith.

L. Mrs. Rebecca E. Good-
win,
Stephen Graham,
Mr. F. Gardner,
Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson,
James Gorden,
H. Dr. John Hendree,
Susan Hunter,
Mrs. Caroline Hunter,
Rev. Jehu Hank,
William Hinton,
Miss Isabella Hinton,
Hugh Houston, P. M.,
L. Hamilton,
Miss Louisa Hardy,
Richard Hill, Sergeant,
Green Hill,
Miss Jane Hill,
Master Charles Harri-
son.

M. Jesse Hoshal,
Rhiley Harp,
Mrs. Catherine Horton,
Estate of John Hallow-
ay,
Oliver L. Holland,
Bennett Holland,
Moses Harrison,
Emely Holmes,
William T. Horne,
J. Wade Hampton,
Isaiah S. High,
Messrs. Green & Hast-
ings.

N. Kendrick Johnson,
Giles Johnson,
Patrick H. Johnston,
Allen Johnson,
Elizabeth Joiner,
Matthew Jones,
M. Jones,
Allen Jones,
Willie Jones,
Mrs. Susan Jameson,
Moriah Ivans,
Leral E. James,
Christopher C. Isbell.

O. Charles R. Kinney,
4 Messrs. Wilson and
Dr. J. Kuhl,
4 Dr. John Y. Young,
3 Edward King,
2 Dr. Smith.

P. Persons calling for any of the above letters,
will please say they are advertised.

THOS. G. SCOTT, P. M.
April 5, 1843. 440-3t.

THE DEATH OF MELZAR GARDNER.

From the Old Dominion.

It is a painful duty resting upon us to make a faithful record of the tale of horror connected with the sad event—the death of the worthy and talented Editor of this paper. From the moment of the occurrence up to the present period we have passed through scenes of the most exciting character. We ourselves have been completely un-
nerved. Now, we can hardly compose ourselves to prepare a brief narrative of this most revolting occurrence. But a high obligation rests upon us—the memory of the martyred GARDNER—truth and justice—responded to by the one voice of a deeply affected community, calls us to the task. The evasive statement (not to say more) of the Norfolk papers which have been copied into other papers, also demand that the matter should be faithfully presented.

To make our statement connected and fully understood, especially by our distant readers, it is necessary to state here, that on Thursday last, Mr. Gardner, having gone to Norfolk on business, had returned to the Ferry wharf and was waiting the arrival of the boat from this place. On her reaching the wharf Mr. Mordecai Cooke, jun. of Norfolk Borough, left her, and coming up to Mr. Gardner, demanded an apology for some remarks he had made in his paper, occasioned by an attack of Mr. Cooke upon Mr. Gardner at a public meeting in this place. (In the course of this article we shall advert more fully upon those re-
marks and their connecting circumstances.) Mr. Gardner said he could not do so unless Mr. Cooke would first withdraw his offensive remarks.

Instantly Mr. C. raised his cane to strike Mr. G. upon which the latter drew a pistol from his pocket, evidently for the purpose of defending himself against the attack. Mr. C. seeing this, dropped his cane and seized the pistol with one hand and Mr. G.'s arm with the other, and being a man of considerable muscular power, while Mr. G. had hardly the strength of a child, he managed him with apparent ease, and wrenched the pistol from him. Having him completely in his power, as stated in the testimony of several witnesses, "with the pistol in his right hand, and his left arm around the body of Mr. G. with the hand clenched upon Mr. G.'s left arm, placed the pistol at his left side, and pulled the trigger, when "the explosion of a cap was distinctly heard—immediately the trigger was again pulled and "the pistol was discharged," shooting Mr. G. immediately through the heart, and in a few moments he ceased to breathe, never having spoken, unless, as is thought by some, he exclaimed "O! God!" The weapon was one of "Allen's Revolving Pistols."

An individual present, (we have it from a gentleman who saw and heard it distinctly,) put his hand upon Mr. Cooke, saying—"Sir, you must be arrested—you have committed murder."—"Cooke replied—"DAMN HIM, LET HIM LAY, I AM SATISFIED." After using this expression he left the spot, apparently truly "satisfied."

The report of the deed convulsed the whole community with horror at the enormity committed, with the deepest regret at the loss of so truly great and excellent a man, and with bursting sympathies for his more than widowed wife, and orphaned children. Save one or two, who thus pass over, the event came to all with a force which cannot be imagined.

A warrant was issued, and Mr. C. was arrested in the afternoon of that day. On the next morning he was brought before John P. Leigh, Esq. a magistrate of Norfolk Borough, and tried upon the question of his commitment to jail. The issue of the examination was his discharge—yes, to the astonishment of every person, contrary to law and usage, the prisoner was discharged. We have called it a trial, and a print in the Borough has labored to make it appear as imposing and satisfactory; but it is our conviction that a more solemn piece of mockery was never enacted.

Never have we seen an event move a community with such indignation as did the result of this manifestly partial trial. The people were impelled to act on the subject. After meetings had been held for the purpose of expressing the general feeling of the community, a special meeting was called, with a view to pursue a course which should secure an impartial and rigid investigation. The solemn resolution was formed, worthy of freemen, and the lovers of law and order. A committee was appointed to proceed to Norfolk and obtain the re-apprehension of Cooke, preparatory to a proper examination. With the assistance of two of our able lawyers, a warrant was procured, upon the opinion of the Honorable Judge of this circuit in regard to the impropriety of the former trial, and the accused is now in jail, awaiting his examination before a called Court, which we are informed, will be held on the 11th instant.

With reference to this position of the matter, we shall forbear saying any thing more in reference to the testimony in this case. We are willing to abide the result of an impartial trial.—Though we are aware that the family of Mr. Cooke, and their influence in the community may have an effect, yet there is power in truth, and inflexibility in justice, and we shall be content if they are allowed to exert their proper influence.

The inquiry may be made by the distant reader, what was the origin of this sad affair? We briefly answer this, and for this purpose we shall "begin at the beginning."

During the month of January last, while many of our fellow-citizens, honest, though poor, were without employment, a correspondent of the Norfolk Herald suggested through that paper, the propriety of white labor being substituted in the Navy Yard for slave labor, thereby giving employment to our industrious citizens, who had long been turned out from other departments of the Yard, and without the means of subsistence for their families. The editor of the Herald warmly approved the measure proposed by his correspondent, while Mr. Gardner, in his hearty zeal for the welfare of the working men, urged the matter with earnestness. The step was commended by many, and Mr. G.'s course warmly applauded. One individual in our community was, however, bitterly opposed, and sought a personal interview with Mr. G. under peculiar circumstances, and denounced him with great severity. We shall not follow up the entire train of events connected with that person's conduct. It was generally understood that he was moved with considerable wrath towards Mr. Gardner, and made some remarks reflecting with much severity on a portion of our fellow-citizens, which aroused the indignation of many in the community;—so much so, that at a political meeting in this town, his name, by an almost unanimous vote, was stricken from a list of delegates appointed at a previous meeting, to at-

tend a convention then about to be held in the city of Richmond. It is proper here to remark, that Mr. Gardner maintained his position with dignified firmness, and with a conscious rectitude of purpose, disregarding the manifestations of hostility on the part of the individual referred to. The public mind became so fully convinced that the cause in which Mr. G. had so zealously enlisted, was a just one, and believing it to be Right, and Right only, for which he was contending, a town meeting was called, in his absence, and of which he had no knowledge until his return. At this meeting, which was numerously attended by all parties and classes, resolutions were unanimously passed, expressing in the warmest and most unequivocal terms, their entire approbation of his course. From this period all excitement seemed to be gradually passing away.

On the 20th of March last, another meeting was held for the purpose of nominating candidates to represent this County in the Legislature, when the individual above referred arose to explain his conduct in connection with this matter. Objection was made to his remarks as being out of order, and as having no reference to the object for which the meeting had been called. It was at this stage of the proceedings, on motion being made to allow the individual to continue his explanation, that M. Cooke, jr. voluntarily became a party in the controversy which had been for some weeks, agitating this community. Having previously inquired of a gentleman near him if Mr. Gardner was present, and being informed that he was not, he proceeded to make some remarks, in the course of which he was understood in alluding to Mr. G., to have used most unjustifiable and abusive language. Mr. Gardner was informed of this by several friends who were present on the occasion. In his next paper, believing he had been attacked in a public meeting with out provocation, by one with whom he was wholly unacquainted, noticed it in such a manner as he thought it deserved.

Within two or three days subsequent to the notice mentioned above, a relative of Mr. Cooke, called upon him Mr. Gardner at his office, and desired him to go into the street, which he refused to do, saying that his office was the place where he transacted business, and if any person had business with him, they could see him there. This did not appear to satisfy the gentleman, as he was understood to say, when about retiring, that he should take some other time and place.

It was Mr. Gardner's desire that the difficulty might be amicably adjusted, and often expressed a willingness to do all that an honorable man could do, to bring about such a result. In a subsequent article he explained his position, and made use of these words:—"IF WE HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED OR HAVE MISREPRESENTED ANY MATERIAL FACTS IN THE CASE, NO MAN CAN BE BETTER PLEASSED THAN OURSELF TO BE INFORMED OF OUR ERROR. WE DESIRE TO KNOW ONLY TRUTH ALWAYS."

That the attack was premeditated, and arrangements made that there might be no failure, is apparent from the remarks made a few days before Mr. G.'s death, by a person who has not before been mentioned in this account, "that whoever should interfere when the attack was made WOULD CERTAINLY BE SHOT."

Acting on the defensive from the first, Mr. G. continued in this position. On Thursday last, he had occasion to go to Norfolk on business demanding his attention. He consulted a friend in regard to the propriety or safety of going, who thought he could run no risk. It was on the eve of returning home that the sad event occurred, as we have already noticed.

We have thus gone through with the history connected with this affair, omitting many important circumstances, which will be presented when the examination shall take place. We might have said more, we could not say less. It may perhaps be expected that we should say more, especially in view of the statements made in the Norfolk papers. But though incited to do so, we shall not yield to the impulse, especially as the unfortunate author of this lamentable affair is now awaiting a trial. What we have said, we have received from the mouths of witnesses and well attested circumstances.

We would that we had the ability to pay a worthy tribute to the elevated character, and eminent talents of the lamented Gardner. The world has been blessed with few such men, and his death may well be regarded as a common calamity.—Cast upon the world while a boy, without a friend to encourage, or a hand to sustain him, there was an early development of his mental powers, and though at the period of his death, he was a young man, he had for several years ranked among the first writers in our country. As a poet, he has struck out some notes which have thrilled many hearts with emotions of inexpressible delight, and in remembrance of which many will mourn that so sweet a harp has been so soon unstrung. As a prose writer, there was a giant power and rare freshness which gave interest and value to all that proceeded from his pen. As a man there were excellencies evinced by him which commanded the respect and warm attachment of all who knew him. Alas! alas! that such an one should so soon have fallen, and thus have fallen. He was worthy a better fate, and the living will keep his name and character as dear to their souls. We doubt not that other hands will make a worthier record of this truly great man.

The funeral of Mr. G. which took place on Saturday, presented a spectacle such as we have never before seen. Hundreds—we believe we may say thousands—joined in the ceremonies of the sad occasion. The services took place in the Baptist Church, and were appropriately performed by the Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Hume. The spacious building was densely filled, while hundreds could not obtain admittance. As a tribute of respect, the military turned out, assisting at the burial with the usual honors.

For Mrs. Gardner and her three children there has been the tenderest sympathy manifested by all. Subscriptions have been circulated in the two towns, and a large sum has already been contributed for their benefit.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

In consideration of the peculiar circumstances connected with the death of MELZAR GARDNER, Esq., and regret for the loss to the community of an estimable and talented man, the citizens of Portsmouth crowded to overflowing the Town Hall on Saturday night, April 1st, there to express their feelings in reference to his character

while living, and sympathy for his bereaved family on account of his death. The meeting was organized by calling Mr. William Morrill to the Chair and appointing John D. Cooper as Secretary. After some feeling and appropriate remarks from the Chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of their sympathies for the widow of the deceased, and that said committee report on some future evening. Committee, Messrs. E. J. Kilgore, S. J. Staples, Thomas D. Allen, Thomas Johnson, H. V. Neimeyer, John Foreman, and J. H. Porter; and by resolution the Chairman and Secretary were added to the committee.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed who shall procure the services of a suitable person to pronounce an Eulogy on the life and character of the deceased. Committee Wm. Holt, J. M. Miles, J. S. White, E. T. Blamire, and Robt. Scott.

Resolved, That the Banner borne by the Working men in the funeral procession of the deceased be deposited in the Chronicle Office until his remains are removed as anticipated, when it shall accompany them.

Resolved, That a committee of thirteen be appointed to solicit contributions for the purpose of erecting a monument over the remains of MELZAR GARDNER, wherever they may be carried. Committee, Lemuel Townsend, James E. Wilson, T. A. Morgan, Stephen James, John Kirkpatrick, John Ivy, D. P. Daughtery, E. T. Blamire, George Murray, John Foreman, B. W. Palmer, Wm. Forbes, and James M. Binford, and by resolution, Dr. Arthur R. Smith and J. P. Reynolds were added to the committee.

Resolved, That this meeting do now adjourn to meet again at this place on Monday evening April 3d.

WILLIAM MORRILL, Chairman
JOHN D. COOPER, Secretary.

Monday Evening, April 3.

The meeting assembled agreeable to adjournment, Mr. Morrill in the Chair, when the committee appointed to draft a Preamble and Resolutions made the following Report, which was unanimously adopted.

Whereas many of the citizens of this Town through a knowledge of his talents, and zealous devotion to the interests of the producing class of our country, did invite and solicit MELZAR GARDNER, Esq., to reside with us and to take upon himself the editorial management of a public newspaper. And whereas he was led to the discussion of a subject by an open, clear and unequivocal position taken by a native born citizen of Virginia, and editor in an adjoining town, being struck with its merits and its justice, gave it a sincere support without advancing beyond the ground assumed by his cotemporary.

And whereas by simply expressing his approval of the measures of another, he has been assailed by harsh and opprobrious epithets, pursued and hunted by night and by day, and finally, met, assaulted, and slain.

And whereas by a short residence among us of about six months, by his most social and upright deportment, he has won the admiration and esteem of all with whom he formed an acquaintance, and by his talents, dignified and manly course as editor, the respect and confidence of his numerous readers of all political parties; be it therefore Resolved, in Town meeting assembled:

1st. That we deeply deplore the unfortunate occurrence, that brought MELZAR GARDNER to his grave, and we sincerely desire, by the administration of justice, to clear this community from that guilt which must otherwise inevitably attach to it.

2d. That in his death society has lost a valuable member, the State a citizen whose talents were an honor to it, the editorial corps a pattern worthy of imitation, and the laboring man a powerful advocate and devoted friend.

3rd. That we sympathize with the disconsolate widow, far from home, without a relative to soothe the anguish of her heart—and with his distant friends and relatives, and in testimony of respect for the deceased, we will wear crape on the left arm for three months.

4th. That a copy of these resolutions be communicated to the widow and relatives of the deceased.

5th. That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be furnished the papers of this Town with the request that all the Editors in the United States be requested to publish the same as an act of justice to the deceased.

On motion, the preamble and resolutions above were unanimously adopted.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place on Wednesday next at half-past seven o'clock.

WILLIAM MORRILL, Chairm. an.
JOHN D. COOPER, Secretary.

At a meeting of the citizens of Portsmouth, held at the Town Hall, on Sunday afternoon, Mr. Robert M. Bain was called to the Chair, and Mr. Samuel J. Staples appointed Secretary.

Mr. Jos. M. Miles stated that the object of the meeting was to appoint a committee to wait on the authorities of Norfolk Borough, and request that a warrant be issued for the arrest of M. Cooke, jr. for the murder of Mr. Gardner.

On motion of Mr. Miles, a committee of five were appointed, viz:—Dr. J. Schofield, Jas. E. Wilson, H. V. Neimeyer, Wm. Portlock, and Stephen James.

On motion, Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretary be added to said committee.

On motion of Mr. W. Brown, Resolved, That said committee wait upon J. A. Chandler, Esq. and Jas. Murdaugh, Esq., and obtain their advice and aid.

On motion of Mr. T. Johnston, it was Resolved, That the meeting form in procession and visit the grave of Mr. Gardner.

On motion of Mr. J. M. Miles, Resolved, That the committee appointed to wait on the authorities of Norfolk, be requested to attend to that duty forthwith, and report to this meeting at seven o'clock this evening.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet again at 7 o'clock.

Seven o'clock, P. M.

The meeting met according to adjournment, when Mr. H. V. Neimeyer reported that the Committee had attended to the duty assigned them, and introduced to the meeting, John A. Chandler, Esq. who stated, in connection with a few very appropriate remarks which he offered, that James

Murdaugh, Esq. and himself, with the Committee appointed for that purpose, had waited upon the proper authorities in the Borough of Norfolk, and obtained a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Cooke, which had been placed in the hands of an officer, with the assurance that it should be executed immediately.

On motion, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to Messrs. Chandler and Murdaugh, and the Committee with whom they acted, for their promptness in carrying out the proposition of the meeting in their demand for justice.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

ROBT. M. BAIN, Chairman.
SAM. J. STAPLES, Secretary.

At a meeting of the Youth's Self-instructing Society, held April 4th, 1843.

On motion, The following committee, viz: Jos. W. Hobday, James A. Davis, John A. McLean, Wm. R. McLean and Mathew M. Dodd, were appointed to express their feelings relative to the murder of MELZAR GARDNER, Esq. in behalf of the above Society.

Preamble.—The recent and much to be lamented death of MELZAR GARDNER, Esq. has caused much excitement in this community, and is calculated to arouse feelings of the deepest regret and sympathy in the mind of every individual. Society has not only lost its brightest ornament, but the Workingman, one who came here when they were in the most depressing condition and threw himself in the foremost ranks, to defend and support their rights. Yes he was "murdered in defending their rights," and may the offspring of every Workingman, first learn to lip the name of the martyr.

Be it Therefore Resolved, That we do most sincerely sympathize with the widow, for the loss of her affectionate husband, and with the orphans, who have been bereft of their indulgent father, at a time so unexpected, and when they most needed him.

Resolved, That we shall ever remember Mr. GARDNER as one of the most fearless advocates, in the Workingman's cause, that ever graced the public press, and that we will try to imitate him.

Resolved, That we believe him to have been a man of a peaceable and amiable disposition, of an upright character, with philanthropic principles, and that he was endowed with the highest intellectual faculties.

Resolved, That Mr. Gardner was a man of such a cast that he was calculated to gain the esteem and respect of all who knew him, except those who have the form of human beings, but principles, appetites, and passions like those of monsters.

Resolved, That the above committee present a subscription list to all youths and others, friendly to the cause, for the purpose of aiding in the erection of a monument over the remains of the martyr, wherever they may be finally deposited.

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the unexpected death of our valued and much esteemed friend MELZAR GARDNER.

Resolved, That in our opinion, the presiding Magistrate at the trial of the murderer, is not a suitable person to administer the laws of the Commonwealth, where riches come in contact with poverty and equal rights.

Resolved, That each member of this Society, as a token of respect, wear crape on the left arm for three months.

Resolved, That the Chronicle and Southern Whig, and all other papers friendly, be requested to copy the above.

JOHN WILSON, Vice President.
WM. M. MAHONEY, Secretary.

(Published at the request of the Author.)
SPIRITUAL DESTITUTION.

To the Ministers and Members of the Churches in North Carolina.

MY BRETHREN: Knowing that to those, who love the Lord Jesus, any information concerning the spread of his Gospel will be interesting, I am disposed to submit to your attention the following facts and considerations, connected with the distribution of the Bible in this State.

While engaged in soliciting donations to the American Bible Society from your congregations, several circumstances came to my knowledge which led me to suspect that the supply which took place several years ago was not entire, as is generally supposed. But these circumstances did not come unsought. At almost every place when I presented the claims of the Society, allusions were made to the effort which had, twelve years ago, given the word of God to every family in the State. The inference was that very few needed the Bible, and that in these days of pressure charity might stay at home for a while. Other circumstances made me believe that very many families were, at that very time, destitute of the Bible. I felt anxious to obtain some data from which a calculation might be made of the probable lack of the scriptures in this State. The North Carolina Bible Society giving me permission to employ distributing agents, the counties of Wake and Orange were selected, in which it was intended to ascertain as nearly as possible, the number of families without the word of God.

WAKE COUNTY, having within its bounds the seat of State government,—which is the location of one of the largest book stores of the south, the residence of a Bishop of one branch of the church, and of five regular ministers of the leading denominations of the State,—and having, as I have been informed, at least twenty ministers, preaching to its inhabitants, who do not reside in the town, we might conclude that all the families of the county were possessors of the Holy Book. To be certain in this matter, the Rev. William J. Langdon undertook to explore the county. He obtained from the Clerk's office, in Raleigh, the list of the heads of all the families, as in the census for 1840.—More than 2,000 names were on the Register.—He has examined the Eastern district, and of the 1047 families in that district, he found 399 without the bible. The whole county, at this rate, would contain 789 destitute families: more than one third of the whole number within its bounds. In an interesting communication from Mr. Langdon, which is now before me, he says: "It is a general impression that there are but few families without the Bible. I have found this to be the prevailing sentiment with ministers and members of every denomination. A worthy brother of the Baptist Church (in Wake county), stated that he did not believe there were more than two or three families destitute of the Bible, in ten miles square. I furnished him with a list [of the heads] of families, and he reported 42 destitute in his own neighborhood."—The families without the Bible were not too poor to purchase, or too recently formed to have furnished themselves. Mr. Langdon found one per-

son who is the father of eight children, and worth more than \$10,000, who never had had a Bible! He found heads of families from 75 to 85 years of age without the word of God. In one instance, he visited a man upwards of fifty years of age, (professing to be a member of one of the religious denominations), whose children were married and formed in separate families, and neither father nor children owned a copy of the Holy Scriptures.—Another person, professing attachment to the Church of Christ, had no Bible, and refused to purchase for his two sons, who were married; one of whom belonged to the same denomination as his father, refused to take the Blessed Book into his house! These things, my brethren, were not discovered in a land of heathenism, or in our own thinly settled far West, but in the capital county of the ancient State of North Carolina.

It was likewise proposed to explore ORANGE COUNTY. If the influence of a University of long standing, of refined society in its central town, and of probably a score of ministers of the four leading denominations of Christians, (several of whom are teachers of science, as well as preachers of the Gospel) would make a county secure in its possession of the Bible, there would have been no need of a visitation in Orange. But being convinced that we had been mistaken in this matter, it was determined to explore this county. In the person of the Rev. J. A. McManin we found an agent willing to undertake this honorable labor. His report up to this date shows 920 families visited, of which number 310 had no Bible! Yesterday there were six families on the road between Hillsboro and Chapel Hill who had no Bible—within the distance of 12 miles. Of the heads of these families some were aged persons, some professed to have belonged to a religious denomination for more than a quarter of a century. The Agent found persons who have not heard the Gospel for fifteen years, and others, who were more than twenty one years of age who never had heard a sermon! Many received the word of God with unconcealed surprise at the singular generosity which not only gave the poor the gospel "without money and without price," but actually sent the Holy Book to their houses. In no case was the gift refused: in two cases it was taken with some indications of "sourness of feeling," which the Agent thinks "because they were ashamed to be found destitute."

My brethren, we have too often said that none are destitute who would have the Bible, as they have great facilities of purchasing. Are there any counties having greater facilities than ORANGE and WAKE? None, probably. If then, more than one third of the families in these counties are without the Bible, what may we suppose to be the aggregate destitution of North Carolina? Let us take into the calculation the inland counties which lie near no thoroughfare, and those counties nearer the coast, where we may suppose the access to books to be of very great difficulty. The lack of the Book of Truth in this State will arouse every right-minded Christian.—Shall our charity begin at home? Let her begin at home! and much will she have to do to give her household bread before she go abroad.

Well, what shall we do? Shall a man quietly recline on the cushions of ease, while his brother is fainting and dying at the door? The Lord of Mercy and of the Bible forbid! We must do something now! Let all the pastors of churches in the State give to their people the facts with which our agents furnish them. Let them request all the Christians in the congregation to explore their own neighborhood, and see whether there be not some without the Bible. Let a collection be taken up in the congregations to purchase the Sacred Scriptures for the poor near them, and to assist the State Bible Society in supplying the poor in other parts of the State. Let the people know that there is a depository of Holy Books at Raleigh where the attentive Agent, Jesse Brown esq., is ready to sell Bibles, got up in different styles, at cost, and to give to those who have not money to offer in exchange for the word of God. Where are the County Auxiliaries? Cannot one Christian be found in each county to arouse the dormant Societies, to look after the wants of their neighborhood, who will go to every house and see whether any of his fellow citizens are starving spiritually? Brethren, we have been walking and riding past houses for weeks and months where there is no copy of the word of God. Let us wake up to the matter, and not rest while there can be any possibility of a single family not having the presence of the volume of Inspiration.

My brethren, I know that the interesting nature of the facts I have stated will prevent you from thinking of the length of this letter, and of the liberty taken in this appeal.

CHARLES M. F. DEEMS.

CROSS ON THE MOON.

The Philadelphia Inquirer contains a letter from an officer in the U. S. Army, dated Fort Leavenworth, Missouri, March 20, in which it is stated, on the 14th of February, at 3 A. M. "the moon which had been obscured by a cloud for some hours, burst forth of a deep blood-red color, with a black cross of equal proportions over the face, extending beyond the rim; while on the two sides small pieces of rainbow were visible. After continuing in this way for about an hour, the color of the moon changed to its ordinary hue, and the cross became a silvery white, with the edge extending beyond the rim, and touching the rainbows. It continued so for half an hour, and heavy clouds then intervening, obscured the moon, which set unseen. This phenomenon was seen by the hospital attendants, who were up at that hour, some of them very intelligent men, by the guard and sentinels on post, and by several citizens of Weston, a little town five miles off. The next morning the sun rose, accompanied by two sun-dogs, as they are commonly called, nearly equal in brilliancy to the sun, and resembling two other suns. This latter scene was witnessed by numbers. In addition, for about two weeks past, every night at seven or eight o'clock,