

THE GOLD LEAF

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1907.

That Little Nigger Boy I Used to Own!

BY HOWELL C. FEATHERSTON. [The following beautiful stanzas written by Mr. Howell C. Featherston and published in the Washington Post recently, have been complimented for their cleverness and fidelity to nature. The author is a son of Mr. J. C. Featherston, member of the Virginia House of Delegates from Campbell county—Richmond Times Dispatch.]

I have met a heap of people, and I've had a heap of chums— Good fellows, just as good as ever known! But I've never seen a better, nor a truer, kinder friend Than that little nigger boy I used to own.

His hair was black as charcoal, and his heart was just as warm; He wasn't a great philosopher, but he never thought no harm; And tho' to flatter childhood mankind is awful prone, T'was a cunning little devil that that boy I used to own.

There are lots of pickaninies 'round my old plantation home, But they're not like the one I used to own; He could outrun all the others, and he'd fight and he'd win; And I loved that nigger boy I used to own.

His head was round and nappy and his eyes were big and white, His mouth was quite capacious, and it lit in lots of light; But that he wasn't a beauty, nor a plate for a king; The love was true and honest of that boy I used to own.

We were playmates all together, tho' I was kind of king; But I never put myself up on a throne; And I told tales in the loghouse and I wended in the fields; With that little nigger boy I used to own.

It's true we'd get to fighting, and I'd be him, if I could; But this was rather seldom, for they generally were good; And I'd swap 'em off my dinner for an ash- cake and a bone; And I'd take my holiday repeat with that boy I used to own.

And then I grew up bigger, and I used to ride to school; Through meadows, where the rice and cane were so green; And he'd take my horse at even, and he'd love to see me come; And I'd take my holiday repeat with that boy I used to own.

But my schooling wasn't finished, for before I was a year old; The trumpet call of war was loudly blown; And I volunteered my service and I hastened to the front; And I followed by that boy I used to own.

He would get scared in battle, and when 'im he'd run; But he'd always find the company when the soldiers' work was done; And he'd stand good rations for me, tho' from where I've never known; And I've often seen him sipping by that boy I used to own.

The war was long and bitter, but his ardor never flagged; He went the south to follow me, he'd sworn; An' when it wasn't over I brought him home again; That shiny, grinning boy I used to own.

He would be home the battles, an' he'd swear he'd fought 'em all; He said he'd killed some sixteen men, he knew, he'd seen 'em fall; And he'd look at me, a brother, which no skill could check nor tone; And I nursed him like a brother then, that boy I used to own.

But soon it was all over, and we laid him in his grave; No true friend ever had to mourn; And I raised a granite monument to mark that loving, faithful boy I used to own.

He had his small shortcomings, and they may be counted soon; But Saint Peter knows a nigger, and he'll make excuse for him; And if in God's great goodness, I shall visit sweet heaven's throne; I know I'll see that smiling face, that boy I used to own.

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Overman the Worker.

North Carolina Senator After Hard Fight Gets His Measure Through and His Men Named as Special Agents.

Mr. Thomas J. Pence, the Washington correspondent of the Raleigh News and Observer, writes his paper as follows: The provision in the legislative and executive bill containing the appropriation for investigating and exploiting the cotton goods trade in the foreign markets of the world has been approved by the conferees of both Houses. The hardest kind of a fight was made by Representative Tawney and other House conferees to have eliminated this appropriation, which made possible the appointment of W. A. Graham, Clark of Raleigh, William Whitman, Jr. of Charlotte, as special agents to make the investigation. Senator Overman, the author and originator of this measure, had the hardest task of his legislative career, in holding it in the appropriation bill. Day after day he was worked to overcome the stubborn opposition of several conferees, and as a result of his activity Messrs. Clark and Whitman will continue their work in the foreign markets of the world for the next two years.

Improper action of the kidneys causes backache, lumbago, rheumatism, "Pineules" is a kidney remedy that will relieve these diseases. Pleasant to take and guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded. "Be in every drug store." Sold by the Kerner-McNair Drug Company.

Editorial Pen Pricks from the Durham Herald. We are at least no longer in doubt as to what became of the populist party in this State. Of course there is not a fifth district combine and by the same token there are no trusts.

If Mr. Justice wants to keep his skirts clean he should not next time break bread with the lobbyists. Now the Legislature has adjourned we suppose all hands are at liberty to say what they please about it.

The people can usually be trusted, but the trouble is that the people are not out on the game being worked. As Mr. Justice has already served notice on those who are to be read out they should know what to look for.

They may have to select a candidate from the fifth district to keep the East and West from falling out about it. You fellows had better shut up about reading anybody out of the party until you find out just where you are at.

Before committing yourself to the government ownership plan you might first find out what the rate is going to be. It may be that there was nothing in those charges but you will have to admit that there were suspicious circumstances.

Mr. Kitchin cannot claim that the party owes it to him, still if he can win out we are not the one to say that he is not entitled to it.

The chances are that Mr. Justice said what was in his mind to say, but afterwards concluded that it was not the proper thing to do.

Mr. Justice's friends think that he came away from Raleigh a big man, but this does not mean that he will be able to get what he wants.

It remained for the Senate to show that Mr. Daniels did not have the party in this State by the name of the neck and the seat of the pants.

If the News and Observer did not influence the Legislature and the legislative committees it was not because it did not try hard enough.

Mr. Page did no wrong in investing his money in railroads but he committed a grievous fault in disagreeing with the powers that be.

For some reason or other the Legislature failed to pass a law preventing the Raleigh street car line from doubling its rates during fair week.

You fellows who are claiming that Mr. Butler carried the populist party, bag and baggage, into the Republican camp, know better than that.

In view of the opinion expressed by that Virginia judge we naturally wonder what he would have done in case the jury had found the Strother brothers guilty.

You fellows who propose to read the riot act to the next State convention had best make certain before hand that you are going to get what you want.

For Twenty-one Years Bonanza, Orinoco and Farmer's Bone. F. S. ROYSTER GUANO CO., Norfolk, Va. have been the standard Cotton and Tobacco guanos in the South—because great care is used in the selection of materials. Ask your dealer for Royster's goods and don't take substitutes said to be just as good. See that the trade-mark is on every bag.

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HONOR ROLL. School Roll of Henderson Graded School for Week Ending Friday, March 8. Sixth Grade—Miss Ethel Plummer, teacher.

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Bile Poison has a very bad effect on your system. It disorders your stomach and digestive apparatus, taints your blood and causes constipation, with all its fearful ills. Thedford's Black-Draught is a bland tonic, liver regulator, and blood purifier. It gets rid of the poisons caused by over-supply of bile, and quickly cures bilious headaches, dizziness, loss of appetite, nausea, indigestion, constipation, malaria, chills and fever, jaundice, nervousness, irritability, melancholia, and all sickness due to disordered liver.

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The Legislature and Its Work.

Charlotte Observer. It was said in the editorial columns of this paper on the 21st of January that it takes some time for a Legislature to find itself; that in the body then sitting at Raleigh were a number of wild-eyed men with wild ideas, but that it is the history of such bodies that they become more conservative toward the close of when the actual enactment of important legislation begins.

The statement and forecast have been amply justified by the Legislature just adjourned. A number of propositions advanced at the outset and which seem to have been alarming, and it was with good reason said that this Legislature was a menace to the State. Happily, under reflection and consideration, more sober counsel prevailed. The extreme radical measures were put to sleep, and, regarded by all here, it can be said that the general results were rather good than bad—no thanks to the radicals who persisted in their malevolent purposes to the last.

We shall never think that the railroad passenger rate was fairly adjusted. It is not worth while to discuss the subject now further than to say that a fare of 2-1/2 cents on the main lines would be low enough, with the right left the small roads to charge three cents, and that the abolition of second-class fares was a mistake. It is not now nor any time claimed that our own people are entitled to exemption from burdens laid upon aliens who have money invested in the State, but of itself it is not fair that the Aberdeen & Ashboro Railroad, running through a poor and sparsely settled country, should be put upon the same basis with the Atlantic & North Carolina, the Norfolk & Southern and Norfolk & Western, all of them longer lines—two of them running through developed and rich truck-growing sections and the third a part of and one of the greatest coal-carrying systems of the country.

It is an incident that the Ashboro & Aberdeen Railroad was built and is owned by North Carolinians while the others are owned and controlled by outsiders, but that fact does not modify the cruelty of the wrong. In reference to the general rate of 2-1/4 cents fixed upon, it is to be said that it is not wholly bad in the view that all the important legislation of the world results from compromise and that the 2-1/4 cents is a compromise between the 2-cent rate which was so strongly contested for. How the railroads can be expected, however, to respond to the universal demand for enlarged and better service with their past earnings so materially reduced, is a question for those who favored reduction to answer. If they take off trains which are already being operated at a loss they should not be blamed, and finally, under this head, the individual or company which will now embark upon the building of a new railroad in North Carolina is a fool. As some compensation to the railroads for the loss inflicted by the reduction of passenger rates, there is a modification of the outrageous penalty law, and as a large compensation to the public for the flat rate and poorer passenger service certain to ensue, the 2-cent rate what is the thing important in this connection, a substantial reduction of inter-State freight rates.

The power of the corporation commission were wisely enlarged. Why the fixing of passenger rates on the small feeble roads and the fixing of freight rates were not referred to it, we do not understand. It is composed, in the Observer's judgment, of able and incorruptible men, but if the commissioners are not equal to their responsibilities they should be bowed out and replaced by men who are.

Returning, however, we have passed almost the only criticism we have to make upon the work of the General Assembly. Its bark was terrifying; its bite does not hurt. In its legislation upon liquor it was smilingly inconsistent, drying up the community where the people had voted for license, letting down the gap in that one where the Watts law had obtained, according to the right to vote when in corresponding cases it had been denied, and disobedient to petitions when in corresponding cases they had controlled its action. Local self-government was not in the mind of the legislators as a principle to be observed or defied, but what most Democrats regard as a thing fundamental, by it as a thing to be played with, regarded or not, according to the locality dealt with or what might happen to be the view of the person representing it.

This General Assembly was not afraid to spend the money of the dear people. That goes to its credit. It was in the mind of the great interests of North Carolina and went on to advance the welfare of the institutions some of which are the State's glory, for all of which it is responsible. Not a dollar of this money will be misspent and for the liberality and discriminating judgment with which it is to be expended the people have primarily to thank those wise and thinking men, Senator Neil Archie McLean, the chairman of the Senate committee on appropriations, and Representative J. R. Gordon, chairman of the like committee of the House—good citizens both.

To repeat what has been said in previous issues, the people of North Carolina will never cease to remember this Legislature with gratitude for what it has done for their insane people, and, concluding, there is more on the credit side of its account than the debtor.

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Why He Would Have Regretted. Greenboro Record. In a "personal privilege" editorial in the News and Observer, Editor Daniels says it was all he could do to restrain himself when Rev. Mr. Durham accented him in the Senate chamber, but that he was glad he did not hit him, for had he done so he would have regretted it. No doubt about that; Rev. Mr. Durham is a football player, an athlete, and is said to fight a buzz-saw if necessary. Mr. Daniels has been accused of saying many things that are not true, but no one will take issue with him on this.

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