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BY
JAMES A. LONG,
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Millard Fillmore the Farm Boy.

From the pursuits of Agriculture sprung many of the greatest men, who in past ages have worked out the history of the world. Heroes and statesmen, philosophers and poets, sons of science, martyrs to religion, reformers, law givers have arisen in the majority of instances from that humble, but in all times honorable sphere, where man draws nearest to his mother earth, and learns his first lessons of development by regarding the manifold operations of progressive nature—from the acorn to the oak—from the seed hidden beneath the soil to the full glories of harvest.

Millard Fillmore's boyish days were unmarked beyond any varied scenes beyond the routine of peaceful industry, but he early manifested traits which have since been moulded into his manly character. Among these were his love of study, and unremitting application to whatever work was allotted to him. In infancy, he was far from robust, a fact, which retarded in some degree his natural mental quickness; but as exercise began to fortify his constitution, and labor developed and concentrated his energies, so the desire for improvement "grew with his growth and strengthened his strength." The new country where he dwelt offered few of those facilities for education which are now at every man's door. The common school did not at that period crown every village eminence,—nor did a district library bring the experience of history, science and genius, into every child's reach; but of such means of instruction as he could command, Millard Fillmore made good use; and the rudiments of knowledge that were then instilled into his mind, were at least the foundation of what has since matured into the wisdom of the legislator, the statesman, and, above all, the patriot.

Books were the delight of the future President of his country. Not content with the stated intervals of instruction common to all the youth of the village—unsatisfied with the regular studies incident to the schools which he attended—Millard sought every opportunity to possess himself of every variety of mental pabulum, by perusing all the books to which he could procure access. His love of reading was remarkable; for while other boys were engaged in the recreations natural to their age, the son of Mr. Fillmore was to be seen whenever encountered, intent upon the pages of some new volume which he had, perhaps, by long perseverance, succeeded in obtaining. In the house or in the field, by the fireside, after the duties of the day were ended, or at the "nooning" when the plough rested and the cattle grazed, Millard Fillmore, as the people remarked, "studied his books."—Well may he look back to that love of study as the incentive to all that he has since sought and achieved.

And the love and intellect of his mother were equally powerful in forming and deciding the character of her son. Her gentle care, and untiring devotion, shaped the future man in the present child; for "Millard Fillmore," as has been said by one biographer, "is no exception to the rule that distinguished men have generally had superior mothers." To this maternal influence he can look back now, like the pilgrim, who, in olden days, once encountered an angel in his walk, and ever afterward beheld a track of light following his footsteps.

Millard Fillmore the Apprentice.

But the years of farm life passed rapidly over, and Millard Fillmore reached an age at which, in the judgment of his prudent and industrious father, it was time that he should choose a vocation by which he might obtain a livelihood in future years.—The business of carding wool and cloth-dressing was considered to be one that offered superior inducements of profit, and being then carried on but a portion of the year, it promised to the young student a certain amount of leisure which he might devote to mental improvement. The clothier's business was, therefore, selected by Nathaniel Fillmore as a proper pursuit for his son, and Millard, at the age of fifteen, took service with his first master, with whom he passed four busy months of summer. But, like many employers of young apprentices, the clothier, instead of instructing the boy in the rudiments of his trade, kept him at other tasks in which he learned nothing; and young Fillmore, feeling that his time was thus squandered, requested his father to procure him another situation. This, after some difficulty in seeking an employer, was accomplished; and in a few weeks Millard was apprenticed, without indentures, to a near neighbor of the family, who after a short trial, in which he became much pleased with the youth, entered into an agreement with the farmer, by which the son was to be instructed in the trade of a clothier, working in the seasons when the business could be carried on, and in the intervals returning to give his time and services to the father.

Here young Fillmore applied himself assiduously to learning his trade and advancing the interests of his employer; devoting his winters, when work was discontinued, to teaching the country schools; and in the double capacity of mechanic and instructor continued to earn sufficient to assist him in his plan of self-education for a profession. He had already began to feel that heaven had endowed him with faculties which might be more generally beneficial, if exerted in a less contracted sphere than that necessarily involved in the workshop; and though he prided himself upon the innate dignity of honest labor, he yet could not fail to be conscious that talents are vouchsafed to us, not to bury, but to put out at interest for Him who confided them. Nevertheless he relaxed not in his application to the business he had chosen, and it was while engaged at his trade, in his nineteenth year, that he attracted the favorable notice of the late Walter Wood, Esq., of Cayuga county, who became his first influential friend, and who, assisting him in the purchase of his time received him into his law office, and exercised the mathematical knowledge which the youth had acquired, by employing him as a surveyor upon his large landed property. With this friend, Millard Fillmore remained till 1821, after which he entered a law office in Buffalo, and, still maintaining himself by winter teaching, pursued his legal studies till admitted to the Court of Common Pleas, in 1823. Shortly afterward he removed to the village of Aurora, and opening an office, began the duties of professional life. The farmer-boy and clothier's apprentice, by dint of unwearied application, had opened out to himself a new sphere and a new ambition.

Millard Fillmore the Legislator.

Seven years rolled on, and the young lawyer, though not overburdened with business—for in the agricultural region which surrounded his location the litigious element was not so general as at present—had gained much reputation for ability and integrity. He had been elected for two sessions successively to the Legislature of the State, had managed such cases as he was employed upon with marked success, and had indeed become so popular at the bar that he received the invitation of an advantageous business connection with an older member of the profession, in the city of Buffalo. He had been married four years before to an amiable and intelligent lady, the daughter of Rev. Samuel Powers, and now, settled in domestic relations, he accepted the offer which promised increase of activity, and in 1830 took up his residence in the thriving city of Buffalo.

As incorrect statements have been made concerning the ancestry of Mr. Fillmore's wife, it is well to notice that she was of Massachusetts descent, belonging to the family of the Lelands, whose lineal descendants to the number of 9,624, may be found recorded in the ancestral magazine published by members of the Leland family, who date back to one of the first settlers, Henry Leland. In this book may be found a likeness of Abigail Powers, the lady of Millard Fillmore.

As a member of the New York State Legislature, Mr. Fillmore distinguished himself equally by his modest demeanor and firmness of purpose. He won the good opinion of even his political opponents, and occupied a position in the public mind, though then but thirty years of age, which was not inferior to that of Mr. Granger, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Nicholas, and other distinguished members of the Assembly at that time. In 1831 his second term expired, and in the fall of 1832 he was chosen by the electors of his district, as their Representative in the twenty-third Congress of the United States. His first term at the National capital, exhibited in a most favorable light his qualities as a legislator, but at its close he returned to the duties of his profession, which, at this period, had became quite extensive.

To the twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, and twenty-seventh Congresses, Millard Fillmore was successively elected; and at the last he was elected to fill that most responsible of positions—chairmanship of the committee of ways and means. Here he displayed the qualities of a statesman and financier, and proved himself worthy of the Congressional leadership of that great party, which, with the venerable Harrison as its standard-bearer, had swept out the corruptions of its part administration, with a mighty whirlwind of reform. The details of Millard Fillmore's labors in the twenty-seventh Congress, stand as an enduring monument of the man—attesting his indefeatigable industry, his clear foresight, his wise discrimination, his knowledge of political economy, his uncompromising political integrity, and his sound patriotic views on every important measure. The following sketch, which was printed in a literary paper of New York city, in 1842, gives a picture of Mr. Fillmore, as he appeared to an observer without party bias:

"MILLARD FILLMORE OF NEW YORK.—This is the distinguished Representative of the city of Buffalo, and at present chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, a situation both arduous and responsible. He stands in the same relation to the United States government in the House of Representatives, that the Chancellor of Exchequer does to the government of Great Britain in the House of Parliament. He is emphatically the financial organ of the Legislature. In the House of Representatives all bills affecting the revenue originate. These are presented by the Ways and Means Committee—matured by it—and its chairman has to explain their object and the data upon which they are based. He is obliged to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the situation of the national treasury—has to examine its details, become familiar with its wants, its expenditures, its income, present and prospective, and be ever ready to give to the House a full exposition of all the measures he may present for consideration. To discharge the duties which this post entoins, faithfully requires both physical and mental capacity of a high order, and I believe they could not have devolved upon one individual better qualified than the subject of this notice. In every respect will he be found equal to the task assigned him.

"Mr. Fillmore, in person, is perhaps five feet ten inches tall, stout and finely formed. His limbs are graceful; he has an errect and easy walk, and a well developed chest.—His complexion is quite light; has lively blue eyes, a smooth forehead, marked by breadth rather than height retreating slightly into a head of greyish hair. His face is broad and regular in its outline; has a small nose and handsome Grecian mouth, with white teeth. His features, without being very strongly marked, are decidedly expressive and agreeable, and in or out of Congress there are few better-looking men. His appearance would attract attention anywhere, as his abilities qualify him for any station. In his temperament he is plegmatic—is always self-composed, and all his acts are controlled by the dictates of his judment. He weighs everything in the most prudent manner, enters into a nice calculation, and is never misled by the promptings of his heart. He is the incarnation of truth and integrity. Never would he 'hold the word of promise to the ear, and break it to the hopes.' He would never raise hopes and then blast them. He is frank, open and manly. In public and in private life, he is without guile; pure and untarnished. Indeed, I question whether he was ever tempted to go astray. He seems not to have inherited the frailties generally found among the decendants of Adam, and hence he may possibly have too little charity for, and judge too severely of, those less cooly constituted than himself. His talents are of a high grade; he is a sound thinker and very sagacious; not showy or brilliant, but plain and sensible, and never attempts to make a display or 'show off.' His judgment is very clear, and he has no emotions which over-ride it; is always to be relied upon, and whatever he undertakes he will master. He never takes a stride without testing his foothold. He belongs to that rare class whose minds are developed with every day's use; in whose minds new beauties and new riches are discovered as they are exanined into. He has a high legal reputation, possesses great industry, is agreeable in conversation, and his information upon general subjects is varied and extensive. As a shrewd, sagacious politician—by this I do not mean that he is particularly skilled in mere partisan strategy—there are few men in the country superior to him, perhaps none."

Rotation of Crops in connexion with Wheat Culture.

A system of tillage and rotation which will pay best in one locality,—or on one quality of soil, and in a particular climate, will be found not at all adapted to other localities, different soils and latitudes. Hence no rule can be laid down that will meet the peculiar exigencies of a farming country so extensive as the thirty States east of the Rocky Mountains. There are soils in Western New York, known to the writer,—which have borne good crops of wheat every year for more than twenty years, and produce better now than at the beginning of their cultivation. The resources of the earth in supplying the elements of wheat and corn are extremely variable. There are friable shalely rocks in Livingston connty, N. Y., which crumble and slake when exposed to the air, that abound in all the earthly minerals necessary to form good wheat. These rocks are hundreds of feet in thicknes, and have furnished much of the soil in the valey of the Genesse. The Onondaga Salt Group and other contigious strata which extend into Canada West,—form soil of extraordinary capacity for growing wheat. Indeed, the rocks and "drift" of a district give character to its arable surface.

Nothing is more needed at this time than a good geological map of the United States, accompanied by an accurate and popularly arranged work on agriculturrl geology. The writer had hoped to give such a map in this report; but it is thought best to devote another year to the collection of geological surveys and facts, and to the making of more critical and extended researches before publishing.

In the matter of rotation of crops in connexion with wheat culture, clover and corn are generally preferred in all the Northern, and most of the Middle States. In New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Northern Indiana and Illinois, so far as the writer is acquainted, a crop of wheat is made in rotation, either every 3d 4th or 5th year. Wherever wool growing is united with wheat culture, clover and wheat are the staple products of the farm. Wool and superfine flour are exported;—farmers taking nearly all the bran and shorts of the millers who purchase their wheat.

The offal of wheat makes not a little feed with chaff and cut straw. Many agriculturists grow peas, beans, turnips, beets and carrots in large quantities, as well as clover, corn, oats and barley. Peas and beans,—both vines and seeds, when well cured, are excelent feed for sheep; and on good land they are easily grown. They fit the soil well for wheat.

All the manure derived from sheep is husbanded with extreme care by farmers who are gradually enriching their lands.—On a deep rich, arable soil, quite a number of sheep may be kept per acre, if highly cultivated; and their manure prepares the land for producing generous crops of wheat at a small expense. Of all business men, farmers should be the closest calculators of *profit* and *loss*.

Great care should be taken to sow good and clean seed on clean land. Previous to putting the seed in the ground, (drilling is preferable to sowing broadcast) wheat should be soaked five or six hours—not longer—in strong brine. After this, add a peck or more of recently slaked lime to each bushel and shovel it over well, that the lime may cover each seed. It is now ready to commit to the earth. Most good farmers roll the earth after seeding; some before.

In the Southern States, planters are in the habit of permitting their wheat to remain too long in the field after it is cradled, and in small shocks. Good barns are too scarce in all the planting States, and in some others.

Summer Fallowing is generally abandoned, except in cases where old pastures and meadows, new prairie, or bushy bad fields are to be subdued. As a general rule, friable soils need not be plowed long before the intended crop is expected to begin to grow. Among fertilizers, wood ashes, salt, bones, lime, guano, and poudrette have been used in wheat culture with decided advantage. In Great Britan, manure derived from the consumbtion of turnips and other root crops by sheep and neat cattle, is much used in preparing land for wheat. Sheep, clover and peas, corn and hogs, rotate well to insure the economical production of this staple. Manure is usually applied to the crop preceding wheat.

It may be interesting to some readers to see in this place the mean result of several organic analyses of wheat made by Mr. Boussingult. Wheat dried at 230° degrees in vacuo, was found to contain:

Carbon,	46.1
Oxygen,	43.4
Hydrogen,	5.8
Nitrogen,	2.3
Ash,	2.4
Total,	100.0

Charcoal may be regarded as a fair representative of carbon, and water as the representative of both oxygen and hydrogen. It will be seen by the above figures, that over 95 per cent. of wheat is made up of elements which greatly abound in nature in an available condition; and the same is true of all other plants. It is doubtless owing to this circumstance, that a comparatively small quantity of guano and other highly concentrated fertilizers are able to produce crops five, ten, and fifty times greater than their own weight. Azote, or nitrogen, in the form of ammonia, or nitric acid, (aqua fortis.) and the incombustible part of plants are the elements which least abound in soils, and should be husbanded with the greatest care.

August, 1855.

At a meeting of the delegates from different counties in Goldsboro', in May last, it was resolved to hold in the Fall, a general convention of the friends of Education in North Carolina. After mature consideration Salisbury has been selected as the place for the holding of said convention, and Tuesday the 21st of October as the time.

The importance of such a meeting will readily occur to all; and it is, therefore,—necessary barely to indicate some of the objects to be accomplished.

The cause of education we all recognise as one of the greatest concerns of every people; and we are happy to be able to say that this great cause has, in the last few years, been making rapid progress in our beloved State. A greater advancement, all things considered, has rarely been made in any country; and we sincerely hope that this onward movement will continue until the position of North Carolina becomes one of the proudest in the Union.

In this progress Colleges. Academies and Common Schools have all kept pace with each other; and while education has been striking its roots deep into the hearts of the masses, and yearly widening the circle of its influences among the people, the facilities for a high state of cultivation have uniformily and rapidly increased. And this has happened without any apparent uniformity of action or sympathy on the part of educators, in Classical and Common Schools, and of the friends of the cause generally; and now we have arrived at that point of advancement where such a union of general action and of feeling is essential to the whole system and of each of its parts. The cause of education is ONE CAUSE, and must be distinctly so recognised and understood by all its friends and agents, and to bring about such an understanding and to manifest it to the world is one object of the proposed Convention. It is intended also as a means of calling out and disseminating judicious opinions and interesting facts and statistics—as a means too of adding to the knowledge of North Carolina and her Institutions in those who participate in the proceedings of the convention, and of enlarging their views and sympathies to the entire extent of the whole State. And it is intended and will inevitably help to create and foster an interchange of friendly courtesies and of just and pleasant amenities among those who occupy the ardious and most important position of Instructors of the youth of the State—to dignity the cause of education, to enhance the importance of the teacher's calling, and to lay the foundations of State educational societies and associations which have proved of eminent service to the public good in every country where they have been successfully carried on, while they have been also a great source of improvement and of necessary recreation and pleasure to that laborious class confined for a large portion of their time within a narrow space and to an unvarying routine of action. It is not necessary to dwell on these objects, all of which are of much importance and each of which depends for its success, very materially, on the success of the movement now initiated.

Farther to add to the interests and usefulness of the proposed convention, essays previously prepared, by persons qualified for the task, will be read on the following subjects, to wit:

1, On the best method of uniting Teachers in Colleges, Academies and Common Schools, and the friends of education in North Carolina, in systematic efforts to advance the general cause in the state.

2. On the best method of increasing the number and efficiently of Common School Teachers.

3. On the best method of communicating instruction.

4. On the best method of governing in schools.

5. On School Architecture.

Rev. C. H. Wiley, Supirintendent of Common Schools, was also appointed to prepare and read a statement of all the Colleges, Academies, Classical and select Schools, Male and Female in the State, with an account of their condition, location &c. &c.

You are hereby respectfully and earnestly invited and requested to attend and assist in the deliberations of said Convention; and we are authorized to say that the Rail Road Companies will charge all attendants only half the usual fare, and that the citizens of Salisbury will entertain the delegates free of cost.

That all who attended may be properly cared for, it is important that they give early notice of their intentions; and we, therefore, enclose a printed card which you will pleasg sign, if you can attend, (and we hope you can,) and send to Dolphin A. Davis Esq., of Salisbury, Chairman of the Local Committee of preparations. Your special attention is directed to this matter, as such a course is particularly desired by the citizens whose hospitality the Convention is to enjoy; and by pursuing it, each delegate will find on registering his name at the hotel, or announcing it at the Rail Road station, a porter to take him and his baggage to the place where he is to stay,

Permit us again, in conclusion, earnestly to solicit your attendane: leave, for a brief interval, your school, your cares and business, and let us for once get to-gether in Carolina, an impossing array of those whose hearts are in this great cause.

So far, the promise of a successful and useful meeting is very flattering, and permit us to remind you that your presence at this Convention may be a duty which you owe to the county.

C. H. WILEY,
Sup. of Com. Schools of N. C.

P. S. We would add, that *all* persons feeling an interest in the cause, are invited and will be just as welcome as those to whom this circular is sent.

Hon. Rob't. C. Winthrop in favor of Fillmore.

The New York Commercial Advertiser of Saturday publishes a letter from the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop to a committee of gentlemen of Brooklyn, who had invited him to address a political meeting in that city.—We make the following extract:

"You are doubtless aware that I have never associated myself with any branch or order of what is now well known as the American party. So far as their organization has been secret, or their objects proscriptive or intollerant, they have never had my approbation or assent. But I have seen no nomination for the Presidency, which seems to promise so much of peace and harmony to the country at large, and so much of assured stability to its institutions under existing circumstances, as that of Mr. Fillmore.

I certainly have not found myself able as yet to give in my adhesion to either of the two other parties, which are arrayed against each other so sternly and angrily upon questions involving the most exciting and dangerous issues. * * * * * In resisting, as I always have done and still must, the organization of such a geographical party as Washington condemned, I cannot altogether forget by whom so deplorable an occasion has been furnished for its formation. And if it were possible that a majority of the American people could still be roused up *to come between contending sections*, and to put an end to strife and discord by the election of a candidate of known moderation and experience, it would be, in my judgment, a triumph worthy of the best days of the Republic. * * * * I firmly believe that if every man, who thinks in his honest soul that Mr. Fillmore would be the safest and best pilot for the existing exigency, would act as he thinks, and give him a vote, he would be elected beyond a question."

The Sun Flower.

THE Sun-flower is destined to become one of the greatest agricultural products, yet few know its value. I have raised and tested it, and think no farmer who has land should be without it for feeding animals, and the oil it produces. It has yielded with me from 90 to 100 bushels manured the same as for corn. I plant in drills three or four feet apart, and scatter the seeds about six inches distant in the row, using from four to five quarts per acre.

When ripe, as the large heads begin to shell out, I cut it up, and leave it scattered in rows to dry, and when thoroughly cured draw it into my barn, handling carefully and placing on an airy scaffold. When wanted, the seed will nearly all shell out by throwing it down, and needs but little pounding. Clean in a common fanning mill.

One hundred pounds of this seed yield forty of oil; one bushel will yield a gallon of oil. I had a part of my feed made into oil at a common oil mill, and used it for burning in lamps, and tested it well for painted a long time, and it wears equal to those where linseed oil is used, and walls are left more glossy, as though a little varnish had been applied.

The oil is nearly equal to any other; and there is nothing better to feed hens in the winter than the sun-flower seed; they did not know what it was at first, but by mixing it with oats, they gradually grew fond of it, and produced eggs more abundantly than with any other food. The seed is known to be good for horses, and is well worth fifty cents per bushel to farmers. I hope they will test this matter for themselves and I am sure they will find it profitable to raise their own oil, &c., as I have done.