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EDENTON, N.C., Feb. 15th, 1895.

HENRY W. GRADY.

Below will be found a speech on the life and character of Henry W. Grady. Under ordinary circumstances we would not give place to articles of like character; but the history of the author and our connection with him prompts us to make room for it and to ask a careful perusal by the young men of our town.

No doubt many of our readers remember D. W. Griffin, who a few years ago held the position as "devil" in our office and spent the time he was not engaged in delivering papers, cleaning forms and doing other "devil's" work, in making "pi."

Now, after years of vicissitude, he is a licensed preacher and is at college fitting himself for his calling. Had we the space we might give to our read a bit of his history that would be of value to them. This truth can be learned from his life. God is no respecter of persons and pluck and push will bring to the fore-front all who have the grit to use the faculties with which they are endowed.

Your success, Brother Griffin, gives us great pleasure. Heaven speed you in your work and prosper you in all your undertakings.

On this electric age, on this, the eve of the 20th century, when civilization seems to have almost reached the top round of the ladder, and the pulse beat of progress is in close proximity with the swift ebb of time, the world takes little note of the advent and exit of mankind. The average man, entering upon the stage of life yesterday, acts his part and passes behind the curtain to-day and is forgotten to-morrow.

"Laugh and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone. Sing, and the hills will answer; Sigh, and it's lost on the air." Oh, cruel world! why so soon consign our names to the realm of night? Because purity has decreed that the name in an ensign, that lowers with the sinking of the craft, but deeds are durable, that stand the test of ages; reputation is a mirror, that can be demolished with one fell blow, but character is a monument as durable as the pyramids of Egypt. The deeds that men do live after them, and they are loved and honored in accordance with the measure of happiness they bring into the world, the service they render their country and the purity of their deeds.

Many great and good men have graced the arena of human action, and passed on down the corridor of eternity, some unsung, some lauded to the skies, but I want to speak to you, my comrades, this evening, on the life and character of a young man who lived but a day, as it were, yet whose name has been wafted from continent to continent, who lived for humanity and died for his country and who left behind him a chaplet of virtues from which every young American can draw inspiration, the immortal Henry Woodfin Grady.

Mr. Grady was born in Athens, Ga., May 17th, 1851, and living in a land of patriotism, at a very early age he embodied those sterling virtues and that patriotic zeal which characterizes the Southern people. One of his marked characteristics as a boy was his tenderness of heart and his great sympathy for the poor. He could not tolerate the thought of oppression and considered malice and jealousy the greatest enemy of a pure heart. His loving mother would sometimes get a note from him: "Dear Mama, give the bearer of this note, this poor boy, something to eat; he looks so hungry. H. W. G." He continued on through boyhood, nourishing those beautiful virtues, and at a very early age entered college, graduating from the State University of Georgia with an unusual love for journalism. No other profession being so dear to his heart, and at the same time realizing the immense amount of valuable service one could render his country with the pen, which is mightier than the sword, he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but accepted the calling, and at the early age of 18 was made editor of the Rome Courier. One of Mr. Grady's first efforts, (and a

successful one) after taking charge of this paper, was to expose and smash a corrupt combination in the city, being run by a few at the expense of many, and from that very day the force of his words and the ring of his eloquence was felt and heard throughout the State of Georgia. As true worth is always known and acknowledged, the young editor soon arrested the attention of the leading men of his State, and in 1880 was called to the editorship of the Atlanta Constitution, the leading newspaper of the South. In this responsible position he could not only speak to the people of his own State but to the people of the United States, and he did not fail to "speak forth the words of truth and soberness," condemning sin and upholding justice. In these stirring times, when demagogues were prevalent, a man of this type was not without political enemies, who hurled their fruitless invective at him from many sides, yet, it is said "he never bore malice against any man," he was a guileless man.

Mr. Grady was a born orator, and besides the frank and timely advice given through the editorial columns of the Constitution, whenever an opportunity presented itself, he mounted the platform and instructed the people. He was the main factor in the restoration of peace and happiness to the calamity stricken people of Charleston, S. C., when an earthquake had rocked it to pieces and enshrouded it with gloom. Being a man of some means, still cherishing the tender virtues of his childhood and following as near as possible in the footsteps of the meek and lowly Jesus, his philanthropic hand was continually extended to the poor and needy. Mr. Grady was also a prohibitionist, and when the famous liquor fight was in vogue in Atlanta, Ga., he headed the forefront of the battle and dealt the great whiskey god some blows, the accents of which are still ringing in the ears of mankind. His native State realizing in him the stern characteristics of true greatness, "lay her trophies at his feet." She offered him the highest gift of office in her power. Individuals employed him to accept some office at the hands of his countrymen. At one time he was petitioned by a long list of prominent names to become a congressional candidate, an honor never before paid a man in his State, but in a pleasant and appreciative manner, he declined the office, in substance, that he had rather be a public servant as an humble newspaper editor than to be a king. A man so great in a time so imperative could not live out his days in comparative seclusion. His writings were being feasted on from Maine to Texas, the strains of his genius were being flashed from North to South, from East to West, and the populace was eager to see and hear him; therefore urgent invitations were crowded upon him to deliver addresses in different sections of the country. Grand ovations were tendered the young Southerner on all sides. Whole communities were aroused fair women chanted his praise and three laurel wreaths in his pathway; old men were filled with hope and admiration; young men were infused with love and inspiration.

Mr. Grady had one ambition, and that ambition was, to be instrumental in reuniting a land rent with civil feuds. The bond of common sympathy that once united the North and the South had been severed by the bloody hand of war, and the reign of the demagogue and unwise and criminal discussions of the race problem had kept the ugly wound in a state of constant irritation. He loved the sunny South, the home of Jackson and Lee; he also loved the North, the land of fame and fortune. He was invited to deliver an address at the banquet of the New England Club in New York City and accepted the invitation. When the gifted Georgian walked into that immense banquet hall and beheld the wonderful display of wealth and grandeur and at the same time heard pealing forth the inspiring strains of Dixie, his whole soul was on fire. Amid that concourse of silvery locks and nobility, he was only a boy, but in oratory he was a Demosthenes. Such a speech had never been heard at an annual feast of that honorable body. As he discussed the subject of the "New South," his serene eloquence melted the scales of false impression from Northern eyes, his auditors shouted themselves hoarse, brave hearts North and South were electrified and the two sections were brought closer together. Mr. Grady came to his home, but was not allowed to remain. In a short time he was called to Boston, Mass., to deliver an address on the "Race Problem." Followed by the prayers or a loving wife and the love of thousands of true Southern hearts, he went on that memorable journey. Arriving in Boston, Mr. Grady was given the grandest ovation any man in his capa-

city had ever received at the hands of that people. He inherited the love of the South and had won the love of the North. They listened and believed and accepted what he said. He was accomplishing the desire of his soul, the thought of his life. As he stood there, Phœnix like, incircled by the historic light of Plymouth Rock and Bunker Hill, and impelled by the weight of duty and responsibility, holding as it were, the interests of the South in one hand and the interests of the North in the other, hand, dispelling the vista of human prejudice, and weaving a silken thread of devoted love and good will to bind them forever one; a hungry republic seemed to be hanging on his words. It was the masterpiece of oratory of the 18th century on the question. But hold! The drama has a sudden and sad ending. He went too far and over-exerted himself. His frame was great. A deep cold prostrate him. Pneumonia inserted its poisonous tongs. He was taken to his loving home and in a few days, on the 23rd of December, 1890, God called his spirit to glory to receive a crown decked with brighter stars than earth could give. On Christmas day his body was laid to rest in mother earth and 65,000,000 people were in mourning.

Thus closed the career of the brightest character, for the space of time, 38 years, that ever graced American soil. This is the character the world delights to honor. This is the man for whom the nation has a lasting esteem. This is the man, Christian, friend, philanthropist, statesman, whose virtues are revered wherever they are known, whose memory is enshrined in the Southern heart. Fellow comrades, let us, as should all young men, take this high model of character in close observation and gain from it incentives to higher thoughts and purer motives. The world wants men to-day. Let us strive to live for the betterment of mankind and for the glory of God, so that "When the summons comes for us to join That innumerable caravan which is marching on to the mysterious realm where each one of us shall take his character in the silent halls of death, We go not like the quarry slave, accented to his dungeon, but shrouded and sustained by an unfaltering trust, Approach the grave like one Who wraps the drapery of his couch about him And lies down in pleasant dreams."

FLASHES FROM MY CAMERA. YOUNG AMERICA TO THE FRONT AND KEEP UP WITH THE PROGRESSION!!! So our Commissioners have set a committee to work with a view to giving us Artesian water. Why not give us Electric lights also? We need to wake up from our self-satisfaction and make some such improvements if we would keep abreast with our sister towns. Good street—some new ones need to be opened and some old ones widened—good churches, a good Academy—good lights and pure water, with a little more push will add materially not only to the comfort of our present population, but will greatly augment it. Why not? A few good roomy houses could be built by our capitalists at a profit to themselves and would help to bring good citizens to our town. More and more do we see the need of a reaching out on the part of our citizens for settlers for our fertile fields as we read of the successful efforts that are being made by our sister towns in this direction. Manufacturers we need and must have. New England is moving South. Will not our business men present to the movers our advantages? Organize a "Business Men's Association" and get in touch with the times and use all honorable methods to bring to our community more enterprise, capital and citizens. Do not sit still and "wait for something to turn up but go to work and turn up something" is good advice. X. Y. Z.

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The last census—1890—showed 11,483,318 houses in the United States—six people to each house. The Lyons-Leary Comedy Company will **heavily appear** at Rea's Opera House, next Monday. Don't fail to attend.

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TO THE PUBLIC. We have associated with us in the practice of law Mr. J. N. PRUDEN, under the firm name of PRUDEN, VANN & PRUDEN, to take effect Monday, Feb. 11th, 1895. PRUDEN & VANN.

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