

POLITICAL AND OTHERWISE.

Poor old Clingman! Seven cities contended for the honor of Homer's birth after his death, through whose streets he had begged his bread while he lived. Poor old "Billy," our school boy associate, with whom in days long gone, we hustled on the bany field. He was a great boy, a great man. He won honors in the battle field of life, and emptied them into from the garner of his cornucopia all from the lap of North Carolina, his loved mother. He died poor, old and imbecile in the Hospital for the Insane at Morganton. Some papers refer to Clingman's case to point a moral of the world's ingratitude and neglect. But the moral is not apposite. Clingman's friends did not neglect him. When in full manhood he had a big slice of the world's bounty. He was honored, feasted, feted, and the world's best was his. When his mind failed his friends cared tenderly for him, and when he became helpless as a child the doors of the Morganton Institution were opened to him and he was kindly tended, and had every comfort. He died childless. He had not under him in his age and helpless condition its natural props and support, but there was in his case no point for a moral, and no just charge of neglect toward one of North Carolina's ablest and truest sons.

Cassius Marcellus Clay, the Abolitionist in the early days, when an Abolitionist was regarded as an anarchist, and "Uncle Tom" and his "Cabin" was an unknown quantity, afterward Minister to Russia, the much married man of Kentucky, the old dotal, who married a 14 year old girl, a "peasant" as he calls her, has come to grief. His "peasant," Dora Richardson, has turned her back on the brave old man of Kentucky, has deserted him, and prefers to live on scarcity and coffee than comfort the couch of the old man, who sought society and companionship, and has not found it. Alas! alas! Some men learn wisdom from the experience of others, some men get wisdom from their own experience, and some men not at all. Cassius Marcellus belongs to the third class. He is 87 years old. Why, oh why! did old Marcellus wreck his ship on the sea of matrimony with a young girl just entering her teens. It was a brave step, but reckless as brave, and foolish as reckless, and the only good thing in it is that it furnishes another lesson to an old dotal not to fool with a young and giddy girl.

Gen. Grimes' Letters relating to the Civil war, written from camp stool and bivouac, edited and published by Palaski Cowper, is a valuable contribution to the war history of that bloody time which will have to be rewritten to prevent its chronicles being classed as the fables of history by Baron Munchausen. These Letters of Gen. Grimes must be regarded as reliable, when we consider the peculiar circumstances under which they were written. Written with the confidence and truth of communications to the loved partner of his bosom, and while the battle's blaze yet lingered on his iris. We thank our friend, Mr. Cowper, for this offering to history, and also for sending us a copy of the work. He has already done much for North Carolina's sons by rehashing the inscriptions of their lives upon the pages of history, and we hope he will continue for many years his literary labors of love and patriotism.

Some of the press of the State are disposed to shed ridicule upon the new newspaper venture in Raleigh, of which Bob Furman is to be the editor, Greek Andrews, the business Manager, and — Briggs, who yet has the smell of the defunct Tribune, as Republican runabout. We are not in the ridicule ring. We regard dear old Bob Furman too highly to laugh at him, but when we see him in the crowd he is, we think of the

social aspects of politics and of Mr. Calhoun's wise remark that "a man's soul must follow his political relations," we feel like taking our old friend in our loving arms and bearing him away from his political associations. If Bob be the political associate of Russell, Andrews, and Andrews again, and little Briggs, reprobate son of a worthy father, then we must stop and cry. One of our exchanges says, "it is pledged to support everything from voodooism to theosophy." We protest and call a halt for dear old Bob's sake.

The world's optic is upon Gladstone, whose degree conferred by the world is "G.O.M." He is truly a grand old man—grand in his age, in his manhood, in his backbone, in his ability, in his interest in the affairs of this world, in his faith in the world beyond, in his solicitude for the humble and down-trodden everywhere. The old man is robust for his age. Some say age is beating a tattoo on his wrinkled brow and dimmed eye, and giving him warning of the "long role" that is now near enough for him to hear. He has gone to Cannes, for recruits, and he expects new enlistments. Brave old man. He is soon to meet an enemy that has never known defeat, an enemy he cannot conquer, the enemy who is mounted on a pale horse, with vapor down, and a scythe in his hand—death. His has been a serene and graceful life of a long and stalwart and useful life.

In the death of Rev. Dr. J. Henry Smith, of Greensboro, North Carolina loses one of its most distinguished sons, whose life was in the ranks of goodness and beneficence, and of the world was the better for his living. Humanity was the field of his labor and his special work in that field was to comfort the sorrowing, uplift the broken and down-trodden, wipe away the tears from eyes that were weeping, rebuke the arrogant in sinfulness, check the erring, and armed with the weapons of Godliness, point the wayfarers in the pilgrimage of life to the paths of holiness which he trod with such steady and unflinching steps. We met Dr. Smith once in this town, and his image has been since photographed upon our mind as a great and good man.

We are almost tempted to change sides and strike for poor old But. He is the dog-gonest down dog we ever seen. Our instincts are all on the side of the down dog, but then But is such a mean looking down dog that our senses overcome our instincts. If But would wear a wax Roman nose, gunge out one eye, substitute a glass eye and wear a green patch over the other eye, we might try to take our friends off of him. We have never known a man so badly gouged in North Carolina politics.

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But when we think he deserves it all, we can't help quoting sweet William—"Lay on, MacDuff, and dam be that first cry, hold, enough. Hear what an exchange says of this tattooed But: "Senator Butler must have been drunk when he delivered his speech at Hocky Mount. No one but an idiot or a man considerably under the influence of liquor would have made the assertion that the Democrats of North Carolina abetted the ravishing of white women by negro brutes. This reflection upon the people of the State will not be forgotten. A person of the Senator's station, of his supposed sense, who thus vilifies his own State, is deserving of the contempt of all."

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