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"ERROR IS HARMLESS, WHEN TRUTH IS LEFT FREE TO COMBAT IT."

No. 2.

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1849.

Mr. Vattemare, and his System of International Exchanges.

Raleigh, N. C., January 8th, 1849.
MR. ALEXANDER VATTEMARE:
Sir,—We, the undersigned, have the honor to inform you, that we have been appointed by the two Houses of the General Assembly, a Joint Select Committee, for the purpose of inviting you to address the members of the two Houses and the public, on your system of International Literary Exchanges among the nations of the earth. You will, sir, please allow us to express our gratification, on being selected as the organs of the General Assembly, in communicating to you their wish to hear you on the subject of that noble and philanthropic purpose, to which you are devoting the labors of your life. You will also please allow us to express our anxious wishes, that you may find it convenient to address the members of the two Houses, in further explanation of this great and interesting plan.

We are most respectfully, &c. &c.
K. RAYNER,
EDW. STANLY,
J. C. DOBBIN,
D. W. COURTS,
H. C. JONES,
WM. N. H. SMITH,
W. D. BETHELL,
W. H. WASHINGTON.

On the part of the House of Commons,
On part of the Senate.
Raleigh, N. C., January 10th, 1849.
To Hon. K. RAYNER, Chairman of the Joint Select Committee on International Exchanges.
Sir: I have the honor of enclosing herewith the list of a few works relative to Commerce, Agriculture, Manufactures, public Improvements, &c., which I take the liberty of respectfully asking the General Assembly of your State to accept as a very inadequate token of my own country's fraternal feelings towards your noble State, and as a mere harbinger of what may be expected from the full realization of the proposed system of the International Union of Nations.

I humbly beg of the honorable Representatives of North Carolina, to consider them a very feeble expression of my heart-felt gratitude for the liberal hospitality with which they have received me, as the unworthy Missionary of this great cause of humanity, peace and good will. May I beg of you, sir, to be the interpreter of my grateful sentiments towards the distinguished Body of which you are an honored member, and to assure them that I carry with me the liveliest recollection of the kindness, and the highest admiration for the knowledge and eloquence, I was so fortunate as to witness at their ever memorable meeting last night; when inspired by a pure and enlightened patriotism, and laying aside all party feelings, they appeared so happy to find a neutral ground upon which they could conscientiously unite, to work together as one man, in the attainment of objects which involve the moral and physical good of man, the propagation of learning, science, art, industry, religion and peace—the only lasting securities for that liberty so dear to Americans.

Believe me sir, the recital abroad of these facts will increase, if possible, the esteem and veneration of Europe, as well as of the States of the Union, towards North Carolina; who has my most ardent prayers for her continued prosperity and happiness.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your very humble and obt. serv't.
ALEXANDER VATTEMARE.

The Joint Select Committee to whom was referred the Message of His Excellency, Governor Graham, concerning the Communication and plan of Mr. Alexander Vattemare, in reference to his system of International Literary Exchanges, have considered the same, and have instructed me to

REPORT:

The Committee feel that their labors in the examination of this question are greatly lightened by the partial knowledge which the reading public has already acquired on this interesting subject from the Newspaper Press. We have sufficient confidence in the intelligence of our people to believe, that a mere statement of the laudible and philanthropic enterprise, in which Mr. Vattemare is engaged, is sufficient to secure for it their unqualified sanction, and approval. This stupendous project of a permanent system of international exchange, of the labors and researches of science and art, in all their various departments, among the nations of the earth, may be considered as nearly consummated. Great and difficult as have been the labors attending it, unfavorable as were the auspices, under which a single individual commenced it; relying upon no other means than the intellect, the philanthropy, the devotion to science and art which existed in the world to sustain him; yet under the untiring exertions and indefatigable labors of Mr. Alexander Vattemare, a citizen of

France, it is fast reaching the accomplishment of its beneficent purposes. This system of international exchanges may be considered as the commencement of a new era in the progress and dissemination of knowledge among men. It belongs emphatically to this age of rapid improvement and discovery, in which destiny has cast our lot. Mighty indeed, as has been the influence of the press upon the institutions, pursuits, and habits of the Christian World; yet, never before, has its blessings and its powers been fully developed. Under this system, the Republic of Letters will soon become one and indivisible; knowing no national limits or sectional prejudices, and bounded only by the confines of Christendom. Men of science and votaries of art, who devote their lives and their energies to the promotion of knowledge, will be the citizens or subjects of no one community exclusively; but will become the denizens of the civilized world. What a stimulus is not this reflection calculated to excite in the mind of the rising generation! What an additional demand is it not likely to create for intellectual effort and scientific research! What a rich and abundant harvest may not posterity reap from its results!

This system, so successfully commenced by Mr. Vattemare, is recommended not only by the benefit it is to confer upon every branch of science, art, and literature, but by the national and social blessings it will produce; and the national and social evils it will obviate. With nations as with individuals, serious differences often occur, from a misapprehension of motives and conduct, growing mainly out of each others peculiar manner, character, habits of thought, condition, and surrounding influences. A spirit of forbearance and conciliation is usually the result of a better acquaintance with those springs of action, that frequently operate with irresistible force upon nations as upon men. With nations, a thorough acquaintance with each others peculiar institutions, and their necessary influence upon national character and policy, is still better calculated to produce a feeling of generous forbearance, under apparent causes of difficulty and complaint. Whilst the knowledge thus obtained by nations of each other, under this system, appeals to their dispassionate judgments, these tokens of courtesy and amity, which are to be the subjects of interchange under the system proposed, appeal to the better feeling and impulses of their hearts. How well designed then, is this plan of interchange among the nations of the earth, of each others intellectual labors, scientific researches, discoveries of art, and records and achievements of governmental policy, to foster a spirit of peace and concord, to encourage a feeling of respect and even fraternal regard, to teach them their dependence on each other's intellectual labors, and thus cement the bonds of brotherhood and union among the nations of the earth. What a hand-maid will it prove to commerce, that great agent of civilization, of individual comfort and national prosperity in modern times, by thus bringing nations more closely together in feeling and sympathy, teaching them each other's wants, informing them of each other's productions, and affording to them a knowledge of each other's means, appliances, discoveries and inventions, in developing their resources. Under the influence of this benign system, may we not contemplate the time, when nations will find it to be their true policy to cultivate peace with all, when the intellect of the world will be enlisted in its maintenance, and when the civilization of knowledge, science and art, the promotion of man's spiritual and temporal happiness, and development of national wealth, shall usurp in the heart of the world, the place of that admiration, which is now felt for the conquering hero, who amounts up to fame upon the corpses of thousands, and who lights up the path-way to glory by the blaze of desolation.

The beneficial results of this system before mentioned, are general in their nature, and apply to all the nations of the Commercial World. They appeal to our philanthropy, as belonging to the great community of civilized man. But its blessings and its advantages are particularly applicable to our Country. So far as science, art, and literature are concerned, we are yet in our infancy, compared with the more enlightened States of Europe. Having a continent of forest to subdue, and an almost boundless country to populate, the practical wants and pursuits of life have kept up such a demand upon our physical energies, that but little time has been afforded for the abstruse sciences, the refinements of the higher branches of art, or the calm and quiet pursuits of literature. Except in the science of law and government, and those branches of art adapted to the ends of practical industry, it would be vain boasting, to pre-

send, that we were not far behind the more enlightened States of the old world. If then, the opportunity is afforded us of partaking of the benefits of a system, which proposes to fill our libraries, our museums, and atheneums, with the rich stores of the intellect and genius of Europe, in exchange for what we may have to give in return, ought we not to rejoice at the good fortune which introduces us, at once, into the great community of knowledge and learning throughout the world; offers to our inspection and perusal, the labor of those giants of mind whose names belong to immortality;—and admits us to a participation in all the discoveries, improvements, and statistical data of practical science and art, to aid us in developing the almost exhaustible resources of our Country?

Its blessings will not stop here. The introduction of this system, and the diffusion of the fruits of intellectual labor in other lands, cannot fail to afford a stimulus to science and learning among us. Many of the most philanthropic minds in our own Country think, that we are too egotistical in our feelings and pursuits—that in the eager race of adventure, and efforts for physical comfort and worldly gain, we look with too little consideration upon those abstruse sciences, and abstract efforts of mind, from which, after all, are evolved the practical application of knowledge to the useful and industrious pursuits of life. Science is quiet and tranquilizing in its nature. By encouraging an admiration for its study and its beauties, a counterpoise may perhaps be presented to that restless and agitated spirit, which is the peculiar characteristic of our people. It cannot be denied however, and we must insist, that in the science of government and of law, we have kept even pace with our father land of the old world. The proofs of this are to be found in our records, our statistics, our archives, our journals, our legislative enactments and the decisions of our Courts, which contain the materials for our history. These we have to give in exchange; and perhaps there never could be a period when they would be more acceptable to the legislators of Europe, than at this period of revolution, and constitutional reform. At all events, we may well be proud of what we have to give. We have an abiding confidence, that the diffusion and examination of our State papers, throughout Europe, will elevate our character for morality, conservatism, patriotism, intellectual power, and eloquence, whether of the bar, the pulpit, or the tribune. It will tend to dissipate many of the prejudices now entertained against us on account of our inartificial manners, and our Republican institutions. This system, therefore, strongly recommends itself to us on the considerations of national interest and national pride. This interchange of the products of intellectual and scientific labor with France, which it is the object of Mr. Vattemare to directly bring about in the first place, is particularly appropriate and desirable at this time. France has again entered upon the experiment of republican government. Whether success or failure attend her efforts, yet she has our anxious hopes and heart-felt wishes, that she may rear her republican institutions on sure and conservative foundations. She may perhaps profit by our example. Let us then afford her the benefit of our labors as embodied in our records, even if we have nothing else to present.

The Committee cannot let the occasion pass by, of warding to Mr. Vattemare the tribute of praise due to his exertions. By America especially, he should be regarded as a great public benefactor. He comes among us, not only to present to us the labor of science and art in other lands, but also to diffuse the practical proofs of the happy working of our Republican system over the old world; thus aiding the cause of Constitutional liberty in Europe, at the same time enlarging the sphere of our influence, and elevating the character of our country.

In our sister States of the Union, which Mr. Vattemare has visited, he has been received with that consideration due to the great cause in which he is engaged. Honors have been showered upon him by their public functionaries. They have, through him, made donations of what they had to spare of their public archives and have received in return, rare and invaluable additions to their libraries, and their stock of recorded knowledge. They have made provisions by law, for the permanent adoption and future regulations of this system of Literary Exchanges, by providing for the future printing of duplicates of their public records for distribution abroad and for paying the expenses of an agency in Paris, for the reception and transmission of books. Will not North Carolina do as much? Shall we allow the intellectual treasure of Europe to be disseminated in other

portions of the Union, and to actually cross our limits in their transit to other States, and yet refuse to partake of their benefits? But it may be said what has North Carolina to give in return? We have our Legislative Journals, to show to other lands, that order and harmony prevail in our deliberations, and that the spirit of conservatism brooks over our counsels. We have our embodied Laws and Revised Statutes to prove that the public prosperity and happiness are the objects of our legislature; and that simplicity and adaptation to the comprehension of all are the purposes of our law-givers. We have the decisions of our Courts to demonstrate with what obedience we submit to the stern authority of law; and that in the science of jurisprudence, at least, we are behind no portion of the world.

The Committee, therefore, report herewith, (marked A.) resolutions expressing our appreciation of the system of Mr. Vattemare; and a bill, (marked B.) providing for the permanent establishment of an agency to superintend its details, and the means of securing its continued operation. The Committee have also procured from Mr. Vattemare a copy of his very able and interesting address on the evening of the 9th instant, which is herewith reported, (marked C.) The Committee have also been furnished by Mr. Vattemare, with a copy of instructions, (marked D.) on the best mode of collecting, preserving, and transcribing objects of Natural History, prepared by the Professors and Administrators of the Museum of Natural History at Paris, which is also herewith reported. Accompanying this report, will also be found a list of works, (marked E.) presented by Mr. Vattemare to the State Library.

Respectfully submitted,
K. RAYNER, Chairman.
January 10th, 1849.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same, That we highly appreciate, and cordially approve, the system of International, Literary, and Scientific Exchanges among the Nations of the earth proposed by Mr. Alexander Vattemare; to the establishment of which he has so long devoted his energies and fortune; and that we regard it as a wise and feasible means of disseminating knowledge, and preserving the relations of peace among the nations of the earth.

Be it further Resolved, &c. that the meet of our approbation is due, and is hereby tendered, to Mr. Vattemare, for his untiring perseverance and philanthropic labors in carrying into execution his great design; that he has our warmest thanks for his visit amongst us, and for the valuable donations in books and prints with which he has enriched our Library.

Be it further Resolved, &c. That there shall be annually transmitted hereafter to Mr. Vattemare, under the superintendance and direction of the Governor, six copies of all books containing the Journals, Laws, Judicial Reports, &c. &c., and all other works published under the authority of this State, to be distributed by said Vattemare to such of the Institutions and Authorities of France, as he, in his discretion may select.

THE RETURNED SON.

by MRS. OPIE.
Once on a time, and when the names of the famous and the infamous did not travel as far and as fast as they now do, for mail coaches were not then invented, a young north countryman tramped up to London, with almost all his wardrobe on his back and his head full of learning, and what was better still, with great intellectual powers of various kinds. He had also self-denial, and unwearied industry; and at length, after long toiling days and short nights, he found himself suddenly raised into opulence, consequence, and fame, by the successful exertion of his talents and his scientific knowledge,

assisted no doubt by the fortunate circumstances which had called them into action. But his health required some relaxation; and as his heart yearned towards that tender mother who had been widowed during his absence, and the brothers and sisters who were grown, since he saw them, out of childhood into maturity, he resolved to indulge himself in a visit to his native mountains; and with an eager, impatient heart, he set off on his long journey. My hero, whom I shall call William Delevall, was conscious of his high reputation, and no doubt enjoyed it; but when he first saw his native hills, and was at last welcomed by his mother and his family, he felt that there was a pleasure in the indulgence of natural affection far beyond any enjoyment which wealth can bestow; and while they hung round his neck, and welcomed the long absent wanderer home, the joys of family love banished awhile from his recollection the pleasures of gratified ambition. He soon discovered that his mother was totally ignorant what a celebrated person she had the honor of entertaining, and as he travelled without a servant, and was as plainly dressed as a gentleman at that time of day could venture to be, it was not possible for her even to suspect that he was a man of property; and when he produced some handsome presents for herself and his sisters, she expressed her fears that he had laid out more money than was prudent; "and though," added she, "I know that thou art well to do in the world, and can maintain thyself, still, Willie, remember to take care of the pence, and the pounds will take care of themselves." Willie smiled complacently on this effusion of maternal prudence; but perhaps he could not help being a little mortified at seeing that he who was somebody in the world's opinion and esteem, was a mere nobody in his mother's, compared with her eldest son, Robin, who looked after the farm; and as he had lost his powers of climbing, running, wrestling, and breaking ponies, his younger brothers and sisters thought him very inferior to themselves; but as he was kind and generous, and admired them for the abilities which he did not possess, he was very soon their dear, dear Willie, and they did not know how they should ever bear to part with him again.

Things had gone well with his family as well as himself during his long absence, the father, a weak do-little man, as the phrase is, had been a hindrance rather than a help; therefore his death was an advantage to his survivors in a pecuniary point of view, and the mother and the children had, before Willie's arrival, increased both in consequence and wealth, and were looked upon as considerable farmers. William Delevall's arrival was soon known amongst their relations and friends; and he was warmly welcomed as a young man who had been so pains taking to require assistance from his parents; but this was, as far as they knew, the very height of Willie's excellence, for it was not in his nature to boast of himself; and he was contented to leave the discovery of what he really was, to time, and what we call accident.

"Pray mother," said he, soon after his arrival, "are Lord and Lady W—— at the castle?"
"No; but they are expected. I suppose they live a great way from thee, Willie, and thou art not likely to see them in London?"
"I do not see them very often."
"No, my dear, I dare say not; they do not often come in the way of people like thee."

Delevall smiled, but said nothing. On the Sabbath day following he went to church with his family; and as he beheld them in their holiday attire, and saw the respect which was paid to them by all descriptions of persons whom they met in the churchyard, he experienced the most heartfelt enjoyment; and never during the service; probably, was his soul more fervently, though humbly, offered up to his Creator in thanksgiving and praise. The next day one of his sisters came jumping into the room and exclaimed, "Why Willie, I wonder what great man thou art like!"
"Indeed," replied he, his eyes involuntarily sparkling, "I believe I am no great man but myself, Annie."
"Oh! but thou must be, for a fine gentleman stopped me in the road just now, and said, 'Pray young lady, if I may be so bold, did I not see a celebrated young man walking with you from church yesterday afternoon?' No indeed, sir, said I, it was only my brother Willie from London."

"What is that thou art saying?" said a neighbor present, who was that disagreeable thing, a banterer, or a dealer in sarcastic flings, as the phrase is.
Annie repeated what she had said before; and poor Delevall had to undergo

during the rest of the day, the coarse jokes of this person, and those which it provoked from others, on his being taken for a great man.

"Well, well," said he, at last, impatiently, "perhaps I may one day be a great man myself."
"Thee, Willie! that I will, to think of the conceit of these Londoners! 'Thee a great man indeed!'"

"No, and I am sure I hope not," said his mother, affectionately passing her hand over his face; "perhaps it thou wert a great man, Willie, thou wouldst forget thy poor old mother."

A most pleasing consciousness, accompanied by a sort of choking feeling which impeded utterance, forced the tears into the eyes of the affectionate son, as he held the cressing hand to his lips—length he articulated in a hoarse voice, "Forget thee, mother! never, never, never!"

The next morning Lord W—— called, but the whole family were out; and when they returned, Delevall was the only one of them who did not feel surprised at sight of the peer's card.

"Why what does this mean?" said his mother to the deaf old servant who had gone to the door; "Lord W—— never called here before."
"It was a call of civility, no doubt," said Delevall.

"Pho, nonsense!" cried his mother; he is too proud to call on such as we."
"He asked for you, I am sure," said the deaf servant.

"For me! oh, I know why he called;—he wants to buy my grey pony, neighbor Norton says—and that is what he called for; but here is our neighbor, I will ask him about it;"—and the banterer before mentioned entered the room, on which she immediately showed him Lord W——'s card, adding, "Our Willie here thought he came to call out of civility, but I told him I thought he called about the pony."

"No doubt," replied banterer Norton, grinning sarcastically at Delevall, "but I suppose that conceited London gentleman thought he called upon him."
"Perhaps I did," replied Delevall, giving way to irresistible laughter, in which he was joined by the banterer, but Delevall remembered the proverb; "let those laugh who win;" and he knew he had the laugh on his side, and that time would prove it to be so.—Nor did his incongruity last long. The next morning, just before Norton and the family were sitting down to dinner, and while Delevall was devising means to get away unsuspected as soon as dinner was over, to return Lord W——'s call, Annie exclaimed, "Well! I declare, if there be not that gentleman who spoke to me coming up to the door!" And before any one could express surprise the stranger was in the parlor, had announced himself as Sir George L——, and after sundry low bows to Delevall, had muttered 'proud to make his acquaintance,' and so forth he requested to see him in another room, as he was the bearer of a message and note from Lord W——.

Great, no doubt, was the surprise of Delevall's family, and great the mortification of the banterer at this evident proof of Willie's being somebody, till the latter exclaimed, striking his hand on the table "I have it, I see how it is; this Sir George Thingummy is going to stand for the county at the next election, and he takes Willie for the son who has a vote,—ay, ay, and the fellow will be coming grinning and bowing, and flattering to me next, I suppose."

After a short conference, Sir George L—— departed, and Delevall returned to his friends with a look of mild benignity. "So, London Sir," said Norton, "I suppose that fine spark with his bows and his speeches came to ask your vote and interest at the next election, taking you for the landholder?"
"No sir," returned Delevall, smiling, "he came to offer his vote and interest to me; and if you please, I will read aloud the note which he brought from Lord W——."

Before his astonished auditors could reply, Delevall read as follows:
"My Dear Sir,—I hope you will do us the favor of dining with us to-morrow; but I lose no time in assuring that I find, with the greatest satisfaction, you will certainly be returned for the borough of — as soon as ever you show yourself, and Sir George L—— will accompany you thither. Parliament is the proper place for talents like yours.
I am dear sir, your friend,
W——"

When Delevall had ceased to read, the silence caused no doubt by good and also partly by bad feelings, remained awhile unbroken; while he was absorbed in watching the emotions of his agitated mother, who, at length, bursting into tears, and throwing herself on his neck, exclaimed, "Oh! Willie, Willie! now then I see thou art already a great man; ay, and still a good man too (blessed be He who has made and kept thee so!)—for thou hast not forgotten thy poor old mother!"

GETTING RID OF FALSE FRIENDS.—"I weeded my friends," said an old eccentric friend, "by hanging a piece of stair carpet out of my first floor window, with a broker's announcement affixed. Gad! it had the desired effect. I soon saw who were my friends. It was like firing a gun near a pigeon house; they all forsook the building at the first report, and I have not had occasion to use the extra flaps of my dining table since."

By drinking a strong decoction of savin for a few days, the most bitter rheumatism, it is said, will give way. Savin is an evergreen nearly resembling spruce.