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A REFORMATORY

For North Carolina Needed—Argument in its Favor By a Lady Writer—Read at a Meeting of the Julia Magruder Book Club.

The following original paper was recently read by a member of the Julia Magruder Book Club, the subject for the meeting being "Living Questions."

"Among the living questions of the day I think there is scarcely one of more vital importance than this. Perhaps not, apparently, one immediately interesting to a woman's book club, but certainly interesting to women in general. It is a question which has, or will, come before our State Legislature now in session, and I for one earnestly hope that a bill may be passed requiring and providing for the establishment of one at the earliest possible time. We are all eagerly interested in the improvement and extension of our educational system, and most justly so, for education is the foe of ignorance which is so productive of lawlessness and vice. But our schools do not furnish all we need for the prevention of crime. And our jails and penitentiaries, however indispensable they may be as a punishing agency, do not, I think, furnish the only, nor in many cases the best, mode of correction. In the case of old and hardened criminals there may be no other or better means of punishment as a measure of prevention. But would not a reformatory, wisely planned and judiciously managed, greatly lessen the number of old and hardened criminals. I am no sentimentalist in regard to criminals. "As ye sow so shall ye reap," is a law not only inevitable but just and good. I believe it is right that punishment should follow wrongdoing. But even as the Divine Ruler tempers justice with mercy, and offers to his erring children renewed opportunities of repentance and reformation before the last stern, irrevocable fiat of condemnation is pronounced, even so I believe the sovereign State should deal with trespassers against her just and beneficent laws. In how many, many cases is the offender, young, thoughtless and misguided, rather than deliberately wicked? It is right and just that some penalty shall be meted out even in the least aggravated of these cases. But should not the State seek to reclaim rather than to severely punish these comparatively innocent offenders? Should she not make a strong effort to win them back to good citizenship and upright lives? But is there any rational hope of doing this under our present system? The common jail, the convict's camp, the penitentiary, all filled with criminals more or less debased and hopelessly hardened—ready to lead them on in the paths of wickedness, to encourage by word and example in the downward path—these furnish a weak agency indeed for the correction and improvement of a poor, thoughtless, it may be, naturally, weak boy,

who in a moment of temptation, perhaps even of sore provocation, committed a rash act, to recall which he would give all in his power to give. But sentenced to daily association with men worse than himself and subject to the hard, tyrannical discipline of our county and State prisons; with little or no influence for good, it is little wonder that he comes out at the expiration of his term far worse in heart and feeling than when he went in. And feeling himself branded with the indelible stain of disgrace he more readily falls into evil associations and reckless habits. Surely there must be some means by which these terrible results may, in some cases at least, be prevented. And if there be one, the law-makers of the State are responsible before God for their neglect or misuse of it.

"My object in writing on this subject is to try to arouse attention to and interest in it, and to suggest that we as individuals, or as a club, may endeavor by some effort to assist in this good work. We might appeal to our own representatives in behalf of it, and doubtless there are other members of the Legislature on whom we might call to give voice, influence and vote to secure for North Carolina an institution so greatly to be desired."

They Quartered in the Court Room.

Rather unusual was the case of Thursday afternoon, when the jury on the case of Mr. Ed Lipe vs. Mrs. Alice Bost Parlier, after hearing the pleadings of the attorneys, and before receiving their charge from Judge Shaw, asked that they be allowed to stay together during the night. Their request was granted, and Judge Shaw ordered that their meals be furnished them. They stayed in the court room Thursday night.

Not yet having been charged by the judge as to the different points of law, nothing was before them for the night. Discussions of different kinds, mostly religious, interspersed with some side-splitting jokes, were held.

The charge was given them as soon as court opened next morning, the case having been given them about 11 o'clock today (Friday).

Lipe-Bost Case, Ended.

At the afternoon session of court today (Friday) the jury returned to the court room with their verdict in regard to the case of Mr. Ed G Lipe, executor of Wm. W Bost vs. Alice Bost, executrix of L C Bost. The following is their answers:

Is the plaintiff the owner and entitled to the possession of any of the articles of personal property specified in the complaint? Answer: "No."

Did L C Bost wrongfully and fraudulently convert to her own use the \$900 or any part thereof belonging to the estate of W W Bost, as alleged in the complaint? If so, what sum? Answer: "Yes—of \$470."

What damages, if any, has the plaintiff sustained? Answer: "470."

Is the plaintiff's cause of action barred by the statutes of limitations? Answer: "Yes."

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Attorney C W Tillet, of Charlotte, is in the bar today, having come over on account of the case of Reid vs. Braford.

—Presiding Elder Brooks, of Salisbury, passed through here today on his way to Mt. Pleasant to hold quarterly conference.

—Mr. Norman Shaw, whose face is known by a number of our people, is here today. He has been staying in Salisbury for several days in the interest of the Knights of Honor.

FRENCH PEAS,

KORNLET

and

ITALIAN PASTE

at

Ervin & Morrison GROCERS

BOYS HAD A GOOD TIME.

Sergeant Hope Barrier Says He Enjoyed the Trip.

Sergeant Hope Barrier, in a letter to his mother immediately after their return from their march last week, writes that he enjoyed the trip very much save a little tire like that of marching for ten miles in a path so narrow that they had to go single file. The grass was higher than their heads in places. He writes that they visited four or five towns whose names he could not remember and could not spell them if he did remember them.

Some of the scenery was very attractive, for instance a river runs through a town and then dips into the earth and is invisible for six miles where it bobs up again. They camped two nights at San Antonio de las Banos.

Now any old veteran can imagine them sitting round in groups rehearsing their experiences and recalling points of interest.

Saved by a Tube in His Brain.

By a surgical operation unique in American medical science Joseph Sepie, a butcher, has been relieved, at Mercy Hospital, of an insanity-producing tumor on his brain just over the right eye. Sepie has heretofore "seen double," suffered from awful headaches and attempted suicide. By trephining his skull and inserting a tube that drained off the tumor the doctors have cured him.—Chicago Dispatch.

Nominations for Directors.

We see that the Democratic caucus nominated as directors for the penitentiary, as follows: J H Weddington, of the 11th judicial district; W H Osborn, of the 5th; Dr. M A Morphew, of the 10th; James F Lee, of the 7th; E L Travis, of the 2nd; J W Perry, of 4th, and A B Young of the 9th.

Miles' Pain Expeller guaranteed to stop headache in 20 minutes. One cent a dose.

Ready For Spring.

Thousands of yards of 36 inch Percalé worth 10c yd to go at 5c.

Rare Bargain.

Cannon & Fetzer Company.

Eiderdown Sacques.

Dainty exquisite affairs for around the house wear. We have 5 pieces of wool eiderdown all of which to make them in the different colorings of green, red, pink and blue. This is the 50c kind, some plain and some in fancy effects, only 25c per yard, just half price. Where is the woman who will not scramble for a bargain like this?

Interesting Glove News,

Because it tells of a chance to secure a 50c glove for 35 cents. This is a very fine silk glove fleeced lined, cheap at 50c, and only about 2 dozen pairs to go for the small sum of 35c. The glove-hunters can come our way.

H L PARKS & CO.

30 SPRING STYLES 30 FOR THE YEAR '99

Just in and more to follow. If we can't please you in style and price then you don't need a

Baby Carriage.

Prices from \$3.50 to \$30.00.

Furniture and House Furnishings more than ever. We bought before the advance. Can save you money every time. Another car load of chairs at close-out prices on the way. We want your trade. If you give us a chance we will have it. Call and see us. We are yours to serve,

Bell, Harris & Company

P. S.—Best equipped Undertaking Establishment in the State. Can give you anything you want from a Pauper Wood Case to a Copper Lined or Metallic—good enough for Jay Gould.

Handsomest Funeral Car In the State FREE.