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WILMINGTON, N. C.

SUNDAY JANUARY 9, 1898.

OBSERVANDA

We have received a volume of 173 octavo pages entitled "Addresses and Articles" by Judge Walter Clark, Richmond, James E. Goode Printing Company. A fine likeness of the author is the frontispiece. There are four addresses and six articles and all produced last year. The supplement contains seven productions. All of the contents have been printed in some form, in magazines or law reviews or the newspapers. They show industry, study, thought, acquisition and are clear in statement. As literature they do not amount to much, for the themes do not belong to that rich and elegant domain. They concern government, the rights of the people, the abuses of power, the corruptions of government, political and economic questions. They are replete with information, with facts, with arguments, and whether you accept the author's conclusions or no, you must concede the plausibility and forcefulness and sincerity of the presentation. Judge Clark is unquestionably a gentleman of much ability. He has done well to print the volume, for as an intellectual friend in Raleigh recently said in a letter to us concerning our praise of General Clingman's volume of "Addresses, Speeches, etc.", that it was very well that he published his own productions, for North Carolina had but few of such volumes. Where are the speeches and addresses of the great men of the past in our state? Where will you find them? There is but little gathered. Have you a speech of Badger or Mangum or Bragg or Gaston or H. W. Miller? Have you the speeches that are in pamphlets of Graham, Davis, MacRae, Venable? Have you copies of the many published speeches and addresses of Vance? It is to be regretted that North Carolinians have not printed oftener and done as General Clingman did and Justice Clark has just done.

London in Shakespeare's day had about 175,000 inhabitants—not much more than one third the size of Baltimore now. It is well to remember that in studying his writings and times. There is an interesting volume out entitled "Shakespeare's London." It is by T. F. Ordish, F. S. A. There were gardens filled all about London then, stocked with fruit trees and adorned with flower beds, and birds sang all over the city. "Nature was calling to Shakespeare while he lived and worked in London." This book is well illustrated. Another timely and instructive book is "The Age of Milton" by J. H. B. Masterman, M. A. All that concerns this very great man—next to Shakespeare in genius of all Englishmen—is of great interest. Professor Masson's several massive volumes of "John Milton and His Times," are of highest value but not accessible to many. Mr. Masterman's compact volume, price \$1, will give much information. The title shows that the book takes a wide range for it is on "The Age," and not confined to Milton. Other famous men are written of. Here are two wise maxims from Sir Thomas Brown: "Measure not thyself by the morning shadows but by the extent of thy grave." "The vices we scoff at in others laugh at us in ourselves."

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It is gratifying to us to call attention to a work of unusual interest that will be published no long hence by the Continental Publishing Company of New York City. It is an English translation of a poem that cannot fail to interest all who really love pure or great literature. To very many the name of the poet will be new. It is Vondel, the greatest poet who ever employed the Dutch language as a vehicle of expression. His chief poem, "Lucifer" not only ranks high among the scholars and literati of his own land, but is well praised by the critical minds of other countries. It is from his great poem that the supremest and sublimest epic poet of modern literature has been charged with borrowing liberally. Edmund Gosse, the very gifted English critic, and others, have asserted that Milton "borrowed industriously from the drama of Vondel." Mr. George Edmundson, after "a profound study" in his work entitled "Milton and Vondel" has brought a similar charge "citing a multitude of parallels in phrases and imagery." We are told that Dutch critics generations ago brought this accusation, and the English poet Beddoes whose own poetry we are persuaded is much overrated by his special admirers, as far back as 1825 made a similar contention. It may be so for we have not read Vondel as yet. But we

are sceptical as to the slavish indebtedness of really great poets to writers before them. All poets may be, and probably are, under obligations to the poets who preceded them, and doubtless reproduce ideas and even phrases from older poets, but men of high genius when they appropriate do it with splendid courage, and passing the borrowed metal into their own mental mint and subjecting it to the alembic of their own lofty genius, bring it forth pure gold rich in beauty and stamped with the power of immortality. Shakespeare thus "borrowed" largely. Dante, read two or three of the Latins and used them as genius uses other creations of the intellect. Tennyson, supreme in art and rich in thought, thus was indebted to Theocritus. And so scores of other noble poets have been more or less indebted to the ancient and some of the more recent poets. But how beautified, enriched, transmuted are those creations with the touch of the masters who use them! So Milton, high and inspired and massive as he was, may have taken freely from Vondel in his greatest epic, "The Paradise Lost," so rich in virtue and beautiful and eloquent, and masterful and majestic and sublime. But without stopping to consider the question of his indebtedness to the Dutch poet, it is a very interesting event that at last we are to have Vondel's "Lucifer" in a scholarly and accurate and admirable rendering into English. Many eminent scholars, poets and critics of the Netherlands, among them Professor Kalf, of the University of Utrecht, Professor Jan Ten Brink of the University of Leyden, Dr. Frederic Van Eden, of Bussum, Holland, a famous novelist and poet, and others whose endorsements are before us praise the excellence and felicity of the translation. And now it is gratifying to state that this remarkably clever translation is by Mr. Leonard Charles Van Noppen, an American native of Dutch descent. He is a son of North Carolina, and his translation of the sublimest masterpiece in Dutch is possibly the greatest attempt hitherto made by any son of the Old North State. This simple statement alone should attract attention, arouse the genuine interest of all scholars and cultivated people throughout our state. It will be sure, we may suppose, to excite the interest of European and American scholars and men of letters generally. The translator, every way so capable and accomplished, is a brother of Mr. Charles L. Van Noppen, educated at our noble university, who resides at Greensboro.

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RELIGIOUS EDITORIALS FOR SUNDAY.

[When we saw it announced that the venerable Rev. Robert L. Dabney, D.D., LL. D., was dead at Knoxville, Tenn., where he was visiting his distinguished son, Professor Charles W. Dabney, we were moved, although he had reached nearly his 78th year, and we knew had been in rather feeble health for some years. It was only a few weeks ago that he delivered a series of lectures before Davidson College, N. C., that were of profound interest. Dr. Dabney was born in Louisa county, Va., 6th of March, 1820. He was graduated at Hampden Sidney College, went to the University of Virginia, receiving the degree of A. M., and was theologically educated at Union Seminary, Prince Edward county, Va. He was professor for some fifteen years in that fine school, and thence removed to Texas, being professor of moral philosophy in its university. He became entirely blind after seven years of service and was compelled by the great affliction to resign. He was a voluminous author, writing books, magazine papers, essays, addresses, sermons, etc. Among his publications, in book form, are "Life of Rev. Dr. F. S. Sampson," "Life of General T. J. (Stonewall) Jackson," "Sacred Rhetoric," "A Defence of Virginia and the South," "Sensualistic Philosophy of the Nineteenth Century Considered," "Course of Systematic and Polemic Theology," and "The Christian Sabbath." We have only read his life of Jackson and his "Defence of Virginia," both excellently done, and the latter very vigorous. We have, through the last thirty or forty years, read an occasional article from his pen in religious or secular newspapers. We are not acquainted with his four volumes of "Discussions," his "Lectures on Rhetoric," or his two works on "Philosophy." We have had for decades an impression as to this brave, honest, earnest, consecrated, able servant of the Most High which may not be well based. He has impressed us for at least three decades as perhaps as vigorous a mind as was in the whole south, and, for aught we know, in the entire country. We felt that he was endowed not only with a very high understanding, but that all his powers were in excellent balance and under great command. We have cherished the opinion that if he had given his time to it, that with his extraordinary powers and wide attainments and great logical force, he could not only have written a defence of the south that would have been of superlative interest and ability, but would have been overwhelming in conclusion and forever unanswerable. You see something of his skill and vigor in his "Defence of Virginia." What a noble, masculine history of the "War Between the States" he could

have written. In the war he served on General Jackson's staff, with the rank of major, until failing health compelled him to retire. Dr. Dabney and Rev. Dr. Albert Taylor Bledsoe, another native of Virginia, we believe have been the two ablest men and most dangerous disputants to tackle of all Virginians of the last half century. They were masters of reasoning and dialectics generally. They had capacious, extremely strong, acute, metaphysical, syncretical and logical understandings. It has sometimes occurred to us that Dr. Dabney and Dr. Thornwell, of South Carolina, were, take them all in all, the greatest divines of southern Presbyterianism in all of its history. Of these two singularly able men we know not which was the greater or the more learned, but both were great and most admirably equipped. We are not dogmatizing in opinion, because we write from too narrow a view, from too little an acquaintance with their profound, scholarly and even monumental works. The eloquent and elegant Rev. Dr. Moses D. Hoge, the almost octogenarian, so full of good deeds and protracted services and rich results of his memorable ministry, knew Dr. Dabney intimately and long. He recently said of him:

"He was the most versatile and accurate scholar in the south. As a theological teacher he had no superior in the United States. His 'Life of Stonewall Jackson' is known to all the readers of history. His published works on philosophical, secular, and religious subjects make several volumes, and will give him enduring fame."
"No one could know him better or make a more just appraisal of his powers and acquisition. We never saw this great man—one of the century men. It would have been an exceeding pleasure to have sat under his lectures or ministrations from the pulpit. The Richmond Presbyterian, edited by a capitalist writer, says this:
"He was a man of rare and vigorous intellectual ability, logical, active, independent, honest, conservative. In all his life he was observant, inquisitive, versatile, indomitable. He was mechanic, farmer, manufacturer, lawyer, statesman, patriot, philosopher, student and, more than all, theologian—an humble, loyal student of the Bible."
"In the seminary which his force was in the Hebrew language, until he taught us Greek exegesis; we thought his greatest in Church History until we heard him teach Theology; and then we did not know the half until we read his papers and books on Philosophy."

His recent lectures at Davidson College, N. C., and afterwards at Columbia, S. C., were on the great foundations of salvation—the great central truth of the Gospel—the Alpha, and the Omega of all the Bible—the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, perfected, finished on the Cross upon Calvary. This great scholar and thinker and theologian, as if led by God as he was so near to the close of life's journey, brought his noble faculties of mind and heart and soul and gathered and centered them upon the highest of all truths, the greatest of all facts—the sacrificial offering of the Son of God upon the tragic Cross to save a lost world, and, to open up a way of holiness for the sinner redeemed by grace to the portals of everlasting joy and felicity. When such a man, after living such a noble, exalted, laborious life, passes from earth into the eternity beyond, it is right that men should stop and contemplate this life, so useful, so pure, so masterful, and yet so humble and adoring before Almighty God. Dr. Dabney's remains rest at Hampden-Sidney, where he toiled and taught, while his immortal part has gone to the abode of the blessed.

Let us write briefly of a notable scholar and divine who died some year or two ago, we think it was, who, like Dr. Dabney, we think, was also a native of Virginia. Both were extraordinary men, but Dr. Dabney was the more impressive personality and probably the greater mind. We refer to the late Rev. Dr. Peck, who was for a long time—perhaps more than a quarter of a century—a learned and most efficient man in Union Theological Seminary at Hampden-Sidney, Va., the fine school of the prophets in which Dr. Dabney served so faithfully for many years. Dr. Peck was a scholar of high merit and was endowed with a mind of great capacity, breadth, acuteness and discrimination. We never heard him preach but once, and it was probably thirty years ago. (We recall the interest and pleasure which his striking discussion afforded us. The sermon was remarkably clear, simple in style, delivered in a passive manner, but meaty and massive in thought. It was about the least ornate, and had the least display of effort of any discourse we ever heard from a truly able and eminent minister of the Gospel. Its clarity of statement and simplicity were as charming as uncommon. We are reminded of this great man by an announcement of the publication of his "Miscellanies," following two other volumes of his more elaborate works. A writer in The Richmond (Va.) Presbyterian, says of the new volume:
"Every word is illuminated by his touch. The best ideas of all these great doctors of theology are fused in his own burning brain, and brought to bear like a powerful search light on the passage or the word of Greek."
"Permeated as it all is with the practical wisdom obtained from this profound thinking for a lifetime, it presents a mine of material for the thoughtful student from all the fields in which he gleaned."
Dr. Peck was too eminent a southern theologian and preacher, and too admirable a Christian educator to be

overlooked at any time. In the beginning of a new year it is appropriate to call attention to a volume of 1897, so replete with high thinking and profound learning and all of southern products.

HOME FOLKS.

Russell's departure on the sly reminds one of the Arab who folded his tent and skipped away. Is not Russell a very sly "old coon?"
What a cheerful sight it is at Raleigh to see Russell's crowd guarding the doors that were forcibly entered by his railroad-commissioners. The Tsar fears retaliation. It is the guilty conscience that smites. "Thrice is he armed who hath his quarrel just." In a land of peace for a governor to fix guards over a state building to prevent the ousted by violence from "turning the tables," is something ridiculous, and almost a circus. The row waxes fiercer and the disgrace becomes thicker and blacker.

Let it not be forgotten that the War Records show that North Carolina lost nearly 41,000 men in the great war. It sent 125,000 at least into the service as the published Roster in three large volumes show. North Carolina not only furnished more troops than any other southern state, but lost more. Her loss would perhaps surpass that of South Carolina and Alabama combined. North Carolina did her full duty, and all she demands is that what she did for the southern confederacy should be recognized by historians, by public journalists and her southern sisters.

Funny things happen in and about Raleigh under the radical regime. One Caldwell, chairman of Russell's gang of alleged railroad commissioners, is reported wrathy because Otho Wilson made an inepit comparison, Otho likened the conduct of said Caldwell and his co-conspirator, one Pearson, to a fellow who breaks in somewhere—a chicken coop for instance—"like a thief." That was not handsome in Otho to thus write of Russell's chosen. How much more agreeable and fitting and even elegant it would have been to have said—"They broke into the commissioner's office like gentlemen." That would have brushed away all supposed insinuations and have allowed kid gloves with which to handle the crowbar and tools. Otho must learn to treat honorable and official house-breakers with more consideration and courtesy. A little more euphemism, will be in order. No rude insinuations Mr. Haysseeder.

SNAPS.

It would be safe to bet on Hanna's money-bags if betting were not a sin.
So there are two regularly organized republican parties in New York. There is a democratic party and a "refawm" party and so on.

From Ohio comes the report now to be expected. Hanna's fellows are accused of bribery and corruption. We shall not dispute the justice of the charge.
Durrant "died game." And that is the way with most villains whose moral nature is completely stunted and whose brutality dominates the sense of fear. Crutly long ago referred to the "gamecocks" on the gibbet.

It looks to us that killings, murders, crimes increase every month. The columns of a large daily—a record of murders, crimes, misfortunes—are very gloomy and unsatisfactory stuff to read. What a tragedy life is!
It is now contended and, perhaps proved, that the late ex-senator, ex-secretary of state, and great lawyer, Judah P. Benjamin, a Jew, was born in the West Indies. It is also insisted that he never lived in Wilmington or went to school at Fayetteville. But more of that another day.

We very much hope the effort to try to unite the two great wings of Methodism in this country will fail. The split with force upon the south 54 years ago by the intolerant, war-making north, and both have greatly flourished ever since. We believe it would be calamitous to unite. A series of articles of this line would show that.

The expenditures of the government for the last six months were \$4,364,999 above receipts. Receipts, \$157,850,751. Expenditures, \$202,215,751. But there was improvement in December, when the receipts were \$27,931,494, against expenditures of \$26,195,000, leaving a surplus. This is the first monthly surplus since the Dingley law took effect. It is due chiefly to the absence of the item of large interest payments, which will produce a deficit again in January.

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Oxford Ledger: Will Royster, colored, of Oxford, so far takes the cake as to raising a large porker. He killed one a few days ago that tipped the scales at a fraction over 70 pounds.—Colonel J. A. Amis, who had a slight stroke of paralysis some days ago, is improving, we are more than glad to state, as he one of our best citizens.

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STATE PRESS.
"North Carolina is an agricultural state and the land is productive in all sections and yields under proper cultivation a generous return to labor. The crop products have a wide range and comprise all the cereals, grasses, vegetables and fruits of the higher latitude as well as many of those of the subtropical region. To the general farmer all the advantages of the west for grain raising are even better than in what has some times been called the 'granary of the world,' because the seasons are much longer in which to mature the crops and specially because of the average rainfall which is abundant and there is no need of irrigation. North Carolina is not noted for an enormous yield of any particular agricultural product (except tobacco), but it is known for the diversity of her crops. If the wheat and corn crop of the western states is a failure, those states are badly crippled, but with our soil we are not dependent on any one crop for a living.—North Carolina Commissioner of Labor Statistics.
J. D. Murphy, Esq., is at home from the eastern part of the state where he went on a holiday visit. The holiday travel gave Mr. Murphy excellent opportunity to learn of the condition of things political and otherwise in the east as reflected in the opinions of prominent eastern Carolinians. "I met several populists," Mr. Murphy said to The Citizen, in speaking of the trip, "among them two of considerable prominence. They told me that the next election would see North Carolina go democratic by 15,000 to 25,000 if the democrats are prudent. They said that Russell and his incompetents were disgusting the honest and patriotic citizens of the state of all parties. They further suggested that the democrats should be very temperate, wise and prudent in the conduct of their campaign. One of them said that a great many of the rank and file of the populist party wanted to return to the democratic party, but they desired that the democrats should permit them to come in at the front door, as he expressed it. They said the course of the Russell administration is such as to humiliate every patriotic North Carolinian of whatever shade of political opinion; that the credit of the state is being rapidly impaired, and that all North Carolinians ought to unite in placing the friends of the state in charge of her affairs. The traveling salesman in the east, of whom I saw quite a number, report the trade as extremely dull, and that the 5 and 5 cent cotton was producing widespread unrest and discontent; that the people regarded the republican promises of prosperity as made to the ear to be broken to the hope.—Asheville Citizen.

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