

HON. CHAS. FISHER OF ROWAN.

What constitutes a laborer? Not high raised battlements or laborer's mound...

No. Men, high minded men—No. Men, high minded men—No. Men, high minded men—

The deep sensation which pervades our State, caused by the recent death of CHARLES FISHER, is evidence of the high appreciation with which his character, services, and talents were regarded.

Associated as has been his services, with the history of the State for the last thirty years, it is alike due to such services, as well as a tribute to his talents and virtues, that some memorial should be preserved which would truthfully present them to the country.

Such is a grateful oblation to departed worth: Not only is it a duty due to the dead, but a duty which may be said to be a duty to the living. It acts as an incentive to others; while they admire his services and brilliant career, to emulate his patriotic example.

“O who shall lightly say that Fame Is nothing but an empty name, While in that name there is a charm The nerves to brace, the heart to warm...”

“The youth shall rise from sloughish bed, And vow with uplift hand and heart, Like him to set a noble part.”

A record of such services acts directly on others—Salutary informs us that Maximus and Scipio, whenever they beheld the marble statues of their illustrious countrymen, were never tired of saying, “I could not do it.”

It was the recollection of noble actions which kindled this generous flame in their breasts only to be quenched when they also by their actions and virtues had acquired equal reputation.”

The character of her son chiefly constitutes the character of the State. They elevate or degrade her. North Carolina, in the death of Charles Fisher, has lost one of her most enterprising citizens, Rowan county one of its brightest ornaments, society one of its most useful members.

An undiminished eye of character, a clear and comprehensive intellect, a penetrating and persuasive, if not commanding eloquence; knowledge, deep and varied, both of men and books, elevated him to high and responsible stations in our republic; and his merits were always equal to his position.

As a statesman, he was patriotic, liberal, and undaunted; as a citizen, he was public spirited, generous and active; and as a friend he was devoted, unflinching and sincere.

To say that he had no faults, would be to say that he was not a man. As a man, he was not perfect, but by circumstances in the angry conflicts of party, it is not to be disguised that while a warm and sanguine temperament produces “troops of friends,” it also sometimes creates enemies. But Mr. Fisher cherished no malice.

If he never forgave his friends, he forgave his enemies. Even those who felt the force of his talents, the energy of his character, the power of his intellect in discussion, when the contest was over, acknowledged the generosity of his temper and the nobleness of his disposition.

When the news of his death reached his residence, a public meeting was held on the melancholy occasion many who were always politically opposed to him united in it, and one of the most active in that meeting, was a gentleman who was his opponent for Congress in a heated and violent contest, in 1839.

It is a redeeming and noble feature in human character not to wear against the powerless or the dead. In the heat of contest, “That stern joy which warriors feel, In finding women worthy of their steel,” animates us; but the contest over, the merits and virtues of a generous adversary, are appreciated and acknowledged. This was the case with Charles Fisher. Such men are alike the ornament and defence of a State. Their character and merits are the property to be cherished like the Roman matron did her brave sons as her brightest jewels.

If there be some among us who knew well the original and with whom the excitement of party and personal conflicts are still fresh, this feeble portrait, although truthfully sketched, may seem to be highly colored, it should be recollected, that the most faithful artist often feels at liberty to hide some minor defects of countenance, by the light or shade of some bold, prominent and commendable point of feature.

Let us all cherish the recollection of talents, services and virtues of departed worth, and such faults as are inseparable from our nature, be buried in the grave with the relics of fallen humanity!

Charles Fisher was born in Rowan county, on the 20th October, 1799. His father removed from Shenandoah county, Virginia, to Rowan county, before the Revolution, and was a sturdy Republican in 1776, and served in the War as a Militia Officer.

His education was conducted under the care of the Rev. Dr. John Robinson, in Cabarrus county, and finished by the Rev. Dr. McPheters, of Raleigh. It never extended beyond the limits of the common school.

He married in April, 1814, Christina Beard, daughter of Lewis Beard, of Salisbury, by whom he had several children; three of whom survive; a son and two daughters. His wife died last June, on her return from Florida.

He studied the Law, and obtained a license to practice; but such was the power of his talents, and the ardor of his mind, he never pursued it to any extent. Doubtless, had his exclusive attention been devoted to the profession, from his natural quickness of perception, his ready tact, his strong and comprehensive reason, and laborious research, he would have ranked as one of the first jurists of the South.

Fortune had marked out for him another career, to which his elementary knowledge of the Law, was an important aid; and here he shone conspicuously. His first appearance in public life was in 1818, as a Senator in the State Legislature from Rowan. In 1819, on the death of Geo. Manlove, he was elected as a member of the House of Representatives in Congress, by a majority of 305 votes over Dr. W. Jones.

In 1820, he was again re-elected to Congress, for a full term, by a large majority, over Hon. John Long. After serving throughout this Congress, he retired from the halls and dignities of his services, to attend to the welfare and happiness of his young and rising family. But the people did not allow him to remain entirely abstracted from their services. In 1821, he was elected a member of the House of Commons from Rowan county. From this time to 1826, he served in the House of Commons, almost continuously, as a member either from the county of Rowan or the borough of Salisbury; a long and unusual period of public service. In 1831-32, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Commons. Those who served with him, (among whom was the writer of this recollection,) were highly satisfied, the dignity and ease with which he presided over the deliberations of the House, composed of such men as Gaston, Nash, Henry, Estes, Hill, Beaz, and others.

The readiness with which he perceived, and the promptness with which he decided all parliamentary questions, his urbanity and impartiality, elicited universal approbation. In 1835, he was one of the delegates to the Convention called to amend the Constitution of the State. This was an important occasion. This was the first convention that had met in the State since the year 1795. The Convention was held at Salisbury, after her independence had been achieved. Important questions had arisen, conflicting interests were to be reconciled, and great principles discussed. The people felt this and sent their ablest men, such as Nathaniel Mason, Wm. Gaston, John Branch, J. J. Daniel, D. L. Swain, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jesse Speight, Saml. Carswell, and N. Lightfoot, to attend to this Convention. There Mr. Fisher's industry, talents and acquirements shone conspicuously. The debates of this body show that he took a most active part in its proceedings. His views on the freedom of suffrage, religious toleration, and popular rights, were liberal and statesmanlike. He was one of the committee by whom the present Constitution as it now exists, was drafted, and was one of the most useful members of the convention.

In 1839, he was again brought forward as a candidate for Congress. This campaign will long be remembered. His principles and his party were in a large minority. The opposition was talented and popular. Mr. Fisher was elected by a majority of 183 votes. His majority of 300 votes at Salisbury, among his neighbors and daily associates, proved their appreciation of his worth as a man and as a friend.

After serving through this Congress he retired to give his undivided attention to his private concerns, which from his constant and unremitting labors in public life, demanded all his energy and talents. Then he displayed the same qualities in private as he had in public life, and it was never manifest in his success. But it was his destiny to be allowed to give to the people to remain in retirement. In 1845, when the people to remain in retirement was nominated by a District Convention of the State, he was elected by a majority of 183 votes. His majority of 300 votes at Salisbury, among his neighbors and daily associates, proved their appreciation of his worth as a man and as a friend.

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ed at first, to allow his name to be used; but finally he consented much against his wishes, interests, and private matters. He engaged in the canvass, and he did in every thing else, with all his heart and mind. He addressed his fellow citizens at every place he possibly could, at great length, and often twice a day; sometimes riding more than fifty miles without rest; and when he could not go, he was active in writing and sending printed addresses to the people. Such were his exertions, such the force and ingenuity of his arguments, that he only lost his election by 27 votes in a district which, when he commenced, was supposed to contain an overwhelming majority against him. This is the only election in which he ever failed before the people; and such was the effect of his efforts that his political opponents did not think the district any longer reliable, and altered it at the next session of the Legislature.

At various times he was balloted for in the Legislature as Senator in Congress. At one time, (1829) only a few votes would have elected him. In 1846, he was the unanimous choice of his party in the State for Governor. He was compelled to decline it, on account of his private affairs. He wrote a letter to the Convention, he being absent from the State, declining for the reason, stated, and the Hon. G. W. Caldwell was nominated. He also declined on account of ill-health and private affairs, and Mr. Shepard, (James B.) was chosen by the central committee.

Deeply imbued with the principles of republicanism, Mr. Fisher was the strong advocate of the rights of the people, against the encroachments of privileges and power. Well versed in history and theory of our Constitution he was the firm, undaunted, and unyielding friend of State Rights against Federal encroachment and usurpations. The last effort he ever made in public, that of the writer of this recollection, was last fall on the invitation of the citizens of Catawba county, when he addressed them with the Hon. H. W. Conner, Burton, Craigie, Esq., and others, on the true principles (as he conceived,) of the Government.

It would swell this sketch far beyond the proper limits, to discuss, or even allude to the various public measures that he originated, advocated among the people, in the Legislature, or in Congress; or to make extracts from his various reports, or copy his various speeches, these belong to some other pen. When some future Plutarch shall endeavor to present to North Carolina the names, services, and labors of her sons, he can find ample materials on the records of the State and nation, to do justice to Mr. Fisher's reputation and talents. If the writer of this sketch would allow, such discussions and extracts would be improper here. In writing this a constant endeavor is made not to stir up the fires of political excitement, now covered by the ashes of the dead. But all of us now admit that, in all of Mr. Fisher's efforts, the welfare of his native State and country was the chief object.

To Rowan county, his loss is severe. As one of her magistrates, or one of her representatives, he was always a devoted servant. Her people returned his affection. “They loved him because he first loved them.” His last effort with his pen, was devoted to her welfare and improvement.

It may not be improper here to notice, that to but few counties, has the councils of the State been more indebted for able and powerful men to elevate her character and fame, than to Rowan county. For some time in 1831 and 1832, she had the Speakers of both Senate and House of Commons from Rowan, Hon. D. F. Caldwell in the Senate and Mr. Fisher in the Commons. At another time her delegation comprised these two, united with the Hon. R. M. Pearson, now on the Supreme Court Bench. It is doubtful if any other county, at any one period, sent such a galaxy of usefulness and talents.

Although one of these has departed, his services, example and patriotism remain for her to emulate and cherish. She is worthy of such a son, as he was worthy of such a mother. His fame and his character belong to Rowan county, and he is intimately connected with her history.

He died, after an illness of some ten or twelve days, on the 7th May, 1849, in the 60th year of his age, at Hillsboro', Scott county, Mississippi, on his return home, surrounded by kind friends and cheered by the consolations of Religion.

Although he lies buried far away, his name and services will be long cherished in North Carolina, his talents admired and his virtues emulated. W.

DEATH OF EX-PRESIDENT POLK. OFFICIAL. GENERAL ORDERS, } WAR DEPARTMENT, } No. 34. } ADJ'T GENERAL'S OFFICE, } Washington, June 19, 1849.

I. The following orders of the President of the United States and Secretary of War communicate to the Army the death of the late Ex-President JAMES K. POLK: WASHINGTON, JUNE 19, 1849.

The President, with deep regret, announces to the American People the death of James K. Polk, late President of the United States, which occurred at Nashville on the 15th instant.

A Nation is suddenly called upon to mourn the loss of one the recollection of whose long services in its Councils will be forever preserved on the tablets of history.

As a mark of respect to the memory of a citizen who has been distinguished by the highest honors which his country could bestow, it is ordered that the Executive Mansion and the several Departments at Washington be immediately placed in mourning, and all business be suspended during to-morrow.

It is further ordered that the War and Navy Departments cause suitable Military and Naval honors to be paid, on this occasion, to the memory of the illustrious dead.

Z. TAYLOR, WAR DEPARTMENT, JUNE 19, 1849.

The President of the United States, with deep regret, announces to the Army the death of James K. Polk, our distinguished and honored fellow citizen.

He died at Nashville, the 15th instant, having but recently left the theatre of his high public duties in this Capital, and retired to his home amid the congratulations of his fellow-citizens. He died in the prime of life, after having received and enjoyed the highest honors of the Republic.

His Administration was eventful. No branch of the Government will be more intimately associated with it in history than the Army and its glorious achievements. Accordingly, the President orders that appropriate Military honors shall be paid to his memory by the Army of the United States.

The Adjutant General will give the necessary instructions for carrying into effect the foregoing orders.

G. W. CRAWFORD, Secretary of War.

H. On the day succeeding the arrival of this “General Order” at each Military Post, the troops will be paraded at 10 o'clock A. M., and the order read to them, after which all labors for the day will cease.

The National Flag will be displayed at half staff.

At dawn of day, thirteen guns will be fired; and afterwards, at intervals of thirty minutes between the rising and setting sun, a single gun; and at the close of the day a National Salute of thirty guns.

The Officers of the Army will wear sashes on the left arm and on their swords, and the colors of the several regiments will be put in mourning, for the period of six months.

By order: R. JONES, Adj't General.

STATE DEPARTMENT, JUNE 19, 1849.

In pursuance of the President's order of this day, the State Department will be immediately placed in mourning, and all business will be suspended during to-morrow.

JOHN M. CLAYTON.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, JUNE 19, 1849.

The President of the United States, with deep regret, announces to the Navy and to the

Marine Corps the death of James K. Polk, our late distinguished and honored fellow-citizen. He died at Nashville, the 15th instant, having but recently left the theatre of his high public duties in this Capital, and retired to his home amid the congratulations of his fellow-citizens. He died in the prime of life, after having received and enjoyed the highest honors of the Republic.

His Administration was eventful. The Navy and the Marine Corps and their glorious achievements were intimately associated with its history. Accordingly, the President orders that appropriate Military honors be paid to his memory at each of the Navy Yards and Naval Stations, and on board all the Public Vessels in commission, by firing thirty minute guns, beginning at 12 o'clock M. on the day after this communication is received; by carrying their flags half-mast for one week, and by the Officers wearing crape on the left arm for six months.

WM. BALLARD PRESTON, Secretary of the Navy.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, JUNE 19, 1849.

In pursuance of the President's order of this day, the Treasury Department will be immediately placed in mourning, and all business will be suspended during to-morrow.

W. M. MEREDITH, Secretary of the Treasury.

U. S. REVENUE MARINE—GENERAL ORDERS. TREASURY DEPARTMENT, JUNE 20, 1849.

The President has, with deep regret, announced the death of James K. Polk, late President of the United States.

As a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Officers of the Revenue Marine will wear the customary badges of mourning for the period of six months.

At dawn of day, thirteen minute guns will be fired; and afterwards, at intervals of thirty minutes between the rising and setting sun, a single gun; and at the close of the day a salute of thirty minute-guns will be fired, on the day next succeeding the receipt of this order, by each vessel in commission, and the colors hoisted at half mast for one week.

W. M. MEREDITH, Secretary of the Treasury.

Rowan Factory.—The Rowan Factory at Salisbury, was built and put in operation by a Company; but it has fallen into the hands of Maxwell Chambers, now sole proprietor.

The business is managed chiefly by Mr. J. G. Cairnes, Agent, under whose superintendence all the various branches are successfully conducted.

There are 3000 spindles, and 70 looms in constant operation; and the number of hands employed male and female, 120. The Machinery is propelled by a Steam Engine, of 50 Horse-power, which consumes from 5 to 6 Loads of Wood per day. Not less than 600 Barrels of Flour are used in Starch; and 1000 Bales of Cotton are worked up in a year.

The Cloth which weighs 3 yards to the pound, and appears to be of an excellent quality, is made of No. 14 and 15 Yarn; it is called 4-4 Sheetings. Besides supplying the home demand, there were shipped, in five months, to the Northern Market, 249,000 yards of Cloth and 6,400 pounds of Batts.

A spinning frame in this Factory, made by the Mattlewan Company of New York, produces nine skeins per spindle per day.

Although the Rowan Factory appears to be doing a flourishing business; and, doubtless, upon the present investment which is, perhaps not one third of the original cost, the profits are large; yet we have no idea that it will eventually be able to compete with those driven by water power. The expenses of the propelling power alone, over and above the wear and tear of Machinery, cannot at present, be less than from \$10 to \$15 a day, amounting, in a year, to a large sum, not less than from \$3,000 to \$4,000; no inconsiderable item in the annual expenses.

A sensitive man ought to be cautious how he enters the Loom rooms of Rowan Factory. It requires firm nerves to sustain the fire of more than a hundred bright eyes, all levelled at him at once. We only took a p.e.e.p. Lincoln Republican.

The editor of the “Republican” impressed by the remembrance of several responsibilities at Lincoln, dared only to “peep” at the girls in this Factory. Had he not been encumbered—ah! had he not been! We remember several cases of young gentlemen visiting the Factory to “see the machinery;” but by the time they had got fifty yards from the building they could not tell you a single thing about it. But just drop a hint about the girls, and you would find the chaps “at home.” About a week afterwards they would want to see the Factory again.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVER. The new Bedford Mercury gives the following particulars of the capture of the schooner Zenobia, of Baltimore:

“On the 23d of March, 1849, arrived at St. Helena a schooner called the Zenobia, of Baltimore, (for adjudication in the Vice Admiralty Court,) which vessel had been captured by H. B. M. sloop Philomet, on the west coast of Africa, with a cargo of slaves numbering 550, (33 of whom were females,) the vessel not being over one hundred tons burden. She was eleven days on her passage to St. Helena, and lost ten or eleven of them. These poor creatures were in a perfect state of nudity, and many of them (the women in particular) bearing the brands of a hot iron recently impressed on their breasts. The vessel being so small, and the number of negroes so great it was next to impossibility to go from one end of the vessel to the other.

“It appears that when the schooner was dispatched by the Philomet she was about giving chase to an American brig which had just gone into port on the coast of Africa, suspected for the purpose of taking on board a cargo of negroes. It is only lately that a brig has been brought to St. Helena with upwards of five hundred slaves on board. Her name was Harriet, lately of Philadelphia, and commanded by Captain Duling, who had sold the vessel at Ambroz to a Brazilian, leaving the crew, (A. M. Americans,) eight in number, on board to shift for themselves, and being unable to get away from the coast, were obliged to remain in the vessel, and were captured by H. B. M. sloop Cygnat.

“These seamen have given the consul at St. Helena a faithful account of their ill-treatment by Captain Duling, and have been provided with vessels to get away from the island. At the time the Harriet was boarded by the Cygnat's boats, she had the American flag flying at the peak, and in consequence of the brig

firing upon the boats one of the American seamen was shot in the shoulder, and is now in the hospital at St. Helena, under medical treatment.

“Also lying in the harbor of St. Helena a slave vessel condemned, formerly the barque Californica, of Boston.”

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

Salisbury, N. C. THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 25, 1849.

“We are authorized and requested to announce Joseph P. Caldwell, Esq., of Iredell County, as a Candidate to represent the second District in the next Congress of the United States.”

“Who will the Rail Road Benefit.” If the history of every great work proposed and carried out since the world was launched into space from the hand of the Great Creator was searched, we believe one of the most prominent facts brought to light, would be, that whilst each project had its warm and active supporters, there were yet a number of others, though in some cases very small, who either would not help towards the success of the undertaking, or else openly and actively opposed its accomplishment. It were a task far beyond our powers to mention the numerous cases on record, to prove this fact. Indeed, it were a work as unnecessary as it would prove tedious, and difficult, since no truth is better known. Let no one be surprised, then, when we state that there are a few persons, citizens of the State, who, in a spirit of opposition, ask the question “who will be benefitted by the Rail Road.” With some of these, no argument, however conclusive, could avail any thing; and with such it were useless to debate. Time alone, can show them their error, and the good results of the enterprise flowing in upon them, alone convince their minds of the unwise course they pursue. But of those who are open to conviction, and whose lives are living epistles of patriotism and usefulness, we entertain the liveliest hopes. They will not finally settle down in opposition, without first giving the subject that serious consideration its importance demands;—and having arrived at the truth they will as heartily co-operate with their fellow citizens, now friendly to the scheme, as though they had been among its first advocates.

“Who will the Rail Road benefit?”—Why here is a field so wide that we despair of exploring it. But as we cast an eye over it and see the thousands of industrious men and women toiling on their farms and in their shops, and preying upon each other, shut up, in limits prescribed by great distance from that natural outlet, the seaboard, with no prospect of relief except by Rail Road, we at once perceive that this great enterprise is to benefit every man and woman so situated. It would be much more difficult to say who it will not benefit. Every man who produces, or manufactures, in whatever department of business, must find it to his advantage. The annihilation of distance to some half dozen new Markets, all bidding for his products and manufactures, will raise the prices in his favor, and stimulate him to greater industry and enterprise. The home of his father's, which he had seriously thought of abandoning, will become doubly endeared to him, and he will at once resolve that the theatre of their career shall be his theatre, and that his ashes shall mingle with theirs. New life, new energy, and a new existence, will at once spring up; and there will remain not even one to enquire “who is to be benefitted,” but all will feel the force and power of the good influence resulting to themselves.

This is the general conviction, sustained by that of almost every intelligent man in the State. It is the experience, too, of every community where the thing has been tried